

St Mary's College  
CELEBRATING

**150**

YEARS IN 2018

# Alma Mater

ANNIVERSARY EDITION 2018





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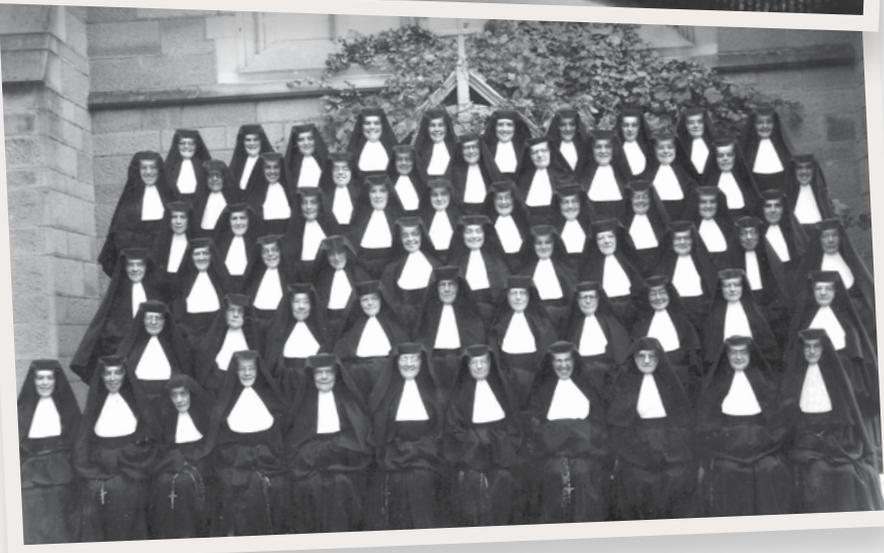
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## *From the Acting Principal*

As we celebrate 150 years since the foundation of St Mary's College, we pay tribute to Nano Nagle and the Congregation of Presentation Sisters who bravely and humbly responded – and continue to respond – to God's call.

In 1718, 300 years ago, Nano Nagle was born in Ballygriffin, County Cork, Ireland. It was during a time when it was against the law to educate poor Irish Catholic children, and in 1752 Nano defiantly established her first school in a hut in Cove Lane, amidst the slums of Cork. She could have led a life of privilege but instead chose a path that changed the course of education throughout the world.

Now, there are more than 24 countries worldwide with Presentation schools and St Mary's College is just one of the many in Australia. Our story began more than 150 years ago and is interwoven with the stories of numerous other communities that would not be here but for the love and courage of Presentation women.

Editor: Stefania Bostock

Graphic designer: Karen Kluss

Cover image: Music Medal winners, 1930.

From left, Joan Manly, Blossom Ward, Ann Johnston and Zena Smith.



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Although we commemorate this year with a series of individual special events, each day is worthy of a celebration as we live in the Presentation story. Each day we continue to achieve something that Nano would call 'grand'. And, as we do, we have the opportunity to reflect on our journey, our growth and evolution. What do we do here at St Mary's College and why do we do it?

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my role as a teacher is playground supervision, especially on the 'top ground' at lunchtime, where there is a mix of ages. It's generally not the favourite area of choice for staff, as dodging balls can be a bit of a hazard at times, but I love it! It's outside, in the fresh air; you're surrounded by the noise of children playing; it has a great outlook, and best of all, there's always someone happy to have a chat. I'm not especially good at the art of conversation, but with young people, listening is more called for than talking.

For example, last week one of our Junior School students, Hamish, was so happy to tell me how much he loves Mathematics and Science. If he had to choose between the two, Science would be the winner, because Science involves Mathematics and you get 'two for one'. Hamish wants to be a doctor when he grows up, but for the time being, he's quite happy being a kid. He told me 'a kid has got to play' and he loves to play.

Who wouldn't be happy after a conversation like that? Hamish cared enough to take the time to look me in the eye and tell me about his dream for the future. Teachers have the best job. We work with the future leaders of the world. We have input in their lives. Of course, this comes with great responsibility.

*Opposite page (top to bottom): The College proudly surveys Harrington Street in the early 1900s. Tasmanian Presentation Sisters, 1950.*

*This page (top to bottom): Marin Campbell, junior boarder. Senior students at the front of the convent, circa early 1960.*

What do we do here at St Mary's College? We provide Catholic education for formation – spiritually, intellectually, creatively, culturally, physically, socially and emotionally. We aim to help young people 'find identity, meaning and purpose in life through connections to the community, to the natural world and to humanitarian values such as compassion and peace'. Why do we do it? Because of Hamish and every other child in our school.

As we celebrate 150 years since the foundation of St Mary's College, it's amazing to think of the obstacles that Nano faced in her efforts to sustain the human right for education. I wonder what she would think of our efforts to provide holistic education, along with plenty of opportunity for our students to play. You would have to think that she would approve.

Yes, we could believe that Nano is the reason why we are here today but it was Nano's love of God, and therefore love of humanity, that brought about her daring vision and action. It was God's call.

As we celebrate 150 years we will continue to carry Nano's lantern and promote the Presentation Charism that will, no doubt, withstand the test of time. The Presentation values of Simplicity, Hospitality and Compassion will live on in every Presentation community. If Nano were here today, we would say, 'Thank you, Nano' and she would humbly reply, 'You're very welcome'.

**Jacqueline Conboy**  
Acting Principal



# Former staff take a trip down *memory lane*



The buildings and grounds may have transformed over time but for previous staff members of St Mary's College, the SMC school spirit still remains.

