



St Vincent's College
Potts Point



Under the Stewardship of

MARY
AIKENHEAD
MINISTRIES

Scientia cum Religione

Semester 1 2021



2021 Generosity of Spirit



St Vincent's College
Potts Point

Spring Fair

Sunday
12 September

10am-3pm

Entrance to College Grounds
via Rockwall Crescent



Scientia cum Religione - Semester 1 2021
Vincentia - Newsletter of the Ex-Students' Union

Contact the Advancement Office
community@stvincents.nsw.edu.au

Rockwall Crescent, Potts Point NSW 2011 Australia
stvincents.nsw.edu.au | Phone: +61 2 9368 1611

Cover image: Opening College Mass in Caritas Christi Chapel

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Above Left: Year 7s strike the #ChooseToChallenge pose for 2021 International Womens Day.

Above Right: Students and staff gathered in the Caritas Christi courtyard with the the new leadership team of the Sisters of Charity. Students and staff commissioned them with the traditional "three cheers".

 [linkedin.com/school/stvincentscollegepottspoint](https://www.linkedin.com/school/stvincentscollegepottspoint)

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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.

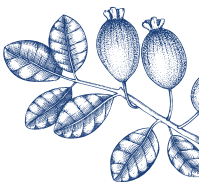
17. International Day of Women and Girls in Science

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Digital Media Equipment

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Vincentia | Newsletter of the Ex-Students' Union

22. From the Ex-Students' Union President

Re-Launching the Vinnies Award / Vincentian Mass / Class Contact Registry

25. Where Are They Now? Alumnae Profile

Angela O'Callaghan (Class of 1971) / Abby Peacock-Smith (Class of 1996) / Emily Gerrard (Class of 2015)

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Congratulations / Condolences



 [facebook.com/groups/SVCexstudentsofficial](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SVCexstudentsofficial)

From the Principal

Anne Fry



Dear Friends and Associates

Welcome to the first edition of *Scientia cum Religione* for 2021. It is a delight to be able to present to you a publication that is not about COVID. Indeed as you peruse this edition, I hope you can get a glimpse of the life and energy that returned to the campus in the early months of this year. The Year 7 and Year 12 students have enjoyed their retreats / camp experiences; the production is in full rehearsal; Saturday Sport has returned and we were even able to gather together as a full school community for Eucharist (the cover photo). Compared to where we were this time last year we have so many reasons to be grateful and optimistic.

I want to use this opportunity to acknowledge that our College Community has addressed the issues raised in February by the petition for earlier and more comprehensive education on sexual consent. This public discussion that was



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generated by the petition has been accompanied by many private conversations with current and past students of the College. I want to thank each of those women for sharing their story with me, for their courage, for their determination to be part of the cultural change that will ensure all Australians are guaranteed with the safety and dignity each is warranted. Within the current student body strong leadership has emerged and the College is committed to continuing to work with these young women and subsequent

cohorts of students to ensure every young woman at St Vincent's College is well aware of the human, legal and moral imperatives and implications of respectful relationships.

This issue has triggered for many women long suppressed trauma and anguish. There are many community agencies able to respond but RESPECT 1800 737 732 is recommended as the first point of contact.

St Vincent's College always had the mandate to be a community where young women learn to respect themselves and all other women. There are times when we have obviously not done enough and earlier enough. From this point of humility we now move forward to listen and respond.

1800RESPECT
 NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC
 FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE

1. Year 12 Retreat
2. Opening Mass



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“
 We share many of
 the same values like
 Respect, Justice
 and Hope with
 other schools, but
 Generosity of Spirit
 is unique
 and different.
 ”



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1. Student Leadership online forum

2. College Co-Captains' address at Assembly

3. Student Leaders #ChooseToChallenge



From the College Co-Captains

Holly Beamond and Lily Deerfield

At St Vincent's College our five core values are tangible in all aspects of College life; in the classroom, on the playground and outside of the College. It is tradition at St Vincents to alternate a focus value each school year; this year our focus value is *Generosity of Spirit*. The 2021 leadership team, unpacked and developed our understanding as a community of what *Generosity of Spirit* really means. To be generous is to give and not think of what will come back, to care wholeheartedly without expecting a favourable end, to take on challenges with a positive approach and, no matter what, always listen to what others have to say. It is when we listen, that we can take in feedback to become our best selves.

Here at St Vincent's College, we believe that it is this value; *Generosity of Spirit* that is our point of difference with other colleges. We share many of the same values like *Respect*, *Justice* and *Hope* with other great schools, but *Generosity of Spirit* is unique and different. To be generous is one take, but to be generous in spirit is special. As Vinnies girls we are willingly to share our gifts with others and take time out of our lives to help those around us. Our aspirations as we enter into our final year at the College, are to continue demonstrating these gifts, to

actively support those around us, and embody this years' value in everything we do.

As student leaders of St Vincent's College in 2021, our primary vision is to rebuild and strengthen our sense of community after the disruptions of COVID in 2020. As young women at St Vincent's College, we depend on each other when confronted with hardships and adversity. We were profoundly impressed by the support that the Vinnies community showed when the Petition for earlier consent education, was released and sparked a pursuit of justice in all of us. Girls responded respectfully and considerately when addressing this topic and discussing the seriousness of the conversation.

Our relationships with each other, and other young women, are strengthened when we are uplifted through shared hope and optimism. This hope is the foundation of change and enables us to provide ongoing support to our peers and the extended community. Our inclusive community, full of hope is one that too, brings joy. This deeper sense of community, allows hope, joy, support and a familial sense of reliability for our whole Vinnies community.

We hope that this will be the legacy of the 2021 leadership team and something to be carried forward once we ourselves leave the College.



"Thanks, Mum"

With these powerful but familiar words our Charism Captain, Lucia thanked her mother (pictured below) for providing this reflection at the Mother's Liturgy held on 28 May. The spirit of generosity present in mothering relationships was celebrated at this important Liturgy.



Good morning, my name is Clare Holt. I have four children - Stella who graduated last year, Lucia who is in Year 12, Hugo who is in Year 10 and Alessandra who is in Year 4.

This opportunity to provide a reflection is a privilege, because it has afforded me the chance to think about connection and the good things that come from it. Mothers hope their children can make connections with good people - people who work hard, are genuine and seek to be of service to others.

Our family's first deep connection with the Sisters of Charity and St Vincent's dates back 53 years, and, while it has since taken many different forms, has remained constant.

In 1968, my mother left Moree at an age younger than many of you, to train as a nurse at St Vincent's Hospital. It was her mother who encouraged her to embark upon a career, to be brave enough to leave

her nine siblings and the small country town she had grown up in and head to the big smoke under the care of the Sisters of Charity. It was a big leap for a shy young woman but it was a calling. Amazingly she is still working at St Vincent's Hospital today. Despite it being a physically and mentally demanding role, Mum loves being a Theatre Sister. She also now trains the younger nurses coming through. Some of the surgeons have told me that she trained them in theatre etiquette too, and they know to be on their best behaviour in her theatre!

The Sisters of Charity taught my mother that a career as a nurse is built upon the foundation of discipline, hard work, pride, empathy and a desire to serve and care for the patient, regardless of their background. Mum also says that touching someone's hand and a gentle, kind word as they head into theatre, sometimes for a life saving procedure, is equally as important as the technical skills she has perfected over the years.

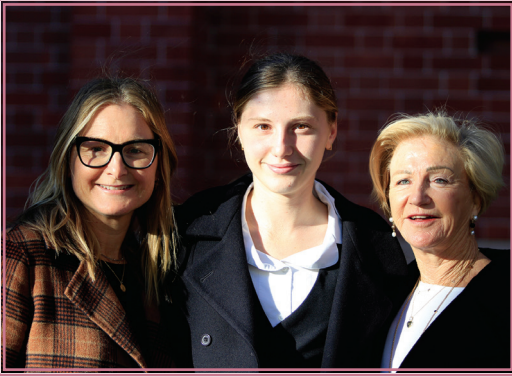
Another connection to this place comes through my sister, who attended this school in the 90's as a boarder (I'd attended school in regional NSW). She loved

her time here, having met girls from everywhere - from Bingara to Botany. She has maintained those friendships, and they have provided her with a genuine sense of connection throughout her life since Vinnies.

Then in 2001, Tony and I were married here in this lovely Chapel, and our lives (as well as those of our children) became further intertwined with this place. Upon reflection, I could not think of a more fitting place to begin our journey with our children.

Our children have had some amazing school experiences, including in Hong Kong and Moree. In Hong Kong, Lucia and her siblings learnt Mandarin and Mahjong, and were wide eyed at the astounding pace of an international city. We have a vivid memory of a typhoon that hit Hong Kong during our time there - apparently the worst in decades. School was cancelled. Workers scurried out of the city to take shelter, and the 80-storey building we lived in swayed.

