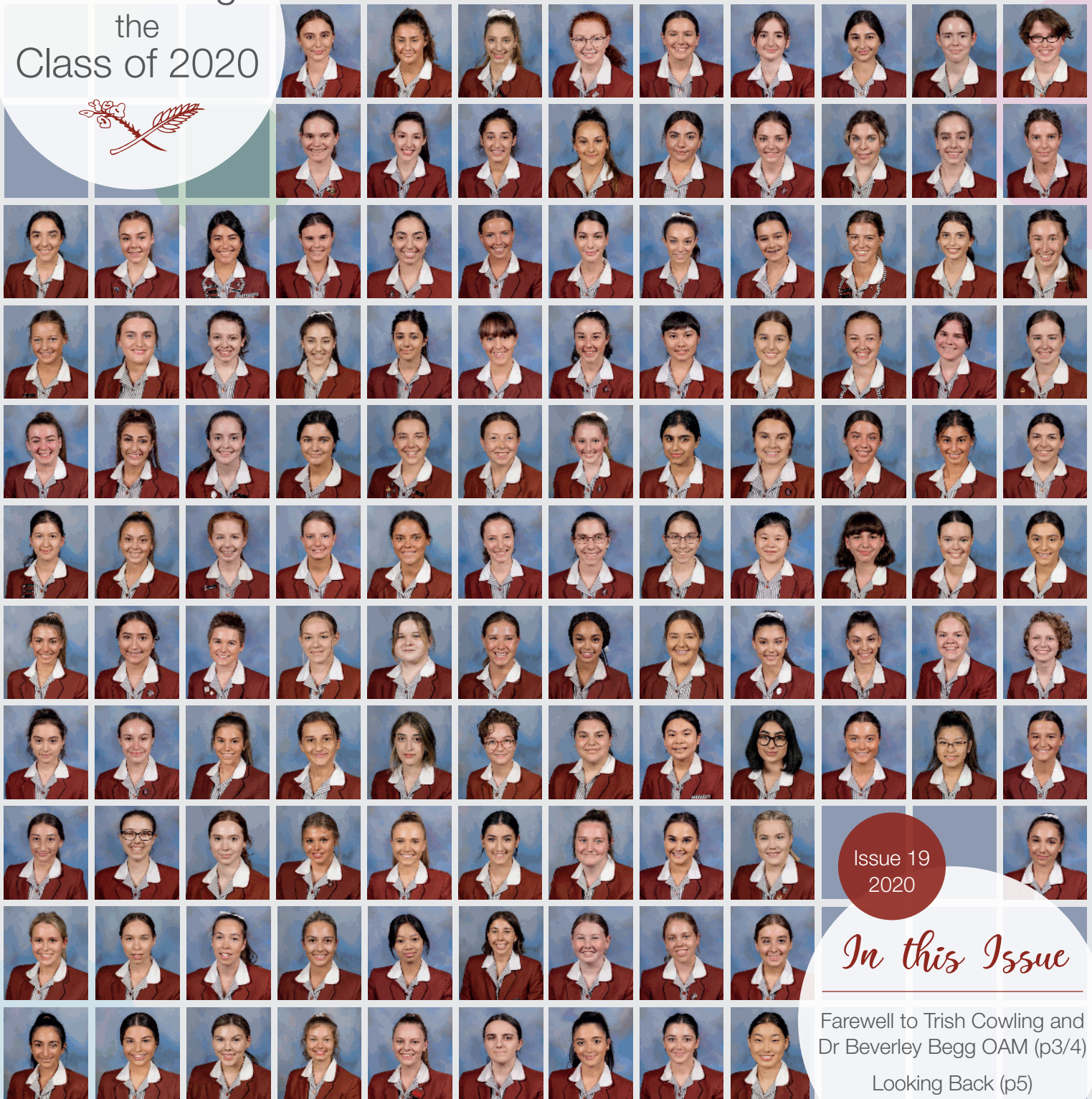


the Spirit



Celebrating
the
Class of 2020



Issue 19
2020

In this Issue

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Dr Beverley Begg OAM (p3/4)

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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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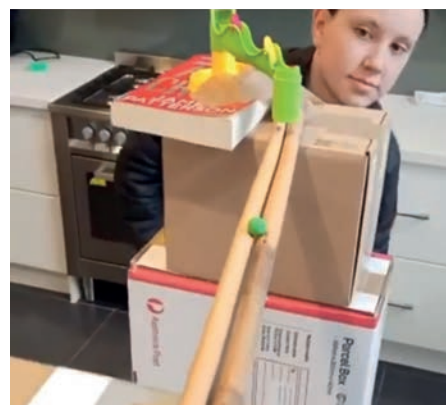
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We Remember



Angelica Motta (Class of 2010) married Jamie Hatzidimitriou at St Dominic's Church on 20 July 2019. Angelica's name was misspelt as Adriana in *The Spirit* Issue 18. Our sincere apologies for this error.

From the Principal

The Spirit of Siena. What an appropriate name for this publication, for this year, for this place. In this issue you will see the spirit of Siena in its many expressions, amplified in this extraordinary year.

The year began with high expectations of 80th anniversary celebrations throughout the year; shared opportunities with many members of the community to come together in thanksgiving. Alas, like many hopes and expectations for 2020 the advance of COVID-19 put paid to such dreams. Indeed it has been the communal aspect of community life which has been most significantly impacted this year. This has perhaps been felt most acutely by our outgoing Year 12 cohort, the Class of 2020, who have experienced such a disrupted final year. This would surely be followed by the incoming Year 7 cohort who were largely onsite for Term 1 and Term 4 only. And yet. Learning continued seamlessly, with no disruption. Connection, care, personalised approaches for each student continued, without disruption. Staff professionalism and ingenuity continued, without disruption. In fact, each of our pillars of endeavour continued in an exemplary way: Prayer, Study, Justice and Community. This time affords an opportunity to recognise the many gifts of this year, amazingly.

