

MONTE GAZETTE

SUMMER 2020



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A Voice In The Wind

As she walks by, the wind blows,
And a tiny voice whispers to her.

It calls to her, not to follow,
But to lead.
And to stand,
And to fight for her rights.

It tells her the world can change,
But only if she strives to make a difference.

And though she is only one person,
She fights for a better world.
To change the labels,
And the way we are defined.

Because it is up to us to find the humanity,
The shining light within each of us,
That can lead us out of the darkness.

And to share that tiny voice,
She thought was the wind,
But was her heart all along.

Eloise Halloran,
Year 8

Artwork by: Tess Hatzantonis, Year 12



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Monte Gazette is published twice a year for students, staff, Alumni, parents and friends of Monte.

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Mercy Day - Anthony Khoury Photography

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Principal's Message

Dear Monte Community

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2020 Summer Gazette as a record of the College's achievements and a testimony to the strength and ingenuity of our community.

In our 145 years of educating young women, we have been unwavering in our commitment to the principles and ideals of our foundress and those of the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney. A hallmark of a Monte education is to develop the capacity for women to lead and be engaged in all spheres of society and this has never been so important or so necessary. This year, as the true impacts of the pandemic began to unfold, we witnessed many acts of courage and compassion. As we acknowledge this journey in our collective history, it is fitting that our Mercy community chose 2020 as the Year of Respect for Human Dignity. Across the world and in Australia, we have seen the devastating impact of COVID-19 on people's health, livelihoods and their dignity. We know that in times of adversity, we see the best of humanity rise to the challenge and I have been so privileged to see great generosity, bravery, compassion, collegiality and moments of kindness that has restored human dignity for many including some in our College community.

One such act of kindness was a \$50,000 donation from the P&F Association to assist families financially impacted by COVID-19 to meet tuition fees. The stewardship shown by the P&F President, Ms Samantha Parker, and the P&F Executive has enabled a number of families to continue their daughter's Mercy education without disruption. Practical support for families in need was also met by staff and students who prepared and cooked over 100 meals through the newly established Monte Mercy Kitchen. These meals have been delivered to people in the Monte community who are experiencing difficult and challenging circumstances. The comfort of a home-cooked meal and the hope that it brings should never be underestimated.

Our Year 12's have demonstrated the attributes of courage beyond their years as we traversed the impacts and agile responses to the pandemic. At this time of year my thoughts and prayers, and that of the College community, are with our Year 12 students as they await their HSC and IB DP results. I know that our young women awaiting these results understand that their value cannot be defined by a number or an offer from a university, their value is in their character, which they have demonstrated throughout 2020. We applaud those who have worked diligently. I also hope their

faith guides and supports them as they navigate their future beyond Monte.

Towards the end of last year, I wrote to the community outlining the College's plan regarding the Scientia Project – the construction of a fit-for-purpose and future-focussed Science, Sports Science and Sports facility. I am thrilled to announce the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has granted approval for the College to begin work. Construction is due to commence in January 2021 and will be completed in early 2023. I look forward to providing updates throughout the project.

We have also opened the doors to Mercy House for Year 12 students. Mercy House is located on McLaren Street and was acquired earlier this year. It will be used by Year 12 students as a senior study centre and includes break-out rooms, a kitchen, bathroom facilities and meeting spaces. The incoming Year 12 students are fortunate to be the foundation year to use Mercy House and will benefit from a dedicated senior study centre. The name is a reminder of our deep roots and connection to our Mercy history. It will be an extension of our existing College community and be a place for Year 12 students to develop independent learning and life skills to assist them after they graduate. Mercy House will be a community centred space driven by student's commitment to academic rigour and their ability to welcome others with compassion, friendship and respect.

As 2020 draws to an end, so does the College's 145-year anniversary. I would like to acknowledge the remarkable women who have led the College since its commencement. As College Principal, I feel great pride in many of the College's accomplishments, but I am acutely aware that our growth as a community is largely due to the decision-makers who came before me. Principals, parents and staff that saw the value and importance of girls' education before it was accepted by society, presided over future capital works, bravely embraced technology in its infancy and laid the foundation for generations of students to receive a Mercy education. I am in awe of our community's dedication to educating young women in this our 145th year.

Mrs Nicole Christensen
College Principal

145 Years of Educating Young Women

In the year 2020, we celebrate 145 years of educating and caring for young women, following in the vibrant example of our Foundress, Mother Ignatius McQuoin RSM.

As the College embarks on its next 145-year chapter, our future is fortified by the enduring legacy of the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney, and the extraordinary lay women and men who have educated and cared for

more than 17,000 girls in times of prosperity, through the Great Depression, world wars, pandemics and countless innovations in science and technology.

Sister Carmel McDonough RSM illuminates the significance of a Monte education in her words: *"Regardless of the time period, our College has always prided itself on being a place of inquiry, of truth, of excellence, of dignity for all, where focus is placed on values, academic rigour and activism."*



1906



1930



1947



1957



1963



1970



1987

1875

Opening its doors on October 2 1875, an education at Monte Sant' Angelo prepared girls with social graces and skills essential for the day, with the main mission to imbue students with Christian qualities of mind and heart.

1880s

In 1881, academic aspirations were heightened as women were permitted to study at university for the first time. In 1889, Monte presented four candidates for the Junior Sydney University Examination in English, Arithmetic, History, Geography and Biology.

1895

In 1895, a golden era of culture and creativity commenced and Monte was hailed as a leading school in art, music and needlework. These accomplishments are well documented in newspapers at the time.

1906

Completed in 1906, Mercy Hall was the location for all teaching, with Infants on the stage, Primary on the central floor and those preparing for examinations near the front entrance.

1914

The events of World War I placed an emotional and financial strain on Monte, with many girls losing fathers, brothers and other relatives in battle. Students knitted for the soldiers, learnt first aid and substituted their end of year prize medals with certificates so that saved funds were donated to war efforts.

1920s

Monte entered an era of first-class school-girl tennis with a generation of exceptional players claiming titles such as the Archbishop's Shield, the Cardinal's Cup and the Stuart Cup.



1929

1930s

Monte Sant' Angelo provided a tranquil haven for almost three hundred students during the turmoil of the Great Depression. In 1933, with global talks of war simmering, Mary Dunn represented fellow Monte students advocating for peace, calling for "mutual understanding and goodwill among young people of every nation" in a state-wide radio broadcast.

1940s

The College remained operational during World War II with blackouts curtailing study, criss-crossing of tape securing windows, sandbags protecting walls and air raid drills impressively completed in three minutes. Parents assisted at school dances, with mothers preparing suppers and fathers supervising the door to thwart the exit plan of couples. The inauguration of the Parents and Friends Association in 1949 realised valued assistance with fundraising, the establishment and operation of the canteen, and the annual sports day.

1950s

Unveiling a picture of grace and charm, students presented as Debutantes at the acclaimed Debutante Ball in 1957.

1960s

Reforms in education, including the introduction of the Wyndham Scheme in 1962, placed science at the forefront of learning. Three years later, the Higher School Certificate replaced the Leaving Certificate and in 1968, the momentous decision was made to phase out the Boarding School.

1970s

The 1970s saw extensive growth in curriculum and infrastructure at the College. In 1975, there was cause for much celebration with Monte marking its centenary. In June 1975, the first Alumna was married in the Mother Ignatius McQuoin Memorial Chapel.

1980s

The technology revolution came to Monte with the inaugural Computer Lab and Year 7 students qualifying with Computer Operating Licences. In 1989, the school's name changed from Monte Sant' Angelo to Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College.

1990s

College enrolments burgeoned with numbers reaching more than 1000 students. Colour Houses increased from four (Aquinas, Xavier, McAuley and McQuoin) to six with the addition of McGuirk and Rankin.

2000s

The introduction of the International Baccalaureate to the College in 2007 saw Monte acclaimed as the first girls' school in NSW to offer both the International Baccalaureate Middle Years and Diploma Programmes.



Mercy Kitchen

Despite the challenges faced throughout 2020, the enduring strength of our Mercy values continues to shine and has been truly exemplified through the establishment of the Monte Mercy Kitchen. The transformative idea of the Mercy Kitchen came to fruition when COVID-19 restrictions meant a new approach to food preparation was needed to support Monte families in need.

Previously, the Parents and Friends Association had a 'Support Crew Meals' service in place which involved a number of volunteer families in the Monte community preparing and packaging home-made meals in bulk. These were stored at the College and made available for families who needed extra support.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions on sharing food, it was no longer an option to have meals cooked by our community within the 'Support Crew Meals' format. In light of these restrictions, the Year 11 Hospitality classes stepped up and established the Monte Mercy Kitchen to guarantee meals could be prepared in a COVID-safe way,

ensuring families in need could still be supported with nutritious meals.

The inaugural Mercy Kitchen workshop was held on Sunday 30 May 2020, and after a mammoth effort, two freezers were filled with meals such as lasagne, chicken and vegetable pies, minestrone soup, pumpkin soup and the all-important brownies for something sweet. All meals were made from scratch, including the pasta sheets for the lasagne, and were made with extra love from all the girls who enthusiastically embraced the day.

