

INNER EAST

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Siena College shines a light on past student success

From cartoonists and children's book authors to scientists, lawyers and sporting champions, Siena College students have reached amazing heights. Here's some of the school's top graduates.

staff writer, Leader

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 The past students of Siena College are a talented and diverse bunch.


The past students of Siena College are a talented and diverse bunch.

The school has produced graduates in who have become leaders in the fields of science, medicine, media, sport and more.

Here are just some their remarkable former students.

ANNE-MAREE KELLY, CLASS OF 1977



 Professor Anne-Maree Kelly leads an internationally respected research team at the Joseph Epstein Centre for Emergency Medicine Research. Picture: Supplied

Australia's first female professor of Emergency Medicine has worked at Footscray Hospital in Melbourne's western suburbs for the last 26 years.

"It is the people of the west that inspire what I do – both in my work in the Emergency Department and my research," she said.

"Their real world problems motivate me to better understand their illnesses and find ways to do things better."

A former director of the Emergency Department at Footscray and government adviser, professor Kelly now splits her time between patient care, teaching and research.

She leads an internationally respected research team at the Joseph Epstein Centre for Emergency Medicine Research which has more than 200 research publications and whose research is regularly showcased at international conferences.

She holds academic appointments at The University of Melbourne and Queensland University of Technology.


Recently professor Kelly has led two large multi-centre international studies involving study sites in Europe, New Zealand, South East Asia, the UK and the Middle East looking at the diagnosis and treatment of patients with shortness of breath and headache.

“Bringing together international data shines a light of differences in how we do things and what we can learn from each other,” she said.

In addition, she has an interest in the interface between law and medicine especially as applied to quality of life and mental health.

SUSAN ALBERTI AC, CLASS OF 1964



 Dr Susan Alberti was the leading force behind the establishment of the Australian Football League's elite women's competition. Picture: Supplied

Dr Susan Alberti AC has spent a lifetime advocating for a range of medical research priorities, as well as promoting the importance of healthy living and exercise, particularly for women.

Susan's only child, Danielle, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes which eventually led to her premature death, and Dr Alberti has been at the forefront of Australian and international efforts to cure, prevent and better treat Type 1 diabetes.

In recent years she has invested her time and resources more broadly in promoting healthier living initiatives including women in sport.

Dr Alberti was the leading force behind the establishment of the Australian Football League's elite women's competition, which has had immediate flow on to increase the number of girls and women keeping active and fit by playing Australian rules.

She and her foundation have invested millions of dollars in medical research and she continues to be involved in a range of groundbreaking health and lifestyle initiatives including helping to establish an

Australia first dementia 'village' north of Melbourne to provide a safe and stimulating environment for sufferers of the condition.

Dr Alberti is currently facilitating the promotion of Tradeswomen Australia which was established to encourage, recruit and retain women in skilled trade roles.

STEPHANIE TULLY CLASS OF 1993



03/06/2020 – Stephanie Tully, Class of 1993 Picture: Supplied

Stephanie Tully was appointed group chief customer officer for Qantas in August 2019, following a 15-year career at the Qantas Group spanning operational, commercial, customer experience, marketing and strategy roles across the airline and loyalty businesses.

Stephanie reports directly to Qantas Group chief executive Alan Joyce and is part of the Qantas Group Management Committee (GMC).

Her role is responsible for all aspects of the customer experience and strategy including digital, customer products including airports, lounges and in-flight as well as the catering operations.

She manages the contact centre and customer care business and is also responsible for managing the Qantas brand, marketing and sponsorships.

Previous key Qantas Group positions held by Stephanie include chief marketing officer for Qantas and Qantas Loyalty, head of airline loyalty and head of customer product design. Stephanie started her Qantas career managing cabin crew based in Melbourne and worked for David Jones and Ansett Australia prior to joining Qantas.

Since 2014 Stephanie has served as a board director and vice chair for the Association for Data-driven Marketing and Advertising (ADMA).

She holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from the University of Melbourne and is an alumna of Harvard's Leadership Finance Program.

