

the Spirit



Issue 20
2021

connecting girls • empowering young women

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“
Across our community
of learning and teaching
excellence, of care and
connection, of praying and
being together, we experience
the hope and possibility of a
new year.

Elizabeth Hanney
”



Mission

Siena College, a Catholic secondary school in the Dominican tradition, engages young women in a challenging education that empowers them with the personal resources to make a difference in the world, by searching for truth through a culture of lifelong learning.

Vision

As a vibrant, faith filled Catholic community with a commitment to justice, truth, reconciliation and compassion, we honour the sacred dignity of each person.

We aspire to provide exemplary and innovative education that will challenge young women to achieve their personal best and to embrace the future with hope, courage and confidence.

In the spirit of St Catherine of Siena, by word and action, we encourage young women to identify their strengths, enhance their sense of self worth and be open to new ideas.

Values

We live the Dominican values through:

Prayer by nurturing spirituality and celebrating joyfully as a community of Faith

Study by striving for personal excellence, thinking critically and seeking truth through research, creativity and innovation

Justice by empowering young women to embrace diversity, respect human dignity and actively engage in the gospel imperative of responding to local and global injustice

Community by recognising that a sense of belonging and connectedness is the foundation for fostering good relationships and service to others

The Spirit

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SIENA
COLLEGE
CAMBERWELL

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

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From the Principal



Elizabeth Hanney Principal

Our theme for 2021 is *Be Possibility*. How fitting that we respond, after a tumultuous 2020, to a call to new possibilities in a new year. Our theme begins with the imperative to each of us to 'Be' the possibility before us: to live into something, to live our heart's prompting. It urges our students and ourselves to consider, 'what are we called to do and to be?', 'what newness is awakening in our community and world?', 'what possibility should we pursue in responding, in truth?' And how fortunate are we that we have the freedom and the resources to think so expansively!

Whilst many countries around the world still grapple with the pervasive spread of the coronavirus, we in Australia, in Victoria, can enjoy the liberty of reflection and forward planning. Borne from this is a felt experience of appreciation and gratitude amongst students and staff that we can resume social activities, full programs, peer and staff-student connections. In Term 1, we were delighted to welcome to our community a new cohort of Year 7 students and new staff who quickly adopted the Siena spirit of engagement, learning and fullness of life.

*A passionate longing to grow, to become is what we need.
There can be no place for the anaemic in spirit,
The sceptics, the pessimists, the sad of heart,
The weary, the immobilists.
Life is ceaseless discovery
Life is movement*
Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Dominicans would resonate with this energy, this life force of possibility and ceaseless discovery. St Dominic, St Catherine, Dominican Sisters and friends all give testimony to this movement of the Spirit in responding to the cares and needs of the day. Movers and shakers all! In this edition of *The Spirit*, readers will see this same living out of passion and possibility in our time. This theme and energy frames our purpose. Across our community of learning and teaching excellence, of care and connection, of praying and being together, we experience the hope and possibility of a new year. In all our endeavours, we are discovering anew that which we always knew existed at Siena, with renewed appreciation. In so doing, I am reminded of the final verse of TS Eliot's *Four Quartets*:

*With the drawing of this Love and the voice of this Calling
We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.
Through the unknown,
remembered gate
When the last of earth left to discover
Is that which was the beginning;
At the source of the longest river
The voice of the hidden waterfall
And the children in the apple-tree
Not known, because not looked for
But heard, half-heard,
in the stillness
Between two waves of the sea.*
TS Eliot, Four Quartets

Elizabeth Hanney Principal



BE POSSIBILITY

SIENA COLLEGE CAMBERWELL 20 21

Dominican News



Sr Julianna Drobik OP
DEA Trustee



Veritas Dinner

After the long lockdowns in Victoria in 2020, the Dominican Sisters were delighted to, once again, gather with friends, colleagues, parishioners and alumnae for the first of two 2021 Veritas Dinners on Thursday, 12 May.

The Veritas Dinner is a tangible demonstration of the jubilee theme as the broader Dominican family gather *At the Table* in the spirit of St Dominic to share a meal and engage in dialogue about matters of faith and life. This year is the tenth anniversary of the inaugural Veritas Dinner held in 2011 at Siena College. Newcomers are always welcome.

Please email jdrobik@opeast.org.au for further details.

800th Anniversary of St Dominic

This year, Dominicans around the world are celebrating St Dominic, in the 800th anniversary of his death. The theme of the jubilee celebration is *At Table with St Dominic*, inspired by the Mascarella Table, the table on which the first portrait of St Dominic was painted shortly after his canonization. We celebrate Dominic not as a saint alone on a pedestal, but a saint enjoying table fellowship with his brothers, gathered by the same vocation to preach God's Word and sharing God's gift of food and drink.

The Dominican Sisters in Eastern Australia are preparing for their ninth General Chapter later this year. General Chapters are held every four years and a sacred time for the Sisters to review our lives, set directions for the future and elect the Congregation Leadership Team for the next four years. The Sisters have adopted the jubilee theme for the Chapter and will reflect upon the question: *'How does Dominic's life and work inspire and encourage us to share our life, our faith, hope and love, our spiritual and material goods so that others too may be nourished at this same table?'*

Sr Julianna Drobik OP
DEA Trustee

Siena Central App now available!

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

Download 'Siena College' via the App Store or GooglePlay



Mission and Identity

First term is an exciting time – those who are new to Siena are eager to make the most of its offerings, whilst those who have been with us for a while take the opportunity to reflect on experiences and move forward with hope into another year.

Year 7 Pillars Leadership Program

During Term 1, the Pillars Leadership Program was made available to all Year 7 students interested in learning more about leadership, as well as those who would like to become leaders at Siena. Designed and facilitated by Claire Moody, Head of Student Formation, the name of the program stems from the four pillars of Dominican life – Prayer/Contemplation, Study, Community and Service/Justice – and explores how these can influence our leadership.

