

the Spirit



Celebrating
80
years

“
I'm so grateful for all
who have gone before me...
for the many students and staff
who have brought so much
heart, soul and mind to this
great place of learning and life.

Elizabeth Hanney
”

Issue 18
2020

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connecting girls • empowering young women

Mission

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

The Spirit

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Above Top: Commencement Mass, Waratah

Middle: Emelia Sullivan and Chelsea Tran at the

Big Sister Little Sister Pyjama Party

Bottom: Giant Mandala Drawing, Wellbeing Week



From the Principal

What have been the big questions in your life? Who am I? With whom will I share my life? What will I do with this precious gift of life? What is my response to the needs of the world? Jesus, in typical straight talking fashion, asks us another big question: Who do you say I am? The 2020 College theme, *Who do you say I am* is taken from the Gospel of Matthew and forms the basis of our reflections with staff and students this year.

Six words to probe us. An invitation is extended to us, as it was to his disciples, to know and to name Jesus. An aspect that I particularly like about Jesus' question is that of relationship. We are invited into an encounter with the one who knows us and urges us to use our voice. Encounter and relationship are at the heart of our faith, at the heart of our community and at the heart of being educators.

Encounter and relationship marked my commencement as Principal of Siena College, in the most unusual of beginnings! The year began with the devastating backdrop of bushfires and extreme weather conditions of searing heat, smoke haze and ash filled air. Many family, friends and colleagues experienced none of the usual lazy summer days of relaxation; instead they were evacuated, isolated and told to remain inside due to air quality. Talk of climate change action dominated public discourse. Not one month later, we found ourselves caught up in a worldwide health scare as the coronavirus swept across the globe. Unsettling times for our students in particular as events were cancelled

or postponed, social distancing and increased hygiene practices were enforced and ultimately, the College moving to online learning and early school holidays. At the time of writing this article, we continue to hear of the escalation of COVID-19 in Australia and abroad, bringing with it heightened measures of isolation and medical response. At Siena, we are acutely aware not only of health fears but of impacts on employment for members of our community and the continued unknown of when face to face teaching and connecting will resume. These are worrying times for all, perhaps particularly so for our senior students. And yet. Have we not all been touched in some way in this time of separation and slow? Acts of generosity and kindness, acts of creativity and ingenuity; acts of unity and solidarity. When this time passes, what will we bring back to the ordinary, from this time of extraordinary? What lessons learned?

In recent weeks, we have been offered some wonderful reflections by notable writers and preachers. I share with you two comments which have stayed with me. Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP:

Yes, there is isolation, but also a new and wide communion of those who care. Let us hope that we shall discover that just as the virus reaches beyond national boundaries and does not need visas, so we shall renew our sense that we belong to a single human community from which no exit is possible.



Elizabeth Hanney Principal

And another, from Marianne Williamson:

Something very beautiful happens to people when their world has fallen apart: a humility, a nobility, a higher intelligence emerges at just the point when our knees hit the floor.

In these strange times, I commend the staff of Siena College, along with students and families for the 'very beautiful' examples of humility, nobility and higher intelligence; online learning preparations, supports and encouragements on social media and in communications, connections within and beyond Siena platforms, acts of compassion and generosity – all this despite fear and uncertainty.

And so, my introduction to Siena has been unusual to say the least, but no less blessed.

Please enjoy reading this edition of *The Spirit* and I look forward to sharing and celebrating the good gifts of Siena College with you.

Elizabeth Hanney Principal



Getting to Know Mrs Hanney



Our College Captains, Laura Griss and Adrienne Duray, interviewed our new Principal, Elizabeth Hanney.

WHEN AND WHERE DID YOUR CAREER IN EDUCATION BEGIN?

My career in education began at Nazareth College as a twenty-three year old. It was Nazareth's first year of operation so I began as a graduate teacher with a great group of 'pioneer staff' and around eighty Year 7 students. It was a fantastic experience; during my time there I came to realise how much I love teaching and how much we learn from each other regarding teaching, leadership and being in a community. Thanks to the leadership at the time, I was encouraged to grow my own leadership and I will be forever grateful for that. Your first job as a graduate in any field is such an exciting and formative time.

DID YOU HAVE ANY JOBS/STUDY SOMETHING DIFFERENT PRIOR TO YOUR TEACHING CAREER?

After I left school I had a number of part time jobs: in a bakery, in hospitality and in a toy shop! This enabled me to learn some great skills and helped me buy my first car, a rusted out Corolla which I loved!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT BEING PRINCIPAL AT SIENA COLLEGE SO FAR?

Siena is a fantastic place. I discovered this on my first visit last year when I met both of you for the first time. I was struck by two things: your warm welcome to me and your tangible, infectious love of Siena. Both of you spoke so affectionately about your community; the commitment of teachers and support staff, the lifelong friendships you have developed, the real the sense of community and connection and finally, about how alive the Dominican spirit of truth seeking is.

I'm so grateful for all who have gone before me; for Mrs Robson Garth, for the Dominican Sisters, for the many students and staff who have brought so much heart, soul and mind to this great place of learning and life. As Principal, I feel so pleased and proud to be here and this has only grown since meeting the young women of Siena.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS YEAR?