At the time of writing this piece, the academic year is ending with its opportunity for reflection and acknowledgement. This is alongside an easing of restrictions which offers the promise of having 'passed through' the challenges and into a new period of life at Siena College.

The Class of 2020 will long remember the vicissitudes of this year. Their Siena spirit has been their greatest strength; it bound them to each other, it cemented their partnership with teachers, it lifted them when fear and doubt crept in, it emboldened them with moments of levity and joy. What they missed in communal gatherings was made up for in their spirit of determination, solidarity and kindness

to each other, in ways more creative than they ever imagined! In this, the Class of 2020 were led beautifully by College Captains, Laura Griss and Adrienne Duray, and closely supported by fellow leaders: Elena Cruz, Zoe McClure, Amy Fisher, Zoe Kourtis, Marisa Angelopoulos, Ella Gurry, Victoria Perna, Bailey Webb, Julia Cabai, Alexandra Lasscock, Andrea Paramboukis, Mia Horozidis, Hayley Di Stefano (Year 11), Teagan Matthews, Hannah Hine, Paris Poon, Bridget Hoy and Amanda Marasco (Year 11).

A virtual Graduation Ceremony was another first for the College but one which is a lasting tribute to a fine group of graduates who demonstrated such tenacity this year. They go into the world changed, strengthened and enabled to respond to life's challenges and to 'do good' in the world. We wish them every blessing in the future.

This year, the efforts of staff, students and parents has been extraordinary. Change has been pervasive and exponential. With every known routine in the school day, term and year demolished, requiring Siena College to operate virtually across the suburbs of Melbourne, partnerships with the community were a key resource for us – many parents who lent additional hours on committees providing expertise, knowledge and emotional support, parents who responded to communications and requests from members of staff, teachers and leaders, often extending commendation and encouragement to our teachers especially; thank you. As a College, our Dominican mission was front and centre of all that we did, reminding us of who we are, informing, inspiring and encouraging us. I make particular mention of the College Board and Committees, the College Leadership Team and all staff, who have demonstrated this shared moral purpose, along with superb collaboration, creativity and responsiveness; thank you. In seeking excellence for our young women, each has given excellence in their role such that our students could maintain the very best in continuity of learning and growth, despite the disruption.



Elizabeth Hanney Principal

I wish to acknowledge and thank Bernadette Donnelly, our outgoing Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching, who is completing five years at Siena. Bernadette has been steadfast in her commitment to teaching and learning, seeking always the very best learning growth for students and staff. We thank Bernadette sincerely for her great service to Siena College and wish her well as she begins a new chapter. We warmly welcome Donna Laughlin, current Director of Learning and Innovation who has been appointed Deputy Principal in 2021.

Whilst there is still much reflection to do, with consideration of how a new normal might be embraced, I am most grateful for the staff, parents AND students who together, have ensured that Siena College has in fact emerged stronger than ever and is well placed to move smoothly and decisively into a new year.

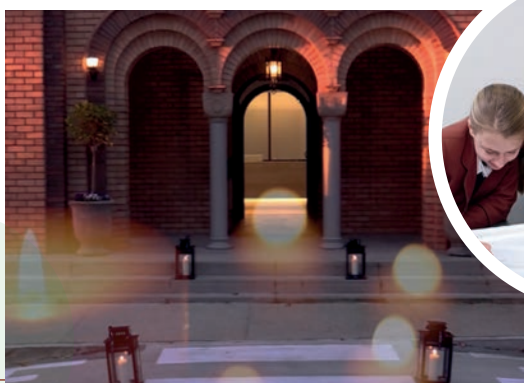
Elizabeth Hanney Principal



▲ Bernadette Donnelly Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching



Graduation Mass



Dominican News



Sr Julianna Drobik OP



Solomon Islands United Nations Project

The Dominican Fathers, Sisters and laity in the Solomon Islands have accepted an invitation from Fr Mike Deed OP to set up a small committee to prepare for a Universal Periodic Review in May 2021. Fr Mike is Coordinator of Dominicans for Justice and Peace, a faith-based, non-profit and non-government organisation representing the Dominicans at the United Nations (UN).

The 193 member states at the UN will examine the human rights record of the Solomon Islands and provide recommendations to improve practice. Solomon Islands is categorized as one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. The total population of Solomon Islands is half a million (approx. 41.9% of the population is under fifteen). Social services (education and health) institutions and policy formation processes are weak as a result of civil unrest during the past two decades.

The UN project aims to:

- Support and strengthen the commitment of the Dominican family in the Solomon Islands on issues of justice and peace
- Train or strengthen the knowledge of Dominicans in human rights monitoring and advocacy
- Raise the main human rights concerns in the Solomon Islands at the UN level
- Deepen collaboration between the Dominicans and existing coalitions of civil society groups active in the field of justice and peace in the Solomon Islands

The Committee has drafted a submission report and will undertake an introductory course online in preparation for their participation in the 2021 Review. The Friars and Sisters ask for your prayers for this significant undertaking

Adapting to COVID-19 Restrictions

The small community of senior Sisters living in Victoria and Tasmania were introduced and quickly adapted to meeting on Zoom during the long lockdown in Melbourne. A virtual celebration on St Dominic's Day created much excitement as the Sisters prayed together and chatted online with Sisters in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, the Solomon Islands and the Philippines.

Pre-Chapter meetings and training sessions have since been added to the social connection and will continue no doubt into 2021 as we learn to live with the global pandemic for some time to come.



Annual Memorial Mass

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the annual Memorial Mass usually held in November for families of deceased alumnae, parents and staff in the Siena community has been postponed until 2021. Invitations will be sent out as soon as restrictions are eased for liturgical gatherings. Our prayers and thoughts are with all those who have lost loved ones in these difficult times.

