



St Vincent's College  
Potts Point



Under the Stewardship of

MARY  
AIKENHEAD  
MINISTRIES

# Scientia cum Religione

Semester 1 2020



2020 Service of the Poor

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## Boarding School Promotional Visits

<i>Friday 15 May</i>	<i>Dubbo Regional Visit</i>
<i>Thursday 11 June</i>	<i>Griffith Regional Visit</i>
<i>Saturday 13 June</i>	<i>Wagga Wagga Regional Visit</i>
<i>Friday 24 July</i>	<i>Tamworth Regional Visit</i>



### ***Scientia cum Religione - Semester 1 2020***

*Vincentia - Newsletter of the Ex-Students' Union*

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*Cover image - L-R Rosa Blakemore and Emily O'Brien handing over Leadership candle to 2019/2020 College Co-Captains Mia Chaaya and Ellen Ebbs at the 2019 Graduation Mass in St Mary's Cathedral*

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One of the great benefits of being an Ex-Student is the network of support available to you. As you establish and advance your career, or your sphere of influence for the cause you are passionate about, the Vinnies network can really help. We encourage you, as an alumna of the College, to update your LinkedIn profile, ensuring that your St Vincent's College education is correctly recorded.

## 24. Meet the Teacher

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# Vincentia

Newsletter of the Ex-Students' Union

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*Condolences / Babies / Congratulations*



# From the Principal

*Mrs Anne Fry*



Dear Friends and Associates

I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to you for 2020. The College year has started well although against a backdrop of extreme weather events that have drawn us all into the tragedy and devastation caused for individuals, communities and our fragile environment. It has been very consoling for those affected to see the generosity and outreach of so many to help in the recovery phase. I write with appreciation of the efforts of one of our staff members, Ms Sophie Robson, who during the holidays organised a sewing bee to make pouches for injured wildlife. It was well supported by current and ex-students, parents, Board Members and friends of the College. It was a wonderful opportunity to practise our focus value for 2020 *Service of the Poor*. One of the poverties of our times is certainly environmental and this is an area about which our students feel very passionate.



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*“I know the resilience of our rural families is high and I know they wait in hopeful anticipation of drenching rain.”*



Last year ended in December on a celebratory note when we received the HSC results from the 2019 HSC. The hard work of our students and teachers was rewarded with wonderful study scores and ATARs. I feel confident that the Class of 2019 are well prepared for future success.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Scientia cum Religione. It will give you an insight into how our new year has commenced.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Anne Fry  
Principal



1. *Volunteers at the holiday Bushfire Sewing Bee.*
2. *Staff and some of our HSC High Achievers on the day the results were announced.*





## From the Chair of the College Board

### *Mrs Mary Ronzani*

As one ages, one comes to appreciate why the Chinese saying “May you live in interesting times” could be considered a curse. We do live in interesting times. The 2020s are sure to challenge us all. The Plenary Council this year will hopefully embrace lay leadership and provide frameworks for renewal.

With Mary Aikenhead Ministries now having celebrated a decade of achievement as a Public Juridic Person, it can be said the Mary Aikenhead Education Australia schools (Mt St Michael’s College Ashgrove, St Vincent’s College Potts Point, St Columba’s College Essendon and Catholic Ladies’ College Eltham) have settled

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well into the structures, taking opportunities to learn from the healthcare sector and each other. All school board chairs met last August at the Heritage Centre with Ms Janet Freeman (MAEA Chair and Trustee MAM) and Mr Peter Howard (MAEA Director and Trustee MAM) to principally discuss how the boards function and how they can best guide and support school staff. Mr Peter Kelly (MAE ministry leader) kept us to task. It is intended that this meeting is held annually, exploring different issues. At the MAM Stewardship Visit last September we were able to showcase the ways in which St Vincent's College lives the values of Generosity of Spirit, Hope, Justice, Respect, and

Service of the Poor.

Possibly the biggest challenge for the College Board in 2020 will be the planning of the College Gathering Space. This building is the completion of the Masterplan commenced with the Atrium. In the interim the heritage building facades will be repaired. We are counting on the continuing good humour of staff and students so ably led by Mrs Anne Fry. The Board is invigorated by the energy and commitment of the St Vincent's College family it is our privilege to serve.

I extend to you my best wishes for the year ahead.

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invigorated by  
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# Farewell to Rachel McLean

***After ten years of commitment to St Vincent's College, Ms Rachel McLean has left to take up full-time study. Many words of farewell were spoken to her from various groups and we have included this farewell from Mrs Elizabeth Brooks on behalf of her colleagues***



When I first met Rachel, we had a conversation about the jewellery we were wearing – both of us, colourful beads. There were no cautionary niceties, rather an authentic sharing of personality in casual conversation. This warm welcome and hand of support has never changed.

In last week's Assembly, our student leaders captured the breadth and depth of Rachel's contribution to our community and reminded us of the eye-opening, heart

awakening and life-changing impact that their education at SVC has had on them though the experiences encountered in faith formation and social justice. The chain of bags of cooking, recycled clothing, care packages, listening books etc, that often clutter up Rachel's office are the minutia of ideas in action. She is prepared to get her hands in the mess of it all. Those of us who have journeyed with Rachel – on Retreats, Twilight Spirituality afternoons, Vinnies

Buddies Day, Night Patrol and more – will speak of these opportunities as joy-filled as it is the relationships and actions within the experience that opens minds and transforms hearts.

We give tribute and gratitude to Rachel for her work for and with our First Nations students and communities. There is still much that presents a cultural challenge and we are more aware of the need to find ways to respond. Seeking connection with community, elders,





mentors within the structure of students' school timetables and family commitments requires enormous flexibility and solution solving. Rachel has been that person who identifies challenge and is prepared to be the face of restoring confidence in partnership with our families who can feel at distance from what is going on for their daughter at school. Rachel has provided opportunity for students' voices to be heard by staff and peers, and as our Immersion experiences expand, she has set us on a path to be better Australians together. It was wonderful to witness our First Nations students in Boarding express their appreciation to Rachel and gift a work of art created by themselves to signify the songlines, growing closer as they transition from Years 7 to 12. In this painting you see that the places of gathering are concentric which represents the growth that comes with relationship and knowing. Rachel has sparked this with many of us and we as a community commit to continuing this growth.

Between our offices is a thin wall, whilst not hearing the specifics of each word, it is the tone and the time I hear Rachel as a leader who engages in conversation – with students, colleagues, parents, community. In her role as Director of Faith and Mission, it is she who represents us in community – explaining our decisions and our actions, the why and how of what we do.

Rachel speaks with a loyalty to stand by agreed actions and a willingness to flesh out possibilities. Her dialogue is one of invitation, a desire for all in our community to be part of the mission of holding Christ's love at the core and an invitation to see the potential for growth in all individuals within and beyond the community. Rachel is open to the challenging conversations in the pursuit of justice and rigour – many of us will know she is also a person of tenacity - whilst her response will be listening with a compassionate heart.