I'm enjoying learning about the Siena community. I'm enjoying meeting students and getting to know staff. I am also really enjoying learning more about the Dominican story and seeing it woven through everything – in artwork and symbolism around the College, in the curriculum and, importantly, in how it is lived in decision making, in relationships with others, in justice, service, prayer and community.

WHAT NEW INITIATIVES ARE YOU HOPING TO BRING TO THE SIENA COMMUNITY?

I hope to look at ways we can continue to increase student voice in their learning and in their community – what interests them, what's important to them, how can we best work together to give students everything they need in the here and now, and in readiness for their future. I also hope to work with the great staff at Siena to look at our curriculum, our programs, our camps, trips and all extra curricular opportunities to make sure we are offering Siena girls the very best. We need to be mindful of what the world needs in terms of future employment trends, but also what the world needs in terms of women pioneering and addressing social and environmental needs.

I'm also hoping to bring a great new Master Plan to life, ensuring that our learning environment caters for contemporary learning and sets the scene for excellence for all, now and for the next generation of Siena students.

WHAT FOOTBALL TEAM DO YOU BARRACK FOR?

The mighty Demons, Go Dees!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

I was one of five children and grew up in Burwood. I have been married to Michael for just over thirty years and we have four fantastic children: Eamon (29), twin sons Tom and Patrick (26) and Alana (20).

WHAT SUBJECTS DID YOU COMPLETE IN YEAR 12?

I studied English, German, Maths, Biology and Music

WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER, WHAT COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN?

Quite a few, without any great expertise I'm afraid: Swimming, Flute, Irish Dancing (my sister was much better at this) and Basketball

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS.

Motivated, hardworking and positive.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME?

I like reading, going to the theatre and movies, walking, and catching up with family and friends

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR CAREER?

As strange as it sounds, I have a big career highlight every year. It's when we celebrate with graduating Year 12 students. This time is a highlight for me because it's the bringing together of such love and expertise on the part of teachers, parents and friends which culminates in this fabulous milestone for young people, finishing school. I have personal career moments but what gives me a real buzz is seeing 'world ready' young women who have been shaped by a great Catholic education, blessed with lifelong friends and all the knowledge, skills and values they need to make the world a better place; hopefully living happy and fulfilled lives.



Dominican News

Local Sister, Margaret Fields OP (Class of 1954) spent time in the Solomon Islands in January over the holiday break teaching an intensive English program to the young Sisters. Lessons in reading, writing, speaking and listening aimed to upskill the Sisters studying to be teachers, nurses and pastoral workers. The Sisters worked hard and appreciated the opportunity to improve their English skills.

Sr Margaret teaches English at Mercy Connect in Dandenong to refugee women each week, as well as English to a number of newly arrived religious in formation belonging to different religious congregations in Melbourne.

Sr Mary-Clare Holland OP, Prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands, visited Papua New Guinea in November as part of a delegation of Australian Church Leaders to see first hand the situation for those seeking asylum or refugee status. Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv led the delegation. With the closure of Manus Island Detention Centre, one hundred and twenty detainees were transferred to Port Moresby in August 2019 and, along with a couple of hundred other asylum seekers

in Papua New Guinea, await resettlement. The men held at Bomana are denied visitors, phones, access to lawyers and have minimal rations each day. Most lose weight and subsequently find themselves in the psychiatric ward at the private hospital, often as a result of self harm and mental illness. They have lost hope as their claims have been rejected or they have chosen not to participate in the refugee determination process.

Extract from www.opeast.org.au

Sr Julianna Drobik OP
DEA Trustee



Sr Julianna Drobik OP



Meeting with Behrouz



English Class



VERITAS • 1940-2020

Celebrating 80 Years

Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral
Postponed (date to be confirmed)

Alumnae Luncheon at the Park Hyatt
Event Cancelled

80th Anniversary Ball at the Park Hyatt
Saturday, 5 September 2020

80th Anniversary Wine Sales

A range of wines are available for purchase through our partner, Prospect Wines. For further details and/or to order visit www.siena.vic.edu.au/celebrating80years



Mission and Identity



College Theme: Who Do You Say I Am?

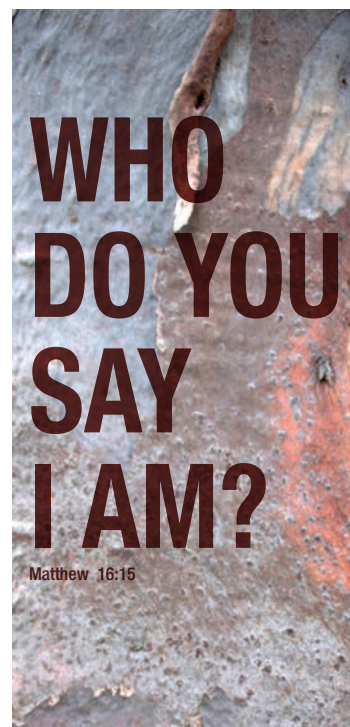
Our College theme has at its heart this reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."