Sr Julianna Drobik OP
DEA Trustee



Farewell to Patricia Cowling



Kath McCarthy College Board Chair

Siena College acknowledges the invaluable contribution of Patricia (Trish) Cowling to the Siena community, who retires from her role as Director of the College Board at the end of this year.

Trish was appointed as a Director of the Siena College Board on 27 July 2016 and brought with her decades of experience in educational leadership. Her connection with Siena dated back to her time as a staff member between 1989 to 1992. As someone who had the wonderful experience of being among her Year 12 English students, I was particularly delighted to be later serving alongside her on the Board. She was a member of the Risk Management Committee from January to June 2019, and then was appointed by Dominican Education Australia to the position of Deputy Chair of the Siena Board from 18 June 2019 from which time she also served on the Principal Selection subgroup of the Board.

Throughout her time as a Board member, Trish was highly valued for her deep systemic awareness of the educational landscape of Victoria balanced with a practical perspective of the day-to-day realities of a school's operating environment. She offered wise counsel and displayed sound judgment. She fulfilled all obligations Siena would expect of our Board members, and did so in a way that was respectful, generous, and filled with humour and warmth.

We are very grateful for her time, energy and commitment over the past four years and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Kath McCarthy
Siena College Board Chair



Siena College

GOLF DAY

Friday, 19 February 2021

Sponsorship opportunities are available!

Please contact Tracey Grobbelaar for details

on 9835 0266 or email tgrobbelaar@siena.vic.edu.au



In Awe of Dr Beverley Begg OAM

"Gratitude bestows reverence, allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience life and the world." John Milton



Michael Hanrahan Director of Strategy and Risk

Dr Begg ("Beverley, please!") has provided Siena College with a great deal for which we are grateful. We stand in awe of her commitment to education in general and to Siena in particular.

As a Science and Biology teacher at Siena College from 1984 to 1996, Beverley also led the Duke of Edinburgh Program and was a Year Level Coordinator. It was stated that she *"would take on the world if she could"*. Alumnae have also described her love of learning, her commitment to the education of her students and her generous investment of time in them as young women. Beverley's daughters, Lynette and Lisa, are alumnae of Siena and I am sure her influence has led to them continuing a deep and long standing connection with the College. Her being a part of the "Siena family" has meant better educational outcomes for many students and a school whose student reputation is the envy of most.

Over more than forty-five years, across two States and the Northern Territory, Beverley's contributions have spanned classroom teaching, research, work at systems level at Catholic Education Melbourne in the area of pastoral care and student wellbeing, as well as significant contributions to school governance as a member and Chair of the Siena College Board.

Through her research and published writings, and the initiatives she has lead and been involved with at Catholic Education Melbourne, Beverley has had a meaningful impact on the wellbeing and pastoral care of students in many Victorian Catholic schools, including Siena College where she was, voluntarily, instrumental in the formation and functioning of the Child Safe Committee upon which she continued to serve up until her latest "retirement". It was on this committee that she guided the development and implementation of a Child Protection Plan which forms the foundation of all child protection policies at the College.

Always with her finger on the pulse of the College, Beverley was quick to join both the Policy Committee and the Risk Management Committee where, again, her quick mind and innate intelligence kept all members on their toes in the most self-effacing and inclusive manner.

As Board Chair, Beverley diligently led the Board Directors in developing a deep understanding and knowledge of governance in an educational setting and she was able to lead and implement changes that enhanced the governance of Siena College including the oversight and development of two five-year Strategic Plans.

Beverley has shown clear vision and passion in her leadership of the Board. Her courage and integrity are second to none. She is a woman of outstanding intelligence, commitment and generosity. There are very few that can hold a candle to our very much beloved "sister" of Siena.

In the words of a fellow Board member; *"You are an extraordinary Siena woman... and above all else I am truly honoured to call you my friend."* And so say all of us.

The Siena community thanks Dr Beverley Begg OAM, for giving us so many of those transcendent moments of awe that have changed forever how we experience life and the world.

Michael Hanrahan
Director of Strategy and Risk

"You are an extraordinary Siena woman... and above all else I am truly honoured to call you my friend."

And so say all of us.



L-R: Pauline Sheehan, Dr Beverley Begg, Gaynor Robson-Garth



Looking Back

An Interview with 2020 College Captains

Shortly before the examination period commenced, I sat down with College Captains, Laura and Adrienne (Adi) to reflect on their year of leadership. Despite the interruptions and event cancellations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, both girls were able to look back on the year with pride and gratitude. Long periods away from onsite learning demanded a different way of leading and both girls were justifiably proud of their own efforts and the unwavering support of the wider SRC as they rose to the challenges of 2020. As Laura explains, *"I think in terms of the SRC (due to COVID) we weren't able to copy anything from years past so we had to really pull together as team, think of new ideas and work to get those out to the school remotely."* Adi agrees, noting that *"SRC Week was a testament to how great the SRC has been this year, how involved they have been and that chance to reinvent things made us proud of ourselves and the wider group."*

Both girls came to Siena from St Bede's Primary School, part of a large cohort that year. They knew each other of course, but their friendship didn't really blossom until they were seated together in Year 11 Mathematical Methods and, in between problem solving, would discuss their leadership aspirations. Mr Coronado would say *"Girls! Focus please!"* Laura recalled with a laugh.

Whilst at Siena, Adi has availed herself of the many curricular opportunities, playing saxophone

until the end of Year 11, participating in public speaking and debating and was part of the Kopanang Immersion group last year. She was House Captain of Kurrajong in 2018 and 2019 and last year achieved Full Colours in Music.

