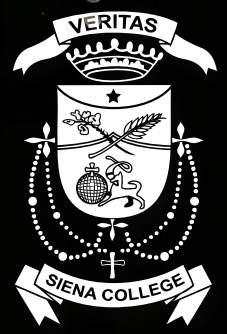


# the Spirit



connecting girls • empowering young women



Issue 22  
2022

## *In this Issue*

Flying High in Year 10  
Science (p7)

Introducing Minna Jewell (p8)

A SPA Presidential  
Perspective  
(p16)





## 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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**SIENA**  
**COLLEGE**  
CAMBERWELL

A CATHOLIC COLLEGE FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN  
THE DOMINICAN TRADITION, YEARS 7 TO 12

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2022



## 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.



# From the Principal



Elizabeth Hanney  
Principal

We ended 2021 on a high note with outstanding results from our Year 12 students in the 2021 Victorian Certificate of Education. As educators, we know that students achieve such results with the close encouragement, high expectations and deep subject knowledge of their teachers. We know the importance of this being matched by students' intellect, effort and passion. We look forward to acknowledging the class of 2021 in the upcoming VCE Laureates Assembly.

St Catherine of Siena once said, "Be who you are meant to be, and you will set the whole world on fire." We all have a calling, a heart's desire, something specific that God invites us to in our life. We are confident that our graduates will go beyond the gates of Siena and make intelligent and responsible use of their personal talents. The gift of a Dominican Education will be a great gift to the world.

In commencing 2022, there has been a sense that we are still in a returning phase. Still adjusting, still returning to our new normal; post lockdown but not yet post pandemic. Whilst many countries around the world are impacted by the crisis in Ukraine with such catastrophic impacts, we in Australia can enjoy the liberty of hopeful forward planning. There is a felt experience of appreciation and gratitude amongst students and staff that we can resume social activities, full programs, peer and staff-student connections.

Our 2022 College Theme, *In Truth and Action* is taken from the scriptures and forms the basis of our reflections with staff and students this year. It impels us to love in truth and action, to take the initiative in connecting beyond ourselves. Throughout the school year so far, students have explored how they can demonstrate the College theme as Dominicans and as stewards of Creation, as well as ways to live it out as a community.

In Term 1, we were delighted to welcome to our community a new cohort of Year 7 students and fifteen new students in other year levels, as well as new staff who quickly adopted the Siena spirit of engagement, learning and fullness of life.

At the time of writing this article, our Horizons Week activities and events have taken us to the end of an incredibly busy period. I take this opportunity to congratulate all staff and students on a wonderful Term 1, in the spirit of appreciation and gratitude for our shared endeavours.

This edition of *The Spirit* aims to provide a balance of articles that we share with you, our extended Siena community. This includes what has been happening at the College this year, updates from key stakeholders in the College, celebrations of various events, academic achievements and Alumnae news items. We hope you enjoy!

Elizabeth Hanney  
Principal



# Welcome to our new Board Members



## Chair of the Siena College Board, Judith Potter (Class of 1973)

BA; Grad Dip Ed; Grad Dip Ed Admin; M.Ed; FACEL (VIC)

Judith Potter (pictured above) was one of seven sisters who attended Siena College. Given that the school only had about three hundred and fifty students at that time, the Potter girls would have made up a reasonable percentage of the school population, even though they were not enrolled together at the same time.

As a child, Judith suffered a great deal from asthma and was often absent from school. But she soon learnt that challenges are to be met full on, and she went on to edit both the school magazine, *Incoll*, and the yearbook. She was also a member of the debating team, an experience that has paid dividends throughout her career as a teacher and principal. Judith claims that debating gave her the confidence to speak publicly and think on her feet.

While Judith has spent her career in the teaching sector, there was a time she considered a change. However, during the interview process for a non teaching job she realised that she really did want to remain where she was. Sometimes we just need to be reminded of what means the most to us.

Judith comes to Siena College with forty-two years of experience as an educator in Catholic, government and independent schools. She was most recently Principal of Loreto College, Ballarat for almost fifteen years, retiring in 2020. For over fifteen years, she has been a member of the Invergowrie Foundation (TIF) Finance and Risk Committee and Council. The core of the foundation is supporting the advancement of girls' education across Victoria.

*"I am a philosophical person. You have to accept that you will never have all the answers and solutions. While you want to make it a perfect world for your students, you can't."*

**Judith Potter**

## Laura McRae (Alumna Class of 2001)

BA; LLB (Hons)

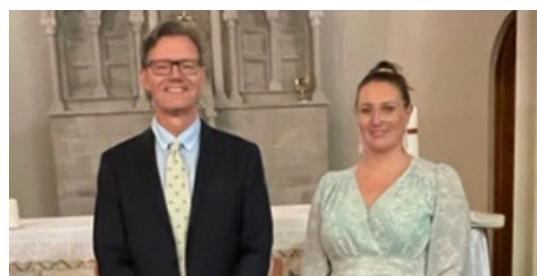
Laura was appointed to the Board in September 2021. Laura has practised in construction law in both private and in-house setting for over fourteen years. She has experience in advising on construction and procurement projects at both state and private sector level, as well as across a wide variety of industries. This includes schools, water, energy and resources, postal distribution services, retail, banking and sporting facilities. Recently, Laura was also recognised in the *2022 Doyles Guide Accolades* as one of the leading in-house construction and infrastructure lawyers in Australia.