Year 7 Pillars ran across several weeks and provided students with opportunities to examine values, characteristics and skills, as well as meeting current student leaders for insight into their roles; a number of staff also assisted with the sessions, answering questions and encouraging dialogue. Congratulations to all students who participated in this program!

Year 12 Retreat

Holy Week was an ideal time for our Year 12 students to travel to Pallotti College in Millgrove to participate in their annual Retreat. The weather was perfect for all outdoor sessions, including a collaborative art activity and night walk; a sunny and sacred experience of Dadirri (deep listening) was a wonderful way to illustrate the cohesion of the group whilst acknowledging that we are visitors on this land and are therefore called to stewardship of all creation. Students were introduced to the act of writing palancas – short affirmations historically gifted to those going on retreat or pilgrimage. Across the days they wrote these to each other, emphasising encouragement and hope.

When students gathered as a cohort to reflect on this year's College theme, *Be Possibility*, and to view this through their unique Year 12 lens they were open to the opportunities provided by our Christian Dominican tradition at Siena; in small groups with members of the staff Retreat Team they valued the time to initiate further discussion, journal about their wonderings and work on an individual 'Frame of Faith' as a visual reminder of their Retreat experience.

On our final evening, Holy Thursday, we celebrated Eucharist in community and gave thanks for our faith, our families and our education. The following morning students received, read and reflected on their collected palancas before returning to Siena and beginning their holiday break.



Jennifer Levett Deputy Principal Mission and Identity



▼ Year 12 Retreat



International Women's Day

Monday, 8 March 2021 marked International Women's Day, a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women around the world. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. The theme for 2021 was *Choose to Challenge*.

Siena College celebrated International Women's Day this year with our annual breakfast on Friday, 12 March. Members of the Siena College community gathered together over a shared meal in support of the women of the Kopanang Community in Tsakane, South Africa.

Our guest speaker this year was Siena College alumna, Associate Professor Debbie Phyland (Class of 1982). Dr Phyland is a speech pathologist, researcher, and Director of Clinical Research in ENT for Monash Health, and the resident voice consultant for the Melbourne Theatre Company.

The breakfast was a lovely opportunity for our current students to be inspired by Dr Phyland's journey, and celebrate the achievements of our Siena College alumnae, whilst supporting our sisters in Kopanang.

Claire Moody
Head of Student Formation



Project Compassion

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." St Oscar Romero

The theme for Project Compassion this year, *Be More*, is inspired by St Oscar Romero's words, and invited us all to demonstrate our faith, love and generosity by supporting Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraiser. Students were encouraged to see their participation in Project Compassion as an opportunity to live out the 2021 College theme, *Be Possibility*.

A committee of students represented Siena College at Catholic Education Melbourne's Project Compassion Launch for Catholic Schools on 23 February, and led Project Compassion at Siena through a variety of educational messages and fundraising activities.

Bronwyn Illot
Head of Justice Education

Eco Warriors Update

Continuing with our commitment to forming conscious consumers, the Eco Warriors' focus for Term 1 was on raising awareness about chocolate, specifically the cocoa farming industry. Working with resources compiled by ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans), the Warriors learnt which brands employ sustainable farming practices and provide their workers with a fair and just wage. As cocoa farming is unfortunately an industry renowned for exploiting child labour, we explored how the industry violates human rights and what we can do to ensure that these rights are protected. To celebrate the variety of Fair Trade chocolate, we ran a Chocolate Toss fundraiser and Easter Raffle on the last day of Term 1.

In Term 2, the Eco Warriors will publish the next edition of *Sustainable Sisterhood*, continuing to spread our knowledge and awareness with the Siena community and celebrate and promote ethical companies.

Bronwyn Illot
Head of Justice Education

GET YOUR CHOCOLATE HERE

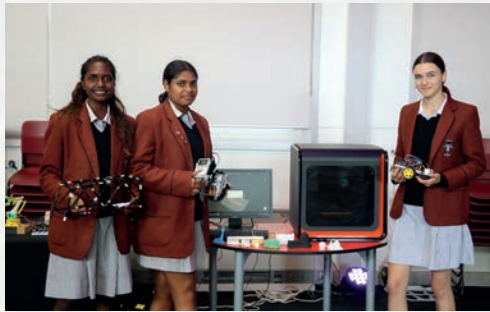


LOOK FOR BRANDS WITH THESE LOGOS





We were thrilled to welcome visitors back onsite at our annual Open Evening on Tuesday, 9 March. A capacity crowd enjoyed our interactive faculty displays, performances by our talented music and drama students, and student-led campus tours. Our thanks to the many students who so willingly gave their time to be tour guides and to our staff for brilliantly showcasing all that Siena has to offer.



Learning and Teaching

Navigating an Educational Pathway through Challenging Times

As a Dominican school we aim 'to engage our students in a challenging education that empowers them with the personal resources to make a difference in the world, by searching for truth through a culture of lifelong learning'. So far, this year has provided much opportunity for student and staff engagement in challenging learning environments. Building upon the skills developed last year, Siena staff and students demonstrated great flexibility and resilience in quickly adjusting to a snap online learning environment a few weeks into the school year! Whilst pleasing to see such a smooth transition, there is no replacement for the buzz in the classroom as students enthusiastically interact with each other in their learning activities, evident as we returned to onsite classes.

Having successfully navigated 2020, we have taken bold steps to integrate online platforms into our daily interactions. Responding to community feedback, MS Teams has again been successfully used to enable ease of access and involvement of more family members in the Parent Teacher Conversations at the end of Term 1. Teams has also been incorporated into classroom learning activities, providing opportunities for online group collaboration, preparing our students for work practices beyond their time at Siena.

At Siena we strive to equip our students to make well-informed choices that expand their opportunities beyond school, challenging them to critically evaluate and appreciate themselves, others and the world around them. The learning opportunities available during our 'See the Possibilities' Activities Week, provided such stimuli, taking our term's classroom learning and applying it to real world situations.