From Hong Kong we moved to Moree, a deliberate choice to re-settle the children with extended family and to provide a stark contrast. Living in the bush is a far cry from the metropolis of Hong Kong. The children walked



to the little local school each day and joined the cricket club. I can remember the local kids there asking why we did not look like Chinese people. Lucia's photo appeared in the local paper after hitting a four in a helmet so big she actually did not see the ball coming towards her on the hard country pitch. The people we met were welcoming and genuine. It was a special time.

The kids have had a wide range of experiences and met people from all walks of life, but Vinnies has provided an unparalleled source of connection and belonging in their lives, something that has

come to the fore since Stella and Lucia started here in 2015 and 16. We are a close-knit family whose priority is to look out for one another, and this caring ethos is mirrored in the values and atmosphere of Vinnies.

Moving into the present, our eldest daughter Stella, now graduated and studying Medicine, has by chance started her medical training at St Vincent's Hospital and bumps into her Grandmother from time to time. Lucia is climbing the Everest of a year that is the HSC and although she is about to leave school, she has come to realise

that the connection she has established with this place - both its people and its values, will remain a central guiding force throughout her life. And, by the time our youngest daughter starts school here our family connection to the Sisters of Charity and St Vincent's will extend to over 56 years and counting...

Mothers want good things for their children. Good things come from authentic people, who seem to form the backbone of this St Vincent's community. Our journey and connection with these wonderful people has been a blessing.



Sorry Day Reflection

With outstanding generosity of spirit and dignity, Clare Lienesch shared her story of inter-generational trauma caused to the Stolen Generation and their descendents. Clare is one of our Boarding Co-Captains and an emerging leader in her community.

My name is Clare and I'm a proud Barkindji and Malynghapa Woman. I'm a Gurnu Paakantyi Woman from Bourke. Paaka means river, and ntyi means we belong to. 'We are the River People'. Gurnu language and country extends from a little past Bourke to Menindee. We have occupied this country for over 40,000 years.

Until the night of 25 May 2021, I had minimal knowledge of my Aboriginal Elders and our family's history. It finally brings me peace, that I now know their story and my family's story and history. My family was torn apart as a result of the Stolen Generation and the White Man's way.

I have faced many encounters and experiences of racism, because I supposedly 'claim' to be Aboriginal, as a result of my fair coloured skin. It hurts, every time. I try to let it go and try not to think about it, but sometimes things like that you can't just forget about. This is inter-generational trauma.

I was born and raised in Bourke, Ngemba country, a very Aboriginal populated town. Growing up I always wanted to know more about my culture because I didn't have the opportunity to connect with my Elders and learn from them. My Aboriginality or who my mob was were never questioned, I never had to justify myself. I had never been confronted about my Aboriginality or encountered racism until I left my home town. When you tell someone you identify as being Aboriginal you get questioned, constantly having to justify your identity, and the denial of Aboriginality is pure and simple racism. How many other ethnic groups get asked how much percentage they are? Because I honestly can't think of one. People say "Oh but you don't look Aboriginal" or "What percent are you" or the one I dislike the most... "But you've got white skin".

In 1938 the White Man's way changed my whole family's life and it wasn't for the better. My great great Grandmother, Alice Stapleton, was married to a white man, Richard Gilby and became Alice Gilby. She and her family lived in Tibooburra, in North West NSW. Her sister, my great great Aunty Rosie Stapleton married an Aboriginal man, Albert Bates and became Rosie Bates.



In April 1938 the Aboriginal people of Tibooburra were forcibly removed at gunpoint and trucked out to the Brewarrina Mission 560 kms to the East - my great great Aunty Rosie, her Husband and her family were one of those families. My great great Grandmother Alice never saw her sister again.

This was a result of the "concentrate" and "control" policy of the Aborigines Protection Board. Only some families with a legally married white father and Aboriginal mother and those who the Aborigines Protection Board couldn't contact on distant stations remained in the district, among those was my Great Great Grandmother, Alice. The Tindale Photos, which is a table of recorded names of individuals who were forcibly removed from Tibooburra to the Brewarrina Mission records the Ebsworths, Johnsons, Claytons, Hines, Hartnett, Dutton and my Great Great Aunty Rosie Bates, her partner and their children.

After 1938 the Aboriginal community of Tibooburra was dominated by the families left behind including the Monaghan, Morries and Gilby families. Soon other families moved to Tibooburra from adjacent areas of South Australia and Queensland.

In my family's recount of their experiences in the Stolen Generation, Evelyn Crawford, a Wangkumarra

Woman speaks about her view of the arrival of the Tibooburra people in Brewarrina. "We could hear people cryin, crying really loud like Aboriginal people going to a funeral. This cryin made you come. It just went right through you, and pulled you. There were three trucks, the back packed, jam packed with black people, all cryin. The manager went around the back of the truck

and yelled SHUT UP. They slowed down to a little whimper... they herded them Wankamurrahs over to the school, all we could see was there whites of their eyes."

The Wangkumara people were completely alienated, unable to communicate, in a 'strange' land unknown to them, who felt they had no permission to be there and had no permission to leave. After four years they were told they could leave and they did but many did not have the means and perhaps the will to return to their home of Tibooburra, stopping at Bourke and Wanaaring.

It still hurts. It hurts because the Government took my family and my loved ones. They also took my culture, my identity, my knowledge and my heritage. They took things that belong to me. I'm proud to be an individual of Aboriginal ancestry. And I promise my Elders, I will continue to be an advocate and voice for you all, as you couldn't be for yourself.

Charism Captain, Lucia Holt and Social Justice Captain, Charlotte Patchett
share their thoughts on this year's focus Value

2021 Generosity of Spirit

St Paul defined 'charism' as a rare leadership quality that allows others to experience 'the gifts of grace'. It is the extraordinary power of an individual to exemplify and permeate a sense of generosity of spirit, enthusiasm and devotion for the good of others. The notion of 'charism' should be distinguished from religious adherence, theology and practice.

Throughout my time as Charism Captain, I have attempted to apply this attitude in my leadership tasks, and by extension my daily interactions with others. I thoroughly enjoy working with Mrs Kenderes and the Charism Committee to enliven a sense of charism within the school.

I started an initiative, called 'Catalyst of The Week', where we select a relevant and local individual who has demonstrated great vigour in promoting service and generosity of spirit. Our HSC Examination Prayers and the Opening Mass in the Caritas Christi Courtyard were also successful.

The different Easter Liturgies, targeted to each year group, were also successful as they invited students to reconsider how they can both literally and metaphorically 'wash the feet' of others, by embodying selflessness.

It has been a wonderful beginning of Charism, and it will be exciting to continue working to redefine our conception of charism at the College.

Lucia Holt

I believe social justice to be the embodiment of Generosity of Spirit. We are 'socially just' when we look after the good of others before ourselves, constantly striving for equity and fairness in an ever-changing world. Social justice initiatives at St Vincent's have always encompassed generosity in terms of time, presence and action. In light of the year's Value, I hoped to continue and grow this as Social Justice Captain. Within the broader sense of social justice at the College are three smaller focus groups; Vinnies@SVC, Caritas Christi and the Environment Committee. Vinnies@SVC concentrates on generosity within the local community, and began focussing on bushfire

relief, by running a successful donut stall. All proceeds were donated to World Wide Fund for nature, through which the College sponsored a koala, Vinnie, which his 'toy twin' reminds us of at Assemblies.

The Environment Committee has been focusing on creating a rooftop vegetable garden in order to be generous to our environment.

Caritas Christi, which deals with the wider, international community, has had a core focus on raising awareness and ending human trafficking, to be generous of spirit in terms of giving respect. We've had 'Bring a Book Monday' to establish a community library for St Canice's and students, their families and staff have donated well over 200 'snack packs' and over 300 pairs of socks for the homeless.

It is most rewarding working with these Committees and I am thoroughly enjoying all these initiatives.

Charlotte Patchett



Members of the Charism and Social Justice Committees

New Staff Profile

Mitchell Grace Pastoral Dean of Students



It has been an honour to join the community of St Vincent's College this year in the role of Pastoral Dean of Students. On return to Australia, after spending the best part of fifteen years in International Education, I am delighted to join a school that is so highly respected within the community, and is defined by such a valuable history. A school that offers both residential and day programs, in the heart of such a vibrant city, on the edge of a magnificent harbour, has proven to be abundant with opportunity and richness.

In developing my understanding and appreciation of such richness, I have also been blessed with the role of being a Year 7 Tutor and Teacher. Witnessing the transition into high school and being part of that important stage, has been a delightful way to learn alongside the students, about everything that makes St Vincent's distinct. A school that authentically engages with its core values in shaping programs that offer all students the opportunity to become Courageous, Women of Action.

As part of the role, Pastoral Dean of Students, working closely with Heads of Houses and the larger faculty, I am delighted with the level of respect and care that is provided to every student. Seeing the very best in what our students offer and concentrating on the strengths of character our students uniquely possess, has been a longstanding virtue of the College, which is underpinned by the vision of our founding Sisters of Charity, and guided by an Ignatian Spirituality. Being mindful of God's work in all things and taking the time to appreciate the extra-ordinary in the everyday, are sentiments that will continue to inform our approaches in furthering our school wide programs.