## Philip Grant

BA; LLB; LLM, Graduate Certificate in Organisational Dynamics

Philip joined the Siena College Board in January 2022 and has been a Siena College Policy Committee member since 2019. For the last twelve years, he has been employed at RMIT University, involved in research and innovation. Philip also has over twenty years' experience in legal/corporate roles within the public sector. Philip's wife, Therese Gilligan (Class of 1978) is an alumna of the College. In 2022, Philip and Therese cofounded 4Cats Art Education, which continues to publish art education resource material for VCE students and teachers. Philip's daughters are current students at Siena College.



Philip and Laura at the Board Commissioning Service





# Dominican News



## Historical Event for the Dominican Sisters

The Dominican Sisters chose the Feast of St Catherine of Siena for the ceremony to mark the occasion of the transfer of the Siena property to Dominican Education Australia (DEA). This historical event sees the end of the sisters' formal ownership of the property. The sisters purchased the Siena site and original house in 1926 where they lived until the convent was completed in 1939. The sisters maintained the ownership and governance of the College until the establishment of Dominican Education Australia in 2015. Since 2016 DEA has responsibility for oversight of the governance of six education ministries in the Dominican tradition across New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

Sr Mary-Clare Holland OP, Prioress and Sr Julianna Drobik OP, Trustee were joined by the small group of local sisters, DEA Board Chair, Eileen Young,

Siena Board Chair, Judith Potter and Principal, Elizabeth Hanney for the moving ritual in the Siena Chapel. Candles representing the past, present and future were lit and words of remembrance and gratitude were said as part of the liturgy leading up to the signing over of the land and buildings to the DEA Trustees and Siena College Board. The Sisters gifted a plaque to the College acknowledging the significance of the occasion.

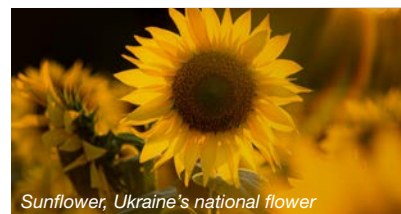
While the closing of this era brings a sadness, the sisters entrust with confidence the mission to provide Catholic education in the Dominican tradition at Siena College to the Trustees of Dominican Education Australia and the College Board.



Sr Julianna Drobik OP  
DEA Trustee

## Dominican Family in Ukraine

The Coordinator of Dominican Sisters International (DSI), Sr Margaret Mayce OP, (based in Rome) has been sending updates to Dominican sisters internationally regarding sisters in Ukraine. (Sr Margaret visited Siena in 2015 and spoke to Year 11 students). Different congregations of Dominican sisters from Spain, Poland and Hungary as well as Dominican Friars are on mission in Ukraine. News received in the early days of the crisis indicated the sisters were assisting women and children to escape the war by organising travel across the border into Poland and Spain. The displacement of millions of citizens, lives lost and the devastating destruction of so much of the country continues to escalate with no end in sight. We pray with the global community for all the people caught up in this catastrophic war, and for neighbouring countries managing the humanitarian crisis with the arrival of millions of refugees.



Sunflower, Ukraine's national flower

Sr Julianna Drobik OP  
DEA Trustee

# Now Available! Siena Central App

College news, notifications, absences and your daughter's learning overview at your fingertips.

Download 'Siena Central' via the App Store or GooglePlay





# Mission and Identity

2022 College Theme:  
*In Truth and Action*

If we have learned anything from the past couple of years, it would be that our Siena experience does not happen in 'isolation': we are far more than just a collection of individuals. This was also evident in the early Christian communities, where a sense of identity was forged through continuing to live the message of Jesus:

*For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another...*

*How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?*

*Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.*

**1 John 3:11, 17-18**

The purpose of this First Letter of John is to critique the 'popular' ideas of the time and to deepen the spiritual and social awareness of the first Christians. It emphasises striking contrasts between light and darkness, truth and error in order to illustrate the challenges and responsibilities of Christian life. Language has the power to either separate or connect us; when we create a place of encounter for our students to fully enter into meaningful dialogue, we enable them to develop the skills necessary for negotiating their own search for truth: their *Veritas*.

Edward Schillebeeckx OP said that as Dominicans we are committed to:

- Taking up the story of Jesus and living it *in our own time*
- Speaking and seeking truth *in all its forms*
- Recognising that the function of truth is to liberate *through our actions*

Our 2022 College Theme impels us to love *in truth and action*: to take the initiative in connecting beyond ourselves. It encourages us to consider the following in our contemporary Catholic context:

- Who are we as a community of faith?
- Where are we called to be present?
- What do we say and do?