Under the guidance of Claire Al-Noah, Head of the Arts and Technology, Jemimah Walsh, Director of Learning and Innovation, and the Year 9 elective teachers, our Year 9s participated in a city experience that gave students opportunity to explore, question and suggest areas of change when faced with inequality, embracing all possibilities offered through study of The Arts and Technology in the real-world setting. This required students to navigate the city, including Melbourne's public transport, prioritise, problem solve and negotiate the program as a team, engage with our wider community,

appreciate the aesthetic beauty of Melbourne and build self-efficacy in their personal capacity. The benefits of the experience are evident in the photos below and on the next page.

Navigating the educational pathway requires identification of strengths and interests and taking time for reflection on potentialities. Throughout our 'See the Possibilities' Activities Week, our Year 10 and 11 students participated in a program created by Anita Galli, Head of Senior Pathways, Clare Timmins, Head of Careers and Liz Merrett, Alumnae Coordinator, that enabled engagement with skill building and contemplation of post school pathways through dialogue with Siena alumnae. Students heard from guest presenters discussing careers and opportunities in business, medicine, education, environment and sustainability, in order to broaden their understanding of how they too as Siena women, can positively act for the common good.

Elevate Education delivered year level specific study skills that encouraged use of mnemonics, effective study routines and actionable goal setting. It was wonderful to have Cinzia Pellicciotta (Class of 2017) as one of the presenters, to share her learning experience with the students. Building upon this session, students delved deeper into understanding their career profile through the Morrisby Profiling Quiz. Results will provide useful guidance as students consider subject choices and look for pathways beyond Siena.

Navigating the educational pathway is definitely a journey and this week our students travelled along a little further, self reflecting, gathering information and taking steps toward their post school destinations.

Donna Laughlin

Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

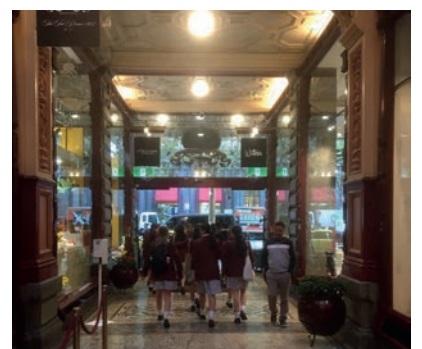
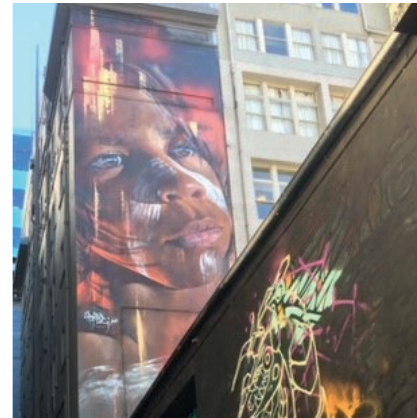


Elevate Education Sessions



Siena in the City





Meet the Wellbeing Team

There have been several changes to the Wellbeing Team in 2021 and I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce everyone.



Antonella Rosati Deputy Principal Wellbeing

My educational philosophy is to create a Christ centred community of learners, modelled on excellence, who know they are welcome, are challenged, are inquisitive, brave and are provided with opportunities to achieve success in an environment that is inclusive and supportive. Providing opportunities for students to develop greater resilience and empathy and working collaboratively with families to help students achieve their goals are aspects of my role that I genuinely value. I am animated by the Dominican charism that underpins all we do at Siena College because it resonates so strongly with my own vision for young people. I am delighted to be leading such a wonderful team that is committed to wellbeing, as it is integral to learning and to all aspects of our lives. Student voice is key to wellness as it gives our young people a sense of agency and ownership and I enjoy spending time with groups of students and hearing their views about what is going on in the College and in the wider community.



Natalie Kinsella
Head of Dianella

I am so incredibly lucky to be the Head of House for the amazing Dianella. I have been teaching at

Siena for two years and during this time I have formed positive and meaningful relationships with students and their families. I am extremely passionate about student wellbeing and ensuring the time the students spend at school is full of goal setting and achievement, personal change, laughter and opportunity. I aim to provide support and guidance to all students so that they may become more creative, confident and compassionate individuals who are lifelong learners. I aim to create an environment that is safe and supportive, whilst allowing students to feel heard and inspired. As a Health and Physical Education teacher, I am also very passionate about all things sport, working in teams, communication and building confidence. I love netball and barrack for the mighty Tigers in the AFL. As the mother of nearly two year old Jaxon, I encourage creativity, flexibility and innovation and can't wait to continue working with Dianella students and families.



Donna Pasco
College Counsellor

My name is Donna Pasco and I am a new counsellor here at Siena.

I have spent over ten years working in schools as a counsellor and I value being able to journey alongside students to support their whole wellbeing. For the last two years, I was living in New York, Manhattan with my husband and two children, and returned at the end of 2020 to Australia. I am very excited to begin my new role here and I already feel very welcomed. I will be working three days a week. Monday, Thursday and Friday.



Lisa Ellis
College Counsellor

My name is Lisa and I am one of counselling staff at Siena College. I work Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. I am now in my third year at Siena and I love meeting with the students and supporting them on their journey. I am passionate about working with young people to help them build the skills and resilience they need to maintain their own mental health now, and into their future. I have three young children who keep me busy when I'm not at work. When I have spare time, I love yoga, swimming, and spending time with family and friends.



Laine Rice
Head of Kurrajong

My name is Laine Rice and I am thrilled to be the Head of House for Kurrajong in 2021. I

am a passionate teacher of Health and Physical Education from Year 7 to VCE. I began my teaching career at Siena College in 2015, and I have since held the leadership positions of Head of Senior Pathways and Head of Health and Physical Education. I feel privileged to be given the opportunity to take on the role of Head of House. Student wellbeing has always been an area of significant interest for me, and I look forward to working with the Kurrajong students to ensure they feel happy, safe and connected during their time at Siena College. I understand the inherent importance of positive teacher-student relationships and take great pride in ensuring this is a foundation of my teaching approach. With my Health and Physical Education background, sport, exercise and physical activity is also of interest to me. I look forward to continuing to work with all the Kurrajong students and families throughout 2021.