At St Vincent's, all students and teachers engage in *Cura Personalis* (Care of the Whole Person) sessions fortnightly, and more regularly

for our Year 7 students. The programme takes the opportunity to ensure students are engaging with evidence-based interventions that promote elevated and sustained wellbeing – a key part of our proactive pastoral support. By savouring the moments of good, committing to being mindful and present, highlighting acts of character and practicing optimism and gratitude, all students strengthen their connectedness to the culture of wellbeing - that is 'St Vincent's'.

In building upon the rich tapestry and privilege of what it means to be a 'Vinnies Girl', our pastoral focus is ultimately concerned with building strong authentic connections within the community. By ensuring our students have every opportunity to be reminded of the best of themselves and each other, and have the confidence to seek the trusted and expert guidance and support whenever necessary, we are optimistic that navigating secondary education and the 'age and stage' challenges that arise along the way, 'Vinnies Girls' will have the resources before them, to thrive.



Pastoral Care Team



Vinnies Girls #ROCKTHECHOP

Vinnies Girls 'Rocked The Chop' to the tune of over \$40,000 and countless hair donations!

The 'Ponytail Project' saw many girls cut off their beautiful locks on 19 March 2021 to raise funds and provide human hair for wigs - every ponytail chopped, and every dollar donated, will help fund life-changing research and ensure Cancer Council can support communities going through their cancer journeys.

Our congratulations to Social Justice Captain, Charlotte Patchett (pictured above) for this initiative which has raised both awareness and a staggering amount of money - at last tally over \$40,000 through the generous, spirited response of our community!

Our sincere thanks to all who generously donated their time/dollars/hair to this initiative - a true example of #VinniesSpiritInAction!



Celebrating International Women's Day with two former Students

In recognition of International Women's Day this year, we interviewed two former students, namely Winnie Kiap, Class of 1960 and Erin Bouda, Class of 2009.

Winnie Kiap was interviewed by current Year 12 student Riki Wells.

Based in London for the last nine years, Winnie is a senior diplomat for her country, Papua New Guinea. She is the High Commissioner to Cyprus and South Africa as well as the PNG Ambassador to Egypt, Israel, and Zimbabwe. She is also heavily involved with the UN.

“My role is very much about promoting PNG,” Winnie explained. “As PNG is not well known globally, it is my role to ensure that our voice is heard on the big issues.”

Asked about the theme for International Women's Year, #ChooseToChallenge, Winnie stated that “the challenge for change is all about challenging the imbalance against women.”

With that, Winnie expressed her disappointment that things have moved so slowly for women. “When you remember that it was way back in 1903 that Marie Curie won the Nobel Prize for physics and it was in 1918 that women won the right to vote here in the UK, yet so little progress has been made since those days.”

“Today we need more women in leadership positions because

it just makes no sense to have half the population not involved.”

Winnie's advice to students today: “what I told my daughters and what I believe in wholeheartedly, is to make sure that whatever talents you have, you use them for the service of others. That's the approach to live by.”

Winnie stressed that still today, she is very much a St Vincent's person. “I have beautiful memories of my time at the school. And since then, my two daughters were students and also two granddaughters have been students more recently.”



We will forge positive visibility of women

#ChooseToChallenge



International Women's Day

We will try to influence others' beliefs and actions

#ChooseToChallenge





Erin Bouda, interviewed by Year 11 student, Ella Humphrey, told us she has been with Channel 9 in Sydney for some eight years carrying out a range of roles for the *Today* show. She is currently the Supervising Producer, for the *Weekend* program, and in this role she leads a team of five producers – all of whom happen to be women.

Our College value this year of *Generosity of Spirit* was exemplified by Erin when she talked about women helping each other. “You want to go out and change the world, and I get that, but very often it is a matter of doing something small to help the person in your team, in your friendship group or in your family,” she said.

“It is so important for women to be supporting one another. And I can see, the pendulum is

swinging in our direction, in the direction of equality.”

Erin is very clear about the need for women to be strong. “When it comes to equality in the workplace,” she explains,

“It is so important for women to be supporting one another. And I can see, the pendulum is swinging in our direction, in the direction of equality.”

“there is no doubt women are as capable as men but we have to remember that when it is needed, we have to be as strong as the occasion requires.”

“To be treated equally, you have to act equally and sometimes that means putting aside emotion and being

confident enough to walk in and ask for whatever it is you deserve.”

Erin said her biggest takeaway from the College remains the friendships she made. “I loved the school and I loved the network of girls I was with and I am so pleased we are still friends and we still support each other.”

Reflecting on her time at school, Erin said, “at Vinnies you are taught you can do anything and that’s so important to remember.”

In the interview she recalled the old saying, “girls can do anything – and Vinnies’ girls can do everything.”

Erin finished on a very positive note by highlighting her belief that “the generation coming through now should be very confident for it is only going to get better for women.”

We will celebrate women's achievements

#ChooseToChallenge

We will help forge a gender equal world

#ChooseToChallenge

We will challenge gender stereotypes and bias

#ChooseToChallenge



Year 7 Boarders

Embracing All Opportunities

For this issue of our magazine, we interviewed five of our 2021 Year 7 Boarding girls. One of the first things that strikes you when you meet a group like this is the diversity of the regions they come from.

The girls interviewed were:

- Kamryn from Alice Springs
- Alison from Gilgandra, 432 km north-west of Sydney
- Alysa from Dubbo, 388 km north-west of Sydney
- Grace from Wollongong, 80km south of Sydney
- Jessica from the Hunter Valley, 120 km north of Sydney.

Of course, each of these girls brought to the Boarding House at the beginning of the year, their own unique experience of life before St Vincent's. However, by the end of Term 1, they were very much united in their enthusiasm for the boarding experience and for the vast array of opportunities that are on offer.

By offering boarding as an option, we all know we are providing our girls with a unique opportunity to broaden their horizons. And judging by the responses from the 'new' boarders we interviewed, they heartily agree.

Grace admitted she was a little nervous about beginning as a boarder but also hugely excited. "I was so eager to get here and begin making new friends," she said, "although my six siblings were not all that keen about seeing me go."

"Boarding is so much fun because you are always with your friends and there are always so many different things to do."



“

I was so eager to get here and begin making new friends

”

The girls generally agreed that having family ahead of you who are or who have been boarders makes the prospect of boarding and the general lifestyle change much easier. Four of the girls are in this category and have certainly benefited from their sisters, mums or relatives having been St Vincent's Boarders.

"I was very excited about being here from day one," says Jess, "and I love being able to go into town with friends and, in fact, being around friends all the time." Jess is so happy about boarding even though it means she does not see her much loved Cavoodle, (Shelby).

All of the girls interviewed reported being enthusiastic about marking International Women's Day early in March. Each table grouping in the Boarders's dining room was allocated the name of an outstanding woman ranging from the famous English fashion designer Dame Vivienne Westwood to Australia's first canonised saint, Mary McKillop RSJ. By discussing these women over dinner, the Year 7 Boarders gained deep insights into these women of achievement.

The boarders all love the fact that there are so many activities they can get involved in. Kamryn particularly likes the cooking competitions (desserts are her favourite) and they all enjoy trying different sports or interests like Drama and Theatresports that appeal to them.

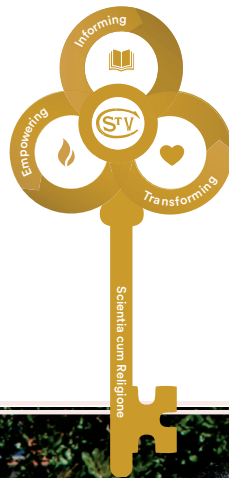
If we take the Year 7 girls we interviewed as a guide, with their positivity and love of boarding, there can be no doubt that our Boarding Co-ordinators are giving the girls every opportunity to develop into courageous and passionate women of action. As all parents know, launching young people into adulthood is not simply a matter of making sure they benefit from the best possible education, as important as that is. It is also vital to provide the sort of environment - and support systems - that promote good mental health and life skills for building resilience, resourcefulness and social confidence.

At the St Vincent's Boarding House, students have so many opportunities. And it is encouraging to see that the Year 7 students we interviewed are embracing every aspect of boarding school life.



Continuing the Trend of Academic Success

In a year that has had more than its fair share of bad news and disappointments, it is with particular pride, excitement and delight that we present to you the highlights of our academic success in 2020. Among the most abiding memories of the year will be the extraordinary fortitude, resilience and goodwill shared by the Graduating Class of 2020.



In true Vinnies' Spirit, our graduating class of 2020 found the strength to not only persevere, but to prosper as these outstanding results reflect. We could not be more proud of the 2020 graduands; this fine group of young women graduated into uncertain times, but they left the College informed, transformed and empowered by their education.