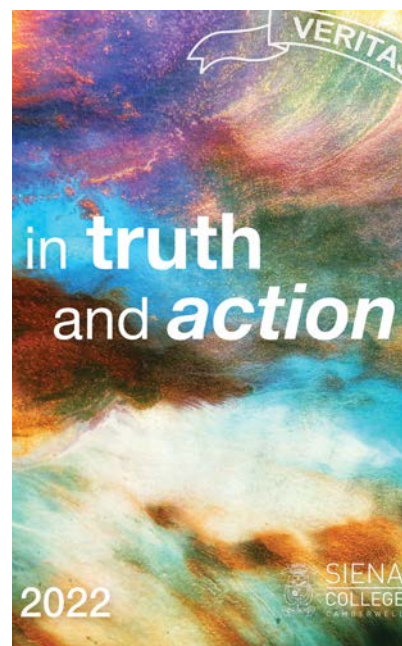
Across the first part of this year, a faith filled living of responses to these questions has been evident in many areas: commitment to hearing the voices of the marginalised, to maintaining the integrity of creation and to enabling the full flourishing of each Siena student. There is a growing awareness of and respect for the ways in which we are called to live into the promise of an integral ecology: a world made whole by love *in truth and action*.

**Jennifer Levett**

Deputy Principal Mission and Identity



Jennifer Levett Deputy Principal Mission and Identity



Year 12 Retreat ▼▶







**Bronwyn Ilott** Head of Justice Education

# Justice Education



*Change makers  
inform themselves  
act according to standards  
actively look for bias  
especially within themselves  
and having found it  
do something about it.*

*Change makers  
step off stages  
out of spotlights  
support Indigenous peoples  
to enter the places  
from which we've been excluded  
support Indigenous peoples  
to realise our aspirations.*

**Behaviours by  
Ambelin Kwaymullina**

Our 2022 College theme, *In Truth and Action*, invites the Siena Community to examine how we are working towards Reconciliation at Siena. Our formal commitment to Reconciliation is embedded in our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) which documents specific actions in the classroom, around the school and within the community to which we are committed to undertaking. Though undeniably a valuable acknowledgement of our Commitment to Reconciliation, the value of Siena's RAP is felt not in the intention, but rather in the actions we undertake on a regular and ongoing basis which demonstrate this commitment.

In Term 1, the FIRE Carriers (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education) have been committed to learning and reflecting to inform our actions. We met together on the Anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations to consider the progress Australia has made since this historic day, but also the role we have in continuing to 'do the work' to address the ongoing injustices facing our First Nations People. This requires us to enter into not only historic, but

also contemporary truths which are challenging and uncomfortable for non indigenous Australians. As we acknowledge these truths, we then work to take action. Meaningful action. Ongoing action. Heartfelt action. Opportunities for learning and personal growth have continued throughout Term 1 as the FIRE Carriers have worked with Aboriginal Consultant, Tarina Fanning.

In Cultural Competency workshops held after school, Tarina explored issues such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Identity, Culture, Kinship and Terminology. She also explored the importance of Reconciliation Week, Naidoc Week, Treaty and the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

To live *In Truth and Action* requires us to live with open hearts, minds and hands. To listen, to learn, to create. To be Change Makers. What a wonderful opportunity we have.

**Bronwyn Ilott**  
Head of Justice Education



# Student Formation

The Student Representative Council (SRC) has been busy in Term 1, organising activities to support various organisations and to provide Siena students with the opportunity to respond personally to the College Theme: *In Truth and Action*. Their focus has been to raise awareness of the work of specific organisations and the benefits for individuals in 'caring for our Common Home', working to support the vulnerable and making a difference in the lives of others. This has been most obvious with the Caritas Project Compassion Lenten campaign and celebrating the work of the women involved in the Kopanang Project.

SRC activities and initiatives include: art competitions, nude food challenges, bake sales, the International Women's Day / Kopanang raffle, public speaking events that responded to the 'For Future Generations' theme, as well as physical activities such as the 'Walk With Water Challenge', which was about walking in solidarity with children who travelled long distances by foot on a daily basis to collect water for family and communities.

continue ►



**Peita Mackintosh** Head of Student Formation



We were unable to gather for the International Women's Day Breakfast on Tuesday, 8 March, to celebrate with community members, staff and students, as well as to hear from alumna, Professor Louise Bennett (Class of 1979). To mark the occasion, our students created visuals responding to the 2022 theme, #BreakTheBias and the SRC organised a raffle to support the 'Project Dignity' campaign for the women in the Kopanang Community.

The Year 7 Pillars Leadership program, which took place between Week 6 to 8 of Term 1, provided students with the opportunity to engage in discussions about leadership qualities and styles. The program supported their understanding of Dominican leadership and the identification of role models, which provided inspiration to each student's leadership journey, as well as increased their awareness of effective leadership characteristics and what they saw as admirable qualities in selected leaders.