The College's 150th anniversary celebrations officially commenced on Saturday 3 February with a staff reunion to mark exactly 150 years since the school was founded (St Mary's College, or 'Mount St Mary's' as it was then known, welcomed its first pupils on February 3, 1868).

Staff members of the College, both past and present, travelled from all corners of Australia to attend the gathering, which included a Liturgy in the Adrian Doyle Chapel, nostalgic tours of the College and an afternoon tea complete with musical entertainment and a 150th birthday cake.



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*The occasion was a wonderful opportunity for former staff members to reunite with old colleagues, exchange stories of the 'glory days' of working at St Mary's College and reflect on the school's past success while hearing about its latest developments.*

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This page (top to bottom, left to right): Former Principal, Ann Stanfield, right, with daughter and current staff member, Joanne Holborow. Former and current staff reminisce over old photos. The St Mary's College 150th birthday cake. Director of Junior School, Brigid Knight and Sr Gabrielle Morgan.

Opposite page (top to bottom, clockwise from left): Jane Clarke and Barbara Edwards. Shelley Macleod, Alison Lowe, Di Irons and Eve Xia. Barbara Robinson, Sr Majella Kelly and Coralie Chamberlain. Coralie Chamberlain and Brigid Knight. Cathie Owens, Sue McLean, Jeanette Sullivan and Ruth Readett.



For Hobart resident, Anne Warren (nee Maclean), it was a welcome chance to revisit her old stomping ground and see how St Mary’s had “changed considerably” over the years.

A teacher at the College approximately 40-years-ago, Mrs Warren taught Year 8 Geography and History, and commercial subjects such as Typing, Shorthand and Leisure.

Mrs Warren said she had fond memories of her teaching years at St Mary’s College and of the “very cohesive staff, many of whom I am still friends with today”.

“I still keep in touch with many of my former colleagues, but it was lovely to catch up with people I haven’t seen in a long time,” she said.

When asked about the highlights of her time at the College, Mrs Warren commented: “The students were really nice and school camps were always very enjoyable.”

Accompanying Mrs Warren at the reunion was Eileen Lynch, who began her teaching career at St Mary’s College in 1977 after returning to Tasmania from South Africa.

“I got this job by fluke and ended up teaching for approximately 21 years,” the former English and History teacher said.

“It is wonderful to be able to reconnect with so many familiar faces. Looking around the room today, I realise I know quite a lot of people.”





# FUN AND FESTIVITIES AROUND ON St Patrick's Day

St Mary's College was bathed in a sea of green on Saturday 17 March as we celebrated 150 years of our Irish beginnings with a community 'fun day'.

Current and former students, teachers and parents took part in the festivities which centred on a jam-packed program of Irish music and dancing, colonial dress-ups and old-fashioned games dating back to the College's 19th century heritage.

Guests enjoyed historic tours of the College, green food and beverages and a fancy dress parade showcasing St Mary's uniforms through the ages, while children were kept amused with face-painting, a scavenger hunt and a jumping castle.

Celebrations on the day culminated with the cutting of a giant birthday cake and a wonderful dancing display by the Scoil Rince Ni Kelly School of Irish Dance.



*Top to bottom, left to right: Crowds turned out in force for the 150th birthday celebrations. Director of Junior School, Brigid Knight with the Nano Nagle sculpture. Archer Kilgour, Prep, pays tribute to the College's Irish roots. Principal, Helen Spencer and Sr Gabrielle Morgan cut the birthday cake. Zoey Brown, Kinder. Prefects model school uniforms from a bygone era. Isabelle Mika, Year 2, Charlotte Mika, Year 3, and Harriet Nattey, Year 3. Old-fashioned games.*



## A GRAND EVENING WITH THE *Governor of Tasmania*

On Thursday 10 May members of the St Mary's College community descended on Government House for a special reception hosted by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC.

One hundred and fourteen invited guests attended the glittering cocktail party – including staff members, parents and alumni of the College and other dignitaries – which acknowledged St Mary's long and generous contribution to the greater Hobart community.

The magnificent surrounds of the ballroom provided the perfect backdrop for attendees to connect and mingle with one another as they escaped the evening's torrential rain and fierce winds.

In her Principal's address, Helen Spencer thanked her Excellency and her husband, Mr Richard Warner, for their warm hospitality, their ongoing support of St Mary's College and for helping the College celebrate a sesquicentenary of educating young boys and girls in the Presentation tradition.



More than 100 guests filled Government House for the 150th Anniversary Cocktail Party in May. Top right (inset): Principal Helen Spencer and Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC.

# Milestones and memories: 150th anniversary gala weekend

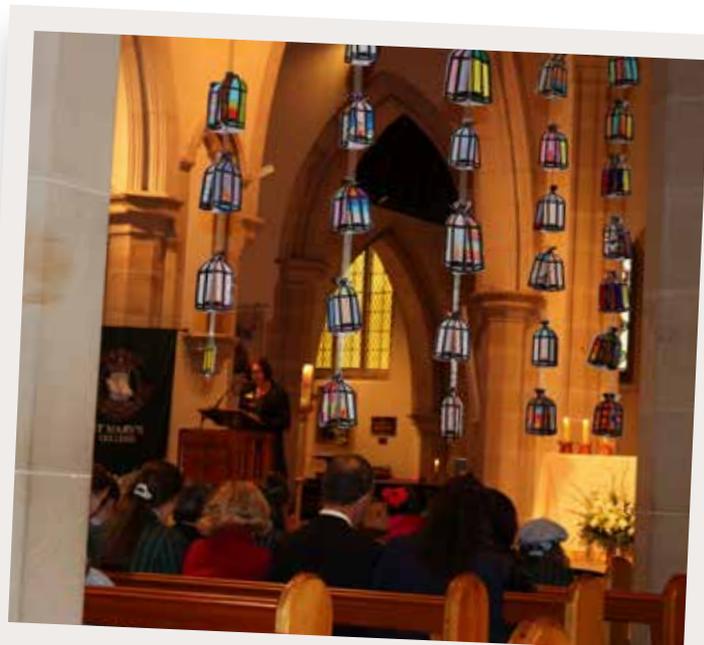
Saturday 12 May was a momentous and event-filled day in the history of St Mary's College.