DUX

2020 College Dux
Stella Holt



Stella Holt ad Mia Chaaya



Top Achiever (State)
2nd Place Studies of Religion II
Mia Chaaya



Highest ATAR

2020 Grace Robinson Prize
Mia Chaaya

OnSTAGE

Samara Cottell

Individual performance

Ellen Ebbs*

Individual performance

Domenica Mitchell

Individual performance

Isobel Morrissey

Individual performance

Bibi O'Loghlin

Individual performance

Art Express

Bronte Gooch*

Visual Arts



17

NESA
Nominations

Shape 2020 Exhibition

Emma Collinson*

Major Textiles and Design Project

Charlotte Pizzinato

Major Design and Technology Project

Georgie Ward

Major Design and Technology Project

Callback

Niamh O'Sullivan

Core Composition

Core Performance

Major Study Performance

Mia Cameron

Core Composition

Major Study Performance

Isabella Ciappara

Major Study Performance

Eloise Collins

Core Composition

Texstyle 2020 Exhibition

Lauren Carr

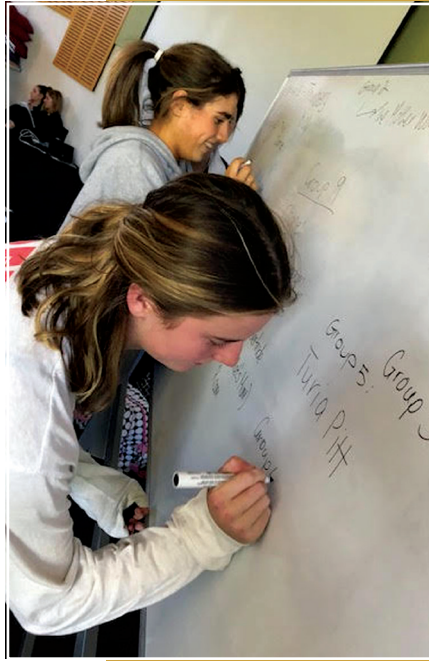
Major Textiles and Design Project



Year 7 Camp and Year 12 Retreat

Two 1:100 year events in 2020 and 2021 caused the Year 7 Camps to be postponed. In 2020 it was COVID, and 2021 it was the deluge of rain that swept across NSW in April. Happily though, both Camps were rescheduled and the Year 7 students were able to enjoy consolidating their friendships, enjoying new challenges and experiences, deepening their capacity to be generous in spirit.

The Year 12 Retreat was the only program that survived the deluge, despite having to change venues because the road access to the original site was washed out. They enjoyed the time to leave the business of Year 12 and their phones behind them. In the silence, in their conversations and in each other's company, they embraced the sacred opportunity to discern the presence of God.



International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Many Vinnies girls have chosen to turn their passion for Science into a career over the decades, but with so many possible pathways, how can our budding scientists decide which is the one for them?

One option is to apply to attend The National Youth Science Forum, a ten-day residential program designed to give students a broader understanding of the diverse study and career options available in STEM and to encourage continued studies in these fields.

Last year student Ellie Singleton was successful in her application to attend the NYSF Year 12 Program run in January 2021. Due to COVID-19, Ellie's plans to attend the program at The University of Queensland were changed as the program was moved online, however this did not quell her enthusiasm as she immersed herself in all the NYSF had to offer.

"We met and heard the journeys of Nobel Laureate recipients and we attended specialist lectures on varied areas of science. We met people from across Australia and learnt about their careers and the pathways they took, across multiple areas of science, and introduced me to careers I had never even considered. We also performed at home experiments. - my favourite was making bioplastic out of starch. This plastic was strong and flexible, but

is environmentally friendly, and could be used as a good alternative to our current plastics."

Ellie's favourite lecture was about the 'Homeland of Modern Humans' by Professor Vanessa M Haynes, "The Professor was looking at variances in genomes, which revealed the intersections of different groups of people that made up a person's DNA.

Genomic research, which is a field I find incredibly interesting, is also used in Antarctica to see the intersection of microorganisms in the ice throughout history, which reveals the different climates of the time."

The NYSF isn't just about the learning and development of the individual and their interests. Based on their answers to pre-forum questions, participants are assigned to an 'interest group', giving a number of like-minded students time to discuss their ideas, as well as

build friendships. "I was in the Carson group, which focussed on Sustainability, Ecology and the Environment. We discussed philosophical questions, riddles, politics, controversial topics and our hobbies."

Ellie highly encourages all Year 11s doing Science to apply to attend the NYSF. "The NYSF was an incredible experience which has opened my eyes to many more pathways, and the door to a world of opportunities and possibilities. I learnt so much, and made friends with interests both similar and different to my own, all sharing a love of science and a belief of its importance in our world.





Gratitude for P&F Grant

Digital Media Equipment

The Visual Arts and TAS Department would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to the St. Vincent's College Parents & Friends Association for their generosity in approving a grant towards the purchase of professional, industry standard digital equipment for our Visual Arts and TAS students in Years 7 to 12.

Photography, Film and Digital Media plays a significant role in the curriculum by providing specialised learning opportunities to enable students to understand and explore the nature of photographic and digital media as an important field of artistic practice, conceptual knowledge and technological procedures. The new digital equipment will support student learning and assist in extending our pedagogical objectives, in Stages 4 to 6 of the Visual Arts and TAS curriculum.

Much of student knowledge of the world and their notions of cultural and self-identity come from a graphic world, where photographic and digital images permeate the visual arts and design, television, film, video, internet, mass media and multimedia. Digital technologies are important in the development and creation of digitally based artworks and products. The implementation of this type of specialised digital equipment supports contemporary learning and provides learning opportunities in this space. It supports and extends the students in the development of ideas, concepts and ultimately assists them in developing their creative concepts into innovative, accomplished and thought-provoking artworks and products. The digital equipment allows us as educators to further develop exciting and engaging Visual Arts and TAS programs for students to engage in. Through effective teaching and learning, students' knowledge of photographic and digital media can become increasingly deep, multifaceted, more confident and insightful.

Again, we are immensely thankful to the P&F Association for their continual support of the Visual Arts and TAS departments in the purchase of the new digital equipment. The use of the digital technologies will ultimately assist us in providing St Vincent's College students great opportunities to further develop their skills within the specialised areas of Photography, Film and Digital Media.

Tanya Schneider
Visual Arts and Design Teacher

**“
Photography, Film
and Digital Media are
extremely relevant
to our contemporary
world context and of
fundamental interest
to students.
”**



Foundation News

Trailblazer and Philanthropist Dr Grace Robinson

If you would like to look up to a courageous woman of action, you need to look no further than Grace Boelke (nee Robinson).

Grace was born way back in 1870 in the Sydney suburb that is now known as Stanmore. She graduated from St Vincent's College in 1887 and then went on to the University of Sydney.

For students today, that may not seem so extraordinary. However, we must remember that in the 1880s very few girls went to university. But not only did Grace go to university, she graduated in 1893 with a double degree, a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery.

Grace won accolades from the university for her work in surgery and midwifery, and was one of the first two female medical graduates from the university.

Despite the many obstacles facing women entering the medical profession in the late nineteenth century, Grace went on to a successful career in medicine, blazing a trail for generations of women to come.

After university, Grace applied for a position at the Sydney Hospital for Sick Children but despite excellent references she was rejected. Why? Quite simply, because she was a woman! However, she was successful in



acquiring a position as resident medical officer at the Sydney Benevolent Asylum – a position she held for some fifteen years. (The Asylum was a philanthropic organisation established in 1818 in George Street caring primarily for poor, abandoned, destitute and sick people).

In the year after her graduation, 1894, Grace married a German-born fellow medical graduate

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 our recognition society through which we honour those who have decided to support the College through their Will.

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 foster the next generation of students like Dr Grace Robinson.

Your trust in the future of the College makes this possible.

David Osborne
Director of Advancement

Tarmons Trust Members

Anonymous † Class of 1930
Callen, Colleen †
Carolan, Anne † Class of 1945
Conrad (nee Bourke), Leonie Class of 1944
Donnelly, Mary Frances Stephanie †
Foley, Lucy Winifred †
Freestone, Roma †
Gilsenan, Victoria Class of 1976
Kennedy, John Patrick †
Mabey, Peter †
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
Wilschefski, Wilga † Class of 1947

† 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.

The University of Sydney Medical School began teaching in 1883 and in the first ten years there were no female graduates.

named Paul Boelke, and the couple made a home for themselves in Manly.

Sadly, marrying a man of German background later created an additional hurdle for Grace. For about six years from 1909, Grace held the position of assistant medical inspecting officer with the Department of Public Instruction. However, the anti-German feeling shown towards her led the State branch of the British Medical Association to question her suitability and she was forced to resign.

In 1912, Grace founded the Professional Women's Association. The aim of this forward-thinking group was to unite professional women to

campaign for improvement in the social standing of women. For thirteen years from 1913 she was also the convenor of the standing committee on health for the National Council of Women of New South Wales, and she was also a founding member (1921) of the State branch of the League of Nations Union.

In the later part of her career, Grace was employed as Medical Director for the Australian lingerie manufacturer, Berlei. This role involved overseeing the welfare of the company's female workers while also ensuring the "correct anatomical lines for Berlei garments".

