

the Spirit



Issue 14 2018

A Warm Welcome to Jen Levett
Sharing Stories: Alumnae Profiles
Introducing our College Captains
Meet our new Board Members

connecting girls • empowering young women

Mission

Siena College, a Catholic secondary school in the Dominican tradition, offers young women an education which challenges them to make intelligent and responsible use of their personal gifts and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Vision

As a vibrant, faith filled, Catholic community we will provide exemplary and inspiring education with a commitment to justice, truth, reconciliation and compassion. In the spirit of St Catherine of Siena, by word and action, young women are nourished in faith and encouraged to spread the Good News and embrace the future with hope.

Values

We value and live the Dominican pillars of:

Prayer

By nurturing spirituality and celebrating as a community of Faith

Study

By striving for excellence, thinking critically and seeking truth

Service

By empowering young women to actively engage in local and global justice issues

Community

By recognising God's presence in others and fostering right relationships

The Spirit

Editorial Team

Tracey Grobbelaar Director of Development

Carolyn Currie Marketing Coordinator

Liz Merrett Alumnae Coordinator

Amy Stubbs Graphic Designer

Photography

Gabrielle Snell Visual Arts Trainee

Anthony George AV Technician



SIENA
COLLEGE
CAMBERWELL

Tel: +61 3 9835 0200

Email: office@siena.vic.edu.au

815 Riversdale Road Camberwell 3124

www.siena.vic.edu.au

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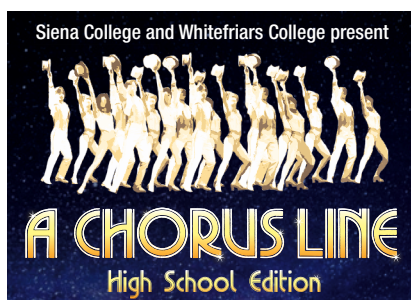


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Cover Image

Music Captain, Melanie Myrtle and Drama Captain, Madeleine Kehaidis outside the newly renovated West Wing Performing Arts Building. Photograph by Gabrielle Snell.



From the Principal

'There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit and so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts.'
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

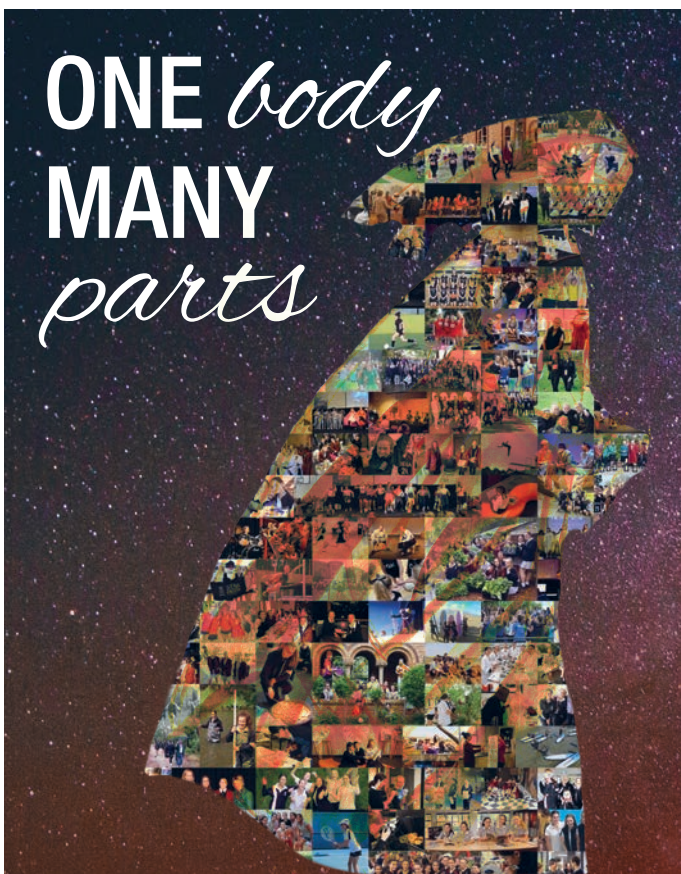
The 2018 College theme, 'One Body, Many Parts' is based on the Letters of St Paul to the Corinthians. The inspiration for the image on the 2018 theme banner is a sketch of St Catherine of Siena by artist, Henry Flanagan. It captures Catherine's vitality, sense of purpose and determination. It depicts her amongst the stars, a child of the universe, like each of us and is an invitation to us to 'be like Catherine' in our time.

Joan Chittester wrote of Catherine: *Catherine calls across the centuries with frightening clarity. Catherine of Siena becomes a woman to be reckoned with again. As long as there are poor among us; as long as there is war anywhere; as long as the church is more an institution than a vehicle of the Gospel; as long as any woman anywhere is demeaned or diminished or dismissed out of hand as foolish or incompetent or less in the sight of God and little in the church, then Catherine of Siena is a woman to be reckoned with again.*
Chittister, J. 1996 A Passion for Life, Orbis Books

As the 2018 year began, it was lovely to return to refurbished facilities, a new home for Performing Arts in the West Wing, a new building facade and landscaping, and a more welcoming Undercroft and outdoor seating for the girls. Over this year, we hope to complete the final stages of the current masterplan, the refurbishment of the iconic Convent and a new front entrance to the College through the original doorway of 1940.



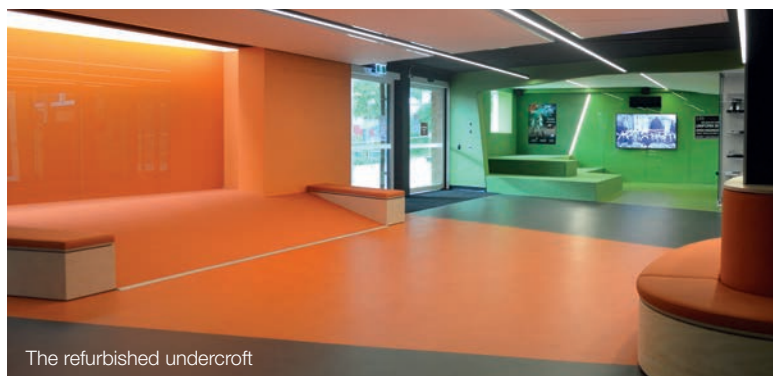
Gaynor Robson-Garth Principal



St Catherine by Henry Flanagan



New wayfinding signage



The refurbished undercroft

From the Principal

This year, we celebrated St Catherine's Day in the traditional way and our twenty year anniversary of the Fiesta. It was lovely to welcome back winning House Captains from past years to join the celebrations. The students' performances were impressive and Waratah won the much sought after Catherine's Cup, presented by Gayle Peggie who first conceived of the Fiesta way back in 1998.