Saint Dominic is said to have carried the Gospel of Matthew with him as he walked the landscapes that brought him into contact with those who were marginalised – whether through circumstance or belief. As contemporary Dominicans we continue to carry on this tradition: going out to the margins and challenging the status quo by searching for truth.



Commencement Eucharist

On the evening of Tuesday, 18 February Year 7 students, 2020 Student Leaders, staff and parents gathered at St Dominic's Church to ask God's blessing on the year ahead. In a real spirit of joy and community we welcomed our enthusiastic Year 7s and commissioned our new College Principal, Elizabeth Hanney alongside our Student Leaders from Years 8 to 12. Heartfelt thanks to the choir members, musicians, students with roles, Eucharistic Ministers and all who shaped or led an element of the Eucharist. We are also grateful Fr Peter Murnane OP for generously joining us to preside at our celebration.



Dominican Discovery

At an integral part of the first day of their Transition Program, Year 7 students participated in 'Dominican Discovery' around our College Campus. They encountered images, words and symbols that link strongly to both our Catholic tradition and our Dominican charism. With staff members on hand to ask questions and provide direction, our students experienced the 'culture' of Siena for the first time through Dominican eyes. A highlight of the session was meeting Daisy – our very own Dominican dalmatian!



Jennifer Levett
Deputy Principal Mission and Identity



Learning and Teaching

Congratulations to the Class of 2019 whose outstanding results again placed Siena College in the Top 8 ranking of Catholic schools and in the top 9% of all Victorian schools. Siena College performed above the state average with a median study score of 33, and 13.7% of all study scores were over 40. Three of our VCE students were also acknowledged in the VCE Seasons of Excellence program, Top Arts and Top Class Drama. Overall, these are impressive statistics and we are very proud of our students' academic achievements. We are also proud of the way the girls worked during the year, participated in their classes, supported each other in their learning and contributed positively to the life of the school. We look forward to continuing our ongoing relationship with the Class of 2019, as they follow their dreams and make valuable contributions to the Siena College community as alumnae.

In 2019 we developed and refined the Siena Pedagogical Model, designed to best help in the transfer of knowledge and skill, and to utilise the most effective and proven learning processes that support students. The focus of 2020 is to continue to foster collaboration through our learning teams as we embed and continue to hone the Siena College Lesson Framework in the classroom. Our commitment is to ensure our teaching is always fresh, dynamic and relevant and effectively engages our students.

The Learning Centre continues to seek ways to engage our students in authentic learning opportunities. In 2019, we were able to set up a well-equipped podcasting studio with the expertise of our Audio Visual Technician, Anthony George. This term our very own podcast, SienaCast was launched. SienaCast provides the opportunity for students and staff to collaborate on a common project and to creatively explore different aspects of an agreed theme. Our first episode, themed *Women* was launched to coincide with the College's celebration of International Women's Day and the second, titled *Diversity*, has just been released. Students work in teams and host regular segments, in addition to publishing individual pieces of work related to the episode theme. The podcast is an exciting platform for the College community to engage with a range of topics of interest and concern to them.

Finally, the last few weeks of Term 1 have presented us with a new set of unprecedented challenges. Our response to the possibility of remote learning due to COVID-19 has been considered, collaborative and well planned in a very short time frame. The learning and preparation to create an effective online learning environment, one that caters for the different needs of senior and middle school students, has been an extraordinary feat. The blended learning model, including teacher direct



Bernadette Donnelly Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

instruction, collaborative opportunities and independent online learning are designed to ensure continuity of quality learning and maintaining connection with our students. I can't thank the Director of Innovation and Learning, our Heads of Learning, all teaching staff, support staff and IT enough for their incredible assistance and time spent in preparing for learning remotely.

As we continue to make adjustments and rise to the challenge of accommodating our changing circumstances, let us all consider it to be an opportunity to enact our Dominican charism and support others through our individual responses to these incredible times.

Bernadette Donnelly
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching



SienaCast Podcast Studio



Wellbeing

Big Sister Little Sister Program

Relationships matter and are fundamental to our overall happiness and wellbeing. This is no different for our young people. At Siena, we reverence relationships and work to ensure that the youngest members of our community, our Year 7 students, feel connected and welcome from the very start of their journey with us. The Big Sister Little Sister Program connects Year 7 students to a Year 12 mentor. A range of fun activities throughout the year provide opportunities for them to get to know one another.

The annual Big Sister Little Sister shared lunch provides the first opportunity for all of our Year 7 and Year 12 students to meet one another. This relaxed House-based event allows for positive partnerships to be formed, as stories are shared of the first few weeks of secondary school. Our Year 12 students greatly enjoy the chance to provide advice on navigating the new learning landscape. The highly anticipated Big Sister Little Sister PJ party follows on from the shared lunch and is an event that encourages students to further connect with one another. Through dancing, structured games and sharing dinner, relationships are fostered and connection to the Siena community is strengthened.