Following her husband's death in 1923, Grace travelled abroad and

spent her time carrying out vital research into the state of health of women and children.

Grace embodied our College value, *Spirit of Generosity*. Upon her death she generously donated her very substantial estate to the library of the Royal Society of Medicine, London. The bequest was for the benefit of medical research which clearly reflected her lifelong dedication to the advancement of modern medicine.

The entire St Vincent's College can be very proud of the contribution that Grace made to the advancement of Australian women.

David Osborne
Director of Advancement

Past student who always valued education leaves a generous bequest



In February we were saddened to hear of the death of Wilga Ann Wilschefska (Class of 1947) who was a librarian who had lived her life with faith, courage and humour. She will be greatly missed by all whose lives she touched. She was 89.

Wilga grew up in Edgecliff and when she completed her schooling, she worked within the State Government in both the Electricity Commission and Department of Agriculture. At the same time, she began studies in librarianship. She also completed a Bachelor of Arts (Modern History) at the University of Sydney.

During the 1950s, Wilga took the extraordinary step for a young woman of her era to move to Canada where she worked for more than a year as a librarian at McGill University in Montreal. She then returned to Sydney but the appeal of travel did not leave her

and in 1964 she moved to the US and completed her Masters in Library Science at Florida State University. Upon return to Australia she focussed on working in the education sector and was a senior librarian at Macquarie University for many years and then at UTS. It was while she was at UTS that she authored academic works on librarianship.

Wilga died peacefully at Albert Court a St Vincent's care facility on 7 February this year. A Requiem Mass was held at St Joseph's Edgecliff with the College represented by Anne Fry, Principal, Melissa Webber, College Board Director and Chair of the St Vincent's College Foundation and David Osborne, Director of Advancement.

Her deep affection for her alma mater and the gratitude for the education she received from the Sisters of Charity remained with her always. Wilga left a generous bequest to the St Vincent's College Foundation to support our Scholarships and Bursaries. Our condolences go to all close family friends of Wilga in particular Paula (Class of 1961) and Alex Adamovich.



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!

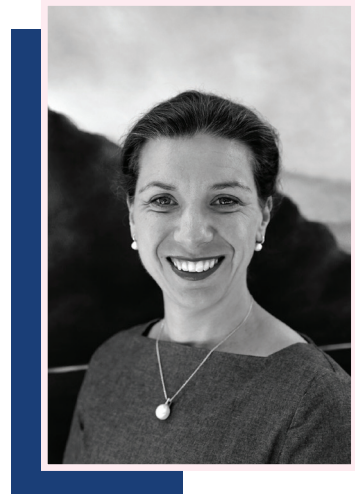
June Munro, 1st Year A

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

From the Ex-Students' Union President

Mrs Joanna Nash

As we start a new year, we are looking forward to a very different year to 2020. With restrictions starting to ease the committee will move back to a combination of in person and online meetings.



We successfully held the AGM last year via zoom and it was nice to see so many ex-students dial in to attend. Reunions are still in the early preparation stages but many classes are looking to hold events in the second half of the year. I myself will celebrate my 25-year reunion and am looking forward to catching up with many classmates. We have included the class co-ordinators for those with significant reunions in case you wish to directly contact them to see what is happening for your year. Once we know details, we will provide updates.

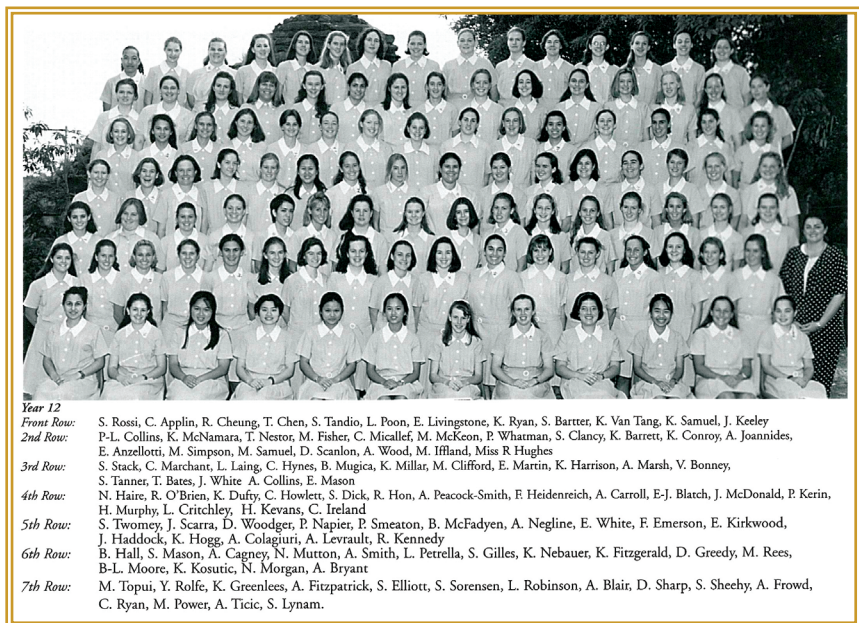
This year we continue to update our database and move to online communications. I once again encourage all members to join our Facebook group [facebook.com/groups/SVCexstudentofficial](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SVCexstudentofficial) where more regular news is shared and details of upcoming events. We will again look to host the annual mass and afternoon tea in November to not only remember those that have past in the last year but also to give an opportunity for old friends to gather. We were particularly

saddened to hear of the passing of Sr St Jude Doyle who has had many connections with the college being an ex-student, Sister of Charity and of course teacher at the college - there is a lengthier obituary contained in the Vincentia.

In this edition of *Where Are They Now?* we have contacted some of the ladies who are celebrating their 25 or 50-year reunions this year to get some of their reflections and to see where life has taken them. We hope you enjoy it.

We look forward to seeing many of you at reunions or events this year. Let us continue to pray that life continues in the 'new normal' and enjoy the freedoms that we have come to appreciate so much in this past year.

*Joanna Nash (nee Haddock)
Class of 1996*



Year 12
Front Row: S. Rossi, C. Applin, R. Cheung, T. Chen, S. Tandio, L. Poon, E. Livingstone, K. Ryan, S. Barter, K. Van Tang, K. Samuel, J. Keeley
2nd Row: P.-L. Collins, K. McNamara, T. Nestor, M. Fisher, C. Micallef, M. McKeon, P. Whatman, S. Clancy, K. Barrett, K. Conroy, A. Joannides, E. Anzellotti, M. Simpson, M. Samuel, D. Scanlon, A. Wood, M. Iffland, Miss R. Hughes
3rd Row: S. Stack, C. Marchant, L. Laing, C. Hynes, B. Mugica, K. Millar, M. Clifford, E. Martin, K. Harrison, A. Marsh, V. Bonney, S. Tanner, T. Bates, J. White, A. Collins, E. Mason
4th Row: N. Haire, R. O'Brien, K. Duffy, C. Howlett, S. Dick, R. Hon, A. Peacock-Smith, E. Heidenreich, A. Carroll, E.-J. Blatch, J. McDonald, P. Kerin, H. Murphy, L. Critchley, H. Kevans, C. Ireland
5th Row: S. Twomey, J. Scarra, D. Woodger, P. Napier, P. Smeaton, B. McFadyen, A. Negline, E. White, F. Emerson, E. Kirkwood, J. Haddock, K. Hogg, A. Colagiuri, A. Levrault, R. Kennedy
6th Row: B. Hall, S. Mason, A. Cagney, N. Mutton, A. Smith, L. Petrella, S. Gilles, K. Nebauer, K. Fitzgerald, D. Greedy, M. Rees, B.-L. Moore, K. Kosutic, N. Morgan, A. Bryant
7th Row: M. Topui, Y. Rolf, K. Greenlees, A. Fitzpatrick, S. Elliott, S. Sorensen, L. Robinson, A. Blair, D. Sharp, S. Sheehy, A. Frowd, C. Ryan, M. Power, A. Ticio, S. Lynam.

The Class of 1996



Please join our facebook group



where ex-students can find more timely updates of events and information.

Re-Launching the Vinnies Award!

As we have done in previous years we are once again launching the Vinnies Award. This is awarded to an ex-student who continues to embrace the Vinnies spirit via contributions to their local community, ex-students community or society more broadly. Previous recipients have included Gemma Sisia, Shirley McGrath and Sr St Jude. This year we are looking for nominations for both a junior and senior awardee. The Junior awardee being having left school within the last 30 years and the senior awardee someone who has left school more than 30 years ago. Please provide nominations to stvincentsexstudents@gmail.com by 31 July 2021.