South African Immersion 2018



Sue Law and Liz Merrett



Our Mission as Dominicans and Christians invites us to view the world in a radically different way, to understand the call of the Gospel and that all are made in the image and likeness of God. At the end of Term 1, twelve students and three staff headed off to Kopanang in South Africa to be immersed in a culture and spirituality vastly different from our Australian context. It was an invitation to enter the context of the poor, the disadvantaged and the marginalized, and to engage with the people and the community they encountered. We are so grateful to Dominican Sister, Sheila Flynn for this opportunity to be transformed and to gain new understanding of the social teaching of the Church. Sr Sheila talks of this immersion experience as ‘... a pilgrimage, a sacred journey into the unknown but in the Spirit’s power, that enlarges and engages the heart in transformation.’

This term, we farewell Kate Gotlib after twenty-four years at Siena College. For six of those years, Kate was a student and for the remaining eighteen years, a teacher. Over those years, Kate made an outstanding contribution to so many aspects of life at Siena College. Kate is not only an accomplished educator and teacher of VCE Psychology, she has been a House Coordinator, the Head of Student Formation and Justice Education and taken on many informal roles as health and fitness instructor, cross country runner, debater, writer, and champion of the rights of women to equality. Sue Thompson taught Kate and her reflections are included in this edition of *The Spirit*. Kate will continue in the role of Co President of the Alumnae Association. We wish her well as she moves to St Michael’s Grammar School, an independent, coeducational school located in St Kilda, where she will teach Psychology and Research Skills.

Director of Marketing and Communications, Sue Law, has relocated to Tasmania. Sue leaves a significant legacy in the branding and marketing of Siena College, from cinema ads to the alumnae profiles in the local newspapers, the new student uniform that was launched in 2014, the design of the Strategic Plan, many editions of the Yearbook and most recently, the new wayfinding signage, to name just a few. Sue’s creativity and her eye for composition were at the heart of some of the beautiful photographs of the College and our community over her time here. Kate and Sue’s daily presence will be greatly missed.

The Davenport family are featured in Siena’s 75th anniversary publication as notable alumnae. Mr John Davenport celebrated his 97th birthday in April this year and I was privileged to share a conversation with him over lunch as he reminisced about his life and his family, his relationship with the Dominican nuns in the early years in Compton Street where he is still a resident, and his pride and joy in his family and grandchildren. In Term 1, Mr Davenport was a member of a panel that presented to our new Year 7s. It is lovely to have someone in our community who can share stories about the early years at Siena.

As the second term unfolds, may St Catherine bless us with renewed energy for the things of God so that we too can ‘be the change we wish to see in the world’.

Gaynor Robson-Garth
Principal



Sue Law at the 2016 Golf Day

Introducing Jen Levett

Our new Deputy Principal Mission and Identity

As a passionate member of the Collingwood football club, Siena College's new Deputy Principal Mission and Identity, Jen Levett already has black and white in her DNA. Having commenced at the start of the year, Jen says she feels incredibly at home already, due in large part to the welcome she has received from all in our community and also having worked with Anne Muirhead, her predecessor, for six years when they were both at Star of the Sea College.

Jen's childhood was spent on the Mornington Peninsula after her parents decided they wanted to move away from the inner suburbs and settle in Seaford to raise their family. She and her two brothers grew up surrounded by the support of the local Seaford parish, and enjoyed frequent visits to her grandparents' home in Highett. She attended Seaford Primary for her first year of school as the local Catholic school, St Anne's, didn't have a prep class. She switched to St Anne's in Grade 1 and then commenced at Stella Maris College (now John Paul College) in Frankston for her secondary education. Her parents greatly valued education and would *'go without to make sure we had our Catholic education.'*

Laughing, Jen recalls her Year 11 Physics teacher at Stella Maris sitting her down and gently suggesting that she was better suited to humanities subjects than the maths/science stream she had chosen. Her dreams of being a pharmacist dashed, she decided on journalism but missed out on a highly sought after place at RMIT and tried for cadetships at *The Age* and *The Herald*, with no success. Undeterred, she accepted an offer to study secondary teaching at Rusden State College (now part of Deakin University) and realised straight away that she had found her calling. *'Once I got there I knew it was what I wanted to do. I had the most amazing lecturers and teachers who just brought the texts to life.'* Many VFL players were also completing their teaching degrees, with Mil Hanna and Gerard Healy amongst her classmates.

Celebrating thirty years of teaching in 2018, Jen vividly remembers the phone call from the Education Department with an offer of her first teaching role in Kerang. In a whirlwind of only a few weeks, she and Tony were married and packed up their life in Melbourne to move 400 kilometres away. They spent a very happy eight years in Kerang, immersing themselves in the local community and welcoming their first child, daughter Lucy. In 1996, Jen's husband Tony was offered a role as Deputy Principal at St John Vianney in Parkdale East so they moved back to Melbourne with Jen taking what was initially a relief role at Kilbreda College in Mentone. She looks back on this time in her career with great fondness, appreciative of the mentoring from more experienced teachers who were incredibly giving of their time and knowledge. During her fifteen years at Kilbreda she completed her Masters in Religious Education and in a twist of fate first met Anne Muirhead at a workshop for faith leaders in schools. In 2011, she joined the Religion and Faith team at Star of the Sea, taking on a role as Religious Education Leader.