Antonella Rosati Deputy Principal Wellbeing



Wellbeing Week

Wellbeing encompasses all dimensions of life. As a central outcome of schooling, wellbeing is integral to learning excellence, good health and life success. A positive sense of wellbeing can foster higher levels of engagement, school connectedness, emotional vitality, psychosocial functioning and academic performance. It is a key factor in enabling children and young people to contribute to society and enjoy meaningful and spiritually enriched lives. (CEM eXcel)

The introduction of a Wellbeing Week in 2020 at Siena College has been an invaluable opportunity to make wellbeing visible. A variety of wellbeing activities such as shared lunches, yoga flows, mandala painting and movie screenings, celebrated our commitment to developing student and staff wellbeing. It was wonderful to see so many members of our school community come together at these events and recognise the many activities that are available to enhance personal wellbeing. Practicing the art of gratitude, mindfulness, prayer and developing and showing empathy through engaging in storytelling, can also add meaning to our lives.

Antonella Rosati
Deputy Principal Wellbeing



Sustainable Development Goals

As people around the globe raise their voices demanding greater action on global climate change, we at Siena College look to how we can impact change. Siena College is committed to engaging our staff, students, and the wider community meaningfully in achieving our sustainable development goals.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global agenda, adopted by countries in 2015, with a vision of ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Siena is committed to working with our suppliers who are dedicated to the environment and the SDGs.

Our students are passionate advocates of climate action and environmental sustainability. In 2019, students across year levels formed a group known as the Eco Warriors. The Eco Warriors group allows students to harness team building skills, and creates opportunities to collaborate. It gives students the ability to express their voice within the College and demonstrate leadership abilities.

During 2019, these students, together with staff, planned, brainstormed and implemented initiatives to improve the environmental footprint of the College.

Siena College is actively working towards three of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2020.



7
AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY

Siena College has recently replaced all our lighting with LED.



13
CLIMATE ACTION

At Siena College, we monitor and measure our daily usage of electricity, cooling and heating.

Lights automatically switch off if a room is vacated for lengthy periods of time.

We are currently investigating the use of solar panels.



11
SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES

The College recently conducted a waste audit, engaging our Eco Warriors in this process. A comprehensive waste management program is being initiated across the College to ensure we are disposing of our waste in a sustainable manner.

The Eco Warriors met with our canteen operator which initiated the removal of all single use plastics, straws and unnecessary packaging. We are currently working to become a 'Nude Food' school.

Join the Reuse Revolution



Siena KeepCups are available for purchase at www.siena.vic.edu.au/college-community/siena-keepcups



Introducing our new Charter Bus Service

Siena College has recently added a private charter bus which covers the Doncaster/Blackburn area. This is a Quinces-Australian Transit Group service which requires students to hold a bus pass provided by the College.

Term passes are available for \$400/term or you may choose to purchase a ten trip pass for \$60.

For further information on our charter bus service, contact finance@siena.vic.edu.au.

Learn more about transport options to and from Siena College at www.siena.vic.edu.au/enrolment/location-and-transport

International Women's Day Breakfast



Claire Moody Head of Student Formation



Sunday, 8 March, 2020 marked International Women's Day, a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

Siena College celebrated International Women's Day this year with our annual breakfast on Thursday, 5 March. This community event provided a wonderful opportunity to gather together to acknowledge the achievements of women, and reflect on the status of gender equality. We also joined together in support of the Kopanang Community Trust, of which Siena College is a proud supporter.

The Kopanang Community Trust was established in April 2001, driven by the call to help women desperately in need of community support, due to the ongoing impact of HIV/AIDS. These women were in need of a sustainable income to feed their families, most of whom had very little to live on. The Kopanang women learn embroidery skills, and foster each other's creativity, to produce beautiful pieces which are sold around the world. This allows them to make a living with their skills, and thus support their family.

Women come to Kopanang to share their hopes for a different future, as they are supported through the all too common reality of poverty and ill health. They learn skills that empower them into a new awareness of the power of community, enabling them to share their cultural and spiritual stories and hopes. At Kopanang, they find their voice.

The funds raised from our International Women's Day Breakfast will help the women of the Kopanang Community via the support of an organisation called Project Dignity. This program provides reusable sanitary pads

for the young women of Kopanang, whilst delivering an educational program. The sanitary products provided are more environmentally friendly than many alternatives, and due to their reusable nature, will reduce financial pressure associated with buying single use products. More importantly, it will help reduce disruptions to school attendance and therefore the educational program for young women due to a lack of access to sanitary products during their periods.

Ella Gurry, one of our current Year 12 leaders, and Maddie Harriss (Class of 2018), spoke at the breakfast about their experiences participating in the Kopanang Immersion, living with members of the Kopanang community, and experiencing daily life in Tsakane, South Africa, and how their learning has been shaped by that experience.

Our guest speaker for the morning was Siena College alumna, Emma Yee (Class of 1999), who shared her story of perseverance and achievement. Emma's experience spans over twenty years

working in the hospitality industry with some of Australia's biggest brands. In 2017, Emma was appointed the youngest and first ever female Chief Executive of Peter Rowland, a position she held for two years. Emma is an innovative leader with a track record of delivering visionary leadership, and strategic business outcomes. Despite facing many challenges throughout her career, Emma shared with us how her education, work experience and mentors gave her the ability to take on challenges to further her career, achieve goals, and continue to push the boundaries as a female leader.