Here is what our current elected student leaders have to say to our Year 7 students regarding leadership:

*"In Year 7, I came to Siena alone without anyone from my primary school, and was warmly welcomed by teachers and older students, helping me to settle (almost immediately!) into the new school environment. I do thank the cordiality of the teachers, but I would like to say a special thank you to the amazing student leaders. Although I did not know any of the leaders personally, I was in awe of the way in which they bonded me to Siena, making each day less intimidating. For this reason, I longed to be a leader, in making the students of Siena feel at home, just as I did. It was only till Year 12, that I obtained the courage to enter the leadership realm, and I am very glad that I went ahead with it! Being able to promote student voice, allows for a range of issues to be raised and addressed, in which I believe is integral in driving change in our broader community. Being a leader will make you realise your potential as a young woman with the knowledge and astounding experiences gained."*

*"Student voice is important as it is your school and whatever changes that you help make, will result in a better school for all to enjoy."*

*"The positives of actively contributing to leadership at Siena, include hearing what is new to the school firsthand and being able to help others who are unsure of what to do."*

*"I encourage you to always be authentic and true to yourself when applying for a leadership role. There is no one set 'type' of leader that you must aim to be, just be you, and be proud of the fact you are putting yourself out there to serve the Siena community. I encourage you to not be disheartened if you are unsuccessful the first time round, as there will always be another opportunity right around the corner! Remember to jump at all opportunities that come your way, and it does not always have to be a leadership related role."*



**Peta Mackintosh**  
Head of Student Formation



# Learning and Teaching

## Learning by Doing

As a Dominican school, we aim to engage our students 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. To assist with bringing our College Mission to life, we have welcomed new staff members who have increased our capacity to provide challenging learning opportunities for our students, within and beyond the classroom.

Head of Albertus Magnus Learning Centre, Roxanne Summer, shares an interest in all things library, as well as a passion for combining critical and creative thinking in the STEAM space. This has seen our Year 10 students immerse themselves in projects: conceptualisation, design, creation to testing, along with developing their negotiation and collaboration skills. Below are details of two projects on the go!



Donna Laughlin Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

## Flying High in Year 10 Science

Year 10 Science elective students are involved in the STEAM and Crash and Burn classes this semester. They have learned about basic theories of physics and aerodynamics. During Week 9 and 10, the two classes applied this knowledge to the field of aviation.

In cross-class groups, students built a standard model aircraft from balsa wood. Their aircraft was then tethered to a Centrifugal Thrust Generator (CTG) which allowed the aircraft to fly in the classroom. As they flew the aircraft, students recorded data to determine distance travelled, average speed, acceleration and lift.

After the initial flight, students chose one aspect of their aircraft to modify: angle of stabiliser, size of stabiliser, wing aspect ratio, and weight or voltage of the CTG. Once the modifications were made, students predicted the effect of the change on the aircraft's flight behaviour and repeated the flight testing and data recording. Groups then theorised as to why the intended effect did or did not occur.

## Year 10 Crash and Burn elective ▼



STEAM Excursion to Melbourne University and the Telstra Maker Space



## Spaghetti Machine Contest

Students have been invited to participate in the University of Melbourne Amazing Spaghetti Machine Contest. Teams will compete to build the most amazing 'spaghetti machine', which is an overly complex device that performs a relatively simple task. We have a small team of keen students who will be joining the competition and we will keep you updated on their progress. All this enthusiasm bodes well for our upcoming Veritas building that will be dedicated to the STEAM offerings. We look forward to sharing updates throughout the year!

Donna Laughlin  
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching





# Introducing Minna Jewell



We are delighted to introduce Minna Jewell in a newly created role, Director of Students. Minna is incredibly well regarded by staff, parents and students. She began at Siena College as a graduate teacher in 2013, after completing her final placement as a student teacher at the College in 2011. Minna has worked in a number of roles: Cassia House Assistant, Transition Coordinator, Leader of Wellbeing Programs and now, Director of Students.

Minna states that she is particularly passionate about developing the capacity of staff to embed preventative mental health strategies in their teaching, as a direct response to the ongoing prevalence of mental health issues adolescents face. This is what led her to develop her capstone for her Master of Student Wellbeing in 2020: *“Evaluating the impact of teachers’ awareness of*

*wellbeing strategies on learning design for effective group work”.*

Minna says, *“I am passionate about advocating for a diverse wellbeing program within our College curriculum; one that is fluid in its nature so that it may respond to the needs of the students as they arise.”*

This role supports the Deputy Principal Wellbeing and Strategy, Heads of House, staff, and all students. Minna’s role sees her manage the Transition Program for Year 7 students and the new students to our College. Minna manages the Wellness Program and will work in supporting several individual students. Siena College recognises that student academic progress is inherently connected to an individual’s state of wellbeing. Dealing with dips in academic confidence, motivation and engagement

require schools to develop educational strategies that can boost these isolated patches of poor performance. Minna is committed to developing students’ resilience by investigating the cause of challenges and assisting individuals to develop strategies to promote growth.

Minna believes that academic and wellbeing outcomes for students are intrinsically linked. She says, *“I look forward to leading exciting change at Siena in the space of our students’ academic buoyancy; assisting our students in navigating academic setbacks and challenges.”*

Minna is also a devoted mother to one year old, Archer, a role she relishes in with her husband, Brent.

**Antonella Rosati**  
Deputy Principal Wellbeing and Strategy

## Student Wellbeing Updates

We often seek serenity when we are faced with difficult times. When our patience and poise are critically tested, that is when we strive most resolutely for serenity. Of course, maintaining poise in a time of challenge is no mean feat. It requires resilience, an appetite for reconciliation and a reminder that in life, we are always learning.