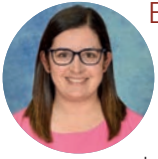
Dr Jennifer Lear
College Counsellor

My name is Jen and I have worked at Siena as a College Counsellor since the start of 2015.

I love being part of such a passionate Wellbeing Team and feel lucky to be part of the wider Siena College community. I moved to Australia at the end of 2014 from England, where I worked for the NHS, focusing on work with children and families and completed my Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. Prior to this I worked as a Social Worker in Children's Services. I work four days, Tuesday to Friday, and have recently finished my maternity leave after having twin boys who, as well as their big sister, keep me extra busy at home.



Meet the Wellbeing Team



Becky Scott
Leader of Wellbeing Programs

My role as Leader of Wellbeing Programs includes overseeing the

Transition Programs for new students and implementing the weekly Wellness Program. I have been at Siena College since 2015 and have loved being a House Group teacher in Waratah and teaching French and English throughout that time. Ensuring a positive experience for all students I work with is extremely important to me and I thoroughly enjoy getting to know a new group of students each year and see them develop their skills across the years. I also have a strong interest in cocurricular programs, and I have been involved in a variety of activities in my time at Siena, including leading the Debating program for four years and attending several camps and trips. This year I will be directing the College musical, *The Addams Family*, and I am very excited to work with the students in the cast, crew and orchestra in this capacity. I am extremely passionate about working with young people to improve their experiences within and beyond the classroom and am delighted to join the Wellbeing Team in 2021.



Lauren Seymour
Head of Waratah

I am new to Siena College in 2021 and feel incredibly fortunate to be surrounded by such wonderful staff

and students. I have been teaching for eleven years in the areas of Drama, Media, English and Literature across Years 7 to 12. My passion is theatre, and the opportunities it provides on and off stage. I directed and produced the annual musical at my previous school for ten years, and absolutely loved the interaction with the students, and seeing them develop their talents, confidence, and friendships. I truly believe that theatre is a place that brings people together, and fosters creativity, flexibility, empathy, innovation and excellence. Having worked in student wellbeing for the past seven years, I am incredibly invested in the wellbeing of students and encourage them to become the best possible versions of themselves. I am committed to ensuring that every student at Siena feels safe, connected to their school community, and confident to take their early steps in adulthood. I have been so impressed with the friendliness, positivity and resilience demonstrated by the Waratah cohort in my short time at Siena, and I am looking forward to a fabulous year ahead!



Stephanie Seymour
Head of Cassia

My name is Stephanie Seymour and I am the Head of Cassia House.

This is my fourth year at

Siena College and I commenced my current role in Term 3 of 2020. I am also a passionate teacher of English and Literature. I consider working as Head of House a great privilege as I am able to work so directly with students, helping them to achieve their potential. My style as a teacher has always been relationship-based and based on helping students to grow and thrive as young adults, ready to take on the world. Cassia as the yellow house sees itself as especially positive and happy and we try to emphasise optimism in all that we do.



Becky Scott Leader of Wellbeing Programs

The Wellness Program

The Wellness Program is integrated into the timetable at Siena and occurs each week on a Tuesday morning, following House Group. Students are offered the opportunity to engage in activities that actively promote wellbeing practices, enabling them to develop strategies to cope with the challenges of life and have confidence to take charge of their own mental health and self-care. Students also engage in discussions and activities about important events and issues of justice, as this enables them to consider their connection to the community in which they live. We regularly seek feedback and ideas from students via the Student Representative Council (SRC) as the Wellness Program aims to incorporate student voice and reflect what students believe is important to their own wellbeing. The program varies each term and aims to be responsive to and meet the needs of the students whilst growing their resilience and social and emotional skills.

In 2021, following the events of last year, the theme and focus of this year's

Wellness Program is 'Reconnection'. This involves providing students with opportunities to establish and reinforce connections with their peers, including those in their House Group, year level and House. Many of the Wellness sessions are facilitated by House Group teachers, and there are also presentations from other staff, such as Heads of House and the College Counsellors.

So far this year, we have had Wellness sessions on goal setting, making connections, healthy body image, managing stress and anxiety, and a celebration of International Women's Day. In Term 2, planned activities include sessions on friendship, resilience, respectful relationships, preparation for House events, and a Big Sister/Little Sister activity.