The International Women's Day breakfast was a valuable opportunity for our current students to be inspired by Emma's journey, and celebrate the achievements of our Siena College alumnae, whilst supporting our sisters at Kopanang.

Claire Moody
Head of Student Formation



L-R: Maddie Harriss, Laura Griss, Emma Yee and Adrienne Duray



Student Leadership at Siena College



Year 7 Pillars Leadership Program

The Siena College Student Leadership Program was off to a strong start this year, with our 2020 student leaders attending a Student Leadership Forum prior to the commencement of the academic year.

This day provided our leaders with the opportunity to reflect on their understanding and practice of leadership in a Dominican community under the guidance of Sr Sheila Flynn OP. Siena College staff facilitated leadership skills workshops and the students worked in teams to set goals, develop strategies and plan for their year in leadership.

Our Student Leadership Team has had a busy first term, working on a number of projects including planning for the International Women's Day Breakfast, preparing students for the House Swimming and Athletics Carnivals and encouraging participation in a number of events.

The first Siena College Student Forum will take place later this year, providing an opportunity for all students to share their ideas with the Student Leadership Team. Our aim is to promote student voice across all year levels of the College.

A group of students who completed the Pillars Leadership Program last year have formed a team to coordinate Siena College's response to Caritas Australia's annual Project Compassion campaign. They attended a workshop facilitated by Caritas, planning activities to educate their fellow students about the campaign.

These include:

- Recording messages explaining the work of Caritas to be played during Pause and Pray

- Reminder signs on water taps educating the Siena College community about water usage, access and sanitation issues across the world
- Displaying educational material on screens and notice boards around school
- Working with House Group teachers to share Project Compassion stories to students during House Groups

These activities were designed to raise awareness among the community of both global and local justice issues, which will culminate with some fundraising activities throughout 2020, allowing all students to further support the Project Compassion campaign.

The Pillars Leadership Program has continued to grow in 2020, starting with our Year 7 Leadership Program taking place this term. This will continue for our students in other year levels throughout 2020. It has been wonderful to see a large number of Year 7 students who are interested in learning more about leadership, with thirty-eight Year 7s involving themselves in the program. Many have been involved in leadership

in their primary schools, and are committed to continuing learning about leading. They have been reflecting on the way that Dominican values influence leadership, which characteristics make effective leaders. They will soon listen to a presentation from some of our Year 8 and 9 leaders who will share their leadership journeys and answer questions.

With a busy start to the year, and many more planned events on the horizon, Siena continues to provide our students with ample opportunity to develop their leadership skills.

Claire Moody

Head of Student Formation



Student Leadership Forum



Student Leadership Forum

Welcome to New Staff



Tracey Kermond Human Resources Manager

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff into our Siena College Dominican family. From graduates to highly experienced teaching and support staff, they bring a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and expertise to the College. We are also pleased to welcome back alumna, Riley Khan (Class of 2019) as our AFL SportsReady trainee for 2020.

Congratulations to the following staff who have been appointed to Positions of Leadership this year:

- Anne Rice Head of Learning Diversity
- Anita Galli Head of Senior Pathways
- Bronwyn Ilott Head of Albertus Magnus Learning Centre
- Minna Jewell Assistant Head of Albertus Magnus Learning Centre



Loren Brealey
Instrumental Teacher:
Saxophone



Maria Gonsalvez
English, Religious Education
and Psychology Teacher
Kurrajong House Group Teacher



Dhanya Gunawardena
Maths and Science Teacher



Riley Khan
AFL SportsReady Trainee



Brosie McCann
Accounting, Economics, Business
Management, Legal Studies and
Religious Education Teacher
Dianella House Group Teacher



Punita Mistry
English and History Teacher
Waratah House Group Teacher



Erin Murphy
English and History Teacher
Dianella House Group Teacher



Sonia Singh
Maths Methods and Biology
Teacher

Siena College
GOLF DAY
Friday, 6 November 2020

Sponsorship opportunities are available!
Please contact Tracey Grobbelaar for details on 03 9835 0266
or email tgrobbelaar@siena.vic.edu.au



*Athletics
Carnival*



*Swim and
Dive
Carnival*



Alumnae News



Liz Merrett Alumnae Coordinator

Reunions 2020

Reunions for 2020 will be celebrated at Siena College on Saturday, 17 October. Further details will be advised via email, the College website and Siena Global Connect.

Update Your Details

We encourage alumnae to stay connected and update their details via the College website: www.siena.vic.edu.au/college-community/alumnae

The Alumnae Office can be contacted via email at alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au or via phone on 03 9835 0217.