Flash forward to Term 4, our wonderful Year 11 girls and teachers have facilitated another two Mercy Kitchen workshops that continue to fill the College freezers with meals. Mercy Kitchen will run until there is no longer a need to prepare food in controlled environments. Testament to our Mercy values, staff and students gave up their own time to cook in the College's commercial kitchen.

The College has been reminded just how generous and selfless our community is, not only with their time, but with their

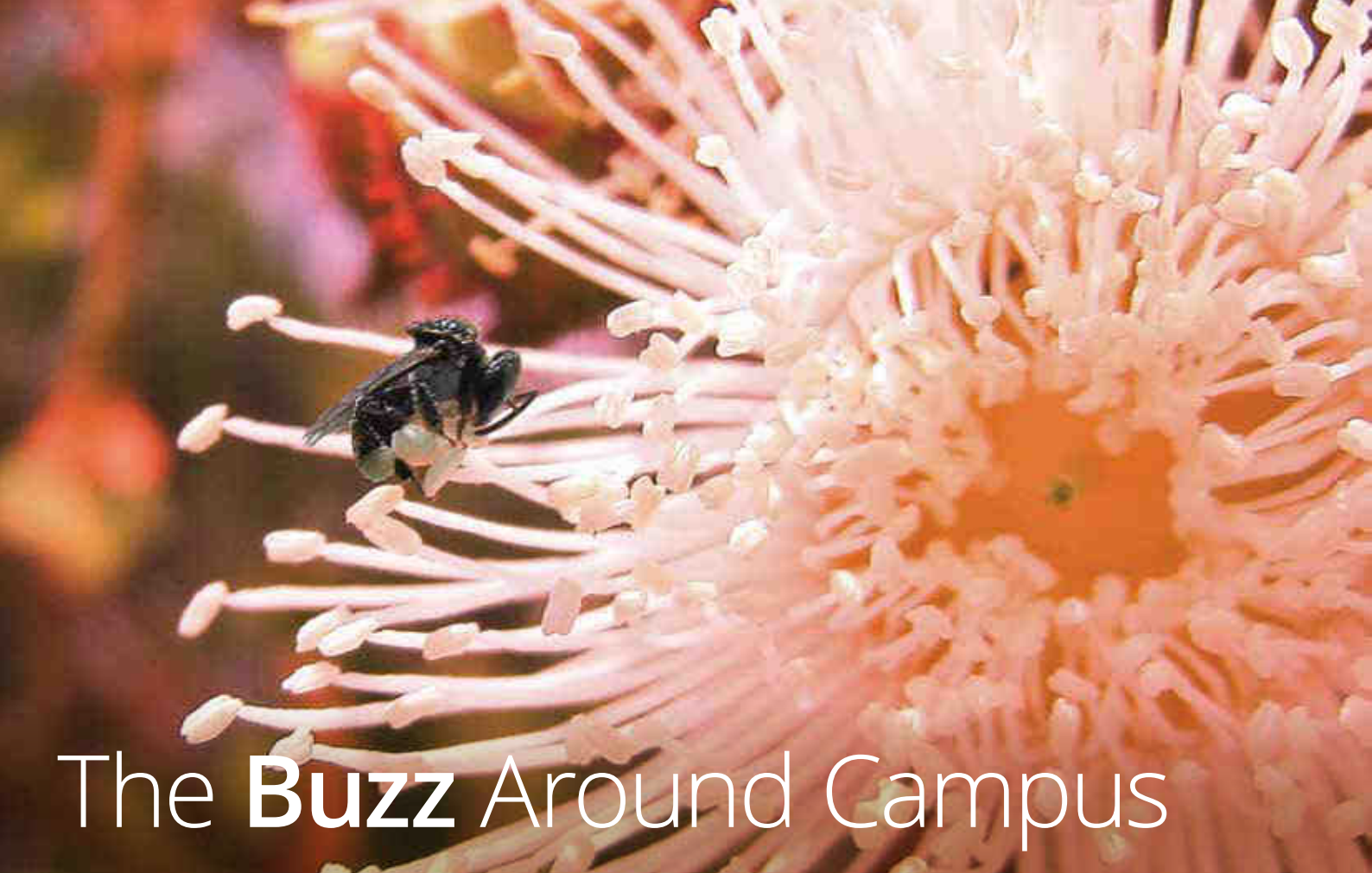
donations. There is always someone asking how they can help and when the next Mercy Kitchen cook-up will be. It is truly humbling to know that there are so many people within our community with such compassionate hearts.

A special thank you to Mrs Rebecca Silverthorne, TAS Assistant, who has supported the Mercy Kitchen by coordinating the purchase and preparation of ingredients, and all the associated organisation to ensure the workshops ran successfully. Without

her, the Mercy Kitchen would not have been so meticulously organised to ensure that those families in need receive these essential meals.

To keep the Mercy Kitchen going, any cash donation, big or small, is welcomed and truly appreciated. If you would like to make a contribution, please contact the College on 9409 6200, or give your daughter a cash donation in a sealed envelope to be left at Reception.

Ms Kerrie Graham
Hospitality Teacher



The Buzz Around Campus

After discovering a native bee hive in the 150 year old pine tree on the Holy Grass in 2018, the College worked towards having more native bee hives on campus. In 2019, an IB CAS Project group investigated the benefits of having native bees.

They concluded that: "native stingless bees are an important part of ecosystem diversity and balance, and great pollinators which contribute to Australia's natural food and bio security. The bees would be an invaluable addition to the Monte community and providing a shelter for them would help conserve an Australian species with little effort and no risk of being stung!"

In October, with Sr Carmel McDonough RSM's tireless efforts championing the students' recommendations, the College welcomed the arrival of approximately 10,000 small, black stingless bees in two hives, located in and near Bindarray.ga pond. These hives will ensure that Monte is playing its part in the

security of native bees and pollination within the Holy Mount, and that of neighbouring North Sydney. The geo-located their new home and location on arrival. They will be out and active when the temperature is 18°C and above and they will stay inside their homes when it is cold or wet.

One in every three mouthfuls we eat are from foods that need to be pollinated by insects, and honey bees are responsible for the majority of this pollination. Our native bees are vital to our ecosystem and are the world's most important pollinator.

Mrs Tara Egger
Head Of Identity & CAS

Sister Carmel McDonough RSM's dream has come true... so

Bee happy.

Bee kind.

Bee grateful.

Enjoy our bees!



Georgia MacDonald, Jemma Wong, Elise Boyle and Abigail Camilleri

Future Problem Solvers Solving Global Issues

This year, three Monte teams entered the Future Problem Solvers 'Global Issues Problem Solving' competition. In this competition, teams research a series of global topics and apply a six-step creative problem-solving process.

The topics this year have included Sleep Patterns and Gamification. The competition provides an opportunity for students to develop conceptual understandings of global problems, developing their critical thinking capabilities. The six-step process that teams undertake in approaching the provided future scenario is rigorous and analytical, providing them with skills they can take into their future education and work.

The teams devised some impressive potential solutions to the qualifying problem

on the topic of Gamification. Faced with a futuristic scene where all aspects of life have been gamified by an overlapping points system, our students successfully identified a variety of problems that demonstrated sophisticated and analytical thinking:

"It may be that vulnerable people (with lower point balances) are disproportionately used in potentially dangerous drug trials... putting their physical health in danger due to harmful side effects."

"It may be that only politicians with high point

balances are selected and they may not be the best representatives for our society because points may be attained by making donations, which does not provide equal opportunities."

"It may be that this system is susceptible to hacking that would expose citizens' private information."

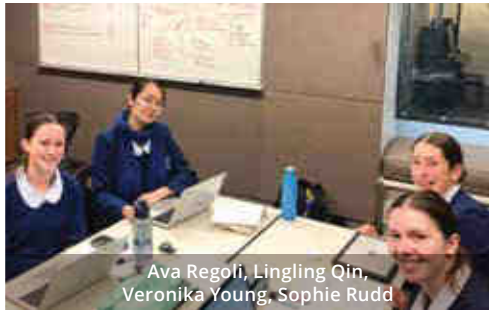
The solutions they devised were equally impressive, ranging from tax reform providing all with access to basic needs (regardless of points earned), to using the points system to reduce traffic congestion and improve health outcomes.

The students further developed their critical thinking skills and ability to problem solve complex and difficult issues.

Ms Jenny Jiang
Head Of Learning Enhancement



Rachael Sequeira, Athina Tsakalos, Ana Mauleon, Natalie Silberberg



Ava Regoli, Lingling Qin, Veronika Young, Sophie Rudd



Ana Mauleon, Athina Tsakalos, Rachael Sequeira, Natalie Silberberg

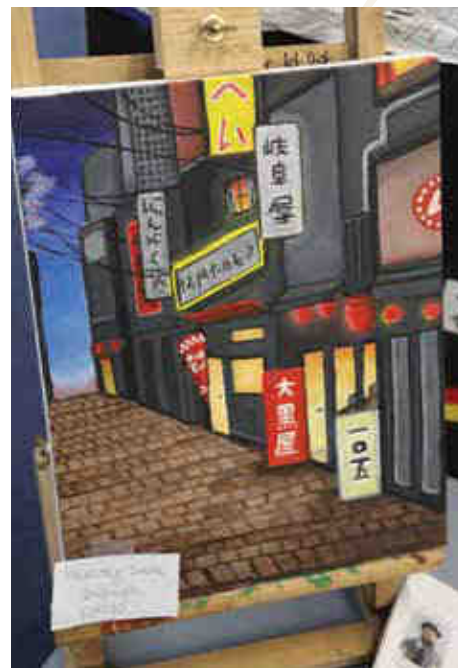
Year 10 MYP Personal Project Exhibition

The Personal Project Exhibition celebrated the culmination of nine months of ideation, planning, research and creation by our Year 10 students.