This year, the Wellbeing Team has been able to offer Year 7 students and new students from other year levels a wide variety of activities to support their transition into a new school setting. The Transition program they participated in, aims to help them build connections within the Siena community, as well as to establish growth mindsets for progressive improvement and compassion for one another.

In 2022, the Wellness program will have a key focus for each term. In collaboration with the Learning Centre, we continue to update the Wellbeing Collection available for loan to all students. Introduced in 2019, it serves to provide important information surrounding mental health and wellbeing to students in a relaxed and discreet manner. Recommended reads include *Note to Self: The secrets of calm* by Rebekah Ballagh, *You can live on the bright side* by Lucy Bell and many more.

The Kind Mind Club is a new program offered by the Wellbeing Team this year. It is a space for Year 7 students to gather on Fridays. Term 1’s focus was on friendships, mindfulness and organisation. In Term 2, students will be looking at self care, academic stamina and growth in the classroom.

**Minna Jewell**  
Director of Students



Kind Mind Club





# Development at Siena

## Master Plan: Stage 1 Veritas

Following the release of the College Master Plan, the Project Working Group (PWG) has continued to develop and finalise Stage 1 Veritas. In understanding the links between aesthetically appealing surroundings and successful educational outcomes, a major focus has been the creation of attractive external environments. This includes extensive landscaping and the beautification of the Siena grounds, including the greening of the campus through sustainability, as well as acknowledging that Siena College stands on the sacred lands of the Wurundjeri people.

Student voice will be integral in providing feedback and suggestions for this next stage. During Term 2, the architects and landscape architect will meet with students to incorporate their ideas and suggestions.

## Reintroduction of Food Studies

A purpose built Food Studies area will be included on the ground level of the Veritas Centre with vegetable gardens and decks. Gathering spaces and opportunities for hospitality have also been included.

## Innovation Precinct

Students and staff can develop innovative projects in the Maker Space through hands on design, art, technology and construction. It promotes a blend of disciplines that can ignite creative thinking and spark new invention.

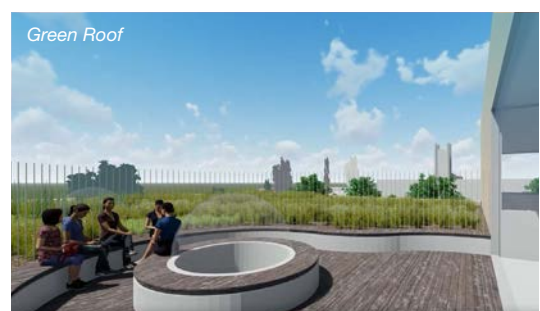
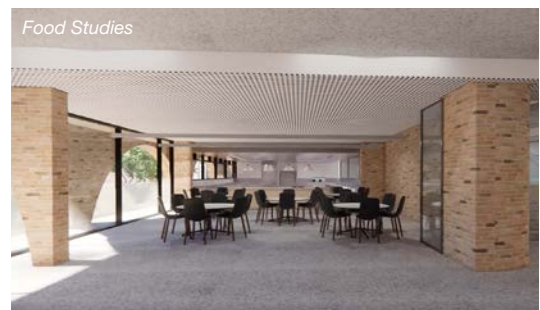
## Green Roof

The Veritas Centre will have a green roof, which is a flat roof surface that has a growing medium over a waterproof membrane planted partially with vegetation. Benefits include:

- Reduced heating and cooling requirements for the building
- Reduced and slowed stormwater runoff
- Improved sound insulation
- Carbon sequestration
- Capture of gaseous and particulate pollutants
- Alleviation of urban heat island effects
- Increased biodiversity

**Tracey Grobbelaar**

Director of Development and Community Relations







*Horizons  
Week*







Year 12  
Welcome  
Breakfast



Year 7  
Welcome  
Evening

Night  
of Jazz





# Introducing New Staff

Earlier this year, Sarah joins us as the Human Resources Manager and shares a little about herself.



Having worked in both established and new Early Learning Centres (ELCs), I decided to purchase my own ELC with the support of my family. My personal learning really ramped up during these seven years, as I developed a real business acumen, alongside creating an environment for my team to learn and grow in the early childhood education field. After selling my ELC, I worked with a training organisation, committed to sharing my own knowledge and experiences to eager minds within the education industry.

**Can you describe your career path and what led you to HR?**

I studied a Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies at Melbourne University and gained my first full time role as a kindergarten teacher with the City of Glen Eira. I very quickly moved into a Director role, leading a team of educators to deliver high quality educative programs to the children and families of the area.

My final role before commencing here at Siena was as the operations manager of an ELC group, based in the bayside area. My skills for HR were brought to the fore across the eight centres, especially during the two year pandemic lockdown.

**Describe yourself in five words.**

Attentive. Organised. Committed. Effective. Humorous.



Scan the QR code to meet some of our new staff!

**What is the best part of your career?**

The most rewarding aspect of my role is being able to help people find solutions to what they think is an unfixable problem. I enjoy being able to turn someone's day around and put a smile on their face.

**What do you do outside of work / to unwind after a hectic day?**

When I get home, I enjoy going for a walk with my family and then returning home to cook dinner together. After dinner, we will unwind on the couch with whatever shows we are all currently into.