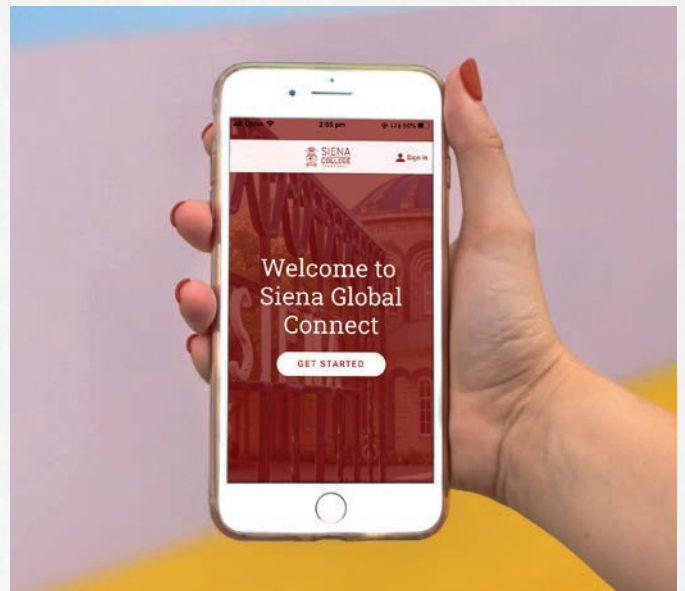


INSCRIBE YOUR NAME ON OUR ALUMNAE WALL

Visit www.trybooking.com/519094 or contact the Alumnae Office on 03 9835 0217



Inscriptions for the 2019/2020 financial year close on 30 June 2020



SIENA GLOBAL CONNECT

Connecting Past, Present and Future

Siena College is excited to announce the launch of the Siena Global Connect app. The app provides you with direct access to our network of alumnae, in the palm of your hand. Scroll through our personalised news feed, find old classmates or attend a reunion to meet up.

TO GET THE APP

iOS Users

1. Download 'Graduway Community' from App Store
2. Enable auto updates (optional)
3. Search for 'Siena Global Connect'
4. Sign in / Register

Android Users

1. Download 'Siena Alumnae' from Google Play Store
2. Enable auto updates (optional)
3. Sign in / Register

Visit www.sienaglobalconnect.com.au for further instructions on navigating the app.

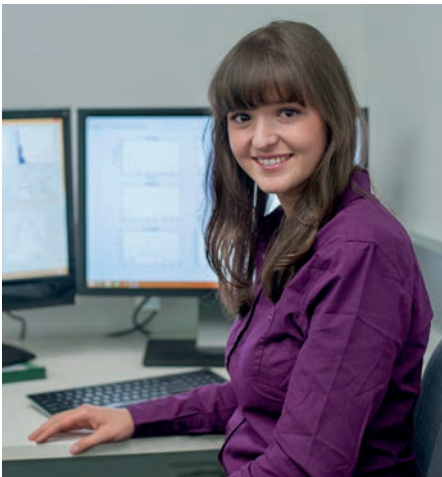
Alumnae Celebrations

The Siena College Alumnae Association provides an annual award in recognition of Dr Ursula McHenry, née McKenna (Class of 1948), who holds the distinction of being Siena College's first student to complete a tertiary education. After completing a Science and Medical degree, Ursula worked as a residential doctor, then in the psychiatric unit at St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne. The award is presented to an alumna of the College and recognises excellence in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Congratulations to Dr Julia Marchingo (Class of 2006), the recipient of the Dr Ursula McKenna Award for 2019.

Julia embodies the values of Siena College and our Dominican tradition of service to the community and empowering others. Since graduating in 2006, Julia has displayed a commitment to STEM and her path in life will inspire staff, families and our young students to explore and strive to be the best they can be.

As Julia currently resides overseas, the award was accepted by her mother, Dr Anne Marchingo (Class of 1968) at the Academic Awards Evening in December last year.



Dr Julia Marchingo (Class of 2006)



Siena College Board Chair, Kath McCarthy, Dr Anne Marchingo (Julia's mother) and past Principal, Gaynor Robson-Garth

The following is Julia's acceptance speech:

Thank you to the Siena College Alumnae Association for selecting me from a talented pool of fabulous women. I'm honoured and honestly rather thrilled to receive this STEM award named after the truly inspirational Dr Ursula McKenna. It means a lot to be recognised by the Siena College community, a place in which I received such a solid foundation of learning and where I began developing the confidence that I had something valuable to contribute to the world.

I'm disappointed that I can't be there in person to speak with you all but I'm delighted that one of my own personal scientific inspirations, my mum, Dr Anne Marchingo is here instead on my behalf.

The reason I can't be here is that I currently live in Scotland. This is one of the wonderful aspects of a career in science – it can take you all over the world because when you become a scientist you become part of a larger global community of people who are working together towards a common goal – the pursuit for new knowledge, for greater understanding of human health and for the development of better treatments for disease.

So how did I go from Siena College to pretty much the furthest habitable place on Earth I could possibly live and work?

You can actually trace this back to my days here at Siena College and in particular two Science teachers to whom I am enormously grateful, Ms Merriweather and Mr Bunn. They identified that I was a "wee bit nerdy" and might benefit from the opportunity to attend a two week International Science School run by the University of Sydney. This was my first real taste of the international nature of a scientific career and my first exposure to the idea that there were questions for which we genuinely didn't know the answer. I was hooked by the idea that when you asked a teacher "why does this happen?" the reply could be "no one knows... and it's not easy to figure out but it's an important question".

This curiosity and excitement about uncovering the unknown is something that has driven me forward through a university degree, a PhD and now all the way to the other side of the world, and is something I retain in my current job today.