A talented soccer player outside of school, Laura has played GSV Sport every term since Year 7, enjoyed the many leadership programs Siena has to offer and describes her trip to Italy in 2019 with other Language students as an absolute highlight.

Laura hopes to study Science at Melbourne University, then diversify possibly to Physiotherapy. Her VCE subjects were English, Mathematical Methods, Physics, Chemistry, and Health and Human Development, completing Physical Education last year as an accelerated subject.

Adi hopes to be accepted into Bio Medicine at Monash University and travel overseas after she finishes. This year she has studied French, English, Mathematical Methods, Further Mathematics, Chemistry and completed Biology as a sixth subject in 2019.

Asked to name their favourite memories during their time at Siena, Adi mused *"I think we've just been just so lucky to have so many memories – it's the relationships I've formed with my teachers, the things they have taught me – they are the memories that will stick with me."*



Laura nods in agreement and adds *"I've loved all the final things – final swimming, final aths, final Mass – the one assembly we got to host! – coming back to school after lockdown. I never thought I'd be so excited to come back to school!"*

I asked the girls if they had some words of advice for the incoming 2021 College Captains. Laura reminded them to trust their instincts, and back themselves in making decisions that concern their cohort. Adi agreed, adding *"Don't underestimate the support of the SRC – they take so much weight off your shoulders, they are great, even the younger year levels were incredible this year and they are ready and willing to help!"*

In finishing, we spoke of what the girls would take away from their time at Siena. Adi said a sense of self-confidence, developed from the support of peers and teachers. Laura reflected that she had grown as a person, noting *"I think I have a greater understanding of who I am and that will help in making decisions later in life and the path I take."*

Carolyn Currie
Marketing Coordinator



Adi in Year 7 (2015) and Year 12 (2020)



Laura in Year 7 (2015) and Year 12 (2020)



Adi and Laura with alumnae Maddie Harriss (Class of 2018) and Emma Yee (Class of 1999)



Mission and Identity



Jennifer Levett Deputy Principal Mission and Identity

St Catherine's Day

This is a special day when we celebrate who we are – as Dominicans who care for one another... who have an awareness of the world beyond our walls... and who take action in making the world a more just and harmonious place for all.

On the morning of Wednesday, 29 April, led by Year 8 students and members of the Student Voice Team, we celebrated St Catherine in word, image and song. Whilst we were unable to gather in person, members our Siena community entered into each aspect of our online celebration with generosity and grace.

Following this Liturgy of the Word and reflection, staff and students were encouraged to follow Catherine's example of being "on the move" by turning off their devices and taking time away from their screens. This meant time spent exercising, playing with pets, assisting somebody at home, or checking on a neighbour.

Laudato Si'

We marked the fifth anniversary of "Laudato Si', on Care of Our Common Home", Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on the environment. The theme of this special week was *Everything is Connected* which took on a new meaning whilst our College was operating remotely.

Laudato Si' (Praise be to you) takes its name from the *Canticle of the Sun*, attributed to St Francis of Assisi. You may not be aware that there's a special relationship between Dominicans and St Francis – many artists have depicted Dominic and Francis meeting. At Siena, we continue to commit ourselves to Care for Creation through our practices, policies and partnerships.

Marking St Dominic's Day

I had the pleasure of working with senior student leaders in the preparation of our St Dominic's Day celebration in early August; it was wonderful to witness their collaboration, collective wisdom and commitment to making this a special experience for members of our community.



Sr Sheila Flynn OP

After an extended time with us this year as Director of Formation, Sheila has been an invaluable source of wisdom, inspiration and hope for our community, and leaves with us the beautiful Hope Cross installation she has created. We are very much looking forward to Sheila returning to Siena at the beginning of 2021.

Reflecting on 2020

Dominicans are itinerant – going to where we are needed, looking for the place of greatest potential. Our move to flexible learning showed that we were open to exploring opportunities for connection in what was, for all of us, a new space.

Now that we have returned to Siena, we continue to search for truth by responding to the area of greatest need... using our learnings from this important time to inform our decisions and renew our commitment to prayer, study, justice and community. In our current context it is important to remember that we live in gratitude and hope for the future, open to what "can be".

Jennifer Levett

Deputy Principal Mission and Identity

Learning and Teaching

There are not enough superlatives to describe how well the Siena community has responded to the incredible challenges of learning during COVID-19. Here is a snapshot from each of the learning domains as they reflect on 2020:

In Religious Education classes, St Dominic's quote was forefront in our response, "You are my companion and must walk with me." In our separation we were strongly reminded of our need for Community – one of our Dominican Pillars. Our experience taught us resilience, to find ways to deal with our own struggles whilst maintaining a strong connection to others. As our courses taught of the love and compassion of God so too did our students show such strength of spirit in their care for others.

In English, we continued to seek opportunity to connect with the outside world. Year 8 students engaged with Australian author Kirsty Murray to discuss her anthology, *Eat the Sky, Drink the Ocean* and a small group worked with Kirsty in a virtual writing workshop.

In Mathematics, classes showed versatility and adaptability combining technology and mathematical skills. Our Year 9 Foundation Mathematics students discovered that statistics could be discovered at their doorsteps. They found the mean number of light switches, windows, pots and pans in their homes. They determined the average time it took them to walk around their houses, and displayed the statistics they found on histograms, stem plots and dot plots.

In Physical Education classes, students have continued with activities such as dance, fitness components, circuit training and cultural games. In Health Education, students have been engaged in their learning about respectful relationships and healthy communities.

In Languages, the remote learning experience forced us to redefine and reimagine the learning of languages away from the teacher, the class, excursions or overseas trips. In response to the College

theme for 2020, *Who Do You Say I Am?*, it is now evident that our Siena language learners are now even more independent, resilient, tech-savvy and forward-thinking.