Jen is teaching Religious Education as she has for the last twenty years, and loves the exploration and the questions, very much in the Dominican tradition of truth seeking. She enjoys the connection with the students on different levels and the way that Religious Education connects with so many other parts of the curriculum. *'I think at Siena there's definitely a feel that the Gospel is real for people, it's not just stories about a man who lived thousands of years ago.'*



She sees Siena's great strengths as the commitment of people to the charisma, and praises the unwavering sense of justice and fairness and the careful consideration given to how any decision will affect the students first and foremost. She comments, *'I recently told my Year 12 Catholic Studies class, "You will never be as accepted for who you are as you are here, so make the most of it."'*

As noted, Jen attends as many Collingwood home games as possible and has wonderful memories of going to the football at Victoria Park with her father. She loves listening to all types of music and cherishes family time at home with daughters Lucy (also a teacher) and Sophie who is completing Year 12. She enjoys travelling and is very much looking forward to the upcoming Dominican Pilgrimage, particularly as she has a strong interest in the liberation theology that underpins our ethos.

We are delighted to welcome Jen to the Siena College community.

Carolyn Currie
Marketing Coordinator



Dominican News

Our community has been enlivened by the richness of our Dominican heritage through this year's College theme 'One Body, Many Parts'. Year 7 students participated enthusiastically in their Dominican Discovery Day, becoming familiar with elements of story, symbols and the contemporary reality of our tradition. We were delighted to welcome Sr Sheila Flynn OP to present a thought provoking session with Year 12 Catholic Studies students, in addition to working with staff and students preparing for the Kopanang Immersion experience.

Fr Kevin Toomey OP hosted College staff at St Dominic's Church for a Dominican Education Enrichment Programme (DEEP) session exploring the origins of the Dominican community, both local and world wide. This global connection was emphasised by Sisters Tabiria (Tabi) and Trish, from the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands, travelling to New York to participate in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) as delegates of the Dominican Leadership Conference (DLC).



Mission and Identity

Community is one of the four Dominican spiritual pillars. This year's theme calls us to be aware of the different people that make up our own community and to acknowledge the tremendous richness of diversity within it. By reinforcing the Catholic Social Teaching principles of Solidarity and the Common Good, it emphasises that our own lives are inextricably tied up with the lives of others, both here and across the globe. In the spirit of Dominic and Catherine we are called to be seekers of truth as we build one body of Christ, as the people of God we live, learn and work together to make this a reality.

May we always acknowledge and celebrate the gifts of one another.

May we empower each other with a passion for truth and wholeness and the conviction that we can make a difference.

May we be witnesses of the living God in our community.

Our New College Board Members

The Siena College Board supports the College, promoting the wellbeing and learning of all students and providing an environment in which the College continues to flourish. The Board has a strong commitment to preserving and fostering the Catholic identity and the Dominican charm upon which the College was founded. The Directors of the Board are accountable for the sound governance of the College. They provide strategic direction and contribute legal, financial and other professional expertise to the governance of the College.

The Trustees of Dominican Education Australia appointed Sean McGing as Chair of the Siena College Board on Monday, 12 April.



Sean McGing Board Chair
FIA, FIAA, FAICD

Sean has served on the Siena College Board since 2008 and was the inaugural Chair of the Risk Management Committee since June 2010. He is an actuary and runs his own boutique advisory and actuarial consulting business, specialising in financial services and enterprise risk management. Sean is a member of the Actuaries Institute Risk Management Practice Committee, Victorian Executive Member of the Australian Superannuation Funds Association (ASFA) and chairs the Reputation and Participation Subcommittee.

Sean's daughters Aisling (Class of 2010), and Fiona (Class of 2011) attended Siena, and Emer is a current student.



Celia Conlan

BA, LLB, Masters in Applied Family Law

Celia joined the Siena College Board in December 2017 and has served as a member of the Siena College Policy Committee since 2017.

Celia practises predominantly in Family Law, property and associated matters including Child Support, intervention orders and crimes compensation.

Celia is an alumna of the College from the Class of 1987.



Damian Giannangelo

*Bachelor of Business
Graduate Diploma in Applied Finance
and Investment*

Damian joined the Siena College Board in December 2017 and has served as a member of the Siena College Finance Committee since 2012. He has over twenty years experience in the financial services industry covering banking, financial services, life insurance and superannuation, with specific areas of expertise in project management, risk and compliance management, and retail and commercial banking.

Damian's eldest daughter Bella (Class of 2017) attended Siena College and his daughter, Mia, is a current student.

Siena College

GOLF DAY

Friday, 2 November 2018

Sponsorship opportunities are available!

**Please contact Tracey Grobbelaar for details on 03 9835 0266 or
via tgrobbelaar@siena.vic.edu.au**



Development at Siena College

Siena College is committed to pursuing innovation and opportunities to further enhance learning outcomes for the young women in our care.

As we look back at the development of Siena College, we are reminded of the Dominican Sisters who came to Siena Convent, then a small cottage type dwelling, in August 1926. It was not until 1939 that the new Convent school building was officially opened. In the late 1940s, cottages along the Riversdale frontage were procured as additions to the school, and so began the humble beginnings of Siena.

In 1988, the trustees of the College, the Dominican Sisters, made important and far reaching decisions for the future of the College. They commissioned Philip Roff and Associates to develop a masterplan with the aim to maintain the highest educational standards.

In 2018, it is no different, we continue to plan for our future by improving our facilities. Funds raised from the Butterfly Campaign in 2016 have provided for further building works, including the recent refurbishment of the West Wing Performing Arts Building and Undercroft.

Later this year we commence with Pillar IV, transforming the Convent into the gateway of the College. This will become the future home of our Principal, Deputy Principal Mission and Identity, and Reception. A Heritage space and additional meeting rooms will also be housed in the refurbished area.

We know that fees alone cannot fund development of new facilities, grounds and ICT infrastructure in this ever changing educational landscape. With the reduction of government funding in recent times it is even more critical to ensure we are providing for the future. We need to be looking at non traditional forms of raising income such as partnerships and hire of our facilities outside of school hours.

The College is currently working on a new strategic plan and masterplan that will chart the evolution of the College facilities and infrastructure for the next decade. Other proposed initiatives include further philanthropic opportunities, sponsorship and scholarships.

The College is looking for interested parties who may be able to assist with sponsorship of the Siena Golf Day in November. If you wish to assist the College, please contact Tracey.