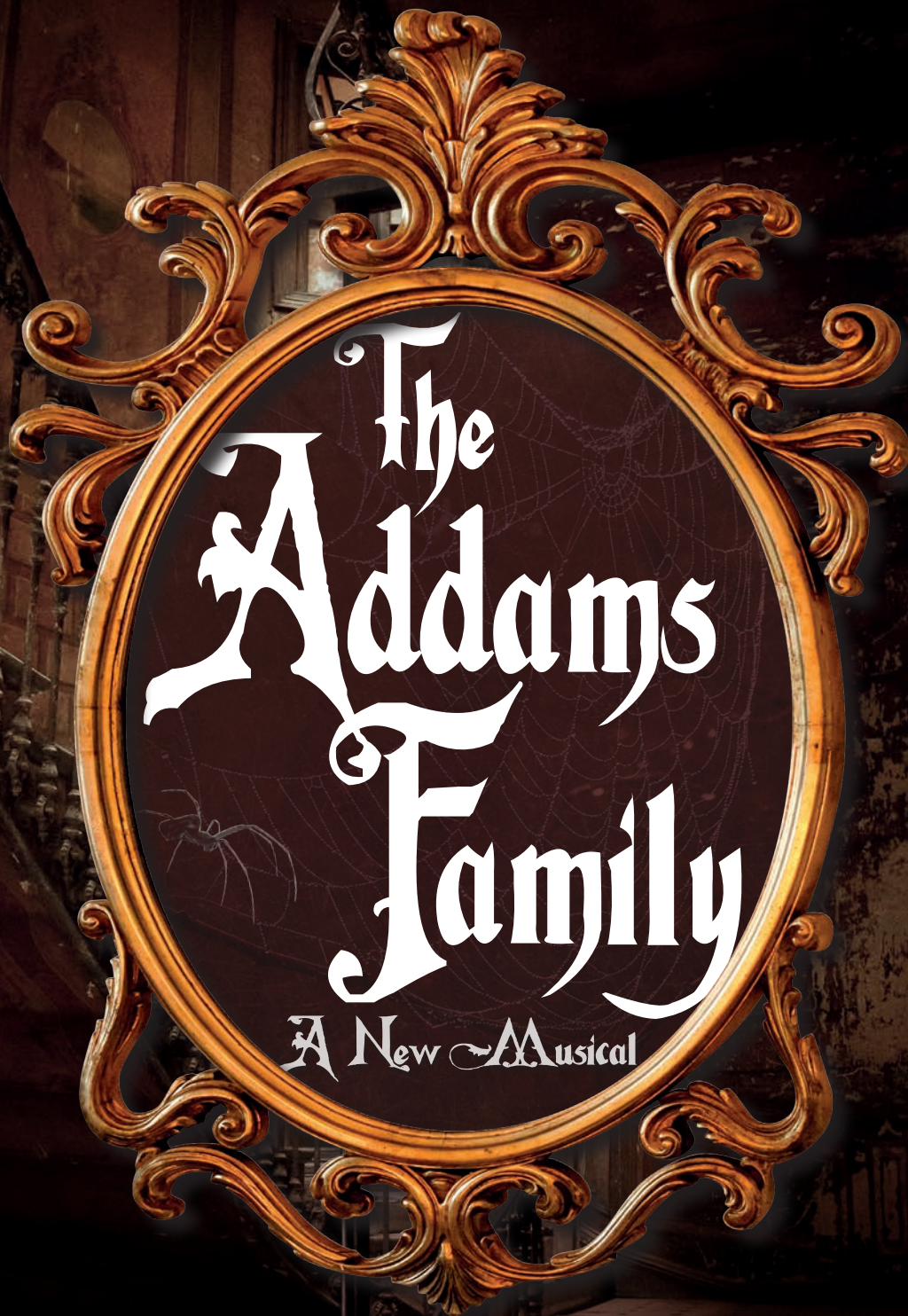
Positive wellbeing translates to positive learning and relationships and that is our goal at Siena.

Becky Scott

Leader of Wellbeing Programs



Siena College and Whitefriars College present



Wednesday, 21 July – Saturday, 24 July 2021
For booking details, visit www.siena.vic.edu.au

Book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice
Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa
Based on Characters Created by Charles Addams



WHITEFRIARS



SIENA
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Interview with Ms Laughlin

An Interview with our Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching by College Captains, Chloe Barker and Harriette La Motte.

WHEN AND WHERE DID YOUR CAREER IN EDUCATION BEGIN?

I began teaching at Salesian College, Chadstone twenty-six years ago.

WHAT DO YOU FIND THE MOST REWARDING PART OF YOUR CAREER?

Working with students to help them develop their self belief and realise their full potential. More recently, working directly with staff to grow their capacity and also realise their potential to best serve our students.

My priority is to ensure that I am always providing the best learning environment for both students and staff. I love researching new aspects of the subjects I teach or undertaking study in leadership. Whilst I don't 'love' the correction, I do love the reward of seeing students grow in their confidence and writing ability throughout the year. This is the greatest reward, when the 'light bulb switches on' for students!

GROWING UP, WHAT CAREER PATHWAYS WERE YOU INTERESTED IN?

From Grade 4 I wanted to be a teacher, actually a Maths teacher as I loved the problem solving element of Maths.

As I moved through secondary school, I developed an interest in Law but also always loved reading novels. All of this was reflected in my Year 12 subjects – Maths A, Maths B, English, English Literature and Legal Studies.

WHO IS YOUR BIGGEST ROLE MODEL IN TERMS OF LEADERSHIP?

A range of people. I am drawn to leaders who demonstrate standing by their convictions and show a consideration for others.

I am inspired by those who use their position to make things better for others and who continue to be open to learning. I look for role models who see value in 'team'. People who don't need to be the focus but instead look to work effectively with others to produce the best outcome for the situation.

WHAT ASPECT OF SIENA DO YOU LOVE THE MOST?

This one is easy – the sense of community. I love the fact that I can easily get to know all students, in the corridors, in the yard and in class, and our communal staff area totally encourages a community/team approach amongst staff.

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR SECONDARY SCHOOLING EXPERIENCE?

Learning – I was one of those who loved going to school every day! I loved being in class and learning in English, History and Legal Studies.

Friends and positive relationships with teachers – being connected and a sense of belonging was an important aspect to me even then.

THROUGHOUT YOUR EDUCATION, DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES?

Absolutely, I played netball and softball for my school from Year 7 to 11, I was in the school plays from Year 8 to 10. I was fortunate to hold student leadership positions throughout secondary school, including being a VCE Prefect in Year 12.

AFTER THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 IN 2020, WHAT WILL YOU TREASURE THE MOST THIS YEAR?

Being physically present in the classroom! I love the energy that is generated from the buzz in the classroom – it's okay online but feeding off the energy from students is the best!



Chloe Barker College Captain 2021



Harriette La Motte College Captain 2021



DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN 5 WORDS.

Dedicated, considerate, loyal, a doer, team-orientated

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO PURSUE A LEADERSHIP ROLE AT SIENA?

Because others helped me to believe that I could make a difference. Because if I want change to happen then I need to be willing to put in the effort myself to assist the change. Because it gives me an opportunity to assist others to achieve their best be it students or staff.