At 3.30pm, our school community joined together in St Mary's Cathedral to participate in a beautiful and spiritual celebration of our 150th.

With enchanting music, a moving speech by College Head Prefect, Isobel Kuo, striking lanterns adorning the walls and spaces of the church, and a very special lantern procession featuring our smallest and tallest students, the anniversary gala Mass will be ingrained in our hearts for many years to come.

Thank you to the organisers of the Mass, Sr Gabrielle Morgan, Ruth Prichard, Andrew Clarke, Estelle Levy and Scott Weston, as well as the many teachers who assisted with ensuring that the lantern reflections were prepared in time for the proceedings.

While the inclement weather forced the cancellation of Saturday's planned historic walking tours, College Archivist, Margaret Rootes generously opened Fermoy Cottage for visitors who were keen to view our historic memorabilia prior to Mass.



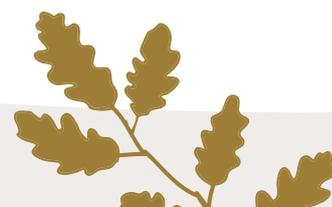
The festivities were taken up a notch from 5.30pm with the arrival of our most highly-anticipated social event of the year – the 150th Anniversary Gala Dinner at Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart.

The venue's Federation Ballroom buzzed with laughter and high spirits as approximately 640 guests, all of whom were dressed to the nines, enjoyed a decadent evening of conversation, camaraderie and celebration.

Guests were treated to a three-course meal and drinks, with the talented Australian Army Band Tasmania providing a live musical backdrop of smooth jazz tunes to keep feet tapping and hips swinging throughout the night.

Special thanks and gratitude go to Co-Chair of the St Mary's College 150th Anniversary Committee, Jo Messer, for her exceptional role as MC, and guest speaker, Margaret Rootes, who regaled attendees with colourful anecdotes connected to the many great alumni of the College.

The dinner formalities concluded with the cutting of the 150th birthday cake, officiated by our Presentation Sisters, and a rousing rendition of our school song, the *Alma Mater*, that echoed throughout the halls of the Grand Chancellor building.



# LIGHTS, CAMERA, *action!*

Professional photographer Michael Webb was on the scene to capture the glitz and glamour from the night.

The 'happy snaps' are available to view and purchase online via the link to the photographer's website, provided below:

<https://mwebb.azurewebsites.net/orderphotos/>

To sign in, select the event: St Mary's 150th Anniversary Dinner and enter the access code: STMA5CA5D413

If you have any queries about the ordering process, please phone Michael Webb Photography on 0419 536 549



*This page: The 150th Anniversary Gala dinner was attended by approximately 640 guests who enjoyed a glamorous evening of conversation, camaraderie and celebration, with live music entertainment provided by the Australian Army Band Tasmania.*

*Opposite page: The 150th Anniversary Mass at St Mary's Cathedral.*



# Snapshots

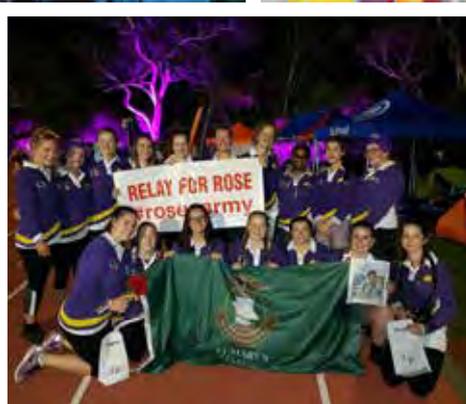
## FROM OUR 150<sup>TH</sup> YEAR



This page (left to right, top to bottom): 150th Fun Day. Big Splash. General learning. First day of school. 1st Grade Hockey grand final. Australian Diamonds netballer visit. Big Splash. Holy Week Passion Play. Harmony Day. Palm Sunday Liturgy. Belling-in. Big Splash. Kinders playing on slide. Grandparents and Special Friends' Day. Junior School Swimming Carnival. Girls with Nano sculpture. Italian exchange student. Relay for Life.

Opposite page (left to right, top to bottom): Beauty and the Beast. Excursion to Bonorong. Big Splash. Junior School Swimming Carnival. Harmony Day. Year 12 Mother's Day Breakfast. P&F Mother's Day Breakfast. Rowing. Grandparents and Special Friends' Day. Big Splash. Leaders' Commissioning Ceremony. Preps in the playground. Year 8 Retreat. Year 3-12 Cross Country. Melbourne Art Trip. P&F Mother's Day Breakfast. Year 9 Business stall. Prince Edward visit. Cross Country. P&F Welcome to SMC Evening.