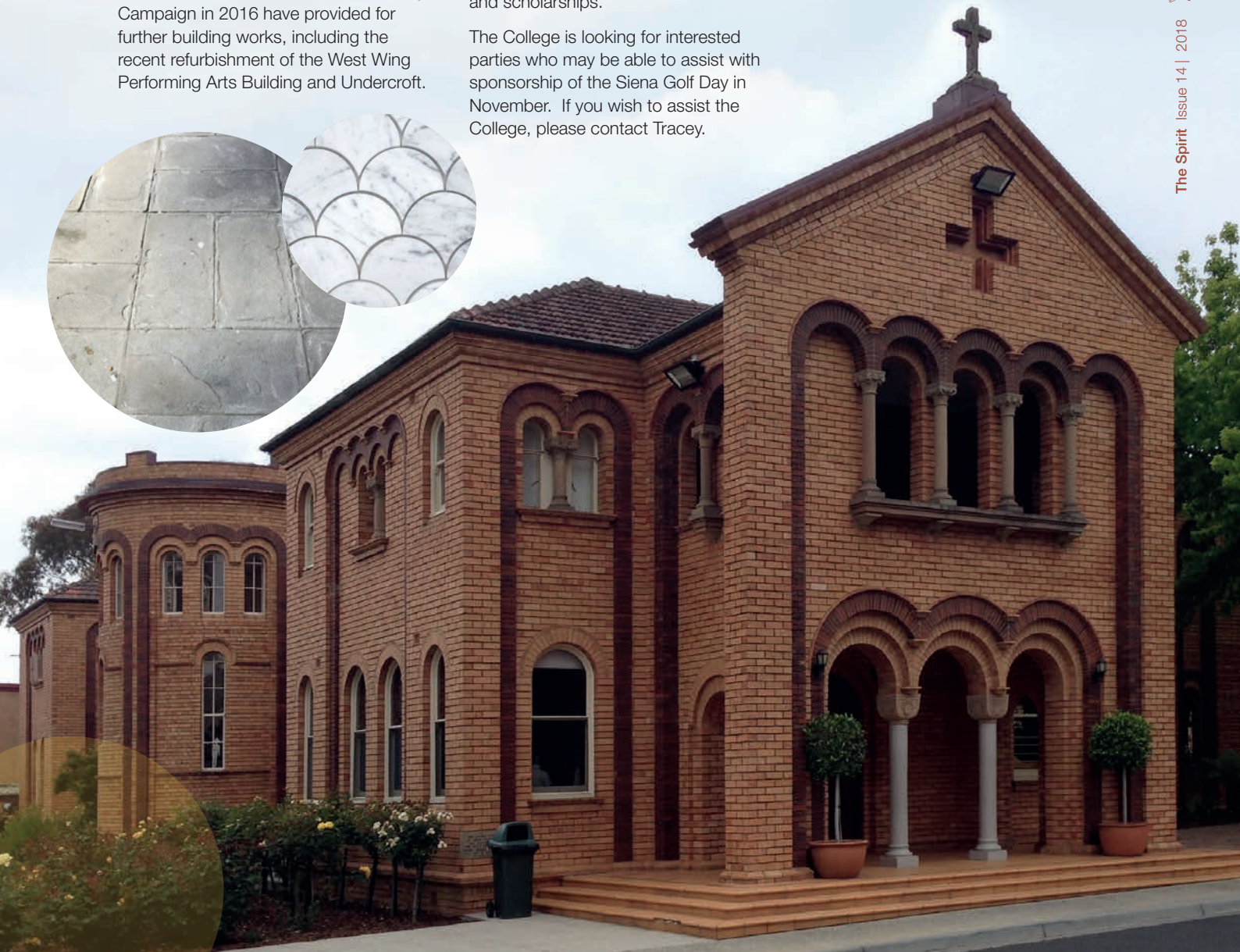


Contact

Tracey Grobbelaar

Phone: 03 9835 0266

Email: tgrobbelaar@siena.vic.edu.au



Learning and Teaching



Action Research

In 2018, we are embarking on an exciting learning and teaching initiative. Our professional learning program has been designed to be relevant, collaborative and future focused. As a result, all teaching staff will work in Action Research Teams to investigate, develop and implement key strategies and effective pedagogy to continue providing successful learning outcomes for all Siena students.

Action Research is a disciplined process of inquiry conducted by and for those taking the action. Teachers who engage in Action Research inevitably find it to be an empowering experience. Action Research helps educators be more effective at what they care most about, their teaching and the development of their students. When our teachers have convincing evidence that their work has made a real difference in their students' lives, both our staff and our students reap the benefits.

Based on the research of Robert Marzano and John Hattie, High Impact Teaching Strategies (HITS) were designed to support educators to increase collaborative and evidence based conversations in schools. The HITS are the top ten instructional practices considered to have the most impact on student engagement, achievement and wellbeing. Siena teaching staff have nominated to investigate one of the HITS, as part of an Action Research Team. Our Action Research Teams will focus on exploring how we apply these HITS to our pedagogical practice at Siena College and we will draw on educational research and our student data to determine the effectiveness of each HITS in the classroom, to inform our future practice.

Siena College Learning Framework

In 2017, Michelle Robertson, Director of Learning and Innovation, led staff to develop a shared understanding of learning and create a working framework that would underpin our learning and teaching endeavours at Siena College.

The staff ratified this Learning Framework at the end of last year. It combines our shared understanding of the key components of a successful learning model with our own context at Siena College. In Term 1, our focus has been on embedding the 'Learning Environment' quadrant into our classes.

Learning Environment

The learning environment of a Siena classroom is safe, inclusive, positive, collaborative and challenging. This is supported by clear expectations and consistent routines. Students and teachers feel known and respected. Each student feels empowered to participate, confident to ask questions, express opinions and extend their learning.