It is not what you do but who you are that is the testimony of how a person will be remembered and leave an impact behind that can continue to grow. Rachel is indeed a person who walks her own talk, a woman of faith for growth - this is the inspiration and witness she has given so many. Rachel's most impressive quality is her capacity to listen – to listen with both heart and

mind with a preparedness that her actions respond to the listening. Rachel's listening to others, herself, her God is an invitation not so much to a place or an idea but an invitation to know oneself more. It is from this listening that Rachel now creates an opportunity for herself - ever searching and honest – allowing a preparedness to step away from what has been a full and busy life to find the stillness to listen and trust in what calls. This requires a person to be comfortable with the uncomfortable - bold but reflective, courageous yet vulnerable, radical whilst full of faith that she is in the hands of an all knowing and loving God who will indeed hold her in the palm of his hand. Rachel's desire to move to 'be more' makes her what the students called her - a true Magis woman.

Rachel, you go with our love and blessings and thank you for making us 'more'.





# The Fathering Project

## *Mr Mal Wise*

The Fathering Project (FP) at St Vincent's College seeks to encourage fathers and father figures to be more deeply involved in their daughter's lives and provide male role models for all our daughters. Our Fathering Project is loosely affiliated with the Fathering Project started by Western Australian surgeon Professor Bruce Robertson. He had become frustrated by the number of terminal ill men who lamented they had not spent enough time with their children. He started the project to get more Dads involved in their children's school lives. At St Vincent's College the project is supported by the College P&F and the Community Relations Manager, Mrs Jane Palin.

At SVC the FP is centered on the annual Sleep Out for fathers and daughters. This event aims to bring fathers and male role models and their daughters together at the College for a night of sleeping rough as a reminder to think of those less fortunate, to raise money for a suitable charity, and to spend a night telling tall stories and getting to know fathers and daughters from across the College.

This year the event was held on Saturday the 3rd of August, with about 100 fathers and their daughters



participating. The group watched "Bend it like Beckham", an inspiring example of what girls can achieve and the importance of a Father's support, in the College hall before retiring to some cardboard mattresses and warm sleeping bags. In total we have raised \$1830 and this was presented to St Canice's Kitchen.

Our other key event is Dads Drive to Sport – which is a standing activity on week three of each term. The aim of this activity is simply to encourage Dads to drive their daughters to sport on that Saturday. Many of course do this already, but if this is not usual it is a great opportunity to spend time with and support your daughter(s) and to meet other Dads from the College. Week 3 of Term 2 is Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May for those who like to plan ahead.





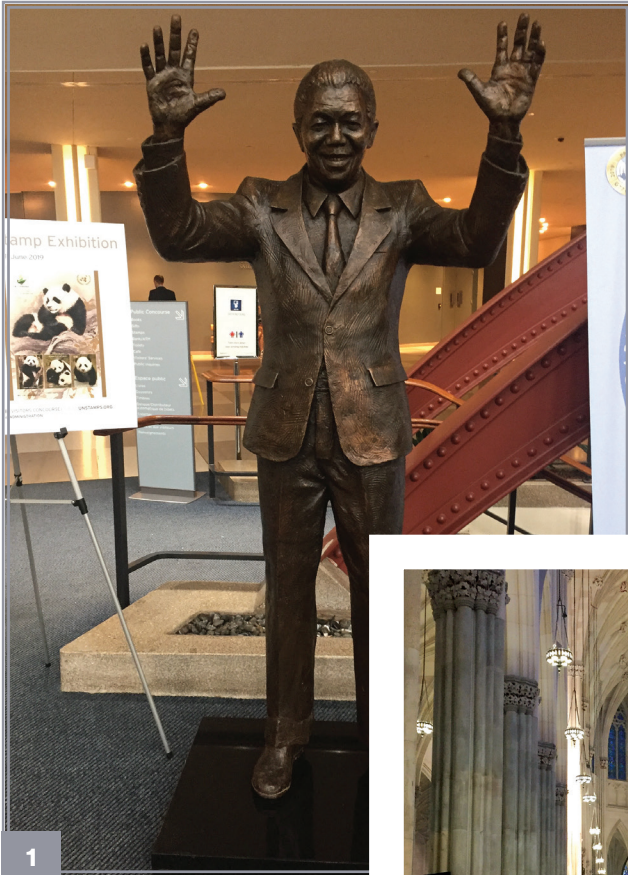
1. 2019 Father Daughter Sleep Out
2. Dads Drive to Sport Day posts from Instagram
3. Vinnies Dads, Nav Singh and Mal Wise presenting funds raised to Carrie Deane of St Canice's Parish

We have a good team of Dads that are supporting the Project, but we can always use more and especially those with daughters in Years 7 and 8 to support continuity into the future.

In 2020 we plan to have our Sleep Out and the #SVCDADSATSPORT again as well as two or three other activities to bring fathers and daughters together.

If you have any good ideas or thoughts, please contact me on 0410 532 103.





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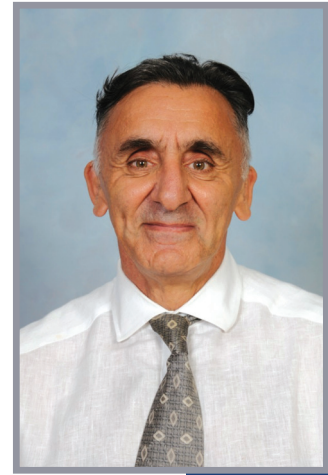
1. Statue of Nelson Mandela on the foyer of the UN Building  
 2. Sculpture "The Knotted Gun" - Symbol of peace and hope in the UN Building courtyard

3. Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral  
 4. United Nations Building  
 5. Inside the 'High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development'



# 2019 Staff Scholarship

*Mr Joseph Hekeik*



***The College Board fund an annual scholarship for a teacher to pursue an area of professional interest. In 2019 I was very fortunate to be given a scholarship to undertake an internship at the United Nations in New York.***

As a Legal Studies teacher, every year I teach students about the role of the United Nations in protecting Human Rights. This was my in-depth focus area while I was an intern with Franciscans International – a non-government organisation working with the United Nations on promoting and protecting human rights.

The experience was inspiring and energising as each day I travelled from Brooklyn to Grand Central Station and then the short walk to the UN on the corner of United Nations Plaza and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. As I swiped my ‘all areas’ access card to enter the imposing buildings of the UN I could not actually believe that I was there.

Apart from working in the Franciscan International office, I attended the ‘High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development’ at the United Nations which involved 47 countries. The major theme of the Forum was ‘leaving no one behind’ so a key focus was the role of women and educational empowerment, particularly in third world countries. Additionally, I was involved in attending side events and seminars, preparing resources, reading reports and networking with like-minded people from

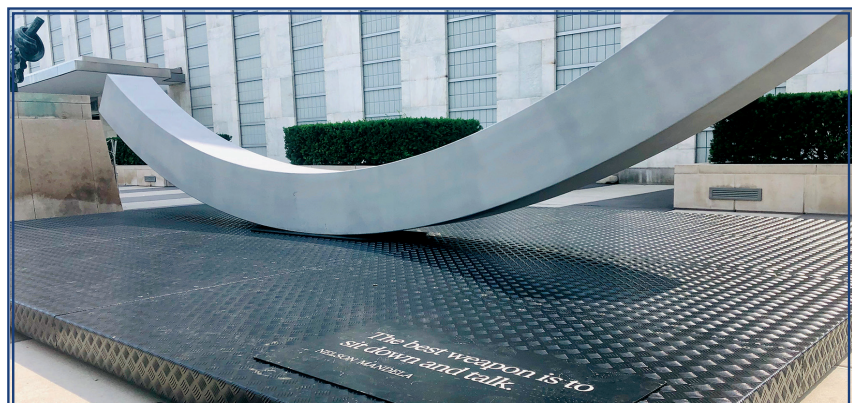
all over the world. My priority was collecting case study material that I could share with my Stage 6 Legal Studies classes studying World Order, Human Rights and Global Environmental Protection.