Development at Siena



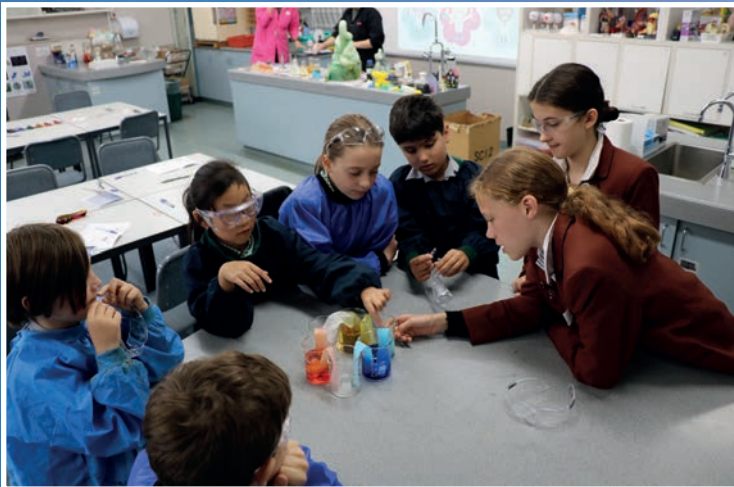
Tracey Grobbelaar
Director of Development and Community Relations

After a busy first term, we are pleased to share with you some of the highlights of 2021 so far. It has been wonderful to invite our community back onsite for traditional key events such as the Year 12 Welcome Breakfast and the Year 7 Welcome Evening, both hosted by the Siena Parents' Association (SPA).

In March, we hosted our fifth Golf Day, a great success with much community and supplier interest. All golfers were keen to tee off on the beautifully maintained course

at Kew Golf Club and there was certainly a great sense of fun and camaraderie amongst the teams. Congratulations to the CompNow team for taking first place on the day and we thank all involved for the generous support. The Golf Day raised \$10,000 for the Equity Scholarship Fund, which provides a Siena education for girls who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend our College.





Our ASPIRE Program invites local primary students to work with Year 8 Siena student mentors on STEAM based activities. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) education is an integrated curriculum designed to equip students with knowledge in these five disciplines whilst gaining valuable collaborative and analytical skills.

In 2021, our ASPIRE participants are exploring colour principles of both pigment and light, artistic symbolism and sustainability. We were excited to have St Bridget's Primary students visit during

the last week of Term 1, working with our Year 8s to explore what "home" means to each of them. They created model houses which were combined together as an installation to form a community, watched the 3D printer in action, and presented their findings about colour via a livestream to their parents. Principal, Elizabeth Hanney awarded all of our visitors with a certificate of participation and commended them on their terrific enthusiasm over the two day program.

Tracey Grobelaar
Director of Development and
Community Relations

Welcome to Amanda Presta



We are pleased to welcome **Amanda Presta** to the Siena community. Amanda joins us as Human Resources Manager and shares a little about herself.

of my career to work in a relationship and stakeholder management role of a different kind. After nine years in this role, I was ready for a new challenge and I am delighted to lead the Human Resources function at Siena College.



AFTER THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 IN 2020, WHAT WILL YOU TREASURE THE MOST THIS YEAR?

The ability to connect, share a meal, and come together with family and friends.



WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REWARDING PART OF YOUR CAREER?

The most rewarding part of my career has been the ability to connect and develop people. Sometimes this takes shape by finding the right person for a job and watching them grow personally while positively impacting an organisation, other times this is by reconnecting alumnae and reigniting life long connections.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE WAY TO UNWIND AFTER A BUSY DAY?

In my PJs, on the couch with a cup of peppermint tea and some dark chocolate watching a Netflix series.



WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE MOVIE?

Looking for Alibrandi



CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CAREER PATHWAY AND WHAT LED YOU TO HR?

I have always been passionate about working with people. In my penultimate year of University, I deferred to complete an internship with Ford Motor Company as its Graduate Recruitment Coordinator. I thrived in my time in the role and continued in a part time capacity when I returned to university to complete the final year of my Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Management). I then worked in the graduate recruitment space, completing a contract with Rio Tinto before finding every girls' 'dream job' in my twenties at L'Oréal Australia running their Graduate and Internship Program. When a role then became available at my high school, Genazzano FCJ College in Alumnae Relations and Communications, I felt an earnest desire to return to my old stomping ground, so I welcomed the opportunity to restructure the direction

WHAT WOULD WE MOST LIKELY FIND YOU DOING ON THE WEEKEND?

Weekends for me are about spending time with my two young daughters, Vienna and Aria and my husband Robert. When we are not ferrying the girls to their weekend activities and parties, we enjoy exploring the sculpture gardens at Heide MOMA and taking a drive to the Yarra Valley.



FAVOURITE MEAL?

I am a big fan of brunch, so I'll say poached eggs with smashed avocado on sourdough with a side of spinach.



FAVOURITE PLACE TO VISIT AND WHY?

I absolutely loved the beauty of Sicily. I was fortunate enough to stay in the town where my grandparents are from in my early twenties. I hope the travel restrictions ease soon so I can take my girls one day.

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP/GO TO SCHOOL?

I grew up in Warrandyte and attended Genazzano FCJ College from Year 7 to 12, it was quite a hike to get there!

WHAT'S SOMETHING FEW PEOPLE WOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I have a passion for nutrition and fitness, in particular strength training and in 2020 I qualified as a Personal Trainer. I also love cooking nutritious meals and find that meal-prepping helps me stay on top of working/mum life!



DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN FIVE WORDS

Entrepreneurial, determined, loyal, motivated, passionate.



SIENA CAST

SienaCast, our College podcast, is a collaboration between students and staff which aims to give voice to our College community on issues of significance and importance to us all. At the heart of SienaCast is our motto, Veritas (Truth).

Search 'SienaCast' or 'Siena College' on your favourite podcast site to listen.

Introducing New Staff

Our staff are an integral part of our College community, they are passionate and bring a wealth of experience in their areas of expertise which help shape the education and the future of our girls. We have recorded individual interviews with each new staff member to enable our Siena Dominican community to get to know them better.



Jessica Brady
Head of Health and Physical Education



Karen Cramer
Learning Diversity Officer



Nick Compton
Teacher: English and French



Troy Downward
Guitar Teacher



Ella Gurry
AFL Trainee



Nicholas Harvey
Head of Science



Emily Hocking
Teacher: Art



Sophie Pryn
Teacher: Science



Stefanie Santamaria
Teacher: Italian and Music



Lauren Seymour
Head of Waratah House
Teacher: English



Gerard Sutton
Teacher: English, Humanities and Religious Education



Scan the QR code to meet our new staff

Staff Achievements

At Siena we foster a love of lifelong learning and support our staff to develop their skills by undertaking further studies. We would like to congratulate the following staff who have recently achieved further qualifications.