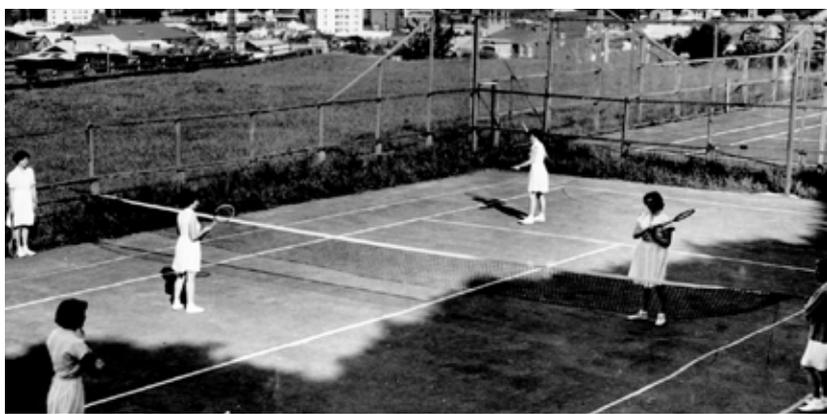
*Historical*  
PHOTOS FROM  
OUR PAST



*This page (left to right, top to bottom): 1930 basketball premiers in full sports uniform (note the stockings!). Barbara Baldwin and Joan Dixon, Bursary and Scholarship Winners in 1953. Cooking class, date unknown. Part of the wing in 1888, this is the senior dorm in 1927; over time it became Sacred Heart Dormitory, the Senior Common Room and is now the Adrian Doyle Chapel. Children of Mary from St Columba's School, circa 1940s. Eurythmics on the Top Ground (now the College Green) in 1930. The whole school on the Parapet, 1932. Students modelling costumes. Archbishop Tweedy was behind the establishment of a state of the art Home Science block in 1947. Marching at the School Sports, Clare Street Oval, 1962. The beautiful original Sisters' Chapel, designed by Henry Hunter, was added to Cathedral circa 1870. Sisters Michael (Sarah) and Paul (Ellen) Hogan.*

*Opposite page (left to right, top to bottom): The Infants Class, 1955. Old Scholars reunion, 1953. Girls at the gate. Boarders at study. Students in colonial dress, Roberta Tuckett, outstanding basketball player 1949-53. Senior group, 1953. Cecily Verrier with students. The day it snowed, 1951. Debating team, 1951. College crest on blazer. Trophy winners, 1945. Students cheering at a sports game, circa 1959-60.*





## EDUCATIONAL PIONEER'S 150 YEAR LEGACY

### *set in stone*

A life-size sculpture of Nano Nagle, the foundational leader of the Presentation Sisters, was unveiled and blessed in a ceremony held at the College on Friday 9 February.

The 1.5-metre installation of the Irish-born woman, famously known as 'the lady with the lantern', was commissioned by St Mary's to commemorate our 150th anniversary.

The sculpture is the work of Tasmanian artist, Ben Tolhurst, who carved the figure using dolerite (blue stone) for the face and body, and South Australian marble for the lantern, which encompasses a 'Nano heart' at its centre.

It is the first full-bodied sculpture created by the self-taught sculptor, as well as the first that Mr Tolhurst has produced using dolerite, which he sourced from Murdunna in Tasmania's south-east.

"Dolerite is a very hard, compact rock. Most artists choose to sculpt in sandstone or wood, which are obviously a lot easier on tools and require much less physical effort, but I enjoyed the challenge of transforming a five-tonne rock into Nano – I think she polished up quite nicely," he said.

Mr Tolhurst went through about 35-40 diamond blades when working on the 2.2-tonne statue, which took him a year-and-a-half to complete.

Prior to the construction phase, however, the artist spent considerable time researching Nano's story.

Mr Tolhurst said he used a photo of St Mary's College 2017 Head Prefect, Holly Andree, wearing traditional clothes from Nano's era and a mould of Holly's face to sculpt the figure.



St Mary's College Principal, Helen Spencer said the much-loved sculpture was a special tribute to the school's establishment in 1868 by the Presentation Sisters, the Catholic order founded by Nano.

"The story of St Mary's College can be traced back to January 6, 1868, when nine members of the Presentation Order formally took possession of their convent in Harrington Street, Hobart," she said.

Born in 1718, Nano was best known for her courageous work in secretly operating schools in Cork, Ireland, for deprived Catholic children for whom education was illegal at the time.



*This page (top to bottom): Nano Nagle sculpture. Nano Nagle blessing. Nano Nagle sculpture blessing by Emeritus Archbishop Adrian Doyle.*

*Opposite page (top to bottom): Presentation window. Presentation window blessing by Emeritus Archbishop Adrian Doyle. Students working on leadlight design with artist, Merinda Young.*

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*“On February 3, 1868, the little school of Mount St Mary’s, as we were then known, received its first pupils, making it the first Presentation School in Australia.”*

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Ms Spencer said although the sisters founded the College a century-and-a-half ago, Nano’s spirit and tradition continued to inspire St Mary’s.

“Nano is regarded as one of the greatest pioneers of Catholic education in Ireland, where she is well known and widely acclaimed,” she said.

“Nano’s heart was always centred on those with less, and her work did not end with her efforts in education. It continued in her visits to the disadvantaged families in their homes at night via the light of her lantern in the dangerous back streets of Cork.”



## CHAPEL WINDOWS HIGHLIGHT

### *Presentation Tradition*

A series of leadlight windows in the College’s Adrian Doyle Chapel were also blessed on Friday 9 February to mark the sesquicentenary of St Mary’s in 2018.

Located on the right-hand side of the Chapel, the most recent of these window installations is titled the ‘Presentation Window’.