My time in New York was mid-summer so I also enjoyed the delights of Central Park, galleries and exhibitions of modern art and walking the High-line from the Meat Packing District. The only decent coffee houses I could find in New York were operated by Australians. On Sunday after mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral on Fifth Avenue I always tried to find this taste of home. It is no cliché to say it is a ‘melting pot’ city with different neighbourhoods retaining the sights, sound and flavours of its dominant migrant group.

American Politics has of recent times taken on a particular style and one of my daily highlights was reading the New York Times over my morning coffee. The analysis of the political reporters were excellent and their investigative journalists really cover stories with depth and integrity. The activity alone was a very worthwhile part of the scholarship.

On my return to St Vincent’s College I have already used much of what I have learnt in my classes, and in sharing resources with my colleagues.

I express my sincere appreciation to the College Board for allowing me this time of sabbatical. I came home excited and enthusiastic about how I can integrate my experiences into my programs in 2020.



*The Peace Bench was created as a semi-circle, making those sitting on it to slide to the center, close to each other. It symbolises diplomacy, a desire achieve dialogue between those on opposite sides of discussions. Nelson Mandela’s famous quote “The best weapon is to sit down and talk” is attached to the piece.*



# Warralong Immersion

*Written by Lauren Carr, Grace Cooper and Olivia Gotting, Year 11 2019*

The Warralong Immersion was an eye-opening experience where the Year 11 students and teachers truly felt the impact of a change in mindset, a change brought by walking in partnership with our First Nations brothers and sisters. It was in this remote Aboriginal community in Western Australia that we developed the most authentic and beautiful relationships with the younger children, teenagers and elders. Eager to share their culture with us: they taught us traditional language and how to paint within their mobs' style, showed us their sacred sites, performed ritualistic dances and shared stories of the Dreaming.

At the end of the eleven days we all returned home full and enriched with a new appreciation for Indigenous culture, forever grateful for the people we met, laughs we had and the new perspectives we gained. In contrasting the lifestyles we lead in Sydney

to that of what we came to understand within Warralong, we witnessed the deeply rooted notion of connectedness and support that existed within their entire community, a virtue that is so easily lost within our own busy city scheme. It took us to step out of our daily routines and immerse ourselves within the unique culture and lifestyle of this community to learn from them and grow as individuals. Within our daily circumstances many of us have the tendency to be constantly planning, rushing and thinking about the future. It is this that fosters disconnection as life passes us by. However, the people in Warralong showed us the importance of being present within everything you do, to focus solely on the most important thing, listening and responding to what is happening in that given moment. This is a practice many Aboriginal cultures have passed on for millennial. Another difference between these cultures is that in Warralong



the term “family” doesn’t simply reference to a biological link between people in the sense that we use it. “Family” to them is the inextricable connection each member has to one another within community and equally their connection to country.

The Warralong immersion also offered many challenges, confronting us with the huge disparity between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples such as in health care, education and life expectancy. These have stemmed from the discriminatory government policies and prejudices that continue to exist within society. Although this was something that we were already aware of, we struggled to fully comprehend its entirety until seeing many of the consequences first-hand. This enriched our understanding of the challenges experienced by Aboriginal people and hence has empowered us to seek change within ourselves and that of the wider society. It has provoked us to consider what we can do now and in the future, to help move our nation towards reconciliation and “closing the gap” between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians.





# Graduation







# 2019

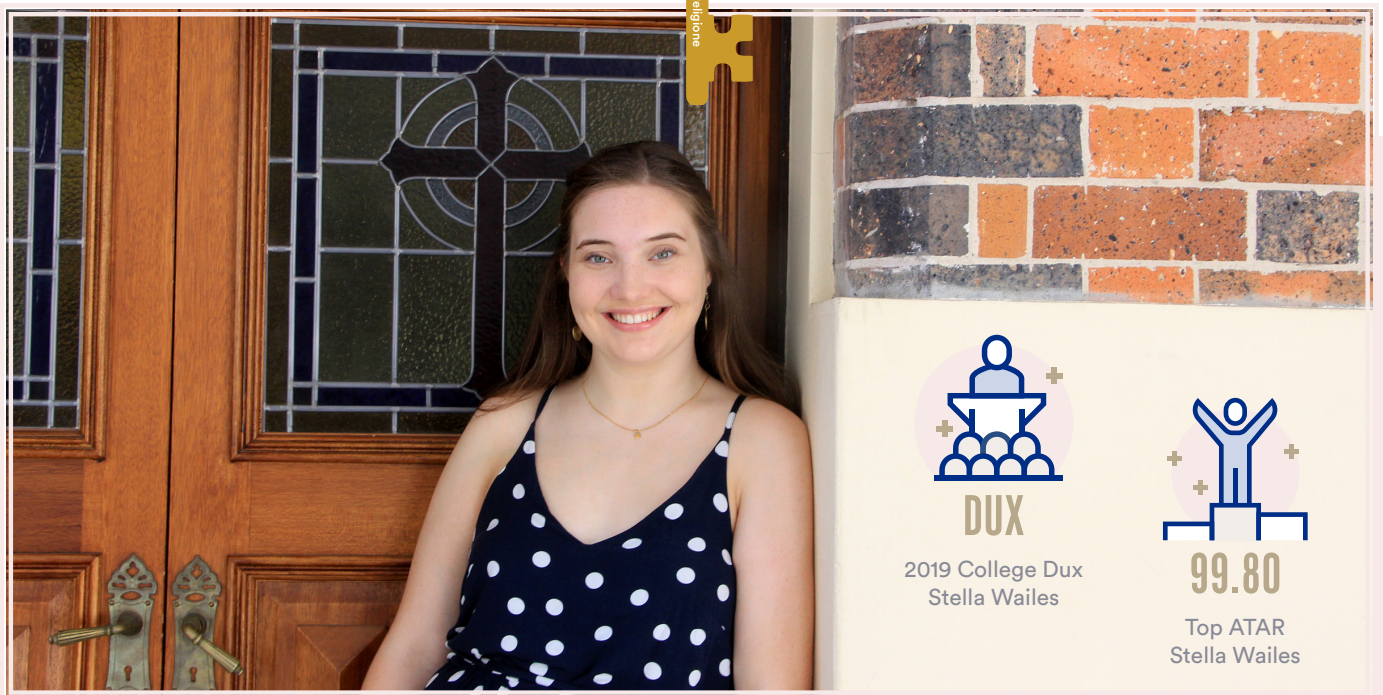


# Celebrating our 2019 HSC Results

We are delighted to present to you the high achievers of the Class of 2019 (and the Accelerated Mathematics and Language students of the Class of 2020). While a number can never capture the whole of a student's story, there are benchmarks that are recognised as levels of excellence.