**Any travel plans in place now that travel restrictions have been lifted?**

No travel plans as yet, but I would love to go somewhere warm and luxurious with my husband and son!

Our staff are an integral part of our College community, they are passionate and bring a wealth of experience in their areas of expertise which help shape the education and the future of our girls. In this issue, we feature twelve of our new staff members.



**Kathryn Anderson**  
Product Design and Technology Teacher



**Michela Barisonzi**  
Italian Teacher



**Annette Barker**  
Head of Learning Diversity



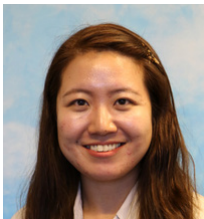
**Henrich Galam**  
English Teacher



**Julia Hay**  
Director of Sport



**Stephanie Leslie**  
Music/Humanities Teacher



**Yan Liu**  
VCE Maths and Junior Maths Teacher



**Lara Porczak**  
Humanities Teacher



**Michelle Powell**  
English Teacher



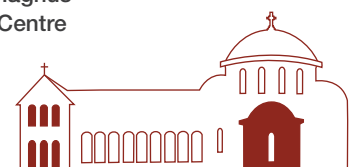
**Cinzia Stojkovich**  
Arts Teacher



**Roxanne Summer**  
Head of Albertus Magnus Learning Centre



**Jen Senior**  
College Reception





# Community Awards 2021



We congratulate the following community members who were acknowledged at our Academic Awards Evening in December 2021.



**Community Award**  
**Stanislaus Sukohondono**  
 (fondly known to us all as Suko)

The Community award recognises individuals/families who contributed significantly to Siena College.



**Dr Ursula McKenna Award**  
**Professor Louise Bennett**  
 (Class of 1979)

This award recognises excellence in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.



**Notable Alumna Award**  
**Amanda Holt, née Spithill**  
 (Class of 1994)

This award recognises a Siena alumna who has made an important contribution in their chosen field, or to the community on a local/global scale.



## Siena Alumnae Sports Association

We are excited to announce our very first alumnae netball team playing under the banner of the Siena Alumnae Sports Association. A group of past students from the Class of 2021 regularly play at the Waverley Netball Centre. Any netballers keen to join should contact: [saa@siena.vic.edu.au](mailto:saa@siena.vic.edu.au).



## Alumnae Guest Speakers

As part of Horizons Week, our Year 11 students had the privilege of listening to four very special members of our alumnae community: Olivia Kourmadias (Class of 2018), Rebecca Leith (Class of 2017), Taylah Miller (Class of 2013) and Louise Taylor (Class of 2009). Each alumna represented a different industry: costume design, robotics, international relations and cybersecurity, as well as financial services.

They spoke of the importance of self belief, staying true to yourself, and being confident in taking up opportunities as career paths change. The panel reflected on their time at Siena, with memories of great teachers and important values instilled in them during their time at the College.

We thank our alumnae guests for their time and generosity in sharing their advice and experiences with our girls.



## Alumnae and Student Gathering

In early May, we celebrated our connections, past, present and future, with an Alumnae and Student Gathering in the Heritage Centre. We currently have four grandmothers whose granddaughters attend Siena, and thirty-three mothers whose daughters are at the College. This special group of alumnae and students represent the Siena sisterhood with connections as far back as the 1960s.





# Siena College Reunions

## Decade Reunions

Class of 1972      Class of 2002  
Class of 1982      Class of 2012  
Class of 1992

**Date:** Saturday, 15 October 2022

**Time:** 4.00pm – 7.00pm

Please spread the word amongst your classmates.

## 1940s, 1950s and 1960s Afternoon Tea

We invite alumnae from the 40s, 50s and 60s to join us for afternoon tea with entertainment by and conversation with current Siena students.

**Date:** Friday, 21 October 2022

**Time:** 2.00pm – 3.30pm

**Venue:** Heritage Centre, Siena Convent

## Back to Siena Day for all Alumnae

**Date:** Saturday, 22 October 2022

(in lieu of 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations missed due to COVID in 2020/2021)

## Booking Details

Booking details for 2022 Reunions will be made available on the Siena College website at:  
[www.siena.vic.edu.au/college-community/reunions](http://www.siena.vic.edu.au/college-community/reunions)

The Alumnae Office can be contacted on 9835 0217 or via email at [alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au](mailto:alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au)

## Alumnae Wall Inscriptions for 2021/22

The Alumnae Wall located in the Convent and Cloisters is an historic tribute to our Dominican Sisters, Prioresses, Board Chairs and Principals, along with a panel for students from each decade commencing from 1940. Every student who attended Siena College from 1940 onwards, has the opportunity to have her name inscribed on the panels making up the wall.

Inscriptions are \$50 per student and further details are available via this link:  
<https://events.humanitix.com/siena-college-alumnae-wall-2021-2022>

This is an ongoing initiative with inscriptions for the 2021/2022 period closing on 30 June 2022.