Learning Skills

In the Siena classroom, students use questions that go beyond surface level understanding to advance their application of learning. The skill of critical and creative thinking provides the learning opportunity to build willingness in our students to take risks, learn from

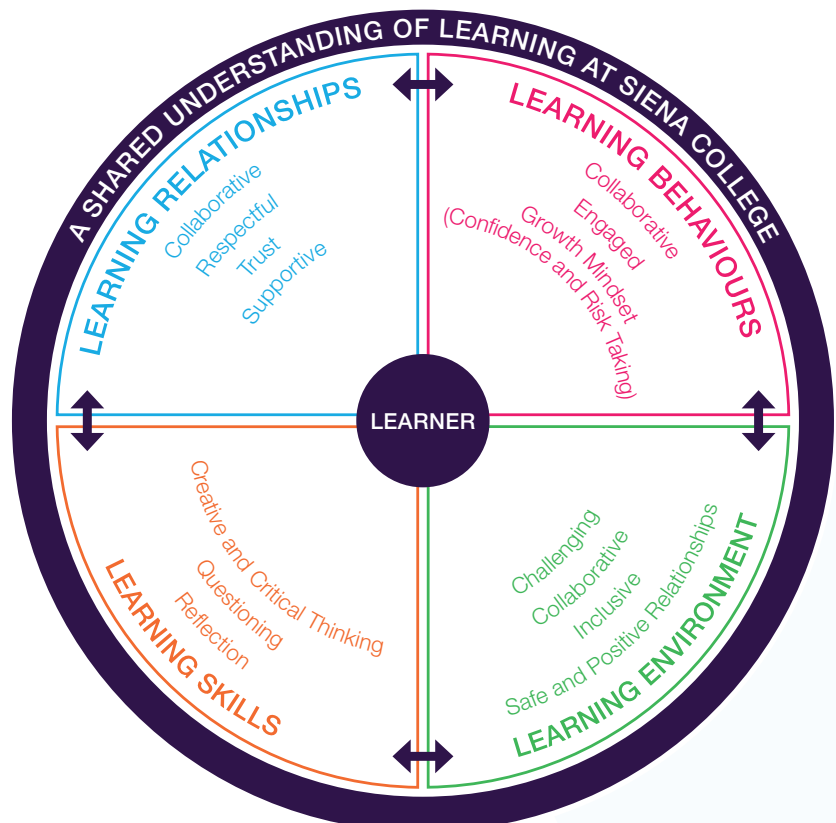
failure and solve problems collaboratively. Students engage in routines to reflect independently on their learning in order to make connections to prior learning and to clarify the direction of future learning.

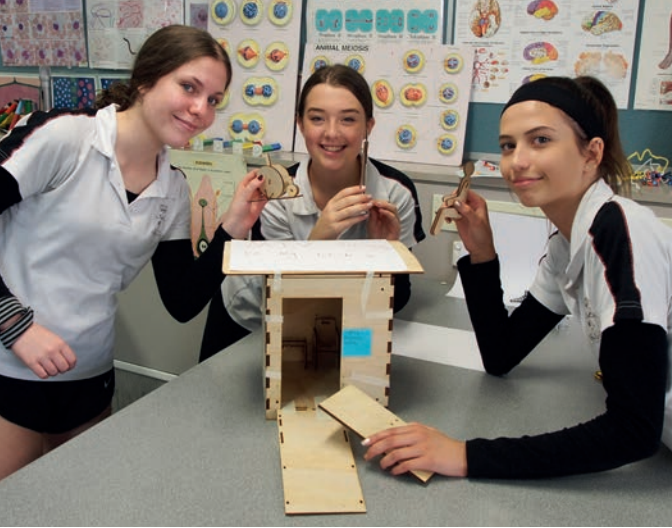
Learning Relationships

In our Siena classroom, learning relationships are built upon unconditional positive regard of each individual in the classroom. Our interactions are inclusive, trusting and foster mutual respect. Individual abilities and interests are valued, each voice is shared and supported and students and teachers work together to maximize student engagement, achievement and success.

Learning Behaviours

At Siena College, engaged students are involved, interested and motivated to learn. Collaborative students show a willingness to share and respond. They value student voice, actively participating and listening, thus creating an understanding of learning as a shared purpose and responsibility. A student's attitude to learning is one of growth, having the confidence to take risks and the resilience to respond to challenges and opportunities. Siena students are encouraged to develop emotional self regulation.





'This collage explores the gradual accumulation of rubbish over many years. Mother Nature has been represented as a child. Her face shows a clock and the different colours express the layers of rubbish slowly building up. The clock hand hovers over the yellow section to show that a new level of pollution will be reached soon. The cloud is one of many clouds which have been polluted and this piece creates a sense of urgency to help Mother Nature before human pollution kills her.'

Cassie Greives, Hannah Hine, Kelly Liu and Anna Litchen

Learning and Teaching

Year 10 STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)

During Activities Week, our Head of Science, Assimina Semertjis, Head of The Arts and Technology, Claire Al-Noah, and Head of Mathematics, Paul Failla, collaborated to provide a day of STEAM opportunities for our Year 10 students. Our Head of Careers, Clare Timmins, also contributed to the program.

In the first STEAM workshop, **Through the Looking Glass**, students interpreted images of contemporary issues in society using critical thinking and problem solving strategies. In groups, they formed a series of inquiry questions to address through an artistic collage. The collages were then added to the 'Through the Looking Glass' tree. Students worked well throughout the session and were very creative in their approach to the task, developing wide and varied interpretations of the imagery provided.

During the hands on **STEAM for Humanity** workshop, students were immersed in designing a public facility with the aim of making it accessible to all members of our community.

Before designing their buildings, students participated in empathy building activities and learnt that 20% of our world's population possess an impairment that places restrictions on their lives. Students then completed a number of everyday, practical activities using mobility equipment such as wheel chairs, pickup frames, walking sticks, support canes and crutches. They described how difficult it was to complete everyday tasks when relying upon mobility equipment and how frustrating these restrictions were. With this in mind, they worked collaboratively using the unique Enable Kits to design and build a model of an inclusive facility.

We were well supported by Georgene Bridgeman and Adam Oldmeadow from Akorn Educational Services who led this workshop and assisted our students to acquire new STEAM skills.

The **Engineers without Borders (EWB)** school outreach program worked with our Year 10s, focusing on the challenges facing developing countries. The EWB volunteers assisted our

students with investigating how to code disaster warning systems in developing countries.

During **Beyond Siena's Walls**, Year 10 students participated in a comprehensive Academic and Careers testing program. The purpose of this was to track students' progress and identify any students that may require further assistance and intervention in the senior years ahead. The Careers component of the testing provided data that will inform conversations regarding future career options and subject selection for VCE.

Following the testing, Year 10 students enjoyed the stories and thought provoking activities in **Shape your Destiny**, a program delivered by Successful Integrated. Students were encouraged to consider their passions, talents and strengths when thinking about future careers.