A study score over 90 is one such measure and this year 63 students received one or more of these results, and the College recorded a total of 157 Band 6 results. We use a key as a metaphor for education at St Vincent's College and the ATAR is the key that opens the door of tertiary institutions.



**DUX**  
2019 College Dux  
Stella Wailes

**99.80**  
Top ATAR  
Stella Wailes

## OnSTAGE

### Shea Donohoe

Individual performance  
*Mind Your Language*

### Emerson Lewis

Individual performance  
*Catharine*

### Eve Cogan, Pippi Cullinan, Saraya O'Neill and Caitlin Ryan

Group performance  
*Ms Devine Teleoperator*

## Texstyle 2020 Exhibition

### Annabella Donnola\*

Major Textiles Project



**12**

NESA  
Nominations

## Shape 2019 Exhibition

### Tiarne Ellis\*\*

Major Textiles Project

### Ilaria Marsella

Social interaction game for autism

### Lillian Maynard

Underwear for female fistula incontinence

### Rayn Sirikasemlert

Wearable art for bee decline

## Callback

### Jacqueline Cotter

Core composition and major study  
performance

### Kate Lark

Major study performance

### Maddison Smith

Core composition and major study  
performance  
Dancer: Dendy Hardaker Year 10 elective class

### Jade Veljanovski

Core composition  
Dancer: Olivia Garland Year 11 elective class





31%

Students with an ATAR of 90+ (advised to date)



157

Distinguished Achievers' List mentions



*“The HSC success of the Vinnies cohort of 2019 resides not in individual results but with what we were able to achieve as a collective. Assisted by the dedication and commitment of our teachers, Leadership team and the whole College we were able to create a vibrant learning culture, centred on collaboration in which we all came to realise the true strength of community.”*

*Stella Wailes, 2019 DUX*



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All Rounders

### Congratulations All Rounders

Students who achieved a top band result (Band 6) in at least 10 units



**Stella Wailes**  
ATAR 99.80



**Charlotte Murray-Nobbs**  
ATAR 99.55



**Maddison Smith**  
ATAR 98.65



**Elysse Choy**  
ATAR 98.35



**Jessica Sertori**  
ATAR 98.00



**Millicent Lembke**  
ATAR 97.55



**Hannah Lawrence**  
ATAR 97.40



*"...to recognise that sometimes the greatest act of service is in the spiritual, a whole new approach comes about."*



## Support Through Faith

### Mia Chaaya and Ellen Ebbs

#### 2019-2020 College Co-Captains

On 2 February, seven children, from the Abdallah and Sakr family, were walking to get ice cream, when a drunk driver lost control of his vehicle, taking four young children's lives; three siblings and their cousin, and injuring the other three. The parents of six of the children, Leila and Danny Abdallah, have found comfort in their faith, returning to the scene and praying on a countless number of occasions with the members of their community; Leila has even forgiven the man who committed the accident. The couple's strength and commitment to their faith during this time of mourning is something that has taken the country and the world by surprise.

This story provoked us to delve deeper into understanding the support that can be provided through faith. The reality is, in many circumstances, we cannot provide physical aid and support which is able to make a visible difference. Our ability to serve, in this conventional way, is depleted. If we broaden our perspective of service, however, to recognise that sometimes the greatest act of service is in the spiritual, a whole new approach comes about.

In a country that is still being affected by bushfires and extreme drought, the smallest act of service towards the communities which have been impacted, is to keep them in our prayers and in our hearts,

as realising the compassion and care of those around us can be the most rewarding service to each other. If you haven't already, watch ABC Four Corners, 'Black Summer', to see some extremely raw footage of the fires and gain insight into the true devastation that was felt over the summer and to keep these people in rural Australia in our thoughts.

Having prayer and faith does not have to be only an act of service to others, it can be a service and act of care to ourselves. Often, dealing with tough situations requires tremendous amounts of courage, strength and resilience, and having faith, prayer or some sort of spirituality can be a source of strength. As we begin the season of Lent,

we should all start to think and explore the idea of - what we can give rather than go without. How we can use the season of Lent to pray for others in our own school community and the wider community. When we say 'pray' we don't just mean in the Catholic context - prayer can mean, look and sound like whatever you want it to - not following a religion definitely does not mean you can't pray. If you are in some way, in a still and reflective state, that is prayer.

We encourage everyone to take a moment of reflection and stillness and help to serve and support the Abdallah and Sakr family and bushfire survivors, through the simplicity of our thoughts and prayers.

# Meet published author, Lucy Brader

Interviewer: Ms Helen Marshall,  
Lucy's Tutor and Year 8 English Teacher

## *Tell us a little bit about yourself.*

My name is Lucy Brader, I am 14 years old and in Year 8. I live with my parents, two brothers and two cats. Ever since I was very young I have had a fascination with reading, and writing seemed to be one of my talents. In Year 6 my school offered an extended art program where we had to write a short book and then illustrate it. My teacher after seeing my book told me to enter the competition, and here I am.

## *Recently you won an award, what was it for?*

In 2018 I won the Redgum Young Writers award for the Picture Book category with Different.

## *Explain what your picture book Different is about and where did you draw your inspiration for writing Different from?*

Mia, the main character is just an ordinary girl in an ordinary world. Her whole life, however, she has been different to the other kids, something about autism? All she wants is a normal life until her classmates discover her incredible skill for creating artwork! She is encouraged to join the art club and she does! She ends up with a new BFF, a recognised talent and

something else (BUT, you're just going to have to read the book and find out what it is! So what are you waiting for, open it up and find out!).

## *Wow, your book sounds incredible. How has your life changed since your book was published?*

My life has changed significantly since I published the book. For a start I can now say "I am a published author", and when we first started the publishing process I didn't expect to receive any financial profit, however, I have received royalties, which is so exciting.

## *I'm so proud of you Lucy and my life has also changed since your book was published because I can now say "I'm the teacher of a published author". Finally, is writing something you would like to pursue a career in?*

I would love to do more writing and I do aspire to be an author, in the future.



# Songwriting Gong for Jasmine Dale

Congratulations to Jasmine "Jazzy" Dale (Year 11) for achieving First Place in the Youth category at the 2019s annual Australian Songwriters' Association (ASA) songwriting competition!



Mr Robert Weaver and Jasmine Dale  
at the ASA Awards

Jazzy performed her winning song 'Better Place' in front of a 450-strong audience with St Vincent's College Music Teacher, Mr Rob Weaver, providing accompaniment on the piano.

Jazzy penned the heartfelt song as a tribute to her good Vinnies friend, Mia Glasel:  
*"I wrote Better Place a few days after my beautiful friend's Dad passed away. I wrote it from her perspective, as if she was singing it. I couldn't stop crying the whole time I was writing it, this song was written and the demo recorded within a couple of hours. I was very emotional and I really wanted to capture that."*

As a winner she qualified for a nomination as Songwriter of the Year. From the thousands of entries ASA receives every year from aspiring hopefuls, Jazzy as one of the top ten entrants won the privilege of performing her piece before an audience of music industry professionals who no doubt took note of our rising young star. Jazzy can hone her creative talents further with her win of a Magesongs full songwriting course valued at \$1,200.