Ex-Students' Union Inc

Vincentian Memorial Mass

Sunday, 7 November 2021
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Class Contact Name

1945	Pat Ellis
1953	Paula Gallagher
1954	Annette O'Connor
1955	Denise Scahill (Brenac)
1956	Margaret Daley (Sheahan)
1957	Eleanor Murphy (Curran)
1958	Mary Ancich
1960	Jan Cowell (McLaughlin)
1960	Genevieve Walsh rsc
1961	Lyndall Howes (Grosvenor)
1962	Patricia Barron (McCarthy)
1963	Therese Nutt
1964	Sandy Borger (Baz)
1965	Jane Nelson (Cramsie)
1967	Chris Faulks (Hagan)
1968	Antoinette Baron
1968	Patsy Toland (McHugh)
1968	Elizabeth Humphrey (Bye)
1969	Gerardine Grace
1970	Fran Foley (Henneberry)
1971	Mary Doyle
1972	Rosemary Mallam (Dickson)
1973	Deborah Perrin (Lawson)
1974	Deborah Blancquart (Lake)
1974	Jane Elliot
1975	Deirdre O'Dea (Keaney)
1976	Joan Baldry (Armstrong)
1978	Lynne Fetterplace (Sykes)
1978	Wendy Swadling (Drew)
1979	Virginia Malley



Class Contacts Registry

To help you stay connected to your classmates, we have created a registry of class contact alumnae. If your class is not represented here and you would like to volunteer to be the contact for your year, please email stvincentsexstudents@gmail.com and let us know!

Email	Class	Contact Name	Email
patce@hotmail.com	1980	Annette Greenhalgh	bungaybelles@bigpond.com
paulatherese@bigpond.com	1980	Catherine Moore	Moorehealth@gmail.com
annette.cunliffe@rscsisters.com.au	1982	Christine Raeside (Chapman)	craeside11@gmail.com
auntynina39@gmail.com	1983	Geraldine King (Whelan)	geraldine.king@gmail.com
bobdaley@optusnet.com.au	1984	Donna Rygate	dr28.cna04@gmail.com
eleanor.murphy@bigpond.com	1986	Alicia Long	aliciajlong2103@gmail.com
ancichm@gmail.com	1986	Cecily York (Thornton)	cecily.thornton@gmail.com
cowelljm@tpg.com.au	1987	Cath King	Cath.King@awe.gov.au
genevievewalsh@bigpond.com	1989	Jenny Killinger (Kovacs)	jennykillinger2008@gmail.com
lyndallhowes@hotmail.com	1991	Katie-Mae Crosby (Mallon)	gkcrosby1@bigpond.com
pmbarron@optusnet.com.au	1992	Siobhann Roberts-Thomson	siobhannrt@me.com
tnutt@bigpond.net.au	1994	Suzanne Laing	suzannelaing@hotmail.com
sandyborger@gmail.com	1995	Annika Osterberg	aosterberg@deloitte.com
janenelson48@gmail.com	1996	Joanna Nash (Haddock)	joannahaddock@yahoo.com
chris@faulksco.com.au	1997	Naomi Green (Tubridy)	naytub@hotmail.com
nettieb50@hotmail.com	1999	Alix Higgins	alixhiggins81@gmail.com
patsytoland2@hotmail.com	2000	Kate Weston (Cooke)	k8_weston@hotmail.com
ebhumphrey@live.com.au	2006	Courtney Fitzgerald-Power	courtney@divineevents.com.au
leurablue@icloud.com	2007	Amy Alagna	amy_alagna@hotmail.com
franandtimfoley@yahoo.com.au	2007	Gemma Thompson	gemma.c.thompson@hotmail.com
stvincentsexstudents@gmail.com	2008	Emily Miller (Perrin-Lawson)	emily.miller@ovolohotels.com
rosemary@myfabric.com.au	2009	Erin Bouda	erinbouda@hotmail.com
debbieperrin13@gmail.com	2010	Emma Saunig	emmasaunig@gmail.com
svc.class1974@gmail.com	2011	Michelle Choy	mchoy0111@gmail.com
stvincentsexstudents@gmail.com	2013	Edwina Foschini	efoschini@hotmail.com
deirdre.odea@optusnet.com.au	2016	Prue Gordon	prue.gordon99@hotmail.com
joan.ee.armstrong@gmail.com	2019	Grace McGree	gracemcgree01@gmail.com
lynnefett@icloud.com	2020	Ellen Ebbs	ellen.ebbs@icloud.com
wendymark@optusnet.com.au			
stvincentsexstudents@gmail.com			





Where Are They Now?

Education Underpinned by a Platform of Social Justice

Angela O'Callaghan, Class of 1971

It is fifty years since, aged 14, I left our much-loved family farm near Dubbo for life as a boarder at St Vincent's College. I was following in the footsteps of my mother and grandmother. Little did I know that I would one day farewell two daughters as they made the same journey from our family farm.

My year group was cohesive and welcoming, which helped ensure a smooth transition into the unfamiliar world of a city education and boarding. It was at St Vincent's I developed an enjoyment of public speaking which I now use in my work as a funeral celebrant, providing free services for those of limited financial means.

I feel very fortunate for the education I received at St Vincent's, which was underpinned by a platform of social justice. We left school believing we could achieve our goals and dreams and that we had a responsibility to contribute positively to our communities. St. Vincent's had wonderful staff members with a deep passion for their subject areas. These included Maths teacher Sister Antonius, (Sister Margaret), English teacher Sister Aquinas and Science teacher Sister Bonaventure (Sister Janet). Miss

Quoyle, who taught me speech and drama for five years was a legend at the school. She kindly took a group of her students to lunch at the revolving restaurant at Australia Square. I can still feel the excitement of the occasion.

1972 saw me experience amazing hospitality and generosity as a Rotary exchange student in Mississippi, then the poorest state in the USA. It was an extraordinary experience, with many highlights and life time friendships forged. Schools and universities had only been integrated a few years previously. I recall being taught about World War 12 as our teacher couldn't read roman numerals. Through Rotary, I stayed with an ex-student of St Vincent's, who had been a war bride. She and her husband, who owned the world's largest wholesale grocery company, flew me to New Orleans for a weekend on their private jet.

On completion of the Higher School Certificate, I was awarded a teacher's scholarship by the NSW Department of Education, which led to a forty-year career in rural schools. My philosophy for student success, adopted from the practices of some of my talented teachers at St Vincent's, was



based on the importance of student self-belief and quality relationships between pupils and their teachers. As Principal of Brewarrina Central School, where all but one of 220 students was Aboriginal and Narromine High School where the majority of students came from low socio economic backgrounds, I did my best to encourage and enable students to achieve their dreams and preferred post school options.

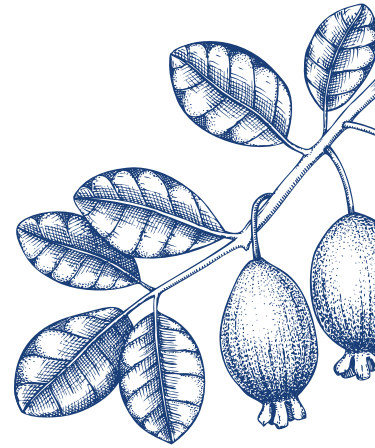
I met my husband in my first year of teaching. Together, we have farmed in the Riverina and Western New South Wales, experiencing the highs and lows brought by the seasons. We have recently sold our farm and are looking forward to relocating to Orange and enjoying the good food and wine offered by the district.



Where Are They Now?

Be Brave, be Confident and Trust your Judgement

Abby Peacock-Smith, Class of 1996



When did you attend Vinnies and were you a day student or a boarder?

I went to Vinnies from Years 7 to 12 as a day student. I asked my parents to let me board, often... a more than slightly ridiculous suggestion considering where we lived. If I am honest I think I desperately just wanted to justify owning rugby jerseys in a variety of colours.

What was your fondest/funniest memory of your time at Vinnies?

The lifelong friendships I have made, the feeling of community and the broad range of activities and opportunities that I was offered with being a Vinnies girl.

What was your favourite subject/teacher at school?

I can confidently say that this will surprise him greatly as I was not his greatest student, though I think Japanese with Mr Bourke. He was engaging and fun, he was a great teacher.

What did you do the year after you left school?

I skipped schoolies and started working in a busy cafe. I was so confident in that decision the time and it paid off, not only because it was a brilliant and fun environment to work in though I was able to quickly save some money to buy my first car. It was an old, ugly and green little car though it ran well and



gave me independence to get between work and university, which I loved. My first year of uni was a chaotic balance of studying, working and settling into social life. I realised quickly how much I loved studying nursing and really enjoyed my practical placements. I also made some amazing friends that kept me grounded in what was a pretty hectic but fun few years.