The Personal Project gives each student the opportunity to pursue almost any area of interest or passion and develop a product with their newfound skills and knowledge. Students demonstrate creativity and dedication in their production of a stunning array of products, reflecting their strong engagement with the world around them. This year, the exhibition was well documented, and an online

platform was developed for parents and the wider community to view the students' exceptional projects.

The McQuoin Centre was filled with projects spanning from skin care ranges, investigations of family culture and history, inspired artworks, documentaries, picture books with a social purpose, a one-woman musical, to even a newly-refitted rally car.



Seed Funding For Sustainability

Sharing a passion for sustainability, Athina Tsakalos (Year 10) wanted to go beyond the parameters of the Personal Project with a goal of providing greater awareness around the recyclability of coffee cups.

Athina spoke with Mrs Nicole Christensen and Mr Tom Lee about providing some funding to kickstart her idea of creating a completely recyclable coffee cup. Under the student engagement and social enterprise budget, the College provided some seed funding to help Athina fulfil her goal of developing such a product. Athina's cup is now used in the College's meeting rooms and the Hospitality Kitchen, and eventually, she would like to see her cups used in the Canteen. The College

is committed to providing students like Athina with real-life opportunities to support student initiatives, whether it be through seed funding, mentoring or educational programs. Athina's project provided the College with an opportunity to prototype a broader concept around developing a Monte Start-up Hub for student social enterprise initiatives.

Mr Tom Lee
Director Innovation & Technology



Senior Leaders

Congratulations to the 2020/2021 Senior Leaders

COLLEGE CAPTAIN:

Maddison Rubic

SENIOR LEADERS:

Bridget Cunningham, Isabella Doyle, Emily Eide, Ava Regoli, Madeleine Teychenne, Lily Ward

HOUSE CAPTAINS:

Aquinas Pia Jackson and Gabrielle Nugent

McQuoin Grace Bruce and Claire Devine

McAuley Charlotte O'Neill and Claudia Tynan

Xavier Josephine Carlile and Giordana Cicchini

Rankin Kira Ponsonby and Sara Ryan

McGuirk Tara McCoy and Tara Wappett

CO-CURRICULAR CAPTAINS:

Creativity, Action & Service
Amelia Duggan

Debating
Ana Mauleon

Drama & Theatre
Gennavieve Lovely

Duke of Edinburgh
Eloise Parker

Literary
Claire Le Blond

Liturgy
Elise Zacca

Mercy Action Group
Isabella Cook

Music
Elspeth Watson Clark

Sports
Grace Kells

Technology
Rachael Sequeira

Visual Arts
Monique Lozina



Mrs Nicole Christensen, College Principal, with 2020/2021 Senior Leadership Team

Monte Idol

After six heats and over 40 singers from Years 7-12, we were able to film the exciting 2020 Monte Idol Grand Final!

The very difficult decision to choose a winner was made by Mrs Christensen and the College Executive – with our very first Year 7 winner, Naira Beasley.



Turn The Page

The traditional view of reading characterises it as a solitary activity: the reader alone with their book, travelling to distant worlds and through different lives, unaware of, or escaping from their immediate situation. However, reading can also be a social activity that involves discussion, interaction, talking, listening, perhaps even arguing through book clubs and online discussion forums that facilitate connections between people.

Monte loves reading, and values it highly as a gateway to increased literacy and empathy.

We know that research unequivocally links recreational reading with improved learning outcomes.

Our Turn the Page program increases reading engagement, fostering a 'social reading' connection between students and their parents or carers by loaning two copies of a book to parent/child duos, so that they can read the same book at the same time.

Turn the Page is built around three pillars: parental involvement, starting when the parent and child sit down together to choose their book; book choice – genuine page-turning novels that students will love and want to keep reading (and hopefully the parents will love them too); and the social side – discussion between parent and child around the plot and themes.

Our Turn the Page program is running for Year 7 students and parents over

this summer break, hopefully creating some of that conversational magic that occurs when two people read the same book at the same time.

In the words of one parent who participated in Turn the Page last year with her daughter: *"I completely loved this exercise. I'm so pleased we did it. Frankly we will do it more often outside of the program. We both benefitted from the experience. My daughter and I managed to read the book in a few hours and then had very robust and interesting conversations"*

Ms Deborah Brown

Manager, Library and Information Science



Extension Science

Our new HSC Extension Science subject has seen the students produce some exceptional and innovative work.

"Extension Science developed my understanding and appreciation for the scientific process as a whole. The scientific research project was an investigation into an area of our own interest; it included an initial proposal and presentation based on research, controlled experimentation and production of the research report in correct scientific format.

For my project, I made dye sensitized solar

cells and investigated the effect of increasing temperature on the output potential difference produced under controlled lighting conditions. Other students investigated the impact of light intensity on the behaviour of Physarum Polycephalum and the effect of divalent cations on trypsin activity.

This course encouraged independence, and required creative and critical thinking to develop appropriate methods to collect results."

Millie Wacher

Year 12 Student



Chess

Chess has become increasingly popular at Monte, where in any year, 20 to 30 students will play chess either in the Chess room during lunch or in competitions.

Each year we enter Junior, Intermediate and Senior teams in the Metropolitan Secondary Schools Chess Teams Competition. We also host the annual Chess Tournament Day at Monte which attracts over 100 visitors from primary and secondary schools. This year, we entered two Senior teams in the Metropolitan competition, the Monte players were grateful to have had the opportunity to apply their learned chess strategies. Many students have been inspired to take up chess due to the ongoing commitment of players in the 2020 graduating cohort. I genuinely appreciate their enthusiasm and dedication to Chess over their time at Monte.

Mr Stephen O'Rourke

Chess Coordinator

Debating

Bridget Cunningham (Year 11) has been selected for the Association of Heads of Independent Girls' Schools (AHIGS) Representative Team; she is just one of 12 students selected for the team and was also recently appointed as the Captain of her team (thirds). This is the eighth year in a row that Monte has had a student selected for this prestigious squad. Congratulations Bridget on this outstanding accomplishment!



Stellar Performance

Congratulations to HSC student Savanah Lambrou who received coveted nominations for possible inclusion in the Drama and Dance showcases: OnSTAGE and Callback.

Her poignant and engaging self-devised monologue represented the immigrant experience and generational bonds. The skilful rendering was testament to Savanah's commitment to Drama at Monte. Her dance piece, developed externally at Bradfield Senior College, demonstrated her performance quality and dance technique. We commend Savanah on her outstanding achievements in both HSC creative courses, and wish her success in all future endeavours.