At the moment I'm working on the fascinating conundrum of how our own immune system successfully receives and puts together many different external signals in order to identify and respond to harmful pathogens without mistakenly attacking parts of our own body. This is a huge and complex problem in which progress in our knowledge can have huge implications for improving human health, for example researchers (to be very clear, not me) are now using the knowledge we have about the immune response to reprogram immune cells to attack and destroy certain types of cancers. With the advances in technology and new discoveries about how the human body works, it is truly an exciting time to be a scientist!

Science is a team pursuit, and my development as a scientist and achievements in my scientific career to date that have led to this award have only been possible with the help of a multitude of people on many different levels. As such, I would specifically like to thank my PhD supervisors Professor Phil Hodgkin and Dr Susanne Heinzl and my post doctorate supervisor, Professor Doreen Cantrell who have all been pivotal mentors in my development once I entered my scientific training. More importantly, before any of this, my first scientific inspirations came from my family, my Grandpa and Mum in particular who both helped spark my passion for science through their curiosity about the world around them.

Goals worth achieving are rarely easily won, but I for one am thankful for trailblazers like Dr Ursula McKenna who have forged the path for women in STEM. They have paved the way, allowing me to follow my curiosity and passion and to contribute to the fundamental global challenge of improving human health. This ambition is not only possible but is a challenge in which I can thrive. I would encourage all of you to follow your own ambitions. Don't be afraid to strive for excellence and to take on the worthwhile but hard challenges.

Dr Julia Marchingo, December 2019





*Year 7
First Day*



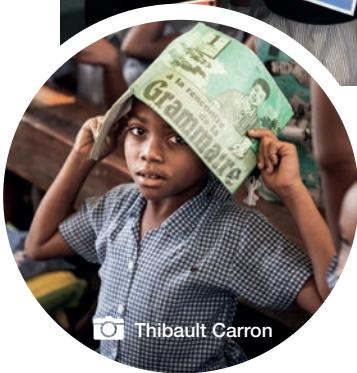
*Open Evening
and Twilight
Fair*



*Year 12
Breakfast*



Siena Stands with Girls in Africa



Growing up in Australia, I stepped into the magic of stories every day, shedding my skin to try out different lives to test who I might be. In novels I discovered that girls could be heroes. And the more I read the larger my world grew. I had stories to make sense of the universe, atlases to reveal whole continents to me and dictionaries to add to my collection of words.

For too many girls in Uganda, books are a luxury. "Books," they told me, "are more than just things made of paper and ink." To turn the pages of a book meant gaining a vocabulary. It meant mastery of the English language and that meant a job. Which meant quieting their growling stomachs and paying for their siblings to stay in school.

Suzy Zail, author of *I am Change* and initiator of #giveagirlabook

Inspired by the words and the initiative of Melbourne based author Suzy Zail, Siena students embraced the opportunity to support the empowerment of young women in Africa through education. In the lead up to International Women's Day, students were encouraged to recognise that not all girls have access to reading material and that reading really does have the power to change the course of a young woman's life. In House Groups and Wider Reading classes in the Learning Centre, our girls were introduced to the #giveagirlabook initiative and were encouraged to stand in solidarity with girls around the world by donating one book per student to the drive.

In House Groups, students wrote letters to accompany their donations for the books' future readers. In addition to generous donations from within Siena, we were incredibly thankful to also receive donations from the broader Siena community.

Our book donations were loaded up with the assistance of students in Year 9 and 10 Global Responsibilities classes and handed on to Suzy Zail in person. Working with *Australian Books for Children in Africa*, the donations will make their way to the hands, hearts and minds of girls in Africa.



Bronwyn Ilott
Head of Justice Education



From the Archives

Generational Siena Families

For some families, the choice of Siena College to educate their daughters has become a tradition. In our current cohort of students, we have thirty-six mothers and four grandmothers who also attended the College.

In 2016, **Therese Black**, née Hickey was featured in an article in the Weekly Review which described how Therese, her three sisters and four daughters had all attended Siena College. To update the story; **Madeleine**, who was a Year 12 student in 2016, graduated from Siena and has joined her sisters **Sarah, Bridget** and **Eliza** as an alumna of the College. However, the connection with Siena remains intact as Therese returned to Siena College in 2019 as a member of the Mathematics Faculty.

The **Carroll family** has the distinction of having the greatest number of daughters enrolled at Siena. Seven sisters maintained the Carroll presence at Siena for twenty years. Beginning with **Michelle** and **Therese** who started in Year 8 in 1977 and ending with **Kath** who graduated from Year 12 in 1997. The siblings saw many changes at Siena in their shared time including an increase in student numbers from 430 to nearly 600 and the appointment of the first lay principal in 1995. Several of the Carroll sisters have since returned to Siena as guest speakers at the annual Siena College Careers Showcase and **Simone's** daughter **Meg Curtin**, who is currently in Year 11, will

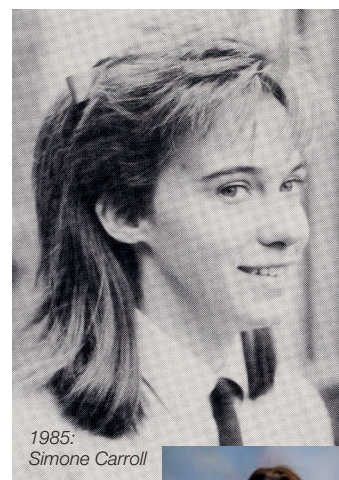
soon mark the passing of another generation through the College.