Watch Jazzy's performance at [youtube.com/watch?v=9zV-cbp5lrY](https://youtube.com/watch?v=9zV-cbp5lrY).

# A New Perspective on the Concept of Drought

Written by Year 10 2019 Students Emily Mano, Sophie Welman and Molly Whitely

During the October 2019 school holidays, seven St Vincent's College day girls, including ourselves, took a six-hour train ride to the rural country town of Gunnedah, NSW, where we were hosted by Monique McCormack's welcoming family. Gunnedah is located about 80 kilometres West of Tamworth and about 400 kilometres North/North West of Sydney. It was a long journey but well worth it for the memorable experience. We were able to experience the lifestyle of our friend and her family, on their property of 1500 acres.

The property sustains wheat, canola and chickpeas, in large quantities. By seeing all the primary and adverse effects of the drought up close as well as how their family is managing their crops, we gained a new perspective on the concept of drought.

As day girls, we rarely get to experience the lifestyle of our boarders, so when we were given the chance, we were very excited. As a friendship group, we were up for the challenge and the laughs, and will cherish the memories we shared together for many years to come.

We saw first-hand some of the situations that boarders deal with, such as battling homesickness, missing birthdays and missing other family celebrations, not to mention being hours away from home. This caused us to realise how lucky we are to be in such close proximity of our homes, even when at school. Boarders manage these difficulties so gracefully and courageously. The experience changed our view on the boarding community and allowed us to appreciate the diversity of the college community. We are incredibly lucky to have



***“We are fortunate to have a boarding community at Vinnies, and the diversity they bring to the College is remarkable.”***

the opportunity to meet people with such different lifestyles to our own, people from which we learn so much from.

We all agree the highlight activities were being able to drive buggies, ride dirt bikes, hike and drive cars (for us L platers). However, we each found our fondest memories were had around the dining



table where we all chatted with each other and Monique's family.

This trip that we all got to experience not only brought us closer together with memories that will last, but we also learnt so much about the farm, Monique's family, life in the country and also about the drought that we are so grateful for.

If you or your daughters are ever given the opportunity to experience a similar visit in your time at Vinnies we would encourage you to take part and witness the lives of our beloved boarding friends. We are fortunate to have a boarding community at Vinnies, and the diversity they bring to the College is remarkable.



# Meet the Teacher

*Catherine Johnson  
Head of Performing Arts  
and Drama Teacher*



***Ms Catherine Johnson (alumna 1988), joined St Vincent's College in 2000 as a Co-curricular Teacher and has been the Head of Performing Arts since 2012  
We asked her to share a few insights about the woman behind the role.***

***What is your favourite thing about St Vincent's College?***

The students – they come from various areas around NSW and sometimes overseas. They come from many different areas of Sydney and their families and backgrounds are really varied. This diversity shows in how liberal and quirky they are. Most of our students are not afraid to embrace their individuality and support others who are different from them.

***What do you enjoy most about working in schools??***

The creative energy of the students – if they trust you they are brave and will try new and exciting ideas when learning. I love that with a room full of students you can laugh and learn and improve steadily over time; and then create really interesting and

sometime challenging theatre and performances together.

I have laughed and cried in the classroom, the College Hall, the MCR, the NIDA theatre, Waverly, the Town Hall and the Seymour Centre – no matter where I have worked with our students, I have felt proud and privileged to be there for their breakthrough and best performances.

***What has excited you most about being part of the Vinnies Community?***

Growing the Performing Arts Department. When I started teaching classroom Drama and English at St Vincent's College there were very few drama students and drama classes, at least it was running but there was no dance program - no co-curricular or curriculum classes. The previous



Head of Department introduced Dance and one year later I took over and have been encouraging and supporting our fabulous dance teacher and tutors ever since. We now have Dance classes running in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12, co-curricular Dance running three days a week and five Jazz dance ensembles and two Ballet ensembles.

I have also introduced Theatresports and this year one of our teams made it through the heats, to the semifinal and all the way to the finals. I feel excited that we keep growing both our numbers but also in the quality of our student programs and resulting performances.

*Please share an interesting or fun fact about yourself*

I used to have very short pink hair!

*What is your favourite saying, or piece of advice you have received?*

Keep the drama on the stage and the page.

*What aspirational goal (bucket list) would you like to accomplish beyond your involvement here at the College?*

I would like to return to the Globe Theatres' Sam Wanamaker Playhouse in London to attend a play, lit only by candlelight, as it would have been enjoyed in Jacobean times.



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# Foundation News

## Supporter profile: Patricia Rolfe

Patricia Rolfe was a trailblazer of her era. The second of three sisters from Katoomba, Patricia – or Pat as she was fondly known – was a diligent student with a flair for the written word.

Pat studied at St Vincent's College during the 1930s. In this period following The Great Depression, education – especially for girls – was a grand privilege. And to continue on to university was most uncommon.

Pat graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Arts in 1943. Journalism was her passion – she just loved to read, write and critique literature. In her early days she wrote for the Women's Weekly and then in further trailblazing style, she became a foreign correspondent for the magazine when she was posted to London in 1953.

Such independence and confidence from a young



woman making her mark on the world!

For four years she worked, socialised and relished the adventure of living abroad. Patricia returned to Australia in time to chronicle in *The Bulletin* the social change that was building from the early 1960s.

## The Gift of Trust

For many of the St Vincent's community – including ex-students, families and friends of the College, a bequest is a very convenient way to make an enduring gift to express their appreciation or affection for their alma mater. The Tarmons Trust is a newly established recognition society through which we will honour those who have decided to support the College through their Will.

From the outset of St Vincent's College, Tarmons has been an important name. Tarmons was the name of the grand house purchased by the Sisters in which they established the first St Vincent's Hospital and then school. Then Tarmons was used as the Convent. The name is now enshrined in the major teaching block that stands where the original house once stood. The name evokes different memories for different generations

of graduates of the College but for all current and ex-students, Tarmons is the most highly revered place-name on the campus, and it has therefore been bestowed to this newly created recognition society as a sign of deep gratitude.

Through the generosity of those who join the Tarmons Trust, St Vincent's College will be able to continue to provide the scholarships and bursaries necessary to retain the diversity and capacity of our student body; and to make provision for the building and refurbishment of the College to ensure it retains contemporary, versatile and inviting learning spaces.

Your trust in the future of the College is greatly appreciated.

**David Osborne**  
**Director of Advancement**

## “She was a bold and courageous woman who was ahead of her time”

In fact, Pat Rolfe struck her own blow for feminism against the deep-seated and misogynistic social norms of Sydney.

In a story recounted from the mid-1960s, Pat and her friend were asked to leave the Wentworth Hotel because they were ‘not accompanied by any gentlemen’. There was an assumption by management the women were of ill-repute. Pat wrote a scathing account of the incident in *The Bulletin*. The public reaction was immediate and the hotel quickly changed

its policy about women drinking alone.

They do say the pen is mightier than the sword!  
Bravo Patricia.

Pat was always grateful for the opportunities her good education brought her. She was a woman of substance and influence through her writing and was very highly regarded by other writers and politicians.