In Science, we embraced the opportunity to introduce some exciting, new practical learning activities safe for the home. These included creating a Marble Run using recycled materials, filming the thirty second roller coaster marble journey to communicate physics concepts, learning to use a virtual microscope, creating a 3D atom model, and in Year 10 STEAM, designing and making global ear saver mask straps and COVID-safe door openers.

In The Arts and Technology, the famous proverb "Necessity is the mother of invention" has held true. In Drama, students collaborated to create radio plays which allowed them to build on their expressive voice skills. In Art, students were challenged to use found materials as the basis for the production of their artworks and were able to create miniature cities from cardboard and 'Fobots', small robots made from household materials. In Visual Communication and Design, students designed a meditation garden using Google Maps to measure their own back yards as the basis for their landscape design. Music students viewed videos of the instructional components and Music teachers used keyboards and microphones so that they could sing and play keyboard to demonstrate to the student at the same time. In Media, students made films and photo series, and in Product Design and Technology – with an emphasis on sustainability – students upcycled a garment utilising appliques and embroidery. In Digital Technologies, student were able to learn basic programming using Python.

For the Humanities faculty, remote learning necessitated a rapid pivot for our teaching and learning program. While the opportunity to engage in activism was challenging in an online context, it was heartening to see the enthusiasm and commitment of our Year 9 and 10



Bernadette Donnelly Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

Global Responsibility students. They embraced the opportunity to learn about the struggle for rights amongst indigenous groups, with a specific focus on steps taken in the context of Indigenous Australia and South Africa.

The Learning Diversity department has continued to support learning through expressive writing and online literacy programs in Year 8. Year 7 and 8 students were eager participants in a Philosophy course and the virtual Chess Club provided many positive experiences.

The Learning Centre relied heavily on technology to facilitate communication and engagement with students throughout Semester 2. Our Siena Central page included "Make it Monday" craft projects, Iso Cooking ideas and recipes, virtual Escape Rooms and links to virtual resources and tours taking place while we were in lockdown. While borrowing of physical books was not possible, it was encouraging to see an increase in the number of ebooks borrowed, suggesting that students continued to read for pleasure whilst learning remotely.

It is said that you see true spirit in times of difficulty and this year we have all been tested in many different ways. Our staff and students have demonstrated the utmost resilience and spirit in all that they have achieved.

Bernadette Donnelly
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching



Pedagogy at Siena

Adapting our curriculum delivery to a remote model in March demanded innovation and agility. Siena staff and students were upskilled in the use of Microsoft Teams as our primary platform for teaching and learning, which provided valuable opportunities for collaboration. As the weeks went by, students were able to develop necessary future world of work skills: digital literacy, agility, resilience and persistence. Our staff also continued their professional development, refining their remote learning pedagogy, with alternate methods for checking for understanding, class discussions and writing teacher instruction on the whiteboard. The adjustment of our Pedagogical Model, as we placed greater emphasis on the 'we do' and 'you do' elements, ensured effective learning and teaching was maintained.

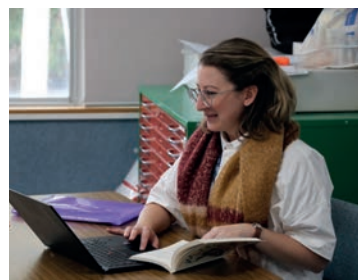
The ongoing integration of Siena Central enabled students to reflect on their own learning in this new environment. We were also able to continue many regular elements that furthered our connection as a community, as Parent Teacher Conferences were conducted online. Using Microsoft Teams enabled all members of the family to participate with ease as we discussed the achievements and learnings of our students.

Next year will see our teachers' professional learning focused on Siena Inform, a bespoke data program. Siena Inform will enable the triangulation of external data, internal summative data and classroom learning behaviour data to add to the narrative and understanding of the learning of our students. This greater engagement with learning data will enable teachers to track the growth of our students within subjects and across subjects, allowing us to further respond to the learning needs of all students.

As a community, we have successfully navigated remote curriculum delivery, learnt much and grown in our abilities. There is much to anticipate as we dare to reimagine what the future of education can look like. But one thing is for sure, nothing replaces seeing our students in person!

Donna Laughlin

Director of Learning and Innovation



Recognising Excellence in Learning Innovation

Congratulations to Donna Laughlin for being included in The Educator 'Hot List' Awards for 2020. This acknowledgement is in recognition of Donna's humble but relentless commitment to excellence in learning and teaching leadership – as evidenced this year in building staff capacity in readiness for online teaching and in the development of Siena Inform, our data analysis platform in support of student learning and growth. Donna's success in this and every other aspect of her work has been marked by her relational approach, her commitment to detail and her generosity in ensuring that staff feel supported and confident.

Elizabeth Hanney
Principal



Wellbeing

There has been great emphasis on the wellbeing of our entire community in 2020, particularly during the extended period of lockdown. We know that wellbeing is essential to our physical, mental and social health and research tells us that being in contact with others adds positively to our feelings of comfort and security. During our Siena Connect period of remote learning, students were reminded to be active and practise mindfulness, meditation and relaxation each day. It is widely acknowledged that there is a strong

correlation between gratitude and greater happiness, so this formed a central part of our Wellness lessons. Practising gratitude helps us shift our focus to positive memories or experiences, noticing the good in our lives. This plays a part in rewiring our brain to create new neural pathways, increasing our state of happiness and overall wellbeing. The 'Wellness and Spirituality' tile which was developed especially for this year's unique circumstances has also been made available to parents on the Siena Central Parent Portal.



Support through isolation (round two)

Next week Siena College begins its journey in online learning for the second time this year. None of us could have predicted the year we are having. Many of us are feeling stressed, tired, anxious, overwhelmed, disinterested and disconnected- these are all very normal and valid feelings to be having. You are not alone.