## SIENA GLOBAL CONNECT

Connecting Past, Present and Future

The Siena Global Connect app provides you with direct access to our network of alumnae. Scroll through our personalised news feed, find old classmates or attend a reunion

## 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

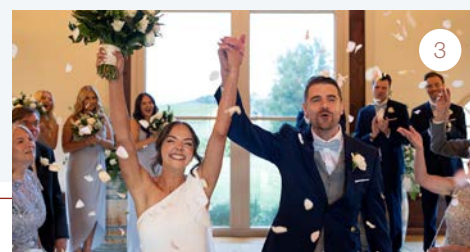
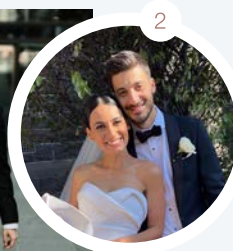
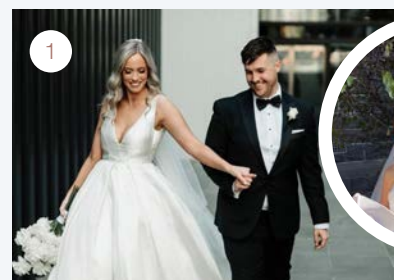
Visit [sienaglobalconnect.com.au](http://sienaglobalconnect.com.au) for instructions on navigating the app.



# Congratulations

## Marriages

1. **Erin Pretto** (Class of 2009) married Xavier Loader on 27 November 2021. One of Erin's bridesmaids, Esmeralda Da Silva was also from the Class of 2009. Erin and Xavier were married at St Ignatius and celebrated at The Prince Hotel.
2. **Mia Gargano** (Class of 2012) married Nick Roussidis at Parish of St Ignatius on 26 March 2022. Their reception was held at Metropolis and they shared a beautiful evening with family and friends, including many of Mia's friends from Siena.
3. **Aisling McGing** (Class of 2010) married James Pringle on 30 March 2022 at Immerse Winery in the Yarra Valley. Their wedding party included Candice Boucher (Class of 2010), and Aisling's sisters Fiona (Class of 2011) and Emer (Class of 2018).



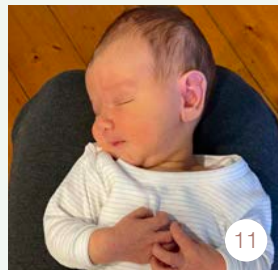
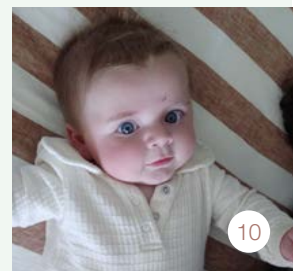
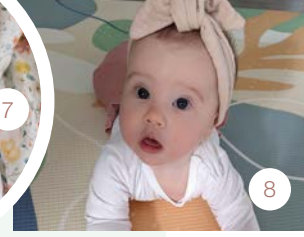
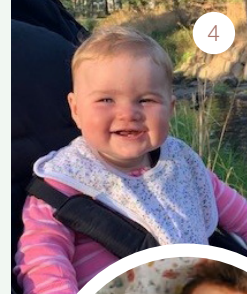
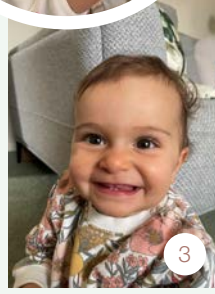
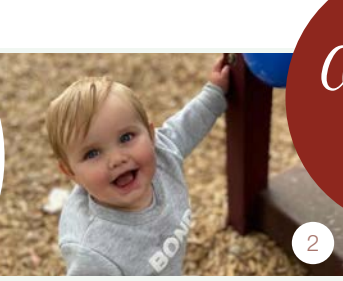


# Births

Class of  
2006

We are very happy to announce the safe arrival of many babies from our alumnae from the Class of 2006. They have created their own ready-made mothers' group.

1. **Amy Mason** and Tom welcomed Arabella Louise Rickarby on 15 December 2020.
2. **Lucy Carne** and Rob welcomed Phoebe Victoria Evans on 17 May 2021.
3. **Laura Frazzetto** and Andy welcomed Nancy Francesca Dal Pozzo on 21 May 2021.
4. **Jorja Collins** and James welcomed Marlie Rose Meakin on 21 May 2021.
5. **Lauren Tropeano** and Stratos welcomed Lucas Hercules Hatziefstratiou on 22 September 2021. A little brother for Sophia.
6. **Mel Francis** and Alex welcomed Alfie Hudson Leonard on 24 September 2021.
7. **Sally Brookes** and Chris welcomed Scarlett Anne Shaw on 26 September 2021.
8. **Megan Oliver** and Gareth welcomed Willow May Evans on 1 October 2021.
  
9. **Meropi Peroukaneas, née Tourogiannis** (Class of 2012) and Antonis welcomed Aemilios Christos Peroukaneas into the world on 5 May 2021.
10. **Petrea Dickinson** (Class of 2003) and Joel welcomed Finnigan Jan Coghlan on 27 October 2021.
11. **Julia Christian, née Russo** (Class of 2008) and Simon are delighted to announce the arrival of Jasper James Christian on 9 November 2021.
12. **Maria Gonsalvez** (current staff member) and partner Greg are very excited to announce the arrival of happy and healthy Vera Joan Ure. Vera was born on 4 March 2022.
13. **Em Hocking** (past staff member) and partner Bodie are very proud to announce the arrival of Jasper Brown. Jasper was born on 10 March 2022.
14. **Stefanie Santamaria** (current staff member) and partner Giovanni are very happy to announce the safe arrival their son, Sam born on 29 March 2022.
15. **Erin Amiconi** (current staff member) and partner Chris welcomed a little bundle of joy on 1 April 2022. Her name is Violet May.