Antoinette

Hannah



Our College Captains 2018

Antoinette Collins

We can thank Antoinette Collins' eldest sister for encouraging her to consider attending Siena College. Fourteen years older than Antoinette, Rebecca was involved with a Youth Mission Ministry Day at Siena in 2009 and came away very impressed with the students she had met. The youngest in her family by some years, Antoinette attended Our Lady of Good Counsel Primary in Deepdene. She remembers feeling comfortable as soon as she walked in the gates of Siena, recalling *'I liked the size of the College, I wasn't intimidated at all, it felt like home straight away.'*

Antoinette has enjoyed the many opportunities Siena offers to participate in cocurricular activities, particularly music (she is an accomplished saxophonist) and drama. Outside of school, Antoinette is involved with St Benedict's Parish Youth Group and enjoys regular social outings and retreats with the group includes people from all areas in Melbourne.

Former Deputy Principal Mission and Identity, Anne Muirhead, encouraged Antoinette to nominate for school captain. *'You have nothing to lose and everything to give'* Anne had urged and, although she knew it would be a challenge and a huge learning curve, Antoinette seized that advice. She is thoroughly enjoying her leadership role and the opportunity to lead by example. She endeavours where possible to *'always be a positive source of energy, and let each girl know they are valued. I think growing up as a teenager, that's so important... just trying to let girls know that they are loved.'*

Antoinette is studying Literature, Legal Studies, History Revolutions, Music and French having already completed Units 3 and 4 of both Religious Studies and Drama as accelerated subjects in Years 10 and 11. In 2019, she plans a well earned gap year, hopefully volunteering with the Youth Mission Team while she decides on further study. She believes the College has instilled a love of learning, and taught her to *'own your passions.'*

Hannah Petrowski

Hannah Petrowski follows her mother, Barbara McPhee (Class of 1990) to Siena College and says with a laugh, *'I will definitely make it three generations if I have a daughter one day.'* The eldest child in her family, Hannah attended St Luke's primary school in Blackburn. A keen sportswoman, Hannah has been involved with a wide array of teams in her time at Siena, including netball, water polo, soccer and indoor cricket. She was Dianella House Captain in Years 9, 10 and 11 and was inspired by a leadership day in Year 10 to nominate for College Captain when the time came. Participating in the Indigenous Immersion last year was a highlight of her time at Siena College.

Additionally, Hannah has been involved in music throughout her time at Siena, playing saxophone in Junior Band, Concert Band, Groove Train, Symphonic Band and in the 2016 Siena College and Whitefriars College Gala Performance, *A Night at the Movies.*

Hannah is studying English, Biology, Further Mathematics, Health and Human Development and Geography. She hopes to study to be a paramedic next year at Australian Catholic University and is also looking forward to a mid year holiday to the United Kingdom and Europe with her parents and two younger brothers.

Hannah sees Siena's strengths as its community values, the relationships between teachers and students and its constant encouragement of the students to stand up for their beliefs. She hopes her legacy will be of someone who was inclusive and compassionate, who cared about others and encouraged others to recognise and appreciate their individual gifts.

Needless to say, Hannah is very proud to have the opportunity to lead her school and is grateful for the strong sense of social justice Siena instilled in her. Her advice to our new Year 7 students is to *'give everything a shot, and get to know as many people as you can!'*

Carolyn Currie
Marketing Coordinator



Welcome New Staff



Kate Caish
Arts and Technology Teacher



Matthew Coghlan
Humanities Teacher



Marianne DeLuise
French Teacher



Belinda Duncan
English/Religious Education Teacher



Barbara Edwards
Library Technician



Anthony George
Audio Visual Technician



Bella Giannangelo
AFL Trainee



Marissa Joyce
Head of English



Dominic Loschiavo
English/Religious Education Teacher



Maureen McAuley
College Archivist



Glenda Morris
Head of Albertus Magnus Library



Jessica Sullivan
English/Religious Education Teacher



Daniel Sheehan
Piano Teacher



Assimina Semertjis
Head of Science



Stephanie Seymour
English/Humanities Teacher



Gemma Tomlinson
Cello Teacher



Tracey Kermond Human Resources Manager

We are pleased to welcome the above new staff into our Siena 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 privileged to welcome back former student, Bella Giannangelo, as our AFL Sportsready trainee for 2018.





*International
Women's Day
Breakfast*



*Year 12
Welcome
Breakfast*



*Sienna's
Night of
Jazz*



Siena College Alumnae

Alumnae Panel

As part of the Year 7 Religious Education program, our students had the pleasure of speaking with some special community members: John Davenport, Sr Frances Caine OP AM, Loyis Gibson, Gayle Peggie, Liz Merrett and Kate Gotlib.

Mr Davenport has been a major part of the Siena community for many years. Mr Davenport's daughters, Margaret and Anne, attended Siena and his wife Eileen taught at the College. The Davenport family resided behind the College and played an important role in supporting the Dominican Sisters. Mr Davenport still lives in the family home and it is always a delight to catch up with him and listen to his stories about living next door to the Sisters. A very strong link and mutual respect developed over the years and still remains between the Davenport family and the Dominican Sisters.

Sr Frances Caine OP AM and Loyis Gibson, née Olive, were classmates from the Class of 1944. Sr Frances and Loyis spoke about their precious memories of school life in the 1940s, the subjects they were taught by the nuns, and the unique bond between the Sisters and students.

The Davis sisters, Gayle Peggie (Class of 1974) and Liz Merrett (Class of 1978), reflected on the Siena sisterhood, their sense of belonging, and lifelong friendships formed at Siena. Current staff member Kate Gotlib, née Kelly (Class of 1996), loved to learn and would often be found in the library keen to absorb more knowledge. Meeting up with students from other schools on the daily commute to and from Siena was certainly a highlight for Gayle, Liz and Kate.

The spirit of Siena and the Dominican values were ever present with the alumnae panel members who continue to be valued and an integral part of our College community.



Liz Merrett Alumnae Coordinator



Siena Generations Gathering

On Monday, 16 April, we hosted a special gathering of current students and their grandmothers and mothers who were past students of Siena. We shared many laughs, exchanged our tales and spoke of the College with great fondness. This will continue to be an annual event.



Sharing Stories: Alumnae Profiles



Sr Frances Caine OP AM

Sr Frances Caine OP AM (Class of 1944) came from St Dominic's Primary School to Siena at the start of Year 8. There were only thirty-two students at Siena at that time and Frances enjoyed being part of a friendly community.