Sadly, Patricia Rolfe passed away in 2008. But her story lives on through her support

of the College. Each year at Speech Night, a Year 10 student with a talent in English and interest in journalism receives the Patricia Rolfe Award to encourage her in her craft. Congratulations to Lucia Holt, who was the 2019 recipient.

Pat would be 100 this year. She was a bold and courageous woman who was ahead of her time. Australia’s literary evolution is all the richer for her lifetime contribution to journalism.

David Osborne  
Director of Advancement

### Tarmons Trust members

Anonymous † *Class of 1930*  
Callen, Colleen †  
Carolan, A †  
Conrad (nee Bourke), Leonie *Class of 1944*  
Donnelly, Mary Frances Stephanie †  
Foley, Lucy Winifred †  
Freestone, Roma †  
Kennedy, John Patrick †  
Mabey, P †  
McCausland, Stella †  
McRae, Joanne *Class of 1993*  
Morrell (nee Collingridge), Patricia *Class of 1948* †  
Rolfe, Patricia *Class of 1936* †  
Spencer, Lois *Class of 1956*  
Tiley, George †  
Vickery, Marian † *Class of 1943*  
Williamson (nee Saxon), Valda † *Class of 1936*  
† Deceased

We are proud to acknowledge previous benefactors.

All care has been taken to ensure accuracy of this list. However, if any error has occurred, please accept our apologies and notify the Advancement Office so that we can amend our records.

If St Vincent’s College is in your estate plan, please contact the Director of Advancement and you will be invited to join the Tarmons Trust, allowing us to acknowledge and thank you in your lifetime.



L-R Foundation Chair Melissa Webber, Director of Advancement David Osborne and Foundation Director Susan Malouf.



# Foundation Thanksgiving Evening





*“Thank you to everyone who donated to our Annual Appeal which this year supported the Elisabeth Carey Scholarship. As a result of your generosity I am pleased to announce the first recipient of the Scholarship has been selected and will join the College with the Year 7 intake in 2020.”*

*Melissa Webber, Foundation Board Chair*





St Vincent's College  
Potts Point

# Spring Fair



# Diary Date!

## 2020 Spring Fair

### Sunday 13 September

### 10am to 3pm



Board

St Vincent's  
Merchandise

St Vincent's College  
Pines Point



# Vincentia

## Newsletter of the Ex-Students' Union

### Our Motto

Girls of St. Vincent's,  
Girls old and new,  
Have gathered and parted,  
All the years through;  
To the motto that ever binds us to you,  
"Scientia cum religione", let us be true!

June Munro, 1st Year A

The design of Vincentia features plants from the Myrtle family which are native to Sydney



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# From the Ex-Students' Union President



## Mrs Mary Doyle

*When I was in primary school, now long gone, we were given a book of Aesop's fables, which became my favourite. We had to read the story and learn the maxim at the end, such as "Slow and steady wins the race," or "Try to please all and you will please none."*

One of the maxims that impressed me was "One good turn deserves another" and I have tried during my life to ensure I return a favour. As a child, St Vincent's gave me the opportunity to have a wonderful education, academically and spiritually. As an adult, I have tried to return the favour, and give back to the College. Being involved in the Ex-Students' Union has given me a wonderful opportunity to help current and future ex-students.

2019 was my final year as President of the Ex-students' Union. My goals as President were to grow the membership, update our communication systems and to encourage fellowship and fun. In the coming years, the Ex-Students' Union hopes to establish a mentoring program for young ex-students, assist the current students in their learning and to help raise funds for the College. The Committee needs to continually replenish so it can meet these needs. We are always happy to hear from any ex-student who is keen to help or join the Committee.

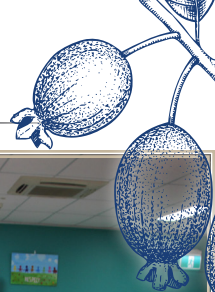
During my time as President I have worked with three Principals, Michelle Hugonnet, Fry Gurr and Anne Fry. I thank them and their staff for their support and encouragement. A good working relationship between the College and the ex-students is essential for the future of the College. We are an invaluable resource.

Without the encouragement, support and assistance from members of the Ex-students' Committee I would not have been able to carry out my roles

over the last eleven years. I am very thankful all those who have been on the Committee in the past and the current members, Genevieve Walsh rsc, Angela Burke rsc, Deborah Blancquart, Bernadene Cox, Katie Mae Crosby, Geraldine King, Francoise McCallum, Joanna Nash and Brielle Streater. All these women have given their time and energy to building the fellowship of the ex-students and supporting the College.



*Vice President, Geraldine King (nee Whelan) - Class of 1986 and Mary Doyle at the Vincenian Mass and High Tea*



Photos taken at the Vincentian Hight Tea



I would also like to thank the Past Presidents, especially Pat Ellis, Shirley McGrath and Francoise McCallum, and past members of the Committee, whose work laid the foundations upon which I have been able to build. These women, most of whom had full time jobs, gave of their time and expertise. Over the

years they raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the College. Many generations of ex-students have benefitted from their efforts and generosity of spirit.

Lastly, I thank the many ex-students with whom I have had the pleasure and honour to meet. I have been amazed by the diversity of paths taken by

ex-students and love hearing their stories. Not just the stories of the high achievers but those of the everyday lives filled with joys, successes, trials and sadly sometimes tragedy. You have given me warmth, fun, support and inspiration. You are truly an amazing group of women and a credit to your school.

## Ex-Students' Union 2020 Committee

### President

Joanna Nash (nee Haddock)  
Class of 1996

### Vice-Presidents

Genevieve Walsh  
Class of 1960

Geraldine King  
Class of 1986

### Secretary and Past President

Mary Doyle  
Class of 1971

### Treasurer

Bernadine Cox  
Class of 1976

### Committee Members

Sr Angela Burke rsc  
Class of 1961

Sr Genevieve Walsh rsc  
Class of 1960

Amy Alagna  
Class of 2007

Deborah Blancquart (nee Lake)  
Class of 1974

Katie Mae Crosby (nee Mallon)  
Class of 1991

Alix Higgins  
Class of 1999

Geraldine King (nee Whelan)  
Class of 1986

Francoise McCallum (nee Renault)

Class of 1956

Brielle Streater  
Class of 2014

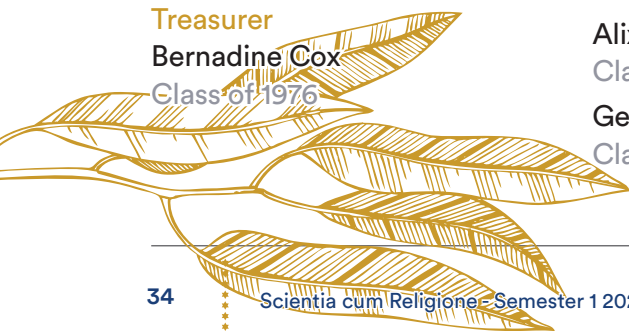
Gemma Thompson  
Class of 2007

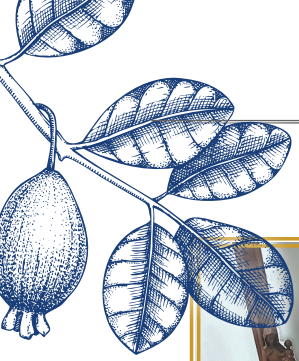


Ex-Students' Union Inc

## Vincentian Memorial Mass

Sunday 1 November 2020  
1:30pm to 3:30pm





# Memorabilia Donations



Archives are a treasured part of our St Vincent's College story, providing current students and visitors with an appreciation of the history and traditions of the College.