Ms Anne Sheridan

Drama Teacher





Annabel Hannan, Year 10



Kayley Williams, Year 7

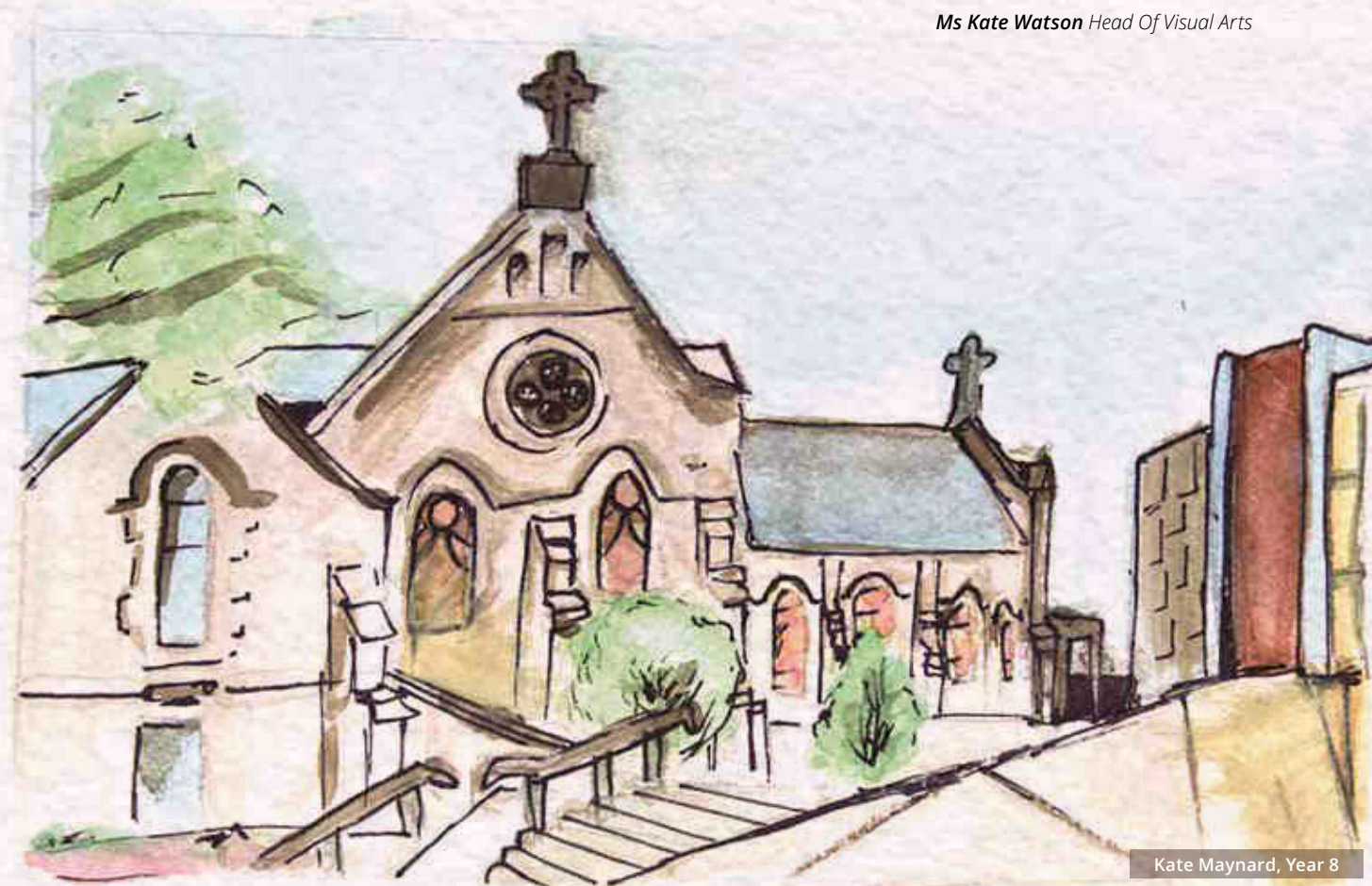
145 Years Student Artworks

Years 7-10 Visual Arts students contributed to the College's celebration of 145 years by creating unique artworks for the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney, who celebrated their 155th anniversary this year.

Students were thrilled to create an artwork as a personal handmade gift for the Sisters, and were encouraged to feature locations around the College that would be familiar to the recipients, particularly their beloved Mother Ignatius McQuoin Memorial Chapel.

Watercolour was the medium of choice, and the students' names were included on the back of the framed artwork so that the Sisters would know the piece was an original 'one of a kind' watercolour, unique to each recipient.

Ms Kate Watson Head Of Visual Arts



Kate Maynard, Year 8



Mercy Masks

Monte Mercy Masks evolved from an act of thoughtfulness during Term 3; as the College returned to onsite teaching and learning, 'Nan' Catherine McNamara, gifted her granddaughter's teachers with an expertly made reversible, reusable, stylish fabric mask.

As the wearing of masks became increasingly prudent, the sourcing of good quality, reusable, charitable masks became a priority amongst Monte staff. 'Nan' Catherine was contacted about producing a few more masks for interested staff, and from here, Monte's 'Mercy Masks' initiative was born.

Over the course of 10 weeks, Catherine, her daughter and granddaughters, instigated sewing bee weekends to produce the Mercy Masks, and generously gifted the Monte staff community with 400 masks. They insisted the masks only be available in exchange for a donation to a Monte cause and staff were able to raise approximately \$2,000 for vulnerable women through Cana Communities, and for Monte's Mercy Kitchen supplies, to continue providing meals for our families in need.

The Mercy Masks initiative further developed

with an invitation for Catherine to lead a mask-making workshop for students on Mercy Day, titled 'Some Superheroes Wear Masks', with 40 places immediately filled across Years 9-10. Students met with Catherine via Zoom and, supported by the Monte TAS Department, set to work following Catherine's instructional video, utilising her mask-making materials and personal tips, to craft their own Mercy Masks.

The Monte Mercy Masks initiative has been an exceptional example of Mercy living and breathing within our College community. Heartfelt thanks go to Catherine McNamara and her family for this extraordinary contribution to our College.

Ms Alice Priest

Head Of Faith Formation & Liturgy



Lids 4 Kids

The Lids 4 Kids Project is an initiative started in the ACT by founder Tim Miller. Lids 4 Kids collects bread tags and lids from milk, water and soft drink bottles and recycles them to create products that benefit children and communities.

Originally, the lids were to become prosthetic limbs for children, but unfortunately, they were not viable. However, the lids will now be used for products such as essential equipment for

schools and kindergartens. The initiative has spread across Australia and saved millions of plastic lids and bread tags from landfill.

In this year of Human Dignity, the Monte community has embraced this initiative and collected over 5,000 bottle tops and 600 bread tags. A dedicated group of Year 10 students have volunteered their time to sorting and counting the lids and tags. We particularly congratulate Ciera Gedeon, Year 10 Mercy Award recipient, for her dedication to the project.

Ms Maria Gaudioso

Italian Teacher





Mercy Day Reflections

"... it is an opportunity for me to reflect on what I love about Monte, and to spend time with my community learning, sharing and embracing the wonderful legacy of those staff, students and the Sisters of Mercy who have gone before us and paved the path we now walk..."

Year 12 Student

Mercy Day was once again a day for celebration, recognition and gratitude for our founders and rich legacy as a powerhouse of Mercy education. This year also marked Monte's 145th birthday, further elevating the significance and joyful spirit of Mercy Day 2020.

Centred on liturgy, prayer, experiential learning and participation, Mercy Day marked a high point of our year-long engagement with the 2020 value focus, Mercy through Respect for Human Dignity.

Celebrations began with a live-streamed Mercy Day Liturgy, followed by students attending two interactive Mercy Day workshops, selected from over 35 on offer. The workshops ranged from taking

a tour 'In Emma's shoes' to see the world from the view of double amputee Emma Ridgway, Mercy candle making, learning about and contributing to Cana Communities Women's Backpacks, and discovering ways to shop and dress for environmental success, to meeting former refugee Aminata Conteh-Biger and listening to her extraordinary story of survival.

The workshops highlighted the many

ways we can better appreciate, celebrate and advocate for the uniqueness and value of every person, and how any faith-filled act of Mercy can make a difference in our community and world.

The day concluded with a special Mercy global blessing and farewell to the Year 12 Class of 2020 and was noted by many staff and students to be their "favourite day of the Monte year".

Ms Alice Priest

Head Of Faith Formation & Liturgy



Climate Action

Friday 25 September was School Strike for Climate Day. Students advocated for environmental justice through lobbying the government to highlight the issues of pollution and climate change.

This day was particularly relevant as certain recovery plans made in response to COVID-19 heavily support the gas industry, which is detrimental to the environment. In order to advocate for renewable sources of energy, Monte further participated in the Fund Our Future Not Gas Global Day of Action.

We held a Circle of Silence at lunchtime, which involved students and staff standing

together in silence for approximately 10 minutes, holding posters advocating for environmental justice. This was a great opportunity to participate in a COVID-safe protest, allowing students to reflect on and advocate for climate change.

Isabella Cook
Mercy Action Group Captain



#NoChildLeftBehind

During National Week of Solidarity and Child Protection Week, 6-12 September 2020, Mercy Action Group participated in a Circle of Silence; a peaceful way of raising awareness towards the plight of refugees and showing our solidarity with them.

Staff and students from Years 7-12 came together to support the cause, standing in silence in the Monte Chapel for 15 minutes and holding up their signs. Sr Carmel McDonough RSM called on those involved

to reflect on the privileges they have been afforded and how they can give a voice to the many voices that are suppressed.

Isabella Cook
Mercy Action Group Captain



Weaving Your Way Through

One of the insightful workshops available on Mercy Day focussed on traditional Aboriginal weaving.

Over the past 12 years, I have been privileged to learn some of these skills from the Elders and traditional owners at Mutitjulu, near Uluru. Sitting together and weaving is a calming meditative process traditionally used by Aboriginal people for thousands of years. Whilst this was usually in response to the need for shelter or utensils to carry food or children, weaving was also used for decorative purposes.

During the workshop, both staff and students thoroughly engaged in the process to create simple bracelets or necklaces using raffia, native plants, beads and wool.

Ms Natalie Hendricks
Biamunga Team



McQuoin Centre Solar Panels

The solar panel project has been an enriching experience for all students involved as well as the Monte community. This project has been in the planning for a number of years and we are thrilled to see the amazing results working toward a sustainable future and reductions in Monte's carbon footprint.

As Year 10 students, we were privileged to have been offered the opportunity to work closely with Mr Karl Svenoy, the College's Facilities Manager, to investigate the most effective route to limit our energy consumption. It has been extremely interesting to investigate the effectiveness of emission reduction technologies, of which solar panels have proven to be the most viable.

Throughout the College campus there are

many appliances with a high energy intake. We had planned to focus on the reduction of energy consumption, however we soon realised that beyond student application, our options were limited. Our next step became placing the focus on offsetting emissions; a step that involved numerous meetings with both Mr Tom Lee and Mr Svenoy, as well as writing many emails to government representatives of North Sydney Council and the Australian Parliament. Mr Svenoy

was able to design a plan, and balance the costs of a 100kW solar panel system. The project came to fruition in June 2020 when the solar panels were installed. The solar panels are installed on top of the McQuoin Centre and have been generating power with high efficiency; this innovative system is able to offset Monte's carbon footprint quite dramatically. We would like to thank Mr Svenoy, Mr Lee, and Mr Pasang Tenzing for their assistance as this initiative would not have been possible without them.