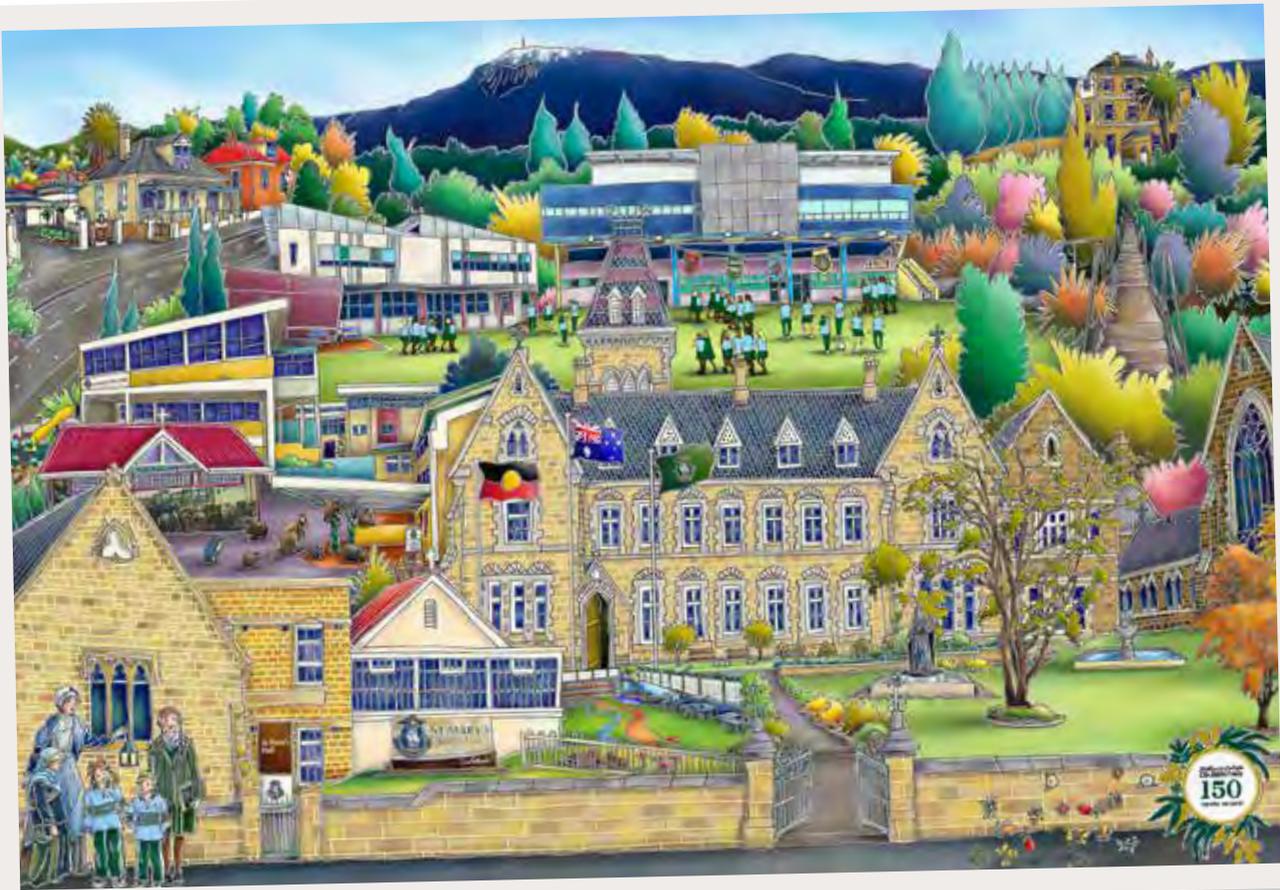
Centred around the concept of ‘Mary saying “yes” with her whole being to God’, the brightly coloured artwork depicts Mary, the mother of Jesus, with her hands held up towards streams of light.

Sr Gabrielle Morgan worked with St Mary’s College Visual Art students, Imogen Barry-Murphy, Isabella Franklin and Taylah Pickett (Class of 2017) on the window’s design, in collaboration with local glass designer and maker, Merinda Young, whom the College commissioned for the project.

To create the window, Merinda used individual pieces of coloured glass which were intricately cut and joined together with a lead channel.

The Presentation Window complements four leadlight windows that sit on the opposite side of the Chapel, designed by Carol Prichard to signify the Story of Creation.





## An artist's view OF THE COLLEGE

If you have visited St Mary's College recently, you may have noticed the vibrant artwork hanging on display in our reception area.

The striking silk painting is the handiwork of skilled Tasmanian artist, Esther Shohet, whom the College commissioned to create the piece in commemoration of our 150th anniversary.

Amongst the historic buildings and school facilities, you can see students at play, native animals roaming the grounds and a nod to Presentation Sisters foundress, Nano Nagle, who is depicted with her traditional lantern.

In addition to the painting, Esther generously agreed to produce a range of branded items in the same design, including an A3 print, greeting cards, a cheeseboard and coasters, which can be purchased by our College community.

To view the items available for sale, and to download an order form, please visit our website.

We thank Esther for her beautiful contribution to our school and for managing to capture the spirit of St Mary's College in a single image.

You can learn more about the artist and her work by visiting her blog: [www.estershohet.com.au](http://www.estershohet.com.au)



### 150TH ANNIVERSARY MERCHANDISE

Esther Shohet A3 print:	\$17.50
Esther Shohet cheeseboard:	\$17.50
Esther Shohet coasters (set of four):	Sold out.
Esther Shohet greeting card:	\$3.30
Peter Barraclough A3 watercolour print:	\$15.00



# Blessing of 150<sup>TH</sup> COMMEMORATIVE BADGES



On Tuesday 6 February the College gathered as a school community to be presented with the 150th commemorative badges.

Blessed by His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Adrian Doyle AM DCL, the badges were distributed to our 970 students and 150 staff members to wear proudly throughout our anniversary year.