While we are working online for the beginning of Term 3, it's going to be more important than ever to try and stay engaged and connected with others. We are going to have to work hard to try to maintain a positive, growth mindset, and make a conscious effort to look out for others.

Our Wellness tiles are back in action and continue to be updated to support your wellbeing and mental health while you are working from home (or school) over the coming weeks.

Always remember to reach out to one another, your friends and teachers and other members of your community. #sienaspirit

Tiles



"Every place is our place; every time is our time"

St Catherine of Siena

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus just how globally connected we are, showing us the true power of technology and its benefits. Our Wellbeing Team was able to remain in regular contact with students, using different platforms to engage with student leaders and coordinate events such as House assemblies to maintain student connections. Technology also ensured there were multiple touch points to check in on students and provide timely support as required.

Lunchtime activities, fitness videos, House challenges, a weekly Wellness lesson and House meetings all complemented classroom learning with positive contributions to community wellbeing. Staff worked tirelessly to provide opportunities for students to explore their creativity, build collaborative skills, take charge of their own wellbeing and further develop resilience.

Antonella Rosati
Deputy Principal Wellbeing

2021 Student Leaders

College Captains:

Chloe Barker
Harriette La Motte

Sports Captains:

Victoria Zikas
Emma Veal

Cassia House Captains:

Isabella Boussioutas
Lucy Hodder

Veritas Leaders:

Social Justice
Environment
Social Welfare

Hayley Di Stefano
Ella Graham
Juliet Guthrie

Dianella House Captains:

Emma Highfield
Nicole Rozario

The Arts Leaders:

Music
Drama
Visual Arts and Design

Aisha Bowker
Anastasia Barres
Jasmine Skutela

Kurrajong House Captains:

Grace Hoy
Grace Kim

Communications Leaders:

Public Relations
Debating and Public Speaking

Anna Griss
Amanda Marasco

Waratah House Captains:

Sophia Bolton
Emily Bor

The Arts and Technology Exhibition



Claire Al-Noah Head of The Arts and Technology

This year, Siena College hosted its first ever Arts and Technology Exhibition utilising ArtSteps, a virtual and interactive gallery space. Within the virtual gallery, visitors were invited to “walk through” the exhibition and view artwork that was largely produced at home – in loungerooms, bedrooms and sometimes the laundry – showcasing the adaptability, perseverance and creativity of our students.

Visitors to the exhibition were able to view work such as Kayla Kourmadias’ short film, *False Confidences*, which explored how teenagers can develop techniques to hide insecurities as opposed to young children who do not “fear” and are more accepting of themselves. In Product Design and Technology, Zoe McClure produced a highly structured and brightly

coloured garment using saturated yellows and reds combined with black that openly referenced the Australian bushfires in a modern and innovative way, whilst drawing on inspiration from designer, Alexander McQueen. Also on display was Natalie Edwards’ Visual Communication Design work, entitled *Oceania*, in the form of illustrative posters filled with enticing imagery and warm colour palettes, evocative of some of Australia’s most popular holiday destinations.

Visitors could also click on a link which allowed them to watch the engaging performances of our Senior Drama and Music students, including Cara Graham’s clarinet performance entailing pieces by Paul Reade, Don Banks, Krommer, Brahms and Malcolm Arnold.

Isobel Osboldstone was the 2020 recipient of the Principal’s Choice Award for her large colourful triptych painting entitled *Journey of Life*, which explored and depicted the different stages in the life cycle of an individual. In making her decision, Principal, Elizabeth Hanney spoke of how the work reflected the current school theme, *Who Do You Say I Am?*, as it drew attention to the different stages of one’s life span and the connection between each.

The People’s Choice Award was awarded to Alessia Tyson for her installation entitled *Kaleidoscope*. Alessia’s artwork – a collection of spheres, suspended from the ceiling, filled with origami flowers and with colourful butterflies placed delicately yet purposely on the outside of the spheres – was an innovative way to present data she collected from her friends during the COVID-19 lockdown in Melbourne.

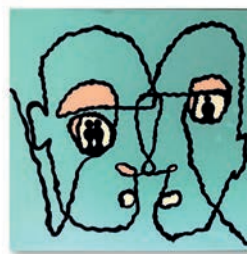
This article highlights a selection of the student work in the exhibition, however all participating students are to be congratulated as there are truly many interesting and engaging works on display, highlighting the skill, creative ideas and perseverance of all students in what has been a testing year. All should be very proud of their efforts.

I would like to thank the Development Team for their assistance in the creation of this exhibition as it would not have occurred without their support. I would also like to thank and congratulate all the teachers in The Arts and Technology Faculty who have worked hard to support the students in their creative pursuits and learning this year.

Claire Al-Noah

Head of The Arts and Technology

▼ Isobel Osboldstone



To visit the exhibition, go to:
www.siena.vic.edu.au/exhibition



▲ Alessia Tyson



OCEANIA

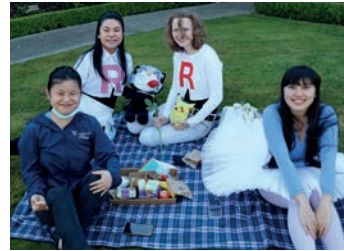
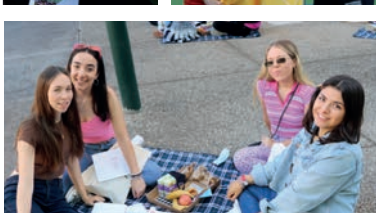
▲ Natalie Edwards



▲ Zoe McClure



Celebrating the Class of 2020



Virtual Events 2020



Year 12
Graduation
Mass



Siena
Olympics



Soirée
Showcase



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OPEN MORNINGS 2021

Friday, 26 March
Monday, 26 April
Monday, 24 May
Friday, 11 June
Monday, 9 August
Friday, 10 September
Monday, 18 October

OPEN EVENING 2021

Tuesday, 9 March 2021

www.siena.vic.edu.au

From the Archives

Siena College: 80 Years and Beyond

This year has been more challenging than anyone could have anticipated and was certainly not the celebration of our 80th anniversary that we had been looking forward to. When faced with such adversity, it is tempting to put plans on hold and wait until better times to move forward. It takes courage and faith to launch a new enterprise when the circumstances are not ideal. Eighty years ago, World War II had become a reality and there was no end in sight. Despite this, the Camberwell Dominican Sisters continued with their plan to open a school for girls in their newly built convent. That decision means that this year, Siena College celebrates its 80th anniversary.