Antonella Rosati
Deputy Principal Wellbeing
Masters of Education – Theology
Catholic Theological College
(University of Divinity)



Tracey Grobbelaar
Director of Development and Community Relations
Masters of Business Administration Executive
Australian Catholic University



Donna Laughlin
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching
Masters in Educational Leadership
Australian Catholic University



Emily Hocking
Teacher: Design and Technology, Visual Art, Visual Communication Design
Masters of Teaching (Secondary)



Chloe and Harriette, College Captains

Shortly before the end of a busy first term, I sat down with our College Captains, Chloe and Harriette, for chat about leadership, plans post Year 12 and the rituals of passage they are looking forward to in their final year. Both girls expressed a profound sense of gratitude at being on campus after last year's lockdown and long stretches of remote learning. The simple pleasures of enjoying the Year 12 common room, rehearsing for Fiesta and seeing friendly faces in the corridors were no longer taken for granted.

Reflecting on their leadership styles and mentors, both Captains recalled being incredibly impressed with their respective House Captains back in their first year (Amelia Bonato and Elise Curwood for Waratah, and Lily Curtis and Madeleine Fels of Cassia). Harriette noted *'they always looked to be such great friends and having so much fun, they made leadership look very appealing.'* Chloe agreed, and was also appreciative of the support from her family and past teachers in encouraging her to step outside of her comfort zone. Both Chloe and Harriette are greatly enjoying working together and believe their strengths lie in *'empathy, letting others have their moment in the sun, and being inclusive when it comes to listening to others' opinions.'*

Having recently attended the School Captains Round Table event, hosted by John Kennedy MP, both girls greatly enjoyed the opportunity to discuss current issues with their peers from neighbouring schools. Topics such as consent education, climate change and mental health and wellbeing were all tabled, with both Chloe and Harriette appreciating the perspectives shared, providing them with potential initiatives to trial within our College community.

Neither Chloe or Harriette grew up in Melbourne and so had no family connections with Siena. Harriette laughed as she recalled her mother insisting she could choose her own secondary school, as they had chosen her primary school after relocating from Wodonga. Originally from Adelaide, Chloe attended St Michael's Primary in nearby Ashburton had no clear preference but her mother thought Siena would be a good fit. Chloe's younger sister, Tess, is in Year 9 and Harriette has two younger brothers at Marcellin College.

Whilst at Siena, Chloe has enjoyed many GSV sports, played the drums and participated in the Pillars Leadership Program from Year 8. Outside of school she continues to play netball three times a week and enjoys the chance to mingle with those wider friendship groups. Harriette plays community football, netball and basketball, and has participated in a wide variety of GSV sport including netball, AFL, cross country and indoor cricket.



Carolyn Currie Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Harriette hopes to study nursing and midwifery, but also has a keen interest in fashion and marketing. Her VCE subjects are English, Mathematical Methods, Physics, Chemistry and Health and Human Development, completing Physical Education last year as an accelerated subject.

Chloe hopes to study a Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne, perhaps majoring in psychology after enjoying that area of study in Year 11. This year she is studying English, Mathematical Methods, Chemistry, Economics and Health and Human Development.

Asked to name their most anticipated events for the coming year, they both replied in unison: *'Retreat!'*. Along with their cohort, they are looking forward to the many events and ceremonies that will be a celebration of thirteen years of hard work.

Carolyn Currie Marketing and Communications Coordinator



Siena College Reunions

Decade Reunions

Due to COVID restrictions we were unable to host reunions in 2020. This year we are delighted to invite the following alumnae back to Siena to reminisce and reconnect:

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Class of 1970 | Class of 1971 |
| Class of 1980 | Class of 1981 |
| Class of 1990 | Class of 1991 |
| Class of 2000 | Class of 2001 |
| Class of 2010 | Class of 2011 |

Date: Saturday, 16 October 2021

Time: 4.00pm – 7.00pm

Please spread the word amongst your classmates.

1940s, 1950s and 1960s Afternoon Tea

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

Date: Monday, 25 October 2021

Time: 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Venue: Heritage Centre, Siena Convent

Booking Details

Booking details for 2021 Reunions will be made available on the Siena College website at:
www.siena.vic.edu.au/college-community/reunions

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



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

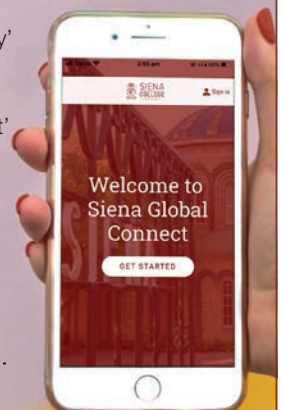
iOS Users

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

Android Users

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

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



Alumnae Guest Speakers



As part of Term 1 Activities Week our Year 10 and 11 students had the privilege of hearing from five very special alumnae: Vanessa Barcellona (Class of 2001), Rebecca Dabbs (Class of 2000), Lisa Higgins (Class of 1993), Meg Law (Class of 1993) and Judith Potter (Class of 1973).



Their message was consistent and inspiring to us all. All spoke of the importance of having a skills stack to build upon, being curious, creating change, and following your passion. The school motto, *Veritas*, rang true for them all, to be the best you can be and most importantly be kind to yourself.

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

Alumnae and Student Gathering

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



Community Awards 2020

Notable Alumnae

Each year, an alumna who embodies the spirit and traditions of the College and our Patron, St Catherine of Siena, is nominated by the College community. The Notable Alumna will have made a significant contribution in her/his field, or given back to the community on a local or global scale.



Awarded to: **Sarah Slattery (Class of 1988)**

Dr Ursula McKenna Award

Ursula McHenry, née McKenna (Class of 1948) holds the distinction of being the first Siena College student to complete a tertiary education. The Dr Ursula McKenna Award is presented to an alumna of the College in recognition of her achievements and excellence in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.