MICHELE RUYTERS CLASS OF 1977



 Michele Ruyters established the Innocence Initiative at RMIT. Picture: Supplied

Associate professor Michele Ruyters is the associate dean of criminology and justice studies at RMIT University, and the founder and director of the Bridge of Hope Innocence Initiative.

She joined RMIT in 1995.


With the support of the Bridge of Hope Foundation, she established the Innocence Initiative at RMIT as a collaboration between students, staff, and industry to investigate wrongful conviction claims and to lobby for reform of issues leading to injustice.

She has led numerous investigations including the case of Keli Lane, which featured in an ABC documentary series.

In 2018, she founded the Criminal Case Review project at RMIT to investigate other miscarriages of justice involving procedural or system errors

DR LORIEN PARKER CLASS OF 1999



 Dr Lorien Parker has developed a unique science program and small business, Science Play Kids. Picture: Supplied

Dr Lorien Parker (aka Dr Loz), is an award-winning early career scientist turned science communicator for children.

Her extensive background in biochemistry and molecular biology (from completing a PhD and then subsequent post doctorates in cancer chemotherapy drug design), combined with her passion for engaging children as young as three in science, has led to the development of her unique science program and small business, Science Play Kids.

In 2018, Dr Loz was named as one of the most inspiring 100 women in Australia by the Australian Financial Review.

In just over four years, Dr Loz has designed, developed and delivered thousands of science workshops that engage children in science.

She approaches science education through play-based learning by helping children see the science in their everyday lives.

Her creative approach to science teaching marries art and science, engaging children in science concepts through colour, texture and a huge range of sensory elements.


Dr Loz is encouraging children to be problem solvers, explorers and investigators by showing them that asking questions (and then finding answers) is what science is all about.

Her vision is for every child, across the full scale of neurodiversity, regardless of their academic ability, to have the opportunity to experience how cool science is.

Dr Loz produces curriculum-linked lesson plans, unique science kits and many engaging science videos, both online and through Science Play Kids social channels.

JUDY HORACEK CLASS OF 1979



 Judy Horacek's first picture book with Mem Fox *Where is the Green Sheep?* quickly become a children's classic and bestseller. Picture: Supplied

Judy Horacek is a cartoonist and children's book creator, whose work has been widely published both in Australia and overseas.

Horacek's cartoons have appeared regularly in *The Age*, *The Australian*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Canberra Times*, and she has published ten cartoon collections, including *I am Woman, Hear Me Draw*.

Two major retrospective exhibitions of her cartoons have been held, one at the National Gallery of Victoria and the other at the National Museum of Australia, both of which also toured to regional areas.

Her first picture book with Mem Fox, *Where is the Green Sheep?* quickly become a children's classic and bestseller.

The duo have since completed four more books together and Judy has also written and illustrated five picture books on her own.

She regularly exhibits her prints, watercolours and ceramics.

ANNA CRABB CLASS OF 2001



📷 Anna Crabb has stood as a candidate for the Australian Senate on two occasions. Picture: Supplied

Anna Crabb is a leader in the global movement of people using business as a force for good as Certified B Corporations.

Anna is an optimist who has a deep commitment to fairness and integrity.

As a public servant in the Victorian and Australian governments, she contributed to better public policy for students, people with disabilities, single parents, and people with mental illness.

At Social Ventures Australia and through her own social impact consulting business, she motivated community organisations to provide better services to vulnerable people.

At Global Sisters, she built the financial independence of women with barriers to mainstream employment.

Anna is actively engaged in politics, standing as a candidate for the Australian Senate on two occasions.

Her commentary on topical issues has been featured in the Australian Financial Review, ABC and Australian Policy Online.


Anna has contributed to the community as a director of Windana Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service, and a volunteer with Conservation Volunteers Australia and The Smith Family.

She holds a Master of Management from the Australian National University, a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and Sciences from the University of Melbourne, and is an alumna of the Pathways to Politics for Women Program.