We are fortunate to have uniforms, mementos, school reports and more, from our alumnae.

We are always grateful to receive historical items to add to the existing collection and for future display. Arrangements for the donation of archival items and general enquiries can be made by contacting [community@stvincents.nsw.edu.au](mailto:community@stvincents.nsw.edu.au) or contacting the Advancement Office on 02 9358 5398.

## Reunions

*In 2020, we look forward to welcoming back our alumnae from the Classes of 2010, 2000, 1990, 1980 and 1970. Check the website for details!*



Class of 2009 ~ 10-Year Reunion



Class of 1994 ~ 25-Year Reunion



Class of 1989 ~ 30-Year Reunion



Class of 1969 ~ 50-Year Reunion



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# Where Are They Now?

**“I’ve just had an epiphany...again”**

**Joanne McComiskey (nee Brown)  
Class of 1977**



***What have you been doing since finishing school?***

As it has been eons there is a lot on the list. Marriage, family, career, travel and an interstate move. I’ve been a Creative director for House & Garden, Bed Bath N’Table, a freelance stylist for lifestyle magazines and now run my own business -The Bedspread Shop, Melbourne (two retail stores plus online) I’ve been busy...

***What was your most memorable experience at St Vincent’s College? Do you remember your first day?***

Most memorable would have been in the early ‘70s when it hailed so heavily we were wadding about knee deep in white ice around the school driveway - someone even made a hailman! Also Victoria street during the ‘70s was an eye opener - not quite as gentrified as it is now and it provided a lot of colourful viewing from the dorm bathroom windows after dark..if you could squeeze in for a look.



***What quality do you most admire in a woman? Do you have a hero or role model?***

A woman who doesn’t give up, she has a voice and takes risks . Now that I’m officially 59 and twelve months it would be easy to disappear but I’m only hitting my straps. Diane Keating for classic style. Julia Gillard for having a crack.

***What was the last company you worked for and what were you doing?***

Living in Sydney, I started out as an art teacher at Brigidine, St Ives then moved into graphic design/ illustration and finally creative direction for

magazines such as House & Garden - I’ve worked for ACP/Packers stable (now Bauer media) and Murdoch magazines over the years.

Moving to Melbourne in 2005 I initially worked as a freelance stylist for lifestyle/ interior photoshoots for Home Beautiful and House & Garden then, in 2014 I joined the Dempsey Group ( Bed Bath N’ Table) as their creative director managing the studio of photographers and stylists creating the imagery for packaging/ website/social

I now have my own business in Melbourne, since 2015 - The Bedspread Shop est 1982 - we sell quality



bedding and bed linen. As an owner operator I wear a lot of hats (my mother was a milinery buyer so she would be smiling) I do the buying interstate / overseas, design marketing materials, graphics, VM, social media, make cushion covers AND tea and occasionally present at talks etc

I love everything I do so long as it's creative and producing something unique! I find it difficult to do the same thing repetitively. Having a project on the boil excites me so I'm always on the lookout for the next BIG IDEA!

***What has excited you most about being part of the Vinnies Community?***

Loved boarding. The wonderful mix of country and city girls. The perfect balance! Plus SVC provided me with a solid base and a sense of belonging.

***Tell us a fun fact about yourself, something about you that most people don't know.***

They probably don't know for a reason ..so I'll pass on that one

***What is your favourite saying or quote?***

"The wheel turns around, Joanne"....no.. WAIT, that was my mother's favourite, generally when I was in trouble. Um.. Mine would be "Stand aside and let the dog see the rabbit" or "I've just had an epiphany...again"

***What are your study, work, travel plans for 2019 and beyond?***

Travelling to Jaipur hunting textiles to create beautiful coverlets and quilts plus Canada, hopefully to visit friends.

***What is something about yourself that you could totally brag about, but usually don't?***

Fitter and more fabulouser than I was in my twenties... I'm such a late bloomer ha!

***What is the most critical thing you have learnt about yourself since leaving school?***

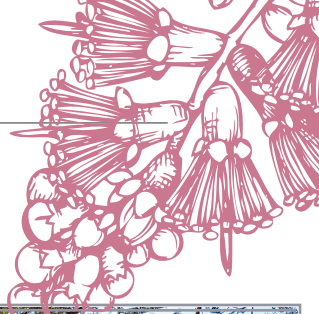
I don't read instructions, easily distracted, can't add up under pressure and limitless patience is not in the DNA.

***What would your advice be for a young girl starting at Vinnies today?***

Think outside the box. Find out what you love, excel at and don't be afraid to veer off the well-trodden path and take risks. Mistakes are valuable lessons. Be brave, jump in and you'll have stories to dine out on.

***"Be brave, jump in and you'll have stories to dine out on."***





# Alumnae News

## Condolences

The Ex-students Union extend their sympathy to the families and friends of the following members of our community:

**Ellen Boyle-Hart** (nee Boyle) - Class of 1975, wife of Greg and mother of Brittany.

**Frances Calvert** - Class of 1968.

**Anne Biela Carolan** - Class of 1945.

**Patricia Mary Doherty** (nee O'Reilly) - Class of 1951.

**Helen Gray** (nee Brennan) - Class of 1954.

**Marie Elizabeth Kay** (nee Howell) - Class of 1946.

**Rosemary Jane O'Brien** - Class of 1974.

**Geraldine Ohlsson** (nee Kavanagh) - Class of 1956, sister of Mary-Anne Kavanagh - Class of 1967, Patrick Kavanagh (dec) - Infants Class of 1948 and Michael Kavanagh - Infants Class of 1959.

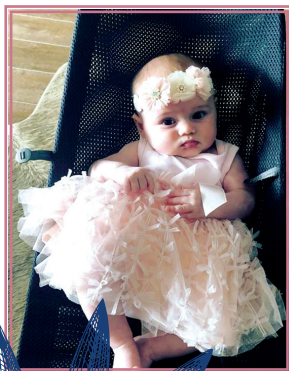
**Judith (Judy) Ann Southan** (nee Day) - Class of 1954.

**Marie Bernadette Storrer** (nee Ford) - Class of 1948.

Marie is survived by her husband Ray, her six children and their partners, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

## Engagements and Babies

Please let us know about your Engagements and the births of your babies, so we can share your joyous news with the Vinnies community!