Awarded to: **A/Prof Debbie Phyland (Class of 1982)**

Community Awards

Siena College Community Awards are presented to individuals or families (past or current) who make significant contributions to the College. Examples include extended Board or Committee tenure or contribution, active and long serving volunteers such as Siena Parents' Association (SPA) members, generational families who have remained loyal to the College or highly active staff members who are involved in after school or extra curricular activities.

Awarded to: **Carmel Musco
Trish and Michael Mimmo**



Carmel Musco



Trish and Michael Mimmo

Congratulations

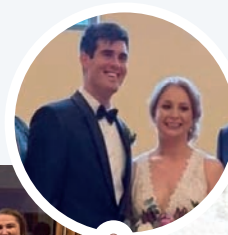
Marriages

1. **Alex Brookes (Class of 2007)** and Luke Sheppard celebrated their marriage on 26 February 2021 at Point Nepean National Park.
2. **Taylah Gale (Class of 2011)** married Whitefriars alumni, James Cran (Class of 2011), on 10 April 2021 at Vue on Halcyon.

A number of Siena alumnae were also in attendance, including bridesmaids, Emily de Preu (née Stromei), Jacqui McPherson and Georgia Morsley.

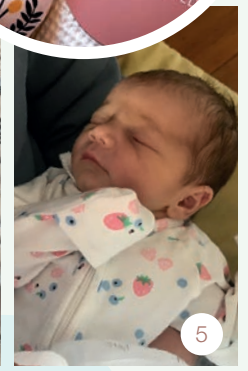
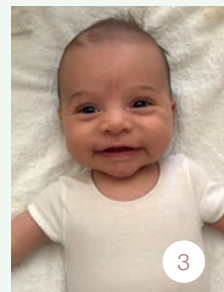


May Harbour, Alex Taylor, Emily de Preu (née Stromei), Olivia Donaghey, Sarah Black, Georgia Morsley, Lizzy Yore, Taylah Gale, Corinne Slade, Maleah Gridley, Fiona McGing, Adrianna Galioto, Jacqui McPherson, Nicole Clark



Births

1. **Gemma Nash, née Pavone (Class of 2009)** and partner Kyle are very happy to announce the birth of Elizabeth Mary on 8 June 2020.
2. **Belinda Marraffa, née Gagliardi (Class of 2004)** and partner Chris are thrilled to announce the arrival of Milla Carmela on 8 December 2020, a little sister for Chloe.
3. **Louise D'Angelo** (current staff member) and husband, Nicholas, welcomed Massimo Nicola to the world on 10 December 2020.
4. On 24 January 2021 **Laine Rice** (current staff member) and his wife Tara welcomed Jonty Jack Rice.
5. Congratulations to **Goran Spoljaric** (current staff member) and his partner, Tanja on the safe arrival of Talia on 26 February 2021.
6. **Minna Jewell** (current staff member) and partner, Brent, were excited to welcome Archer Teddy into their world. Archer was born on 15 March 2021.



We Remember

We would like to acknowledge the following staff members who have lost parents in recent times. May they Rest in Peace.

Reginald John Keech passed away on 14 January 2020 and his wife Norma Gloria Bueno passed away 21 August 2020. Reginald and Norma are the parents of **Sue Keech** and they were often seen at College musicals and art exhibitions.

John Page passed away on 29 November 2020. John is the father of **Anna Page**.

Francis (Frank) Charles O'Connor passed away on 19 December 2020. Frank always enjoyed attending the Siena Veritas dinners with his daughter, **Christine Miller**.



From the Archives

Caring for our Heritage Collection

The term 'archives' often suggests dusty boxes piled haphazardly in cellars and attics. Whilst this vision does hold true in some instances, many archives, particularly those operated by major institutions, are sophisticated environments designed to serve the specific preservation requirements of their collection. When it comes to our personal and family history archives however, many of us are guilty of stashing items at the back of a cupboard with the intention of 'sorting through them later'.

Leaving aside catastrophes such as fire and flood, the great enemies of preserving any collection are heat, light, damp and pests. At Siena we are lucky to have our archives located in a clean, dry and secure environment but caring for our collection does not end there. Every donation is carefully assessed on arrival; any necessary cleaning or conservation is performed before the item is scanned or photographed. Physical items are wrapped in an appropriate material and then stored in acid-free boxes whilst photographs are annotated and referenced and then placed in archival photograph folders and stored in the compactus.

Caring for the physical needs of the collection is only part of the process. In many ways it is more important to discover the story or provenance of individual items. When we accession an item we try to find out as much information as possible: *when was this uniform worn? By whom? What are the names of the girls in the photograph? When and where was it taken and what was the occasion?* The more we know about a donation, the more valuable that item is within our collection. A photograph of students wearing Siena College uniform is just an image, but the same photograph with a date and names can be used to make connections and tell the Siena story.

The information we gather about items in our collection is entered into our database and archival management system. This allows us to retrieve items with ease for research, publications, use at reunions, and displays around the College. The technology also allows us to search for links between donors and items and the more information we can enter, the more connections we can make.



Maureen McAuley College Archivist

No matter how small the collection, it can benefit from some of the approaches and techniques mentioned above. As an archivist, if I could give only one piece of advice it would be to label your photographs on the back with a soft (6B) pencil: names, date, location, event, whatever you can remember. Your descendants and the family historian will thank you.

Maureen McAuley
College Archivist





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



SIENA
COLLEGE
CAMBERWELL

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

OPEN MORNINGS 2021

Friday, 11 June

Monday, 9 August

Friday, 10 September

Monday, 18 October

TERM 2 COLLEGE TOURS

We are now offering small group tours to families needing to visit our College prior to Year 7 2022 offers being made. Tours will be conducted by our Head of Admissions or a member of the Leadership Team.

REGISTER ONLINE

www.siena.vic.edu.au



SIENA
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A CATHOLIC COLLEGE FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN THE DOMINICAN TRADITION



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