The badges are adorned with the St Mary's College 150th anniversary logo. If you look closely at the design, you will see that it incorporates a combination of gum leaves, denoting the College's Australian connection, and acorn leaves which pay homage to our school's Irish roots.

## Celebrating OUR ST MARY'S STORY

Among the many events and activities planned to mark our 150th birthday this year was a 150th Anniversary Art Competition.

Open to all members of the College community, the competition was an opportunity for our emerging artists to showcase their work at our gala dinner.

Submissions could range from 2D and 3D media and could be individual or collaborative pieces, but they had to be in the theme of '150 Years at St Mary's College'.

The competition received a delightful array of entries across all award categories.

Our judging panel was not only impressed with the level of talent on display, but the participants' ability to interpret the competition's theme in such creative and insightful ways.

Congratulations to the individuals who received awards in the St Mary's College 150th Anniversary Competition.



### JUNIOR SCHOOL AWARD

#### Winner

Lucy McKenna (Year 5)

#### Highly Commended

Sophie Fidanza (Year 4),  
Lily Castellana (Year 6)

### SENIOR SCHOOL AWARD

#### Winner

Stefani Khoo (Year 7) and  
Kay Lye Khoo

#### Highly Commended

Eliza Topham (Year 7), Sonia De  
Cesare (Year 7), Adele Harman  
(Year 8)

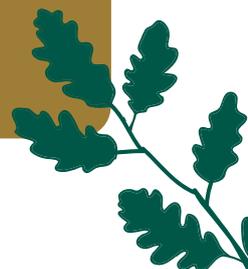
### PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

#### Winner

Clare Wanandy (Year 4) and  
Mia Wanandy (Kindergarten)

#### Highly Commended

Louise Davidson (St Mary's  
College teacher)



*This page (top to bottom): 150th commemorative badge. Junior School winner, Senior School winner, People's Choice winner. Photos by Michael Webb Photography.*

*Opposite page (top to bottom): Esther Shohet artwork. 150th anniversary merchandise.*

# 150 Faces of SMIC

## AN INTRODUCTION BY

*Margaret Rootes*

In the front visitors' office at the College is a wall decal which poses the question: What makes a St Mary's girl? (and we could add 'boy' to that). It says:

When your daughter graduates from St Mary's at the end of Year 12, we aspire for her to be a savvy young woman. For her to be articulate, a problem solver who thinks outside the square. Pursues excellence in her career aspirations and is comfortable with change. We aspire for her to be compassionate, with a deep sense of social justice and an understanding of the importance of contributing to the community.

We wish for her to go

*One Face Beyond...*

in all pursuits.

These words only went up a few years ago and I find them very evocative and aspirational. In sharing the stories of many St Mary's people over the past three years, I have also found the words to be borne out time and time again.

As a great lover of the shared story and the connection it brings, I have collected so many stories which I love, sometimes mere vignettes, at other times longer in the telling.

To me, always, the most heroic people of our school story are those nine missionary women who followed Archbishop Daniel Murphy's call to establish a school in the godforsaken outpost of Hobart in 1866. They left everything behind at very short notice and in the fairly certain knowledge that they would never return to Ireland. And indeed, only one ever did.

And yet, they kept coming from Ireland and soon their ranks were swelled by vocations among Tasmanian women. Gabriel Horner, who attended Mount St Mary's on its opening day, February 3, 1868, was to be the first Tasmanian Presentation Sister, followed

later by her sister, Julia. Over the decades many other women followed them into the Presentation Order, at least 50 of them students from St Mary's College.

To touch on alumni in the medical/nursing field, Professor James Vickers leads ground-breaking research in dementia with the support of multi-million dollar grants, and there is no doubt that his contributions to the world will change it for the better. Christine Jeffries is a renowned paediatrician in a remote Aboriginal community, working tirelessly in the Kalgoorlie area where she has helped improve outcomes in birth and infant mortality, as well as empowering Aboriginal people through the arts. Gillian Biscoe is an acclaimed leader in the nursing world, where she was the first female secretary of a health department in Australia and one of the first women to be appointed as chief executive of a public hospital. Another high-achieving woman in the field of nursing is Brigid Tracey, whose pinnacle of her long career was her appointment as the first lay director of nursing at St Vincent's Private Hospital, Sydney. Both Gillian and Brigid were awarded the Order of Australia Medal for their services to nursing.

Of our alumni who have gone into the arts and entertainment industry, we cannot look past Patsy Biscoe. Not only is Patsy a most successful performer with many gold records to her name, but in her later life she has given generously to her local community in the Barossa Valley, having been the Deputy Mayor of the Barossa Council, Vice President of the Barossa Arts Council and Chair of the Tanunda Town Committee. Then there's Michael Lampard, whose prodigious talent was recognised at age nine and who is on the way to becoming a superstar baritone; John Kelly, a businessman and owner of the State Cinema, as well as an effective philanthropist who firmly believes in putting back into the community he loves; and Paul Brickhill, who today is the Head of Music/Visual Arts Coordinator at the Australian Ballet School.



Photograph: Don Stephens

Prefects 1963



Among those alumni who have gone on to spend themselves for the poor, as encouraged by Nano herself, we have Bernadette Walker, a newly graduated teacher who has established a youth help project in Hobart called 'Little Help Project'; Claire Hawkes, who has been involved in voluntary disadvantaged youth work in Hobart since leaving school and was named Tasmania's runner-up for a Rhodes Scholarship in 2014; and Molly Gerke who, along with her mother Dana (nee Doherty), established a foundation which provides classrooms, a library and skills for the empowerment of local women on the island of West Ambae, Vanuatu.