After completing her education at Siena, Frances entered the Dominican Order in Maitland and from 1948 to 1989, she devoted her life to teaching hearing impaired children. In retirement, Sr Frances lived in Aboriginal Bathurst Island communities in the Northern Territory and set up programs for ear health and education.

Sr Frances received an Order of Australia Medal in 2002 for service to children with impaired hearing.



Loyis Gibson

Loyis Gibson, née Olive (Class of 1944) was the seventeenth student enrolled at Siena Convent School in February 1941. She also attended St Dominic's Primary School until Year 8.

Loyis maintained close links to the College through all her friendships, made stronger by her three sisters and their friends who also attended Siena throughout the 1940s, 1950s and early 1960s. The Olive sisters helped to establish the first Past Students' Association. Loyis was awarded a Siena College Community Award at the Academic Awards Evening held in December 2017.

Both Sr Frances and Loyis provide a wealth of knowledge about people, places and the ordinary day to day details of life in our Siena College. We feel blessed that they are still very active members of our community.



Dr Clare Fedele

Dr Clare Fedele (Class of 1999) completed a Bachelor of Biomedical Science (with Honours) in 2003 and then a PhD in cancer biology at Monash University in 2010, supported by the Cancer Council Victoria. During her PhD she became focused on translating laboratory results into improved treatments for people with cancer.

Since 2011, Clare has worked as a post doctoral research scientist at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute, focusing on the human skin cancer, melanoma. Her work involves laboratory research, teaching and supervision of students, reporting her findings through publication of articles, and presenting both nationally and internationally. Clare is a Fellow of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and previously of the Victorian Cancer Agency (VCA).

Reunion Dates 2018

Class of 40s, 50s, 60s Brunch
Saturday, 20 October | 10.30am – 12.30pm
Siena College Hall

Class of 1978 and Class of 1988 Decade Reunion
Saturday, 1 September | 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Drinks and canapés at Siena College, followed by optional dinner at Hellenic Republic, Kew

Class of 1998 and Class of 2008 Decade Reunion
Saturday, 15 September | 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Drinks and canapés at Siena College, followed by optional dinner at Hellenic Republic, Kew

Class of 2013 Five Year Reunion
Friday, 20 July | 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Drinks and canapés at Siena College

Book online at www.sienacollect.com.au/reunions

Inscribe your name on the

ALUMNAE WALL

Register at www.sienacollect.com.au



Alumnae Association



Kate Gotlib Alumnae Association Co President



Gayle Peggie Alumnae Association Co President

The Siena College Alumnae Association continues this year with its focus on *Connecting Past, Present and Future* Siena students. We do this by championing activities that play a direct role in expanding the association for the benefit of all. Our major efforts this year will be to grow and improve these milestone activities.

The Alumnae Association provides an annual award named the Dr Ursula McKenna Award. This award recognises excellence in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The 2017 recipient of this award was Dr Clare Fedele (Class of 1999).

The Siena College Careers Showcase is set for Thursday, 28 June. The showcase sees alumnae return to the College to pass on their real life, post Siena studies and work experiences to our current Year 9 to 12 students. Past showcases have seen up to sixty alumnae return to Siena and this event continues to gain momentum. We are constantly on the lookout for past students to share their stories, so

if you or anyone you know would be interested, please contact Liz Merrett, Alumnae Coordinator, at the College.

The Siena Generations Gathering was a new event this year bringing together alumnae and their daughters and granddaughters. The Generations Gathering aims to build on strengthening our ties with Siena.

This year sees the 20th year of the annual St Catherine's Day Fiesta. To acknowledge this milestone and much loved event, a representative group of house captains was in the audience to witness this year's spectacular performances by Cassia, Dianella, Kurrajong and Waratah.

The reunion season continues to thrive and we really look forward to seeing you back at Siena to relive the good old days.

Long may our Siena stand.



SIENA COLLEGE ALUMNAE
Connecting Past, Present and Future

Siena College Alumnae Association presents

7.00pm – 9.00pm | Thursday, 28 June 2018



Siena in the Interconnected City

What excitement there was on Monday, 26 March as our 2018 Year 9 students hit the streets of Melbourne as part of their Siena in the Interconnected City (SITC) program. The culmination of a term's preparation in Year 9 Geography, SITC 2018 gave our students the opportunity to conduct fieldwork in one of the most exciting places in Victoria, the City of Melbourne.

Using the CBD as their base, the students sought information on inquiry questions they had formulated within one of these key Geography of Interconnections concepts:

Marvellous Melbourne: How do places change over time?

Melbourne, the Place to Be: How does tourism shape our city?

Buy, Swap, Sell: How does commerce and trade shape our city?

Melbourne on the Move: How do we transport goods and people around our city?

Sustainability: From 'Smellbourne' to the 'World's Most Liveable City'.

As part of their investigations, our students took part in an array of city experiences: from rock climbing, visiting the Parliament of Victoria during a very rowdy question time, to visiting an underground cheese room as part of the Taste of Melbourne Gourmet

Tour and sitting in the press room at Etihad Stadium. One highlight for many students was their participation in the Fare Share Kitchen program, where they helped produce over 1800 meals for vulnerable Victorians in less than three hours! Using surplus produce from Melbourne's restaurants, the students gained practical experience in dealing with the problems of food waste and lack of access to a nutritious diet for many people. Our Year 9s did a terrific job navigating the streets of Melbourne by planning effectively, met tight timelines and managed unexpected challenges by working in teams.

Well done, Year 9!





Archives



Maria Ang College Archivist



Maureen McAuley College Archivist



Being part of a family means having a shared story and earlier this term we welcomed Year 7s into the Siena family by sharing our story with them. As part of the Church and Community unit in Religious Education, the College Archivists introduced the students to the Siena story, using photographs and memorabilia from our archival collection.

Sitting in Caleruega, once the Convent dormitory, we shared a little of the life of the Sisters as recorded in their diary kept from 1926. Photographs were used to show how the school has grown in numbers and how the physical environment has changed dramatically over the years. The original Register introduced us to some of Siena's first

students, whom the girls would meet in person the following week.

Uniforms through the ages were on show and girls were invited to try on the green 'pinny', which was regulation wear in years gone by. Traditional Dominican classroom discipline techniques were demonstrated using the clacker, and a Year 7 report from 1951 was used to discuss how subjects and assessment methods have changed.