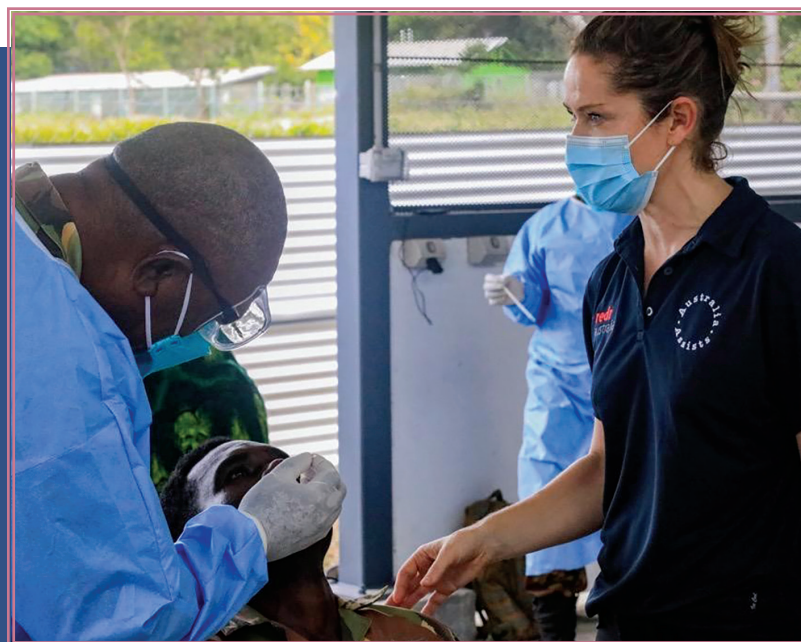
What absolutely is one piece of advice you would give to your 17-year-old self?

Be brave, be confident and always trust your judgement. You'll make some awesome decisions, and some pretty rubbish ones but if you make sure every choice you make brings you happiness you'll be just fine. Also... never flap or panic about not being someone who makes 'five-year plans'. You may find you'll be a person who will be joyous, rewarded and full of purpose in spite of it.

What have you been up to since graduating from University?

I completed my first post graduate year at Prince of Wales Hospital then began my career as a nurse working in an area that I really enjoyed. I desperately wanted to start seeing the world so in 2001 I left Sydney with a backpack, multiple *Lonely Planet* guidebooks, a relatively empty passport and travelled to Italy with my sister. We lived with friends in London, travelled through Europe as often as we could and I worked in a handful of big London hospitals. I stayed in London for the greater part of ten years.

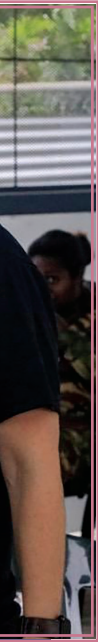
Whilst there I completed post graduate courses in Intensive Care though pivotally completed a Diploma in Tropical Nursing, with the aim of pursuing a long term of working in developing countries. I moved back to Australia after ten years, worked for seven more in large trauma hospitals in Sydney before deciding to take a huge leap of faith accepting a six month volunteer position as a nurse educator in a remote region of Papua New Guinea.



It's fair to say it was by far my biggest move and definitely one that made me a little nervous, though I couldn't be more grateful for that first opportunity. I moved from a volunteer role to a full-time role in public health, leading projects and challenges that have pushed me in ways I could never have imagined. I started that first role in 2017 and have been working in PNG since. Living in the region was incredibly challenging with the community lacking in water, power and food daily; facing constant health problems that are almost unfathomable to people in Australia. Though the friendships I gained, the sense of community I have felt and the experiences I have had make any hardships more than worthwhile.

What attracted you to that field?

I always wanted to work in healthcare somehow and once I started studying nursing knew that was the right career path for me. I always wanted to specialise in Intensive Care and after working in various other areas fell into a role in oncology intensive care and absolutely loved it. After some years though I was given an opportunity to work in a role using the skills I had from Intensive Care in different settings... so working in emergency teams, retrieval, simulation training and resuscitations... outside of Intensive Care.



I have been in speciality roles for over fifteen years now, where I am often in pretty stressful critical situations without the immediate back up of teams or equipment, and I love it. I seem to do better thinking on my feet and having to often be a creative in using what I had rather than always having everything in front of me.

I had always had a strong desire to work and travel in different places. I always knew that and have actively sought out training or experience (volunteering in Nepal for instance) to gain skills and have new experiences. Living and working in different countries is incredibly rewarding and I couldn't recommend it enough.

What is your current role?

At the moment I am in Sydney though working remotely with the World Health Organisation supporting the Papua New Guinean government's response to COVID-19. Things are deteriorating and I will be back in-country supporting their health care staff very soon.

What is your greatest achievement?

I'm not sure they are achievements though I think I am most proud of two things:

- Buying that first plane ticket overseas and setting myself up for a life of seeking out new cultures, languages, experiences and people.
- Not being afraid to take new opportunities as they arise. I truly believe that if you are offered an opportunity in a different country, or a different slightly scary role...and it feels like a scary but great decision, you should try it. The worst that can happen is it doesn't work out. As long as you are safe and happy then you've still gained great experience and understanding in giving it a go.

What do you do in your spare time?

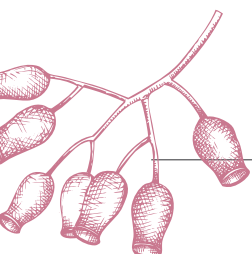
I really enjoy swimming in the ocean, taking my SUP for a paddle, going rock climbing or for a run or walk with friends and I have fallen in love with yoga. Photography too, I cannot begin to fathom how many photos I have taken since being in PNG to help remember those moments forever. After years of working in international teams with people who speak between two and five languages I am now forcing myself to learn French. I have to admit my only slight regret is not sticking to any of the languages I have picked up over the years. For anyone hoping to work in the international humanitarian field that would be my hot tip, learn a language. Any will do, with three there is always someone who will speak one of them - the benefits of speaking a second language will be lifelong.

What do you think has changed the most since you left school 25 years ago?

I think I became braver, and certainly more confident as I have got older. I definitely am in denial that we left school 25 years ago and would love to think someone did their maths wrong... in saying that I am really proud of everything thing I have done in those years and wouldn't change a thing.



If you make sure every choice you make brings you happiness you'll be just fine.





Where Are They Now?

Passion is the most Fundamental Quality for Success

Emily Gerrard, Class of 2015



What have you been doing since finishing school?

Since leaving school, I have pursued my interest in engineering and love of traveling. I am in my final year of a Bachelor of Engineering at UTS through which I have participated in study tours to both Cambodia and Nepal with *Engineers Without Borders* and *Unbound*, respectively. In addition to this study-related travel, I have visited many places in Asia, Europe and South America as a tourist. In the past few years I have also become involved in the engineering industry undertaking two six-month internships as part of my degree, and I am currently working part time as an undergraduate engineer at Aurecon.

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

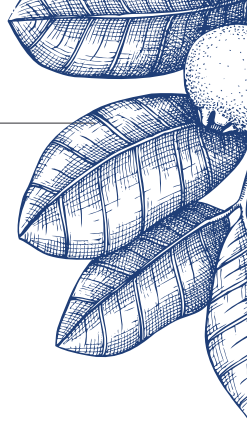
The qualities that I most admire in a woman are passion and drive. Passion is the most fundamental quality for success, you have to love what you do and then share what you love. Drive and ambition are what makes this passion a career. The ambition to pursue opportunities, explore different pathways and get involved in any way you can will make your passion your reality.

Jacinda Ardern is someone who I currently consider a role model as she uses her feminine traits to benefit her work instead of

hiding them. In her role as Prime Minister, she has responded to many world events from terrorism, natural disasters to an international pandemic and the compassion, kindness and strength through which she acts is admirable.

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

Before Aurecon, I was working at Arcadis which is another engineering consulting firm, in the civil structures team. I was working on Southwest Metro Design Services, which involved a series of bridge upgrades along the metro corridor. I was responsible for calculating the wind load of the new protection barrier screens and designing their connection to the bridge deck. I was also nominated Heritage Co-ordinator, so I liaised with the heritage consultant and the designers to ensure compliance with heritage requirements.



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

The Vinnies Community creates, and continually influences, genuine well rounded women and is something that I am excited and proud to be apart of. There was always a belief that you could be whatever you wanted to be and become whoever you wanted to become. In this way my career ambitions were encouraged and facilitated by my experience at Vinnies. In saying this, there was not a strict sole focus on academics and the opportunities that I engaged with in sport, social justice, and art definitely contributed to my well rounded nature and balanced lifestyle.

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

A fun fact about myself is that I am trying to learn German. I studied French for the HSC and love languages so I am trying my hand at German. I am not taking classes or any formal learning, I am just using a language learning app called Duolingo. In fact, I am approaching my 365 day streak which is a small milestone win for me!

What are your study, work and travel plans for 2021 and beyond?

Since COVID has squashed my big travel plans post graduation, my short term plan is to gain some experience as a graduate engineer at Aurecon with the hope of doing a secondment in Asia later on. I will be joining the Bridge Team in Sydney and the corresponding team in Asia is renowned for their innovation and being leaders in the technological space. This would be an amazing professional experience, being exposed to ground breaking work, as well as a truly unique cultural experience - one that I hope to make a reality one day.

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

Recently, I was the recipient of the top 100 Jacobs Engineering Consulting Future Leader Award. This is a nation-wide competition where over 1500 final year students apply to have their contribution to their industry and leadership ability recognized. I am proud to say that I won my category. As part of my application, I spoke about an app that I am developing and this story featured in the Australian Financial Review.