Some of our alumni have tried to improve the world through politics and we are very proud to claim Christine Milne as our own. The now retired Senator has served as a passionate advocate of the Greens' vision and has gone one pace beyond in her commitment to green causes. Lisa Singh too has served Tasmania in local and national politics, first as a local member for Denison where she was a Cabinet Minister and since 2011 as a Senator. To date too, we can boast a Rhodes Scholar and an Olympian. Marnie Hughes Warrington, now the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic of the Australian National University, was the Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar in 1992. Meanwhile, Julie Kent represented Australia at the Commonwealth Games of 1982 and 1986, and the Los Angeles Olympic Games (1984) and Seoul Olympic Games (1988).

We have other sporting heroes too, with Michael Di Venuto, who rose from local cricket to play for Tasmania in Sheffield Shield matches, often replacing Ricky Ponting in his national games absences. Michael played nine International One Day games and was the full time batting coach for Australia in 2013.

Many St Mary's alumni went into the education field and followed a successful trajectory to leadership roles as Principals in schools around Tasmania as well as at the College. Sisters Barbara Amott, Majella Kelly,

Gabrielle Morgan, Doreen Williams, Janet Sexton, Elizabeth Vagg, Norah Donnelly, Cecily Kirkham, Patricia Shelverton, Mary Morgan, Margaret Mary Caswell, Marilyn Fryett and Betty Bowes, as well as Margaret Morse (nee McCarthy), Mary Turnock (nee Stokell), Brigid Knight (nee Brickhill), Jill Morgan (nee Wright) and Elaine Doran (nee Arnold), to name but a few.

Other committed Presentation people who have led St Mary's are former College Principals/Heads of Junior School, Tom Dorey and Cecily MacFarlane, and Ann Stanfield, who holds the honour of being first Lay Principal at the College, a huge challenge and responsibility. Another Presentation educated woman and former teacher at St Mary's, Liz McDougall has also followed her star to principalship.

It would take a whole other occasion to convey to you how impressed I have been by the stories of volunteers at St Mary's College. Many of you will remember the late dear Misses May Hanlon and Columba Warren, who so faithfully served the Sisters and the College all their lives. And who could not love the late Mary Excell, that stalwart of the school and the P&F Association.

I can only mention in passing some of the heroes of the Board over the years: Brian Sertori, Peter Jeffries, Peter Patmore, Peter and Jackie Gannon, Patrick Yeung, Sue Gourlay, Mary and Peter Beven, Lillian Deane and Cecily Verrier. All of them, through giving freely often for years on end, and giving of their expertise and skills

Not wishing to leave myself open to litigation, I must touch on a few of our brilliant stars who went into the practice of law. Mary Ingram Hodgson, now retired, spent many decades as a most respected Hobart lawyer, including among her clients the Presentation Sisters. Melissa Marcus (nee Donoghue) is a respected barrister in Melbourne and Catherine Vickers is the Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Council in Tasmania.

Over the years we have been so well served by Archbishop Tweedy, who in 1948 was responsible for establishing a state-of-the-art Home Economics school at St Mary's; Father Vincent Shelverton, who himself was educated at St Columba's and went on to serve in a priesthood spanning decades, and more recently, Fathers Bernie Rogers, Terry Rush and Brian Nichols.



*Opposite page: The Prefects of 1963.*

*This page (top to bottom): Marnie Hughes, 1992. Gillian Biscoe, 1963. Michael DiVenuto.*

Of course, our favourite face of the clergy variety is our very own Archbishop Emeritus Adrian Doyle, an old scholar and excellent friend to the College: Our newish chapel is named in his honour.

I have only touched the tip of the iceberg here, and I have been very proud and inspired over the past few years as so many generous people have shared their stories with me.

**Margaret Rootes**  
College Archivist



## BOOK LAUNCH

### *Wednesday 17 October 2018*

The book, titled *150 Faces of SMC*, will be launched on Wednesday 17 October 2018 at St Mary's College.

Everyone is welcome, refreshments will be served, and copies of the book will be available.

RSVP essential. Email [principaloffice@smc.tas.edu.au](mailto:principaloffice@smc.tas.edu.au) or contact the College on telephone (03) 6108 2560 by Wednesday 10 October.

If you can't make the launch, the book will be available from St Mary's College from Thursday 18 October. If you have made a previous order, we will be in touch to arrange collection.

A limited number of books will also be available for purchase at the Grand Bazaar school fair on Sunday 21 October.



## THE MANY FACES OF

# St Mary's College

With 150 years of history behind us, it is timely to honour the many people who have helped form the rich and colourful landscape of St Mary's College as we know it today.

A special highlight of our milestone celebrations is the production of a book that will highlight the school's rich history from the viewpoint of individuals.

Researched and edited by St Mary's College Archivist, Margaret Rootes, the publication will feature images and stories about 150 men and women who have made significant contributions to the College community throughout its years of operation.

"These individuals are made up of students who went on to make their mark in the world, outstanding teachers at the school and amazing volunteers who gave so freely to St Mary's College," Mrs Rootes said.

"Teachers whose stories are included speak of their love for the College and for their students, and of their enjoyment in being part of the St Mary's community," she said.

"The volunteers are usually very modest about the part they have played in the story of St Mary's where, in fact, they have had a profound effect over the decades on the landscape of the College, both physically and metaphorically."

# STUDENTS EMBARK ON A JOURNEY OF *past, present and future*

Students from 13 Presentation schools from across Australia recently gathered at St Mary's College for the biennial Nagle Education Alliance of Australia (NEAA) Student Leadership Conference.

Hosted by St Mary's College, the event, which ran from August 7-10, saw 78 student delegates join to share their experiences of the common charism between the schools as they explored the past, present and future of Nagle Education in Australia.