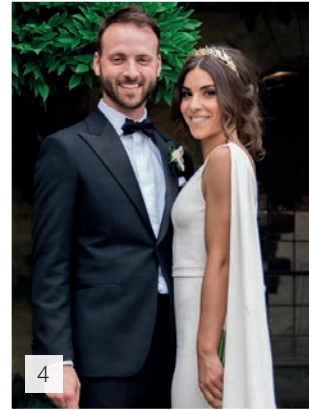
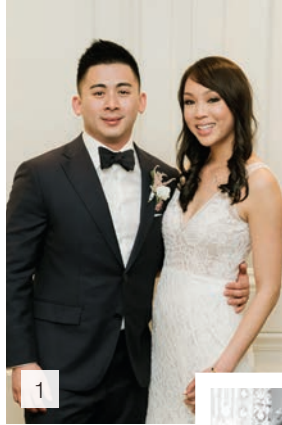
At the end of the presentation, the students visited the Prioress' Cell and the Heritage Gallery and as they left, each girl rang the Tarna bell which was once used to signal the change of lessons.



Congratulations

Marriages

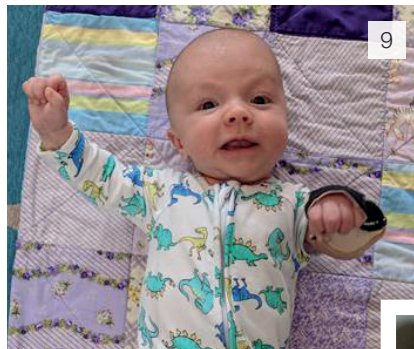
1. **Melanie Chan** (Class of 2009) and Jonathan Tran married on 7 October 2017 at Xavier College Chapel.
2. **Natalie Sarena** (Class of 2007) and Xavier Smith were married at St Dominic's Church on 14 October 2017. **Jane Ennor** (Class of 2007) was bridesmaid. Following the ceremony, the wedding party gathered in the Siena Convent and Cloisters for photos.
3. **Roisin Mattinson** (Class of 2005) married Chris Vogiatzis Chrisafis on 10 November 2017. The wedding ceremony took place at St Mary's in St Kilda East, where Roisin's parents were married.
4. **Louise Lancuba** (current staff member) married Nicholas D'Angelo last November. Their ceremony was held at the Carmelite Monastery in Kew.
5. **Elise Byrne** (Class of 2005) married Ben Deppele at St Dominic's Church on Friday, 2 March. Their wedding party included **Katie O'Halloran, née Byrne** (Class of 2001), **Hannah Matheson, Hayley Gardiner** and **Stephanie Jackson**, all Class of 2005.



Births

Harrison Parker Fabris was born on 2 June 2017. Congratulations to **Katia Fabris, née Petterlin** (Class of 2005).

6. **Megan Mens, née Smith** (Class of 1996) and partner Richard announced the safe arrival of Spencer James on 24 November 2017 at Epworth Freemasons, a little brother for Charlotte and Oliver.
7. **Anna Myers** (Class of 1996) and her partner Jamie welcomed Ethan A A Myers into the world on 20 November 2017 at the Mercy, a little brother for Haydn aged three.
8. **Millie Holmes** (Class of 2006) and partner Ben Robson were excited to announce the safe arrival of Maggie Mae. Maggie was born on 22 December 2017 and is much loved by her sister, Daisy.
9. **Michelle Theron** (current staff member) and Andrew Ryan welcomed Michael Andrew Ryan on 3 January 2018.
10. Luke and **Katherine Bradshaw, née Chan** (Class of 2006) welcomed Olivia Min Yi Bradshaw on 8 January 2018. Min Yi means 'agile and quick witted', a name given to Olivia by her grandfather (Kat's dad).
11. Rachel Taylor and **Daniel Henderson** (current staff member) welcomed Millie Taylor Henderson on 4 April 2018.



We Remember

May they Rest in Peace

Geraldine Bramley, née Boyle (Class of 1960), passed away on 21 March 2017.

Mary Mulcahy, née Rasmussen (Class of 1946) always looked back on the happy days she spent at Siena. Mary passed away on 8 November 2017.

Cheryl Broderick (mother of Jessica, Year 12) passed away on 22 February 2018.

Peter Leonard passed away on 6 March 2018. Loving husband of Ann (Class of 1967), loved father to Mark, Patrick, Julia, James, Clare and Sarah, adored Pa of eleven grandchildren and brother-in-law to Judy Netting and Rose Marie Prosser.

Helen McFarlane (past staff member) passed away on 21 March 2018. Helen was a Year 7 Coordinator for several years in the 1980s. She remembered her years at Siena fondly and made many lifelong friends in our community.

Farewell to Kate Gottlib, née Kelly (Class of 1996)

Kate joined the Siena community in 1991 as a Year 7 student and has many fond memories of her time at the College. Kate was a committed student who took on many challenges. A strong interest in the field of Psychology led to her being instrumental, as a student, in having Psychology introduced as a subject in 1996. She was involved in a variety of sports and an enthusiastic member of the student leadership program as the Veritas Captain (editor of the student magazine). As a student, Kate was committed to honouring the student voice through the written word.

Kate returned to Siena in 2001 to take up a teaching role and has been a valued member of staff for the last seventeen years. In that time, Kate has taught English, History, Politics, Geography, Money Markets and Psychology. Many VCE students have had the great experience of being a member of Kate's classes where she always challenged students to be the best they could be. A past student who obtained a perfect score of 50 in Psychology described Kate as a teacher who *'taught me to have a passion for learning that can last throughout your adult life, and to enjoy coming to school and being around people you're with'*.

Kate has also contributed much to education at Siena College by accepting a variety of leadership roles including the Debating Coordinator, Waratah House Coordinator (2004 to 2006) and Head of Student Formation and Social Justice Education for the last three years. She has also served as Co President of the Alumnae Association since 2016 and we are grateful that she will continue in that role until the end of this year.

We wish you the very best in your new role, Kate. You will be greatly missed!





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Open Mornings 2018

Friday, 8 June

Friday, 3 August

Monday, 3 September

Monday, 26 November

9.30am – 11.00am



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