Sophia Dawson, Naomi Jacka,
Rose Playoust and Julia Mugnes
Monte Green Team




HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT

Utilising solar will allow you to generate electricity without producing harmful greenhouse gas emissions and other forms of pollutants.


A typical 100kW system benefits the environment by offsetting 130,000 kgs of carbon dioxide which is the equivalent of:



DRIVING A CAR
499,581 kms
over one year*



THE CO2 ABSORBED BY
12,221 trees
over ten years*



SAVING
3,692,000 litres
of water used in production
of coal fired energy*

* Source: Australian Renewable Energy Agency / Clean Energy Council / Clean Energy Regulator / US Environmental Agency / IEEE

Monte's system was commissioned on 25 June 2020 and since then we have generated over 15,235 kwh of energy.

A simple analysis would be the average household uses around 15,000 kwh per year which we have generated in under 2 months

We have also avoided 11 tonnes of CO2.

Sport in 2020 has been a unique experience as the sporting community endeavoured to tackle the challenges set by ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and the unpredictable complications that followed. The return to sport commenced in Term 3, but most representative sports were unfortunately unable to continue safely for the majority of this year. Although many sports took on a new format this season, we celebrated some impressive achievements and well-deserved victories, which is testament to our hardworking and dedicated Monte Sports Department, and the unwavering commitment of all our players.

Mr Michael Vandervelde Sports Program Manager



Grace Bruce, Year 11

Tennis

The Annual Tildesley Tennis Tournament was postponed until July 2020, but was fortunate to be one of the only tournaments that went ahead this year. It was played without spectators in the July term break at Pymble Ladies' College, and the Monte Tennis Team consisted of 12 Singles and seven Doubles teams.



Monte Runners

Basketball

This Basketball season, there was no viable competition in operation, however the teams did manage a few competitive games against Wenona School and were also able to compete against each other. A highlight of this season was an epic internal battle hosted at the College, between Monte 2 and Monte 7.



Monte 2 vs Monte 7

Tae Kwon Do

Grading was a major part of the Term 3 Tae Kwon Do program, and excellent results were achieved by all our Tae Kwon Do participants.



Tae Kwon Do Grading

Monte Runners

The external Representative Cross Country events were postponed this year, however with running recognised as one of the safest fitness activities during COVID-19, Monte created their own virtual event, the Monte House Run, for staff, students and the wider Monte community. The exciting event saw a fantastic 89 Monte students, 125 family members, six staff and two dogs participate and track over 1500km in total! Each participant collected Colour House points for their efforts and Xavier were victorious with the most points awarded.

Monte Runners decided to finish their highly active and well-attended Term 3 program with a celebratory tutu-wearing Opera House run! Well done to all that participated.



Dance

The Monte Dance and Aerobics Recital was the highlight of the Dance and Aerobics season with all other eisteddfods either being cancelled or run as virtual events. Monte Dance and Aerobics teams submitted polished virtual submissions of their routines for the CGSSSA Competition and Gym NSW Virtual Aerobics Competition.



Football - Monte 1 Team

Football

The Northern Suburbs Football Association Competition was extended this year, and the five Monte teams showed wonderful commitment throughout the 14-week competition. Monte 1 and Monte 3 had outstanding seasons, both finishing second in their respective competitions, while Monte 2 were recognised for their resilience in a very tough season.

Hockey

Five Monte Hockey teams competed in a modified season, within a Lower North Shore zone, and the teams were thrilled to get on the field. The Independent Girls School Sports Association competition was interrupted mid-season but was reformatted to allow teams to continue playing in smaller local zones.



Hockey - Monte 5 Team



Hockey - Monte 4 Team

Netball

In a shortened seven-round season, Monte had 56 teams compete in the Northern Suburbs Netball Association Competition. Impressively, a total of 20 teams made the Grand Finals with 12 teams ultimately proving victorious.

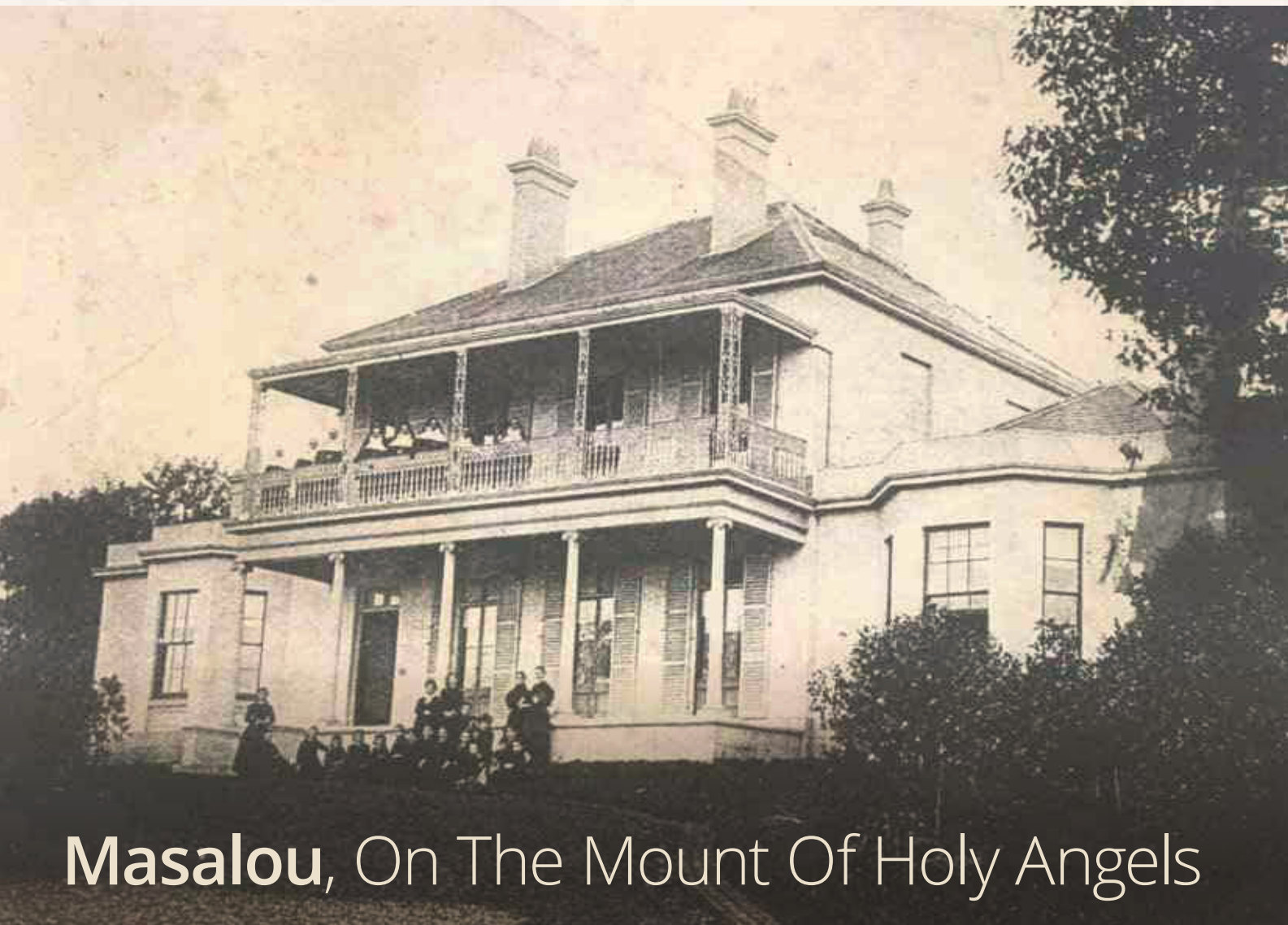
A stellar season was had by Monte's Netball Umpires, with Charlotte Versace (Year 11) earning her National B Badge for umpiring this season. A further 10 students received their National C Badge, and Monte provided between 70-80 umpires each weekend. Well done to Ciara Corcoran (Year 8), who was recognised by the Northern Suburbs Netball Association as the Junior Umpire of the Year.



Ciara Corcoran, Year 8



Monte 55 Netball



Masalou, On The Mount Of Holy Angels

This year marks 142 years since the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney purchased Masalou on the current site of Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College.

Placed high on the hill, we celebrate the majesty of this historic home, a pinnacle of colonial-style architecture, featuring stately cedar woodwork, a grand staircase distinctive of Australian nineteenth century interior design, French windows and lace iron balconies. The second-storey verandah was, before the development of skyscrapers, iconic for its dress-circle views of Sydney Harbour. It proved a perfect vantage point for visitors to watch war ships, mail deliveries and even a grand illumination in honour of Prince Alfred, who sailed into Sydney Harbour in 1868. The verandah was a window to the world well before radio and television.