She was the recipient of a Melbourne Honours Scholarship and highest achieving Honours student.

KATE JACKOWSKI CLASS OF 2005



 Kate Jackowski has championed the integration of psychological principles and approaches within the justice system. Picture: Supplied

Dr Kate Jackowski obtained her doctorate in forensic psychology at Deakin University at the age of 25.

Since then, she has championed the integration of psychological principles and approaches within the justice system.


Her experience is diverse having worked with a number of government and private organisations, including the Family Court of Australia, Victoria Police, the Royal Children's Hospital, the Department of Justice and Community Safety and the Coroner's Court of Victoria.

As well as her clinical role, Dr Kate Jackowski enjoys sharing her passion for psychology and learning with others, presenting to professional audiences on the assessment of risk-related psychological issues and the importance of self-care and wellbeing support for staff working in challenging and high-risk settings.

She also delivers lectures to tertiary students and provides supervision to provisional and newly registered psychologists.

CELIA CONLAN CLASS OF 1987



 Celia Conlan lived and worked in India and Vietnam for four years before returning to the Victorian bar in 2010. Picture: Supplied

Celia Conlan graduated from Monash University in 1993 with a combined degree in Law and Arts.

She has practised principally in family focused jurisdictions including family law, family violence and child protection.

This experience inspired a book in 2006 called *Surviving Separation: How to Protect Your Children, Your Finances, and Your Sanity*.

She lived and worked in India and Vietnam for four years before returning to the Victorian bar in 2010 and completing a Masters in Applied Family Law.

Celia now practices exclusively as a family law barrister and mediator.

She is a director on the Siena College board and is chair of its policy committee.

She has four children aged 22, 19, 18 and 14 and is relieved she currently enjoys a 100 per cent success rate in overseeing their attainment of adulthood, if not financial independence.

JACQUELINE HARRIS CLASS OF 1965



📷 Archaeological consultant Jacqueline Harris says it is a great privilege to work with Aboriginal people within their lands Picture: Supplied

As an archaeological consultant, Jacqueline's work involves research, exploration, surveying, observing nature and excavating test pits.

Specialising in Aboriginal heritage, she sees it as a "great privilege" to work with Aboriginal people within their lands.

Working in collaboration, she appreciates the special attributes of Aboriginal culture that includes sharing of income, passing on traditional knowledge to all, strong longstanding and widespread family connections and respect for elders.

Within the enormous landscape of Western Australia, encapsulating lush bush in the Kimberley, arid mesas and gorges of the Pilbara, tall jarrah forests in southwest, inland desert and soft flat landscape of the goldfields, each new job offers a plethora of knowledge and adventures.


As Harris surveys the country, she is often accompanied by local Aboriginal people who forage for bush foods available at different seasonal times and share their finds.

She strives to read the land as an original inhabitant, using the skills she has observed over many years.

With each new consultancy job requiring fresh research and exploration the interest is never ending, resulting in an intoxicating but rugged archaeological life.

MICHELE TIMMS CLASS OF 1982



 Michele Timms was the first Australian signed to the WNBA in the United States, joining Phoenix Mercury for the league's historic tip-off. Picture: Supplied

Michele Timms was one of the trailblazers of women's basketball in Australia.

Across 285 Women's National Basketball League games with the Bulleen Boomers, Nunawading Spectres, Perth Lynx and Sydney Flames, the livewire Melbourne point guard won five WNBL championships and All Star Five selection seven times.

As an Opal, she represented Australia in 264 international matches including three Olympic teams (Seoul 1988, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000) and four FIBA World Championships.

Michele captained Australia's 2000 Sydney Olympics basketball team and was the first Australian (male or female) to play professional internationally when she joined German club Lotus München in 1989.

When the WNBA launched in the United States in 1997, Michele was the first Australian signed, joining Phoenix Mercury for the league's historic tip-off.

After her retirement as a player in 2001, Michele returned to the US as an assistant coach with her former club, Phoenix Mercury.

She also attended the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008 and Rio in 2016 as assistant coach of China's national women's team.