So much has changed at Siena since the doors opened on 6 February 1940. Starting with just fifteen students, there are now over eight hundred girls enrolled and the staff has grown from three to over one hundred. The current campus would be largely unrecognisable to students from the 1940s. The Convent once stood alone surrounded by gardens, paddocks and a small orchard. Today, whilst the Convent remains relatively unchanged, it no longer houses the Sisters or classrooms. With the completion of the Agora Gardens last term, our grounds are now entirely covered with the infrastructure needed to accommodate the requirements of a 21st Century school.

Our uniform has changed from the Rust tunic and blazer complete with hat and gloves, to a Dominican themed black and white ensemble (but still retaining the signature Rust accent) and, for this year only, some very casual 'iso' attire.

How would we have managed the challenges of lockdown and remote learning without the fantastic technology we have today? From the green boards, yellow chalk and fountain pens of the 1940s, through to Roneo machines, interactive whiteboards and virtual classrooms; our technology has moved with the times and revolutionised the way we teach and learn.

Yet despite these significant changes, many aspects of life at Siena College have remained the same: the Dominican charism, community spirit, academic excellence and pride in our school. This year has demonstrated that we cannot underestimate the importance of these intangible assets, which in many ways define our College even more than the bricks and mortar. Remote learning has meant that our interactions with one another have been through the medium of a screen. Cancelled events saw us miss out on the opportunities to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. However, across eighty years we have built a strong and vibrant



Maureen McAuley College Archivist

community and despite the isolation of 2020, we have found new and innovative ways of keeping the Siena College community connected.

Siena College stands as a testament to having the courage to act positively during a time of uncertainty. In 1940, the Dominican Sisters took their own leap of faith by opening their new school during wartime. Eighty years on, we have met the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic with determination, innovation and compassion; embracing the future and the next eighty years.

Maureen McAuley College Archivist



1941 First Form

We would like to thank Julie Holschier OAM for donating a 1956 Debutante Ball card owned by her aunt, Lady Patricia Connely. Lady Connely was a popular society hostess and knew many former Siena students through her work at St Vincent's Hospital.

Alumnae News

We were thrilled to have fourteen of our alumnae featured in the online Leader Community News in July showcasing a diverse range of career pathways. The College is extremely proud of their contributions and achievements.

Alumnae featured in the article were:

- Susan Alberti AC (Class of 1964)
- Celia Conlan (Class of 1987)
- Anna Crabb (Class of 2001)
- Jacqueline Harris (Class of 1965)
- Judy Horacek (Class of 1979)
- Dr Kate Jackowski (Class of 2005)
- Professor Anne-Maree Kelly (Class of 1977)
- Noela L'Estrange (Class of 1967)
- Dr Julia Marchingo (Class of 2006)
- Dr Lorien Parker (Class of 1999)
- Dr Michele Ruyters (Class of 1977)
- Michele Timms AM (Class of 1982)
- Stephanie Tully (Class of 1993)
- Professor Michelle Welsh (Class of 1983)



HERALDSUN.COM.AU

Scientists, lawyers, cartoonists: Siena College's top alumnae



We celebrate Emelia Jackson (Class of 2007) who won the 2020 season of MasterChef Australia: Back to Win. We are thrilled also for runner up Laura Sharrad, née Cassai, another Siena alumna (Class of 2012). Emelia and Laura first met at primary school, attended Siena together and reconnected during the 2014 series of MasterChef where Emelia placed third and Laura was runner up. Congratulations Emelia and Laura!



Back to Siena Day

Alumnae Reunions will be held on Saturday, 16 October 2021. Further details will be provided in early 2021.

Alumnae Wall Inscriptions for 2020/21

The Alumnae Wall, located in the Siena College Convent and Cloisters, is an historic tribute to our Dominican Sisters, Prioresses, Board Chairs, Principals and students. Every student who attended Siena College 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 at: www.trybooking.com/668914



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

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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 for instructions on navigating the app.



Farewell, Friends of Siena

2020 saw the passing of two significant members of the Siena College community, Sr Maura McAvoy OP and Mr John Davenport.



Sr Maura McAvoy OP

Sr Maura served on Siena College staff on three separate occasions; 1968, 1973 to 1974, and as Principal from 1982 to 1989. A trained primary teacher, Maura migrated from Ireland in 1960 and gained a position at Kildreda College in Mentone. Already familiar with the Dominican charism from her contacts in Ireland, Maura was inspired to follow her religious vocation by the Dominican Fathers and Sisters here in Camberwell. She entered the Dominican novitiate in 1963 and was professed as Sister Mary Maurice in 1964. After completing her initial teaching placements, she undertook further study and was subsequently appointed to several senior teaching and administrative positions at schools in Newcastle, Maitland, Melbourne and her final position as Deputy Director of Education in Hobart.

