MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As someone said to me recently, the association of St Vincent’s Ex-Students is a very powerful and caring body of women. I think so too and sincerely hope that we continue to be caring of our fellow alumni. The new Mentoring Programme, which was launched recently, is one positive example of this.

The Committee invited some of our most senior Ex-Students to an afternoon tea in April. The 14 ladies who attended enjoyed the gathering held in Bethania which was always a no-go area in their day at the College, as it was the Novitiate. In true Vinnie’s style the conversation did not falter, the cups of tea and cakes kept coming, and everyone enjoyed catching up with some long standing friends. There were some amusing tales of school experiences. The two most senior of these “Invincibles” as we called them, were Kathleen Mallick and Yolande Halbert both from the year of 1937.

In July we held our Biannual Alumni Dinner. The Star Room was a beautiful venue giving us views across Darling Harbour and Cockle Bay which was a real fairyland of lights reflected on the water by night. The food was good, there were some great raffle prizes and the real star of the night was Kerry Cumming (Class of 1972) who gave us an inspiring talk to launch the Mentoring Programme. We encourage anyone who would like to be a mentor or a mentee, to visit us on the alumni page of the SVC website to learn more about it (see further in this Vincentia).

This year we are involved in the City to Surf run with a team of ex-students in training who are keen to invite as many supporters as possible to sponsor their run. All funds raised go directly to College Scholarships. At the time of writing there was over $4000 already received. Thank you to all those generous donors. It is great fun to get in the spirit of the event.

The College Spring Fair is to be held on Sunday, 26th August at the College. The Ex-Students this year are serving Devonshire Teas in the dining room, as well as selling handicrafts, jams and memorabilia. We hope to see many familiar faces any time between 10am and 3pm for a good cup of tea after a look around the Fair. All volunteers are more than welcome to help work our stand.

As with every year, the Annual Reunion is an important event which all Ex-Students are encouraged to attend. It is also the AGM when we hope to enlist some new members for the Committee. This year we regret the loss of Sr Jean Marie Brennan, Naomi Tubridy and Christine Pratley who have resigned during the year. We cannot thank them enough for their unstinting time and energy devoted to the Association and hope that some time they will be able to pick up the baton again. But for now we really need some new faces on the Committee and we would welcome them with open arms. Do please think about helping to keep the Union active and strong. We need new ideas and your support.

Finally I wish everyone good health and happiness. I look forward to seeing you at the Reunion on the 7th October, 2012.

With best wishes
Francoise McCallum (Renault) 1956
THE ST VINCENT’S EX STUDENTS’ MENTORING PROGRAMME

St Vincent’s College was established by the bold and visionary Sisters of Charity led by Mary Aikenhead. Thanks to their efforts, we’ve all been provided with an unrivalled education and lifelong friendships. These strong bonds amongst the ex student community enable us to follow in the footsteps of the Sisters of Charity and support each other by sharing our work experiences and insights.

We are in regular contact with nearly 2000 women who have run a variety of businesses and pursued careers in teaching, nursing, law, medicine, sports, science, academia, management, advertising, the media and arts, journalism, accounting, finance, counseling and social work, hospitality and public sector administration. To name just a few.

We are pleased to provide ex-students with the opportunity to participate in our mentoring programme.

Through the provision of advice, guidance and the support from a mentor, a fellow ex-student will help another develop their leadership skills and accelerate the achievement of their business and career goals.

WHAT IS MENTORING?

Mentoring is the process of a more experienced person freely giving advice and a critical appraisal of the mentee’s performance.

CAN I BE A VOLUNTEER MENTOR?

Mentors are ex-students who are willing to assist their fellow ex-students navigate their career challenges. They have run their own business or mastered their career, and will understand their mentee’s business and career development needs.

SHOULD I BE MENTORED?

Ex-students who want to develop their own businesses or careers can be mentored by women with the relevant experience.

HOW DOES MENTORING WORK?

The Ex-Student’s Union will
- connect mentors and mentees;
- depending on the level of interest, organise informal mentoring events
- ensure confidentiality and privacy for participants;
- encourage participants to sign up to our Linkedin group; and
- seek feedback from participants and review the programme

HOW DO I REGISTER MY INTEREST IN MENTORING OR BEING MENTORED?

Please email your expression of interest to us at exstudentsadmin@stvincents.nsw.edu.au or http://www.stvincents.nsw.edu.au/page/alumni/mentoring-program/

Mentors should briefly explain what skills and experience they can transfer and enclose a link to their Linkedin profile. Those interested in being mentored can outline their current role or business together with a brief note on their business or career needs.

We have already received requests for mentoring and look forward to seeing our programme develop further.

ARE THERE ANY COSTS INVOLVED?

As mentors are volunteers, there is no charge. However, we encourage ex students receiving mentoring to become members of the ex-students Union and consider making a financial donation to the St Vincent’s College Foundation scholarship fund to benefit students at St Vincent’s College.

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE

HSC Results 2011 – (These results were slated to appear in our February Vincentia but due to an oversight were omitted)Ed.

A total of 83 students sat for the Higher School Certificate examinations in combinations of the 33 different courses offered. Eighty two students were eligible for the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR).

St Vincent’s College ranked 44th place in the state in English and 65th place in the state over all subjects.

Five students achieved a Band 6 in 10 or more units and appeared on the HSC Merit List of All-Round
Achievers: Eloise Givney, Madeleine Gray, Katherine Ingleson, Jennifer McGrath & Ellen Walsh;

Madeleine Gray achieved full marks in Extension 2 English;

Two students achieved a top place in the State in one of their courses and appeared in the HSC Top Achievers’ List: 7th Place in Modern History – Madeleine Gray; 14th place in Mathematics – Ellen Walsh;

• Overall 94 top Bands in an HSC Course or Extension Course were achieved;

• Top bands were achieved in 76% of all HSC Courses;

• 38 students (46%) achieved top Bands (Band 6 or E4) in one or more HSC Courses and appear on the Distinguished Achievers’ List;

• 17 courses offered (52%) achieved a mean of between 5% to 10% above the state mean;

• 100% of all Extension 2 English students achieved a Band 6;

• 83% of all Extension 1 English students achieved a Band 6;

• 64% of all Visual Arts students achieved a Band 6.

BI-ANNUAL ALUMNI DINNER

We thank the following sponsors who donated raffle and door prizes to our recent alumni dinner. In particular, we’d like to thank the following ex-students – Louise Berg, Kate Burraston (Carlson’s Handmade Marmalades and Cordials) and Rebecca Knights-Kerswell (Coco Chocolate) for their generosity and support. Thanks to Lyn O’Neill of the College’s Development and Foundation Office for her efforts in securing raffle prizes and assisting on the night.

LIZ JORDAN

Noni B

naomihamiltonphotography

Classes 78/79/80/85 at the Alumni dinner

Class of 76 at the Alumni dinner

SVC Teddy at the Alumni dinner
On August 12th 2012, our seven member team will participate in the Sydney City to Surf, a 14km event from Hyde Park in the city to Bondi Beach via Heartbreak Hill. The team includes Deirdre O’Dea (Keaney) Class of 1975, Virginia Malley, Elizabeth English and Christina Du (Alam) from the Class of 1979, Cath Moore Class of 1980, Lyn O’Neill from the college’s Development and Foundation office and Denise Scahill Class of 1955. The team members have been training hard and are participating in the event to raise funds for the St Vincent’s College Foundation scholarship fund.

To date, they have raised nearly $5000 and are very happy. They hope to raise enough to meaningfully contribute to a year’s tuition fees. By clicking the link below, you can see how their fundraising effort is progressing.


Please support them by sponsoring their efforts with a donation to the scholarship fund via this link


or contacting us at exstudentsadmin@stvincents.nsw.edu.au

No donation is too small.

CLASS REUNIONS COMING UP IN 2012

CLASS OF 1962, 50 YEAR REUNION

Fifty year reunion on Saturday, 27 October 2012 for Lunch at St Vincent’s College. Payment must be received by the organisers prior to the reunion.

So we can keep in touch with you please let one of us know your current email address. If you are in contact with any girl/s from our year, who may have changed their address in the last few years could you advise their new contact details?

Jenny Fitzgerald (Speerin) pmjafitz@bigpond.com
Denise Lawler (Fisher) pla37883@bigpond.net.au
Barbara Hunter (Burns) mihunter@optusnet.com.au
or contact Trisha Barron (McCarthy) on 0433232311 or email her at pmbarron@optusnet.com.au

CLASS OF 1972, 40 YEAR REUNION

Forty year reunion will be held on Saturday, 10th November 2012 for dinner at Pink Salt Restaurant - 53 Cross Street Double Bay from 6.30pm till late. Dinner Package $80 per head. Drinks as you wish from the bar.

Please contact Rosemary Mallam (Dickson) on 0401352081 or email her at rosemary@myfabric.com.au

CLASS OF 2002, 10 YEAR REUNION

Ten year reunion will be held at The Den at The Ivy, Sydney on Saturday 15th September from 7.30-11.30pm. Ticket price $80 and includes drinks and canapés. All tickets must be pre-paid, no tickets will be sold on the day.

RSVP Friday August 17th to Shannon Samuel at shannons@australiandiabetescouncil.com

Please contact Shannon at the above email address for payment details.

CLASS OF 1982, 30 YEAR REUNION.

Planning is underway, details are still being finalised and we very much hope you can make it.

Hopefully the broad outline of the week-end will be of assistance for those needing to book travel
arrangements. Saturday 20th October. A tour of the College is available in the late afternoon if desired in the late afternoon. Evening function in the Potts Point area - old girls only. Sunday 21st October. Daytime picnic - venue to be determined - all welcome.

We’ll be in touch with further details as they are finalised. We still have a number of people to contact, if you are in contact with any of our classmates listed below please ask them to get in touch with Julie-Anne McNamee (nee Mutch) if they would like to stay connected with our year group. Phone 0418 489046 or email julieannemcnamee@hotmail.com

We are trying to locate: Margaret Borg, Mary Brennan, Fiona Bruhns (Winton?), Stella Ciccia, Alison Dwyer, Camilla Eadie, Araceli Fernandez (Cairelli?), Katrina Hall, Fiona Hendy, Elizabeth McGhee, Anne-Marie Murray, Danielle O’Loughlin, Jacqueline Seeto, Jenene Shortall, Lucy Woolrych, Helen Wyre


The Class of 1961 gathered at the College for their 50 Year Reunion. Lyndall Howes (Grosvenor), Delene Hagan (Mc Nair) and Victoria Hampshire (O’Halloran) did a wonderful job and attended to every detail to make the event a great success. It was a special time to connect and share memories with those who journeyed with us at St Vincent’s, and to catch up on where the journey has taken us since. Sr. Patricia Heenan (Sr. Majella) was able to join us and we appreciated that she had travelled on the train from Brisbane. Our other teachers, Srs. Joan Jurd (Perpetua), Genevieve Campbell and Christine Madden sent letters and accounts of their ministries and movements over the fifty years. These were included in a volume of memoirs to which most of the class contributed.

It was very pleasing that some of the girls who had begun with us in First Year, but did not complete their education at St Vincent’s, were also able to join us. Forty of the class gathered on 5th November at the College, beginning in the front garden near the grotto for drinks, nibbles. There were also many photos, including a group photo. Lunch was served in Bethania, which for us was always a mysterious place as in our day, it was occupied by the young Sisters. It is now an impressive Performing Arts Centre. Once again the noise levels were very high, except that in between two courses, a short Memorial was held for our deceased teachers and six classmates. After lunch, we divided into groups for a School Tour organised by the College Foundation Officer, Lyn O’Neill… so much change. It was a wonderful time of connecting and re connecting. Very special thanks are due to Lyndall, Delene and Victoria for a splendid job done with grace and enthusiasm.

PAT BURKE RSC (Sr. Angela)

OUT & ABOUT

Sr. Jean Marie Brennan RSC was recently awarded a medallion on behalf of the Catholic Conference of Religious Educators in State Schools. This award was in recognition of her Leadership and significant contribution over decades, to her training Catechists for the NSW State Schools Program. There was a celebratory Mass held at St.Patrick’s Cathedral Parramatta for the State wide participants in this important Religious education program. Jean Marie says it was most exciting to find her former SVC student Julia Kelly (nee Bradbury – class of 1973) present at the event as an active participant in the Lismore Christian Doctrine Confraternity. Congratulations Jean-Marie from us all.

Class of ’56 - A lunch time group of 1956 gathered at the Bowlers’ Club in June to catch up with old class mates. We felt the loss of Diane Kennedy who attended our last lunch in November 2011. Lois Spencer was given the prize for making the biggest effort as she flew down from the Gold Coast especially for the reunion and flew home after. Thank you Lois. The 14 who attended enjoyed the food and the company. Our next get together is on Wednesday, 28th November. Just ring Margaret Daley on 9639 7372 if you wish to come.

Sue Burne – Happy to report that Sue Burne is home at last after 8 weeks in Balmain Hospital. Sue broke her leg in a fall at home and suffered through much pain and re-education but has recovered and is overjoyed to be home free at last.

Francoise McCallum went to France with her son Stuart in May to visit their family. They covered a lot of the country by car, visiting from Lille in the north to Frejus on the Mediterranean in the south and many points in between. Spring was not great weatherwise but the hospitality was as warm as ever. It is such a shame that Europe is so far away.

Marie-Claire Morgan (nee Droulers) class of 1978) class of 1978. It was a great break and due reward for Marie-Claire and her daughter Shannan to travel recently to Ireland to visit her late husband’s
family. Great to have you back on deck MC!

Sr. Christine Henry RSC works in rural, remote and regional Queensland. She invites ex-students living in Brisbane to support the National Year of the Farmer. The farming community plays a vital role feeding, clothing and sheltering us day after day. All are invited to join her at the National Year of the Farmer fundraising event being held at the Broncos Leagues Club Leagues Club in Red Hill, Queensland on Saturday 21 September 2012 at 12pm. The ticket price is $30 per person. Please contact Sr. Christine on 0414 324 682 or 07 3891 9431 for more information.


Maureen (nee O’Neil) Hathaway’s son, John, is the newly-elected LCP Member for Townsville. Maureen was in 1946 LC Class.

GEORGIA McGRATH

Georgia McGrath (Class of 2011) is the granddaughter of past Ex-students’ Union President Shirley McGrath and has a long list of achievements to her credit. Georgia has two great loves - sport and drama.

Georgia achieved some great honours while at school, she loved her time at St.Vincent’s and will always be a part of the College in the future. She achieved an Excellence in Drama Award in 2010 and has completed her 8th Grade, London Trinity Guildhall examination for Speech and Drama, taught with excellence at St Vincent’s College.

At the 2011 College Graduation day, Georgia was awarded the College Spirit Award, the Mary Aikenhead Ministries Award (first one, new award) and the Sportswoman of the Year Award. In each year of her six years at the College, Georgia achieved specific sports awards. This culminated in 2011 when she was selected for the NSW Cross Country team competing at the Australian Championships 2011 and finished 15th school girl overall in the under 20 year age group.

Georgia was subsequently awarded for 2012 a full scholarship to study at The Australian College of Physical Education (ACPE). Earlier this year in May, Georgia was the first woman to cross the line in the Balmoral Burn and raised $850 for the Children’s Hospital fund linked to the race. Ray Martin interviewed Georgia after she had won her race.

In July 2012 Georgia was again selected for the NSW Cross Country team competing at the Australian Championships in Adelaide. Recently, Georgia competed in the Surf Lifesaving IRB State Championships. Her team won gold, silver and bronze medals in varied disciplines and recently competed in the Australian titles. Georgia will compete at the World Championships in November 2012 for her Surf Lifesaving IRB team. ACPE have asked Georgia to compete in their University Games team if time permits. Georgia currently works part-time at the Andrew (Boy) Charlton pool and the Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre as a swim instructor. She has completed a 1st level Coaching certificate in volleyball and basketball as part of her degree.

All in all, she enjoys socialising with her friends and just living and loving life.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE RECENTLY DECEASED EX-STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Mary Walton (nee Stevens) Class of 1939. Mary died in January 2012.


Dianne Kennedy (Scahill) Class of 1956 – Dianne died in March 2012.

Catherine McLaren (nee McCarthy) Class of 1960. Catherine died in March 2012

Marie Vickery Class of 1943. Marie died in April 2012.


AND FOR


Cathy O’Donnell (née Smith), Class of 1946. Cathy’s husband, Barry, died recently. Cathy and Barry had six children, twenty-two grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Lisa Rigby (née Kelly) Class of 1981, and Michelle Kelly, Class of 1977, daughters of Mr Wally Kelly who died in March 2012. Mr Kelly was involved in initiating the College Swimming Pool Project in the early 1970’s. His dedicated efforts on the building and fundraising committee shall always be remembered with deep gratitude. His grand-daughters Kelly Rigby, Class of 2009, and Alexandra Rigby, Class of 2011, are recent ex-students.

Maxine Bennett (née Farmer), Class of 1940, and her family. Maxine’s son Michael Bennett died in March 2012.

Sr. Eleanor Macris RSC died in July 2012 at the St. Josephs Village Auburn. Eleanor was a staff member of Aikenhead House at the College in the 1940’s and 1950’s.

COMMUNICATING WITH YOU ONLINE

Thank you to all those who have joined our Linkedin and Facebook groups. We’re very pleased that we’ve reconnected many classmates who had fallen out of touch.

Our mentoring programme arose out of a Linkedin discussion and we look forward to seeing many ways in which the different generations of ex-students can support each other.

For the sake of the environment and efficiency, we’d like to send our news to you via email and SMS.

If you’re not sure whether you’ve forwarded us your email address and mobile phone numbers, please send them to us at exstudentsadmin@stvincents.nsw.edu.au or to the Secretary, St Vincent’s College Potts Point Ex Students’ Union Inc, PO Box 2224, Bondi Junction NSW 2022.

We are keen to have our most recent members from the classes of 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 provide their email addresses to us at their earliest convenience.

You can find the ex-students union on Linkedin and Facebook by clicking the links listed:

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4127965&trk=hb_side_g
http://www.facebook.com/groups/282056885162205/

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Kerry Cumming, (nee Gray) launching the Mentoring Program at the Alumni dinner  Class of 2003