Michele was made a member of the Order of Australia in the 2018 Australia Day Honours for her significant service to basketball and as a mentor for women in sport.

She has now turned her sights to developing future Opals and Boomers players by starting her own basketball academy, a lifelong dream.

DR JULIA MARCHINGO CLASS OF 2006



📷 Dr Julia Marchingo's research has been published in prestigious scientific journals across the globe. Picture: Supplied

Dr Julia Marchingo is a postdoctoral scientific fellow at the University of Dundee, Scotland researching how protein signalling controls the T cell immune response against infectious and cancerous threats.

She completed her PhD in immunology in 2015 at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne, using an innovative combination of biological experiments and mathematical modelling to uncover and predict how immune cells integrate multiple external signals to control immune defence.

Dr Marchingo's research has been published in prestigious scientific journals, including Science, and she has spoken at scientific conference across the globe including in the UK, Europe, the US and Canada.

She has received numerous awards for her science, including the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre and Picchi Brothers Foundation award for excellence in cancer research and was highly commended in the Victorian Premier's Award for health and medical research.

Dr Marchingo has been awarded prestigious fellowships from the Cancer Council of Victoria, the European Molecular Biology Organisation, the European Commission, and the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council to support her work.

NOELA L'ESTRANGE CLASS OF 1967



📷 Noela L'Estrange was a foundation member of the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland. Picture: Supplied

Noela L'Estrange was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1976. She also holds a BA (Honours) Monash and MBA (Griffith).

She is a Fellow of the AICD.

She practised in national and international firms, as a legal academic at Queensland University of Technology and in the public sector.

She spent 11 years at the Australian Government Solicitor in Canberra before becoming the first female chief executive of the Queensland Law Society in 2009.

She was a foundation member of the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland, serving on the committee for several years, and as president between 1987-88.

In recognition of her contributions to women and the law, she was made an honorary life member of Women Lawyers Association of Queensland in 2015.

She has also been made a governor of Ormiston College.


She has served as director on a wide range of community and business organisations including as national vice president of the National Council of Women of Australia, as a member and chair of the National Fulbright Scholarship Committee, Australian Institute of Company Directors (ACT), Australian Catholic University, Ormiston College, Australian Corporate Lawyers Association, Powerlink Queensland, Supreme Court of Queensland library committee, Lexon Insurance Pty Ltd, National Seniors of Australia and TAFE Queensland.

She is still actively involved in the wellbeing working group at QLS, and in mentoring women lawyers.

She was included in the Australian Women Lawyers as Active Citizens exhibition and in A Woman's Place: 100 years of Queensland Women Lawyer," published by the Supreme Court of Queensland Library, 2005.

MICHELLE WELSH CLASS OF 1983



 Michelle Welsh served as president of the Australasian Corporate Law Teachers Association and chair of the Monash University Academic Heads' Network. Picture: Supplied

Professor Michelle Welsh is the head of the Department of Business Law and Taxation at the Monash Business School.

Michelle undertakes research and teaching in corporate law, corporate regulation, enforcement and compliance.

With colleagues, she recently completed a large research project that investigated the harmful effects of Phoenix Activity and the fraudulent use of the corporate form.

Michelle has published her research widely and has been invited to present her findings at national and international workshops and conferences, and to members of the judiciary and regulators.

She has co-authored many submissions to government, industry and law reform bodies and has given evidence before a senate references committee inquiry.

Michelle served as president of the Australasian Corporate Law Teachers Association and chair of the Monash University Academic Heads' Network.

Previously, she was a director and deputy chair of the Siena College Board.

Her daughters are also Siena alumnae.

MORE LEADER:

[**TOORAK COLLEGE MT ELIZA TOP 20 STUDENTS OF ALL TIME**](#)

[**CAULFIELD GRAMMAR TOP STUDENTS REFLECT DIVERSITY OF TALENTS**](#)

[**PAST STUDENTS REACH FOR THE STARS AT KILVINGTON GRAMMAR**](#)