Sr M Maurice arrived at Siena in 1968, the last year that religious outnumbered lay teachers. She then commenced a two year placement in 1973 as a teacher of English and Geography. In 1982 she returned, this time as Sr Maura, to serve as Principal for eight years. The 1980s were a time of considerable educational change and Sr Maura was keen to ensure that Siena College was at the forefront of educational theory and practice. She steered the College in a new holistic direction, encouraging staff to develop initiatives which sought to broaden the educational experience for students and which also focused on the "uniqueness of each individual". Sr Maura's parting gift to Siena College was to oversee the construction of Jubilee Building which provided desperately needed space for the growing school. Her final visit to Siena was in 2015 as an honoured guest at the 75th Anniversary Mass and Alumnae Luncheon.



John Davenport

The Davenport family have been our neighbours and friends since the early days of Siena College. John and Eileen Davenport moved into Compton Street in the early 1950s and raised a family of four children. Both daughters, Margaret Haughton (Class of 1971) and Anne O'Keefe (Class of 1977) are Siena alumnae and Eileen Davenport taught Economics and Politics at the College in the mid-1970s.

The Dominican Sisters were an enclosed order until the late 1960s and John Davenport provided a link between the Convent and the outside world. John set up a bell on the school grounds which the Sisters would ring if they needed assistance; he would run errands and return with the goods, passing them over the shared back fence. Brutus, the Convent dog in the 1970s, treated the Davenport home as his own and would often spend the evening with the family before being returned to his kennel. A welcome visitor to the campus in his later years, John often stopped by for a chat or to attend a College event, and he was always generous in sharing his stories which have enriched our knowledge of the College history.

The relationship between John Davenport and Siena Convent and College spanned seven decades; he will be sadly missed.



The Davenport family



John Davenport with Sr Frances Caine OP and Loyis Gibson (Class of 1944)

Maureen McAuley
College Archivist



Congratulations

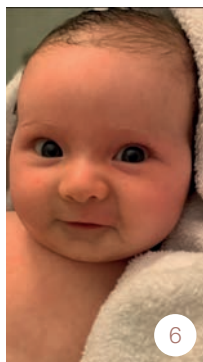
Marriages

1. **Danielle Dounis** (Class of 2009) married Ben Scarmozzino on 5 January 2020. Their marriage was celebrated at St Dominic's Church followed by a reception at Bramleigh Estate. The wedding party included Danielle's best friends from Siena, Melissa Morali and Elisa De Vecchi both from the Class of 2009.
2. **Daniela Vocale** (Class of 2008) married Tim Case on 7 March 2020 at St Roch's Church, followed by a reception at Fenix in Richmond.
3. Staff member, **Erin Murphy** married her partner Chris on 28 March 2020. Erin and Chris will treasure their very special day forever.
4. **Julia Russo** (Class of 2008) married Simon Christian on 12 October 2019 at Bramleigh Estate in Warrandyte. Their wedding party included Julia's sister Jessica from the Class of 2000, and Laura Galgani and Daniela Case, née Vocale, both from the Class of 2008.



Births

5. **Tracey Kermond**, our Human Resources Manager, is very excited to announce the safe arrival of another granddaughter, Maggie Mae Quinn on 18 June 2020. Congratulations to Tracey's daughter Megan and her partner Tom, and new big sister Grace.
6. Alumna and staff member, **Millie Holmes** (Class of 2006) and partner Ben welcomed the arrival of Rosie Joan on 7 July 2020. A precious little sister for Daisy and Maggie.
7. On 21 September 2020, Learning Diversity staff member, **Mia Ryan** and her partner Pat welcomed Toby James Ryan.
8. Staff member, **Lucy Gargano** and alumna **Mia Gargano** (Class of 2012) are thrilled to announce a new addition to their family. Sebastian Gargano was born on 2 October 2020 to Lucy's son Jack and his wife Stefanie. Congratulations Nonna Lucy and Zia Mia.
9. Staff member, **Georgie Plasto** and partner Nick are very happy to announce Charlie Robert West's arrival on 7 October 2020.



We Remember May they Rest in Peace

Denise Jones, née Gates (Class of 1960) passed away on 16 March 2019. Denise and her husband Kevin had three daughters: Christine, Angela and Michelle. Denise lived for her family, was much loved and will be greatly missed.

Linda Poletti, née Pearce (Class of 1983) passed away on 18 April 2019. Linda was the fourth daughter of the five Pearce girls who attended Siena College: Karen (Class of 1978), Janmaree (Class of 1979), Maureen (Class of 1981), and Helen (Class of 1989). Linda was a bright light to all who knew her and will be missed by family and friends, including children Jake and Madison.

Nick Pignataro passed away on 9 March 2020. He will be missed by family and friends including his wife,

Elvira and their daughters, Adriana (Class of 2016), Christiana (Class of 2018) and Bianca (Class of 2020).

Anne Feeney, née Commons (Class of 1959) passed away on 3 May 2020. Anne died peacefully in Brisbane after a long illness leaving behind her husband and two sons. Anne was the youngest daughter in the Commons family with all the sisters attending Siena: Phyl (Class of 1954), Lynette (Class of 1956) and Noela (Class of 1957). Anne was a great aunt of Tess and Claire Sullivan (Class of 2016 and 2019, respectively).

Luisa Erzetic passed away on 5 May 2020. Happy memories of Luisa will be cherished by her husband Leo, daughters Alessia (Year 9) and Sienna (Year 8), and all who knew and loved her.

Mary Comer passed away on 13 April 2020. Mary commenced teaching at Siena in 1995 and was appointed Deputy Principal from 2000 to 2008. Mary loved her time at Siena College and held both the school and our community warmly in her heart. Mary's daughter, Helen Wadden, née Comer (Class of 1983), and granddaughter, Sophie Wadden (Class of 2007) attended Siena.

Owen Potter passed away on 22 June 2020. Owen was much loved by his family including daughters Mary (Class of 1970), Elizabeth (Class of 1971), Judith (Class of 1973), Janet (Class of 1978), Caecilia (Class of 1980), Clare (Class of 1984) (dec), and sons, Ben and Tom.



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