15  
VERITAS  
The Spirit Issue 22 | 2022

# We Remember

*May they Rest in Peace.*

**John Murphy** passed away on 18 November 2021 at the age of 81. John is the father of our past College Chaplain, Fr Dominic Murphy OP and sister of Marie Patricia Murphy who attended Siena in the 1940s.

With great sadness, we acknowledge the passing of two wonderful community members: **Jack and Gwen Meagher, née Daly**. Jack passed away on 1 November 2021 and Gwen on 17 December 2021. Gwen was from the Class of 1948. They will be sorely missed by their children Peter, Tony, David and Catherine McDermott, née Meagher (Class of 1979) and their extended families.

**Marcia Duncan, née Kempson** from the Class of 1952 passed away on 29 January 2022.





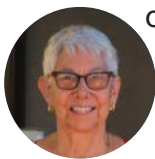
# From the Archives

It is often said, 'it takes a village to raise a child,' and at Siena College, the entire community works together to ensure that the student experience is the best it can be. Founded in late 1971, SPA is a group of parents led by a president and committee who volunteer their time and efforts to contribute to the Siena community. Over the last fifty years, SPA has delivered the many excellent events which punctuate the yearly life of the College and which in turn, have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars used to construct new buildings, facilities and items which would otherwise not be within the College budget.



## A SPA Presidential Perspective

In this article, we focus on the contributions made by our parents and in particular, the Siena Parents' Association. Let's meet three of our 21st century SPA Presidents.



**Cathie Sheehan** has had more involvement with SPA than most. With five daughters attending Siena between 1980 and 2003, Cathie has

been a member of the SPA committee on three separate occasions, holding the position of Secretary in 1985 and President in her final term in 2003 when Principal Catherine Collins suggested she should, "go out with a bang".

Heavily involved with the life of the College along with her husband Peter, Cathie was a regular volunteer at the Tuck Shop and participated in numerous fundraising events. She remembers a 2003 dinner dance with an Elvis impersonator and a SPA garden show hosted by an ABC Gardening presenter as a couple of highlights. As SPA secretary, she conscientiously attended the 1985 AGM despite the imminent arrival of her youngest daughter and arrived at the next committee meeting to hand over the reins to her successor with Bridget in the carry cot, surely the youngest ever attendee at a SPA committee meeting!



**Michael Mimmo** served as SPA Co-President with Lawrence Ballestrin in 2013 and 2014, and was also President during our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

year in 2015. He joined SPA in 2010 in response to a request for help broadcast to the Siena Community, "I assumed that SPA was running the many events with a small army of parent helpers and was surprised to learn that it was less than twelve members led by President at the time, Diane Morris."

With a new influx of volunteers, SPA went from strength to strength, organising many fundraising social and community events including: formal balls, breakfasts, footy tipping, raffles, disco bingo, golf days, fun runs and of course the special events to mark Siena's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Of the many successful events held during Michael's time with SPA, he has identified the secondhand book sale as, 'the one thing that stands out as the epitome of 'all hands on deck' from volunteers, students and College'.



**Penny Frausing** is our current SPA President. Penny joined SPA in 2013 when her eldest daughter Ella started at Siena, believing it

would be a great way to meet other parents, learn more about the College and be involved in her three daughters' education.

Asked about her SPA memories, Penny nominates the 2015 Siena Colour Run in Wattle Park as one of her favourites. "Arriving at Wattle Park at 6.00am in the morning to set up the food stalls ... it was wonderful seeing the SPA team bring to life such a beautiful offering of food and drinks. It was a true sense of community." Looking to the future, the current committee have plans to continue to grow SPA membership, to create a SPA alumnae group and to reinstate the Siena bookstall whilst continuing with the ever popular Mother's and Father's Day breakfasts and the annual raffle.

My thanks to Cathie, Michael and Penny for their generous assistance in preparing this article. It is fitting to leave the final words about the work of Siena Parents' Association to Michael: "The selfless team of volunteers, past and present, that are so generous, not only with their time, but their contributions to the many successful events, have genuinely made a positive difference to the Siena community and in turn their daughters."

**Maureen McAuley**  
College Archivist







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Siena College can  
inspire a lifelong  
love of learning in  
your daughter.

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**SIENA**  
**COLLEGE**  
CAMBERWELL

A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN  
THE DOMINICAN TRADITION, YEARS 7 TO 12

## **OPEN EVENING 2022**

Thursday, 20 October

## **OPEN MORNINGS 2022**

Thursday, 9 June

Friday, 15 July

Monday, 15 August

Friday, 7 October

Monday, 7 November

## **TERM 2 COLLEGE TOURS**

We are now offering small group tours to families needing to visit our College prior to Year 7 2023/2024 offers being made.

**REGISTER ONLINE**

**[www.siena.vic.edu.au](http://www.siena.vic.edu.au)**





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