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

Don't be afraid of being good at something. If you're passionate about science, sport, maths, languages, or the arts, pursue it and get good at it. Be proud of your passions, it's what makes people interesting. If you haven't quite found your passion, then be patient. Be open to everything and get involved, you can often discover your passion in the most unconventional and unexpected way.



Be proud of your passions, it's what makes people interesting.





Vale Sr S^t Jude Doyle RSC

Sr S^t Jude was born Elizabeth Lensey Elvie Doyle on 7 April 1927. Sr S^t Jude came from a very large and loving family: her parents William and Mabel, and her siblings Vincent, Anna, Stella, Moya, Hilary, Heather (all deceased), her sisters Gloria and Leon, brothers Garth and Kable. As a baby, her family moved to the South Coast to Austinmer, but after their house burned down, they moved to Thirroul and then later to Casino. Sr S^t Jude's first year at St Vincent's College was when World War II broke out. She had enrolled as a boarder and was evacuated to Katoomba after the Japanese attack in Sydney Harbour.

After leaving school it took her two years and nine months to convince her parents to accept her decision to join the Sisters of Charity.

Since she entered, she had a very successful career in teaching, introducing the sub-school system at Liverpool, travelling around the world, working for the *Immigration and Advice Rights Centre* and establishing the *Sisters of Charity Outreach Program*.

She taught and was principal at Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Mt Pritchard. As Principal, she ensured that all the students at OLMC had the best education possible. As Year 6 teacher, she loved her classes and helped all her students to reach their potential

She was also Principal at St Mary's Primary School Liverpool (now All Saints Catholic College) where in the 1970s she had devised a new structure for the large Primary School which was quite unheard of – Sr S^t Jude at the helm, but three Deputy Principals each leading one of the three sub schools – Caritas, Loreto and Marum.

In the late 1980s Sr S^t Jude was tasked with building the *Sisters of Charity Outreach Centre for Women*. Now known as *Open Support*, the organisation has diverse services, each responding

to a social need in the community. It was formally established in 1990 with Sr S^t Jude being the first Director in this role, she was always consultative and involved all her Sisters of Charity. Being professional, she set up Volunteer Training in 1990 which was to be the human face of Outreach. A little later, an Outreach Committee was formed and services began with a child care centre. Other initiatives, such as accommodation for country people with appointments or study in the city or for court support. Just before she retired Sr S^t Jude returned to St Vincent's College and taught Year 7 Drama for twelve years.

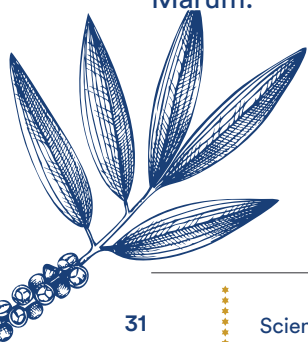
Jude was always gracious, a lady through and through, without any focus on herself. She dressed nicely and loved to use a Bone China cup and saucer for her cup of tea! When setting the table for celebrations, she would have lovely floral arrangements, serviettes and other essentials, she was in her element when interacting with distinguished guests.

She had a lovely trait of always putting others before herself. When she had a good idea, she would gladly invite additional ideas from others as well. She placed faith and trust in others She loved to get people involved, acknowledging people and never forgetting to thank them.

After retirement, Sr S^t Jude continued to follow in Mary Aikenhead's footsteps. She spent many hours organising her stamp club. Organising the people who collected the stamps, those trimming the stamps and sending them off to the Mission Fathers to raise funds for those in need. She also loved spending time in her Garden.

She was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 1997 for her service to social welfare, particularly through the Sisters of Charity outreach program. She had another unusual achievement – as NSW's first registered lady lifesaver.

Sr S^t Jude was called into eternal life on 24 December 2020.



Alumnae News

Congratulations



Amanda Margariti - Class of 2005, married Gian Conrad Pedryc at the St Vincent's College Chapel on Saturday 6 March 2021.



Belinda Favalaro - Class of 2009, married Gian Rossi at the St Vincent's College Chapel on Saturday 13 March 2021.



Kathleen Mallik (ne Kirby) - Class of 1937, celebrated her 100th birthday on 11 November 2020. The College and Ex-Students' Union sent her a video message and flowers to celebrate this significant milestone.

Bianca Uyi (nee Barry) - Class of 2007 and Osarenkhoe welcomed Izoduwa on 11 August 2020.



Condolences

The Ex-Students' Union extend their sympathy to the families and friends of the following members of our community who have been called to eternal life:

Sr St Jude Doyle RSC - Class of 1944, 24 December 2020.

Shirley Jones - Past teacher and Ancient History prize medal donor, 22 October 2020.

Wendy Lloyd Jones (nee Bloom) - Class of 1957, 3 February 2021.

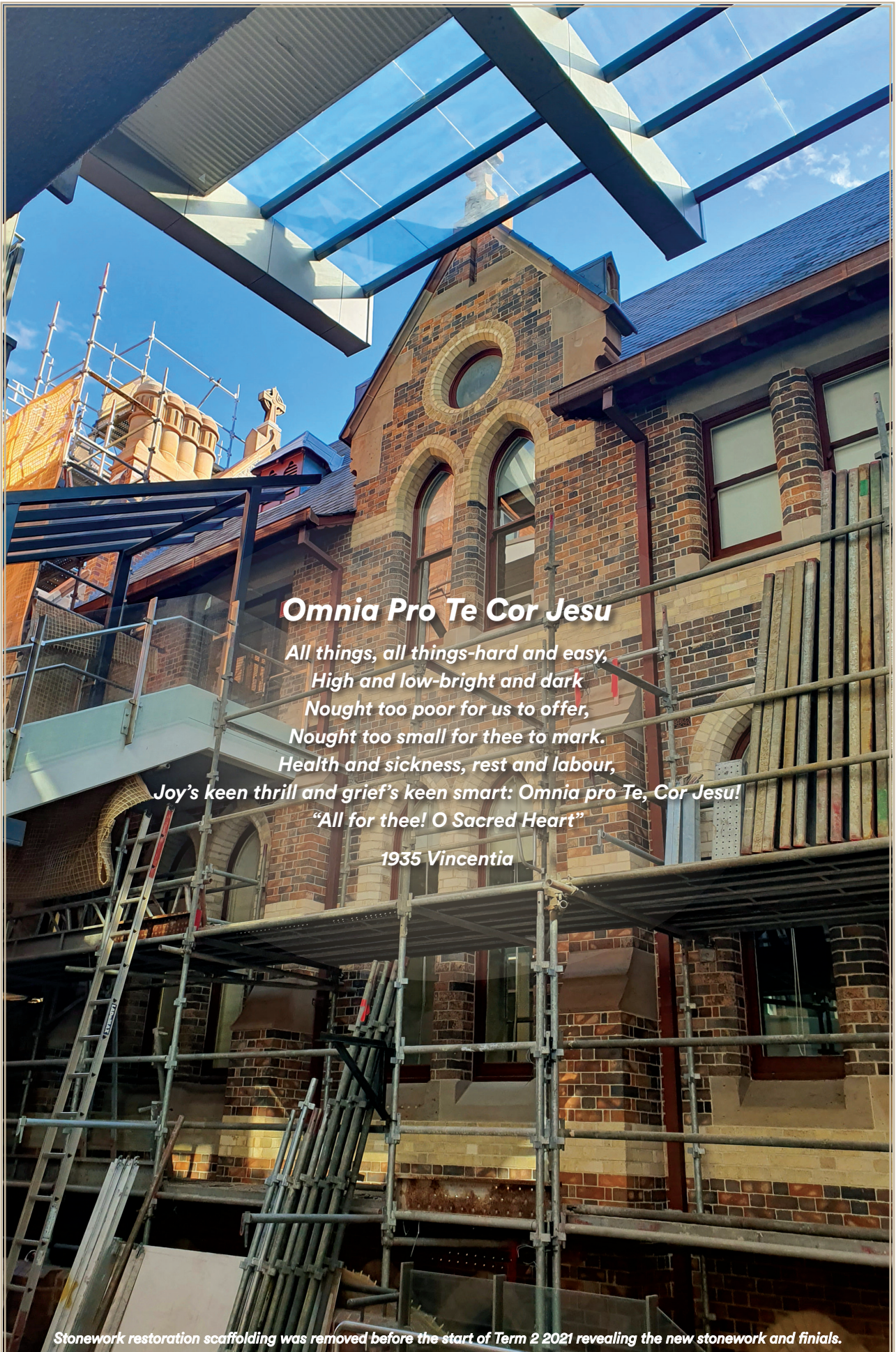
Shirley Konza (nee Young) - Class of 1946, 3 March 2021.

Sharne McGowan (nee Haylings) - Class of 1960, 12 March 2021.

Elizabeth (Betty) Shepherd (nee Lawler) - Class of 1946, 26 January 2021.

Sandra Soady (nee Ferguson) - Class of 1959, 25 December 2020.

Wilga Wilschefski - Class of 1947, 7 February 2021.



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

Stonework restoration scaffolding was removed before the start of Term 2 2021 revealing the new stonework and finials.