The magic of Masalou continued outside with expansive grounds home to a milking cow, a fresh water well, an orchard of pear and apple trees (it was considered most unsporting for the gardener to harvest

the fruit before students had the chance to partake), and a kitchen garden along Berry Street. There were magnificent oaks, bunya pines and camphor laurels and the roots of Moreton Bay figs were known to double as armchairs for readers.

Before the Sisters of Mercy took possession of Masalou in 1878, it was the showpiece home of the pastoralist of "good fortune", the Hon. Francis Lord M.L.C., his wife Mary and their seven children. The three eldest Lord daughters – Mary, Sarah and Louise are attributed as being Ma-Sa-Lou's namesakes. Lord was a significant land holder, merchant and Member of the NSW Parliament.

As an established family home, Masalou witnessed the "rough and tumble" of three boys, as well as a much-documented courtship conducted in the gardens

and the anteroom (most probably The Parlour), followed by a wedding reception and christening party.

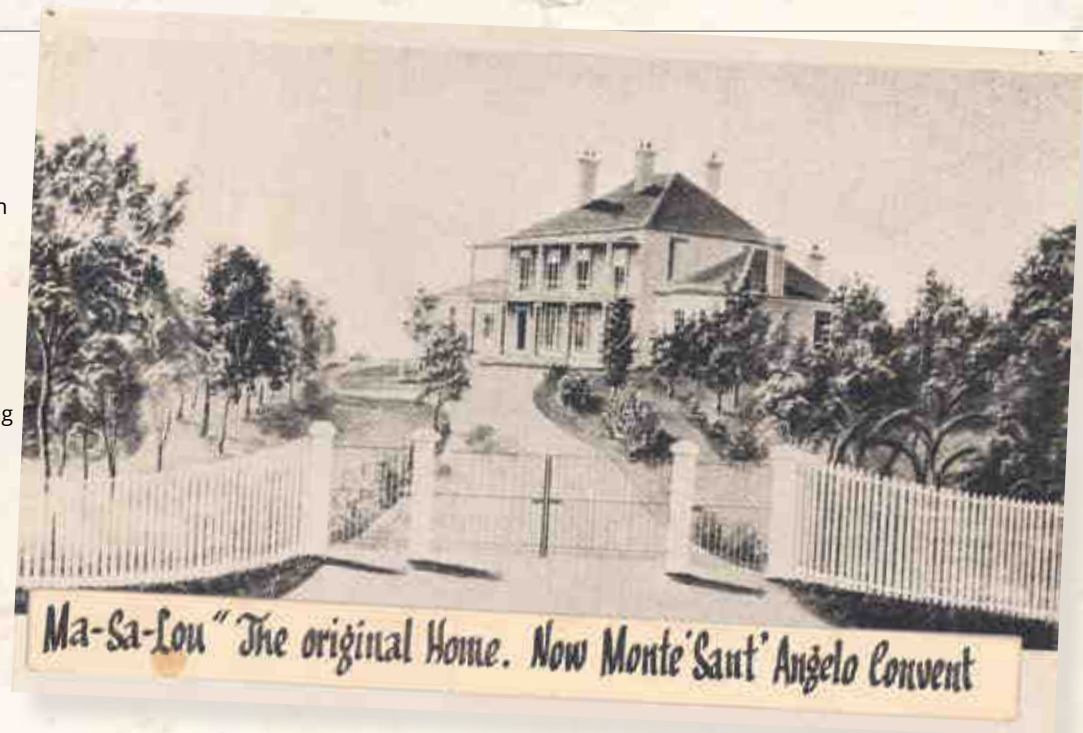
When Francis Lord listed Masalou for sale, he refused to sell his showpiece home to a Catholic institution or a woman. That woman in question was Mother Ignatius McQuoin RSM, who was seeking larger premises for her burgeoning convent and boarding school. Unperturbed by Lord's prejudices, she procured a third party to purchase Masalou on her behalf, with the Hunter Street glover and hosier, George Whiting, agreeing to purchase the property in his name for £7000. Whiting sold it to Mother Ignatius without profit, despite Lord's later attempts at public profiteering slanders.

Unfortunately, a deluge of rain delayed the necessary alterations to the sleeping quarters of what would now be known as St Joseph's Convent and, in 1879, the final relocation of the Sisters and boarders was

realised. Mother Ignatius, who was customarily humble in nature, could not resist expressing her immense pride in the property and the echelon of educational excellence it would soon represent on the North Shore.

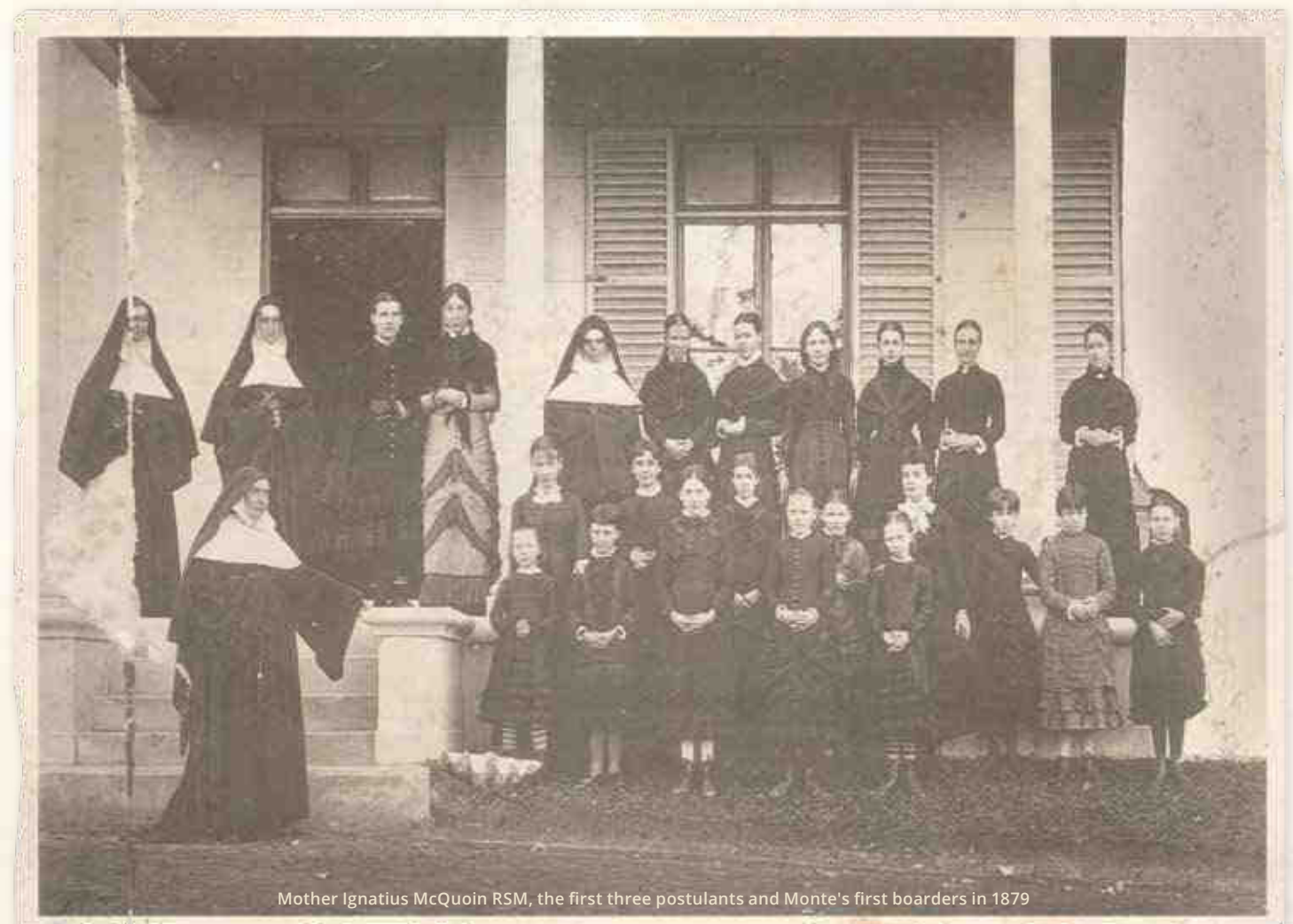
Mother Ignatius set herself the mission of developing Masalou as a convent and a 'Boarding School for Young Ladies'. This was the beginning of the significant expansion of the Sisters of Mercys' work on the north side of the harbour – growth that would require consummate planning, financing and leadership on behalf of Mother Ignatius.

Over the years, the College campus has grown significantly, yet Masalou has remained at the heart of the College in pride of place on the Circular Drive. It now is a hub of academic and teaching administration, is home to the Monte Foundation and the prestigious College and Sisters of Mercy North Sydney Archives. The Parlour remains untouched in all its original glory.



"I long for you to see our lovely 'Monte Sant' Angelo' which far surpasses our expectations."

Letter from Mother Ignatius McQuoin RSM to Sister Mary Patrick RSM, 14 April 1879



Mother Ignatius McQuoin RSM, the first three postulants and Monte's first boarders in 1879

President's Report

The Parents and Friends Association (P&F) has a proud and long-standing tradition of supporting the College's mission, fostering a strong sense of community with events and social outings planned throughout the year.