The conference opened with an evening of presentations and films, where each school demonstrated how they 'light their way' in their school community, with students engaging in discussions about social justice and faith, and sharing their passion for leadership.

A day of excursion took delegates to Risdon Cove, where they learnt about our past and gained an understanding of Moomairremener people and the continuing people and culture that exists in Tasmania. We continued to St John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Richmond and walked the journey of the first Presentation Sisters in Australia. We all felt the connection of being able to visit the hall at Richmond, which the Presentation Sisters made their very first classroom in Australia. This was brought to life with the wisdom and knowledge of our College Archivist, Margaret Rootes. We then celebrated Mass with Fr Brendan Connell in the church of St John the Evangelist. The day concluded with our guests having the opportunity to explore the historic village of Richmond.



We also had a day exploring the reality of our present. During the day at St Mary's, students explored current human rights issues with guest speaker, Molly Gerke (Alumni and International Presentation Association delegate to the United Nations). Singer/songwriter, Trish Watts engaged students with their heart response through connecting music, body and spirit. Students also created a combined artwork under the direction of our Principal, Helen Spencer, and learnt the skill of peer mentoring from senior students of St Mary's College. Activities were capped off with a conference dinner as Trish told of her journey to Asia and her mission to help, 'Cambodia Sing'.

During our final day together, 75 students from Presentation primary schools, including St Mary's, St Cuthbert's and St Bridget's, arrived for our student leaders to demonstrate their newly developed mentoring skills.

The week concluded with a moving Presentation school assembly which included a range of creative sharing to consolidate the learnings from the conference. Student leaders shared their newfound wisdom and gave examples of how they planned to share their experiences in the schools and communities they returned to.

The rich charism of Nano Nagle was evidenced in the deep and heartfelt commitment of all our schools and student leaders. It was certainly a privilege for St Mary's College to host such a formative experience. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making our conference such a powerful event.

**Andrew Clarke**  
Director of Identity and Mission

*This page: Students attending the NEAA Conference.  
Opposite page: Emeritus Archbishop Adrian Doyle.*





# Alumni Association

## CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

*Dear Alumni,*

What an exciting year it has been with the celebrations and festivities of the 150th anniversary of St Mary's College!

We started the year with the 150th Anniversary Fun Day which enabled us to support the school and sell a variety of memorabilia. The Committee then frocked up in their finest to attend the cocktail reception at Government House. Despite the rain, it was a warm and joyous celebration inside. The biggest event of the year was the Mass and gala dinner. The Mass was a beautiful ceremony and, with 670 people in attendance, the dinner proved to be a wonderful success. We all certainly had a fabulous time! The only complaint was that the evening was too short as many wanted to continue their catch up.

We would like to thank committee member, Margaret Rootes, for her amazing contribution to the 150th celebrations and for developing the *150 Faces of SMC* book – a huge undertaking and what a great success!

On Saturday 3 November, we will be holding our annual Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, followed by afternoon tea and bubbles, and our Annual General Meeting. This year, alumni will have the opportunity to ring the school bell! We hope to see as many of you as possible. How wonderful would it be if we could see 150 alumni at our Annual Reunion?

As Co-Presidents for the past four years, we have had so much fun. This is our last year in the role. In our time in office we have: changed the name from 'Old Scholars' to 'Alumni'; we have expanded our membership numbers; we have introduced alumni hoodies and merchandise; we became present on social media; and have had many good times involving food, drinks and laughs.

We sincerely thank the committee for all its support over the past four years.

**Brigid Shea and Brigitte Galak**  
Co-Presidents



## Your Alumni Committee

### CO-PRESIDENTS

Brigid Shea (nee Noonan) 1999  
and Brigitte Galak (nee Wootton) 1999

### SECRETARY

Vicki Turvey (nee Thompson) 1972

### TREASURER

Alyssa Barrett 2012

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kylie Barrett Famularo 1988  
Margaret Rootes (nee Dixon) 1967  
Megan Fulton (nee Rootes) 1996  
Laura Browell (nee Restuccia) 1996  
Dana Gerke (nee Doherty) 1986  
Anne Morrison (nee Shirley) 1970  
Jenna Mundy 2007



(Top to bottom, left to right): SMC Alumni Co-Presidents Brigitte Galak and Brigid Shea. St Mary's College Alumni Association Committee. Committee members Jenna Mundy and Alyssa Barrett at the 150th Anniversary Fun Day.

# Annual Alumni Reunion



Come join us for a glass of bubbles  
and a catch up in our 150th year!

*Sat November 3rd*

*12:00*

Mass in The Cathedral featuring the SMC Junior Choir

In honour of our 150th Anniversary we invite each of you to ring the school bell as we proceed from Mass to our Afternoon Tea.

*13:15*

Afternoon Tea in the Staff Room \$20 including bubbles!

*14:30*

Alumni AGM will be held post Afternoon Tea.

Memberships will be available on the day so come along and sign up, and find out what we do!

We welcome all.

\* Note there is level access between the Cathedral and Staff Room



*Payments and RSVP:*

SMC School Office

Or

Directly deposit:

St. Mary's College Alumni

BSB 067 000

Acc 1087 6505

Leave your name as a reference and this will suffice for RSVP

Enquiries welcome:

[smc\\_alumni@outlook.com](mailto:smc_alumni@outlook.com)

Ph: Brigid Shea Co-President 0409 886 193



ST MARY'S COLLEGE

GRAND  
BAZAAR

Sunday 21 October | 11am-2pm  
164 Harrington St, Hobart

Food, sideshow games, face painting, raffles, crafts,  
bargains & more!



ST MARY'S  
COLLEGE