Another family who has maintained a connection with the College across the generations is the **Ovens family**. **Jessica Ovens** (Year 12) and her sister **Emily** (Year 10) have followed their mother **Tanya**, née Grant and aunts, **Fiona** and **Marina** through the Siena College gates. Tanya herself has returned to Siena as a volunteer. She has been actively involved with Siena Parents' Association (SPA) and Friends of Music and Performing Arts (FOMPA).

The **Mooring sisters; Judith Netting, Rose Marie Prosser** and **Ann Leonard** all graduated from Siena Dominican Convent (as Siena College was then called) during the 1960s. **Rose Marie** maintained her links with Siena returning to teach Chemistry and Biblical Studies and then serving on the College Board. She also sent her daughters **Katharine** and **Elizabeth Prosser** to Siena in the 1980s. **Kath McCarthy**, née Prosser continues her mother's tradition of service to the Siena College community serving as the current Chair of the College Board. Kath's daughters **Alannah** (Year 10) and **Tess** (Year 8) are the third generation of this family to attend Siena.

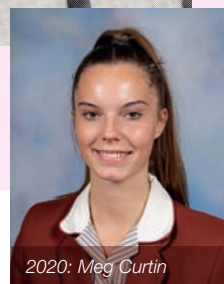


Maureen McAuley College Archivist



1985: Simone Carroll

Maureen McAuley College Archivist



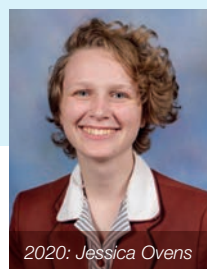
2020: Meg Curtin



1988: Tanya Ovens, née Grant in Year 10



2020: Emily Ovens



2020: Jessica Ovens



1980: Therese Black, née Hickey



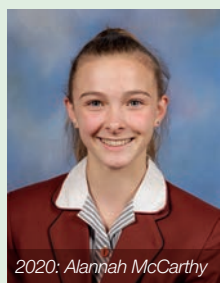
1989: Kath McCarthy, née Prosser



2017: Kath McCarthy, Alannah McCarthy and Rose Marie Prosser



c. 1956: Rose Marie, Ann and Judy Mooring



2020: Alannah McCarthy



2020: Tess McCarthy



2016: Madeleine, Eliza, Sarah, Therese and Bridget Black
Photo Credit: Scott McNaughton, 'The Weekly Review' 27 April 2016



Congratulations

Marriages

Angelica Motta (Class of 2010) married Jamie Hatzidimitriou at St Dominic's Church on 20 July 2019. Their bridal party included Sandy Uong, Lauren Ranieri (Class of 2010) Adriana Malvaso (Class of 2013), Stephanie D'Silvia, and Livia D'Amico.



Megan Oliver (Class of 2006) and her partner, Gareth Evans, were married on 28 December 2019. The celebration was held at The Farm, Yarra Valley and their wedding party included Millie Holmes (Class of 2006), Lucy Carne (Class of 2006), Penny Brotja, née Oliver (Class of 2002), and Kristen Oliver (Class of 2000). Daisy and Maggie Robson (Millie's daughters), and Mia Brotja (Penny's daughter) were flower girls.



Births

Lauren Moraru, née Gargano (Class of 2009) and partner, Mircea are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter, Maia Rose born 19 November 2019.



We Remember

May they Rest in Peace

Elaine Jamison passed away on 21 August 2019. Elaine taught Film Studies as an elective to Year 11 students at Siena College. Elaine will be missed by her family including daughters Catherine (Class of 1982), Christine (Class of 1977) and Suzanne (Class of 1979).

Christopher Laming passed away suddenly on 23 October 2019. His wife, Caroline and daughters Georgina (Class 2008), Isabelle (Class of 2011) and Alice (Class of 2015) will cherish their special memories of Chris as a loving husband and devoted father.

Joseph Gerard (Gerry) Joyce passed away on 20 December 2019. He will be sorely missed by his wife Marie (Class of 1956) and family including sons Paul and Damian, and daughters Sarah (Class of 1984), Catherine (Class of 1985), and Justine (Class of 1991). Gerry was a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS).

Loyis Gibson, née Olive (Class of 1944) was one of our first students at Siena Convent. Loyis passed away on 31 December 2019 and her spark for life will be missed by friends and family including sisters Ann Jacono (Class of 1948), Lorraine Cameron (Class of 1951) and Barbara Bourke (Class of 1954).

Loyis was a very active member of our community. She happily shared with us her memories of school in the 1940s, and spoke fondly of the Dominican Sisters, her teachers and life growing up with the Olive sisters. Loyis holds a very special place in the history of Siena College.





SIENA
COLLEGE
CAMBERWELL

Celebrating
80
years