This year due to the impact of COVID-19, some P&F events were postponed or delivered digitally. Like many in business and in our community, the P&F Executive took action to find new ways to engage with Monte families and carry out the work of the P&F Association. My sincere thanks to the P&F Executive, particularly Shirley Cheung our Social Convenor, the Class Parent Coordinators, and the team in the Development Office for being flexible, innovative and adaptable.

One of the most significant contributions the P&F Association has made this year is our donation to the Monte COVID-19 Financial Assistance Program. We feel honoured to have been able to make a

sizeable contribution of \$50,000 to the College so families whose livelihoods have been impacted by COVID-19 may continue educating their daughters at Monte. This contribution was made possible thanks to the generosity of Monte families who raised funds by means of the P&F levy and raffle.

A special mention to the Class of 2020: Your time at the College has drawn to an end and we thank you for your vitality, perseverance and strength. The Monte community wishes you every success for the future, knowing that a Mercy education will enable you to achieve your goals.

To acknowledge the Class of 2020, the P&F Association has funded the gift of a bracelet

with the Monte crest. May this special one-time gift remind them of their ability to rise above unexpected challenges and succeed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the P&F Executive for their unwavering commitment during these unprecedented times, with particular thanks to the outgoing members of the P&F Executive as they come to the end of their Monte journey. My heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Ruth Tate, Peter Gallagher, Maryann Gobee and Ledi Hector as they commence their post-Monte lives.

A warm welcome to the new members of the P&F Executive, Nicholas O'Brien (Treasurer), Kerri-Anne Dougan (Vice President), Margot Henville (General Member) and Natasha de Souza (Class Parent Coordinator). As we enter the planning phase for 2021, we are working towards building an even stronger community. If you have any suggestions or ideas you would like to share, please get in touch:

pandfpresident@parent.monte.nsw.edu.au

Ms Samantha Parker
President Parents & Friends Association

The P&F Association was delighted that so many Monte families, Alumni and staff participated in the virtual Dinner Date event to celebrate the College's 145th anniversary. Its production was made possible due to the support of the P&F Association with special thanks to past parent and renowned chef, Giovanni Pilu, and current parent Anne Marie Cummins (Class of 1988), Creative Director and owner of Food to Film.



Message from the President

It was wonderful to see such a broad range of our community including Alumni, current students, parents and teachers embrace the opportunity to nominate exceptional Alumni for the Catherine McAuley Alumna Mercy Award. The extraordinary achievements and contributions these Mercy women have made to their communities is humbling.

We were honoured to announce Sonia Di Mezza (Class of 1990) as the recipient of this year's Catherine McAuley Alumna Mercy Award during the College's Mercy Day celebrations. Her work as a passionate advocate for human rights and social justice is an inspiration.

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2020, I am honoured to welcome them into our Monte Alumni community. We hope the Monte Alumni sterling silver rings presented to the girls at their graduation ceremony reminds them that whilst they have graduated from the College, they are now life-long members of the Monte Alumni and will always be part of our community. This year the girls

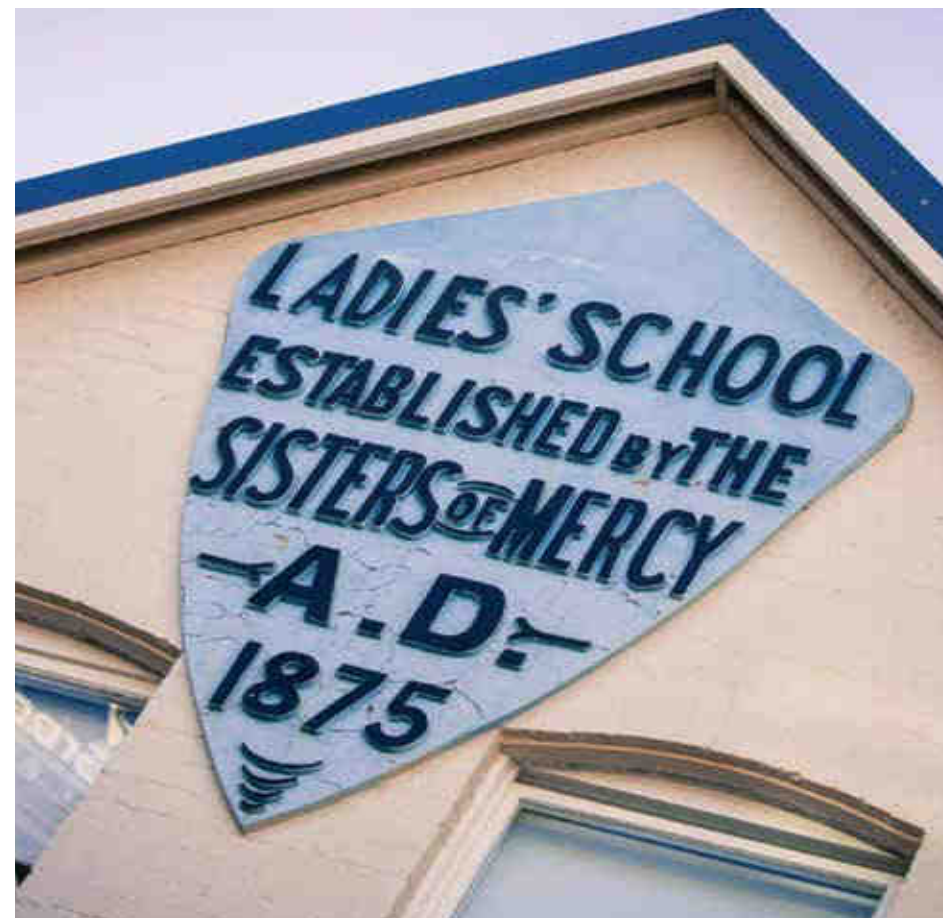


have truly shown their resilience, strength and ability to adapt to change. I wish the Class of 2020 all the best with their future studies and career paths – please keep in touch!

I encourage you to visit our Monte Alumni online community:
alumni.monte.nsw.edu.au

This dedicated Alumni website provides an opportunity to stay connected with the College, ensuring Alumni remain informed about upcoming reunions and events. You can use this platform to update your details and search for and reconnect with fellow Alumni.

Ms Annette Benaud (Class of 1974)
President Monte Alumni Association



I would like to thank the Alumni Committee for their ongoing involvement and support throughout the year:

PRINCIPAL

NICOLE CHRISTENSEN

VICE PRESIDENT

VANESSA PETERSEN
(CLASS OF 2009)

TREASURER

VANESSA LEI
(CLASS OF 2001)

SECRETARY

CATHERINE HAWKINS
(NEE DOUGHTY, CLASS OF 1981)

SOCIAL JUSTICE COORDINATOR

CAITLIN PFAFFLIN
(NEE BREWER, CLASS OF 1996)

NETBALL

SARAH ANTICO
(CLASS OF 2012)

ALUMNI COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SR ANNA KOENEMAN RSM
(CLASS OF 1957)

KATE ANDERSON
(NEE FORD, CLASS OF 1992)

MELISSA ASHCROFT
(NEE MACALYK, CLASS OF 2000)

CATHERINE KERNOT
(NEE CLEAR, CLASS OF 1975)

NICOLE O'DONNELL
(NEE DEADY, CLASS OF 1990)

DEIRDRE PERRY
(NEE QUIRK, CLASS OF 1953)

CAITLIN RICHARDS
(CLASS OF 2007)

EMILY SALTER
(NEE FIELD, CLASS OF 1996)

JEANNINE THOMPSON
(CLASS OF 1981)

Alumni Sport Report

MONTE ALUMNI NETBALL CLUB

After the longest pre-season in history, the Monte Alumni Netball club took to the court in July 2020 for the first round of the Northern Suburbs Netball Association Winter Competition. In a condensed season that was not without its challenges, it was fantastic to see all eight teams in action and enjoying their Netball!

Grand Final day saw three teams compete for the championship in their respective divisions (Monte Alumni 3, Monte Alumni 5 and Monte Alumni 7) with Monte Alumni 3 emerging victorious in the A4 division. This was the club's first A grade Grand Final win in a number of years.

With the 2021 season due to start in April next year, expressions of interest will begin shortly. Please email the club if you would like to play Netball for Monte Alumni in 2021 – individuals and groups welcome!

Ms Sarah Antico (Class of 2012)

Email:
exmontenetball@gmail.com

Facebook:
facebook.com/exstudentsnetballclub

Rising Star

Congratulations to Millie Roach (Year 12), who was selected for the Australian U17 Netball Squad.



Millie Roach, Year 12



Monte Alumni 1
Back Row:
Kate Brookes (Class of 2013), Abby McGrath (Class of 2017), Alysha Skerritt (Class of 2014), Jacqueline Henville (Class of 2017), Ali Quinn (Class of 2017)
Front Row:
Emma Stephenson (Class of 2014), Rosie O'Shea (Class of 2018), Jaimee Cohen



Monte Alumni 3 (All Class of 2019)
Back Row:
Holly Anderson, Lara Doherty, Bronte Frauenstein, Maddison Barraket, Kate Robertson, Libby Kells
Front Row:
Isabella Lynn, Grace Marks, Philippa Graham



CATHERINE MCAULEY ALUMNA MERCY AWARD

The Catherine McAuley Alumna Mercy Award recognises an exceptional Alumna who has, and continues to, contribute greatly through excellence in their chosen field, and who displays outstanding moral character by demonstrating Mercy values in their personal and professional endeavours.

In the second year of hosting the award, we were delighted to see the Monte Alumni community embrace the opportunity to nominate their peers. This year, the judging panel had the challenging task of selecting the recipient from 37 extraordinary nominees.



In 2020, we are honored to recognise **Sonia Di Mezza** (Class of 1990) as the Catherine McAuley Alumna Mercy Award recipient.

In her life beyond Monte, Sonia's academic excellence has seen her achieve qualifications as a solicitor, and a Master of International Law majoring in human rights law, enabling Sonia to work for the past 25 years as a human rights lawyer, both in Australia and abroad.

Sonia heralds a passion for human rights which has been consistently demonstrated throughout her extensive career, seeing her set up a legal aid project in the camps of Sudan; establish a project identifying vulnerable widowed Afghan refugee women and their children living in Pakistan for resettlement; and work for the United Nations High Commissioner in Beirut, Lebanon, supporting the resettlement of refugees.

Sonia's Mercy in action has been particularly exemplified through her work within the Save the Childhood Movement (*Bachpan Bachao Andolan*), where she participated in raids of factories illegally employing child labourers.

Evidently, Sonia's championing of human rights for society's most vulnerable groups has formed the bedrock of her career. Such merits are further demonstrated through her work in Australia as a refugee lawyer, representing asylum seekers both in detention and the community, as well as through Sonia's advocacy support work as

the Deputy CEO of the ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service (ADACAS).

Demonstrating her leadership prowess, Sonia previously worked as the CEO of the Domestic Violence Crisis Service in Canberra; is currently an acting board member of two international humanitarian NGOs (Peace Brigades International, and International NGO Safety Organisation); and is the Deputy Chair of the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs.

Looking back almost 30 years ago, Sonia won the Leonard Family Award for Community Service at her 1990 Monte graduation. At the time, Sonia had no idea where her career would take her, but in hindsight feels that winning the award in 1990 was perhaps a prediction of the direction that her future career would take in the field of human rights and social justice.

Sonia is a true woman of Mercy, and a wonderful recipient for this award.

Where Are They Now?



Astrid Menzies
(Class of 2013)

Private Client Stylist, Farfetch

After graduating in 2013, Astrid commenced a Business Degree at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), with a career goal of working in the fashion industry.

While completing her studies, Astrid accepted a role in 2017 with her favourite Australian designer Manning Cartell. Working for one of Australia's most high-end fashion brands gave Astrid the knowledge she needed to progress in the fashion industry. Initially working as a casual sales assistant, she was promoted in 2019 to Boutique Manager and in the same year graduated from her degree.

Earlier this year, Astrid decided she wanted to progress her career and find an opportunity to expand her skills beyond retail, so she began looking for new roles. Searching on LinkedIn, Astrid found and applied for a role as a Private Client Stylist for Farfetch – a multinational online shopping platform that is one of the top players in the luxury fashion industry. It connects boutiques and brands with

shoppers all over the world. Two weeks after applying, Astrid was offered the role. Farfetch has 13 offices globally, but none in Australia, making Astrid the first Australian-based employee for Farfetch.

Astrid's role involves personal styling and customer engagement for all of the Australian client base. She loves to be client-facing, building relationships with people through fashion, which is what initially attracted her to the role. Astrid's role also involves reporting to global teams on what is happening in the Australian market. Astrid's job with Farfetch combines everything she loves about fashion, with all of the management and marketing knowledge she gained from her Business Degree at UTS.

Securing the role as Farfetch's first Australian employee is an achievement Astrid is extremely proud of. The potential of future growth for Farfetch in Australia will provide opportunities that Astrid is very excited to explore.



Jessica Wood
(Class of 2007)

Design Manager and
Senior Civil Designer

Unsure of her career path after leaving Monte, Jess commenced a drafting apprenticeship with a local engineering company.

A number of years as an apprentice combined with further studies at TAFE resulted in Jess becoming the youngest Senior Civil Designer and Design Manager in a leading tier one engineering firm.

Concurrently, in 2015 Jess first started training NorthStar Jiu-Jitsu at Quantum Martial Arts, and it was not long afterwards that she began competing in local competitions. She is currently the three-time undefeated women's champion of the Fighting Spirit Tournament. In 2017 she achieved a major milestone in her martial arts journey, where after rigorous training and testing, earned her first Dan Black Belt. In 2018 she partnered with her mentor and opened a Jiu-Jitsu Dojo in Chatswood where she began instructing children and adults.

Continuing with her own training, in 2019, she was sighted by an Australian Jiu-Jitsu Federation President who invited

her to the Australian Jiu-Jitsu team trials. Upon making the team, Jess underwent a rigorous nine-month training regime and went on to compete in the World Jiu-Jitsu Championships 2019 in Orlando, Florida, earning a Gold and two Silver Medals. Shortly afterwards she renewed her training and competed in the World Sports Jiu-Jitsu Championships 2019 in Tbilisi, Georgia, earning a Silver Medal.

During this time, Jess was still working in the engineering industry, leading and managing multi-disciplinary teams on multi-million-dollar infrastructure projects across Sydney, such as the Moorebank Intermodal Facility. In addition to full-time work and training, she is currently studying part-time her Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) at the University of Sydney. Jess' goals are to continue teaching and competing in tournaments around the world, finish her degree, and become a qualified civil engineer.



Joanne Stevens
(Class of 1985)

Minister-Counsellor and
Consul-General, Australian High
Commission, Port Moresby

Jo came to Monte in 1983, as a Year 10 student, after spending much of her formative years living overseas. Jo found that Monte prepared her well for her university education, but after graduating, she longed for a career path which would enable her to experience other cultures to satisfy her deep yearning for variety, excitement, a fast pace environment, and helping others. So, in 1998 after several years in hospitality, Jo joined Australia's diplomatic service as a management trainee.

The variation Jo desired, she achieved. Jo has since had five postings to London, Hong Kong, Baghdad, Bangkok, and Port Moresby. Her job is dual hatted with responsibility for both the management of Australia's diplomatic missions and the provision of consular services (such as assisting Australians who find themselves in trouble while travelling or living overseas).

Some of Jo's career highlights comprise of serving at Australia's mission in Iraq during a precarious and dangerous time, as well as a number of short-term crisis response deployments. These include deployment to the Solomon Islands to evacuate Australians during civil unrest in 1999, and a deployment to Bali in 2005, following the second wave

of bombings. In 2006, Jo sailed out from Turkey to Lebanon to rescue Australians caught up in the Israel-Hezbollah War.

Jo found her most recent position in Port Moresby fascinating. She recognises Papua New Guinea (PNG) as a beautiful country, although it has suffered from a number of natural disasters, poverty, poor sanitation, and a crumbling health system. Jo has faced challenges working there during COVID-19. However, she found the experience incredibly fulfilling, believing that with Australia's support, PNG will emerge stronger, more secure, and increasingly capable of better health outcomes for its people.

Jo acknowledges that Monte encourages self-belief, resilience, versatility and independence. She finds that these are characteristics which were equally central to Monte's values 35 years ago, without which, Jo would not have had the skills or courage to thrive in some difficult situations. Jo left the College as a strong, empowered woman, and she suspects from reading about the amazing career paths of other Alumni, Monte continues to successfully prepare its students to take on the world.

Happy 100th Birthday Miss Joyce Dudgeon (Class of 1937)

We would like to congratulate Miss Joyce Dudgeon (Class of 1937) who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Her wonderful milestone was celebrated with beloved family and friends through a virtual birthday party using Facebook, Zoom, WhatsApp and phone calls.

Miss Dudgeon comes from a family of proud Monte women; including her mother Mrs Vera Dudgeon (nee Egan, Class of 1911) and her sister Mrs Margaret Coombes (nee Dudgeon, Class of 1935).

Miss Dudgeon has much to celebrate, particularly her life as a pioneering young entrepreneur. In 1946, just after the conclusion of World War II, Miss Dudgeon decided she wanted to be a hairdresser. To achieve her goal, she completed a four-year apprenticeship earning just six shillings and four pence per week. To put this into perspective, 20 shillings was

equal to one pound, and at the time, the basic wage for males was approximately six pounds per week, with the female wage approximately 54% of the adult male rate.

Miss Dudgeon then opened a flourishing hairdressing salon of her own in

Longueville, where she saw rapidly changing fashion and innovation over the years. The fashion and hair trends were influenced by film stars and the media. Miss Dudgeon was a keen businesswoman and kept her own books of accounting which she wrote up on a daily basis.

Miss Joyce Dudgeon was truly a woman ahead of her time with a determination and passion to forge success in her chosen career.





A Message From Beirut

6:07pm, Tuesday 4 August 2020, Beirut, Lebanon – the exact time and place that dramatically changed countless lives both in Lebanon and abroad, including my own, forever.

Yasmin Kassis (centre), surrounded by her past students

One of the many things I value about my Monte education was that we were taught to