**Yasmin Pisani** (nee Siely) - Class of 2002 gave birth to a baby girl, Portia, on 15 July 2019.

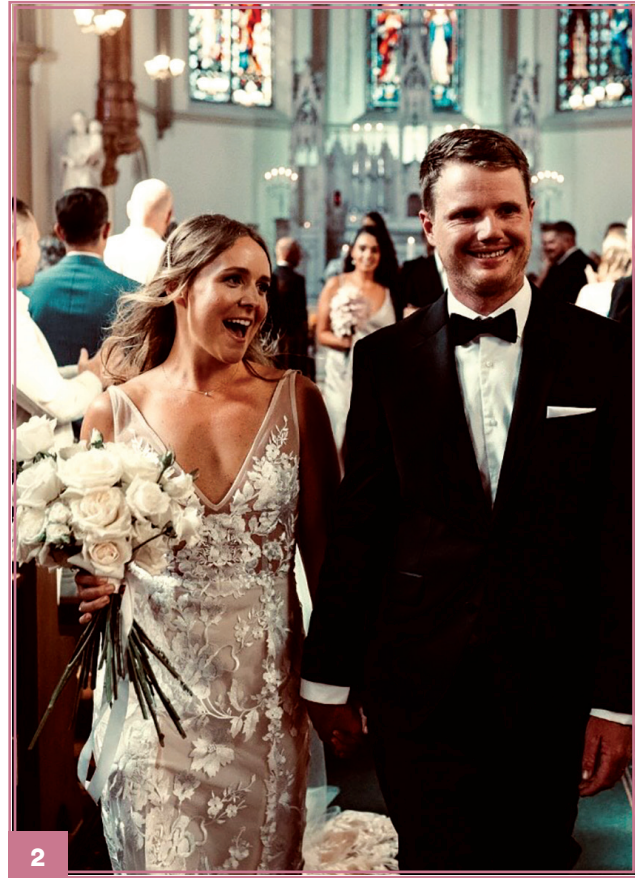


Staff member **Stephanie Matthews** visited us with her son Bo. We couldn't resist giving out our first Mini Vinnie bib!



1. *Alexandra and Scott*  
2. *Jessica and Lewis*  
3. *Gemma and Shaun*





## Congratulations

**Alexandra Dowson Bates** - Class of 2006, married Scott David Forrester at the St Vincent's College Chapel on the afternoon of Saturday 26 October 2019.

**Katherine Berg** - Class of 2008, married Mitchel Pilar at the St Mary's Cathedral on the afternoon of Saturday 9 November 2019.

**Jessica Jenkins** - Class of 2008, married Louis Street at the St Vincent's College Chapel on the afternoon of Saturday 2 November 2019.

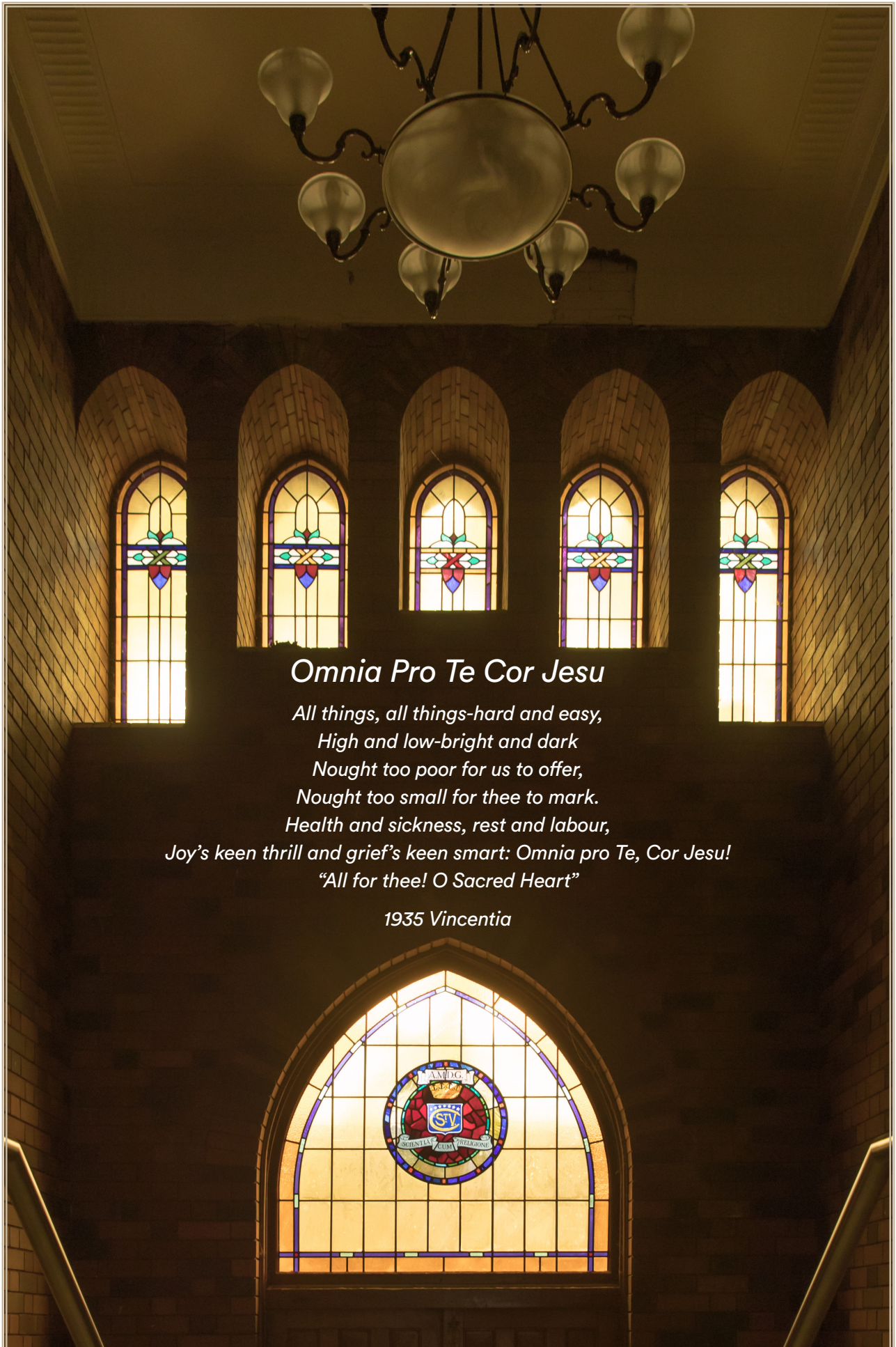
**Gemma Madigan-Beach** - Class of 2004, married Shaun McHugh at the St Vincent's College Chapel on the afternoon of Friday 8 November 2019.

**Kathryn Guy** - Class of 2004, married Nicholas Warren at the St Vincent's College Chapel on the afternoon of Saturday 14 December 2019.

**Siobhan Fildes** (nee Dunn) - Class of 2001, and husband Luke baptised daughter Ruby at the St Vincent's College Chapel on the afternoon of Sunday 10 November 2019.



- 4. Katherine and Mitchel
- 5. Kathryn and Nicholas with family and friends
- 6. Luke and Siobhan with Ruby and Godparents, Melissa McCarthy and Andrew Forster



*Omnia Pro Te Cor Jesu*

*All things, all things-hard and easy,  
High and low-bright and dark  
Nought too poor for us to offer,  
Nought too small for thee to mark.  
Health and sickness, rest and labour,  
Joy's keen thrill and grief's keen smart: Omnia pro Te, Cor Jesu!  
"All for thee! O Sacred Heart"*

*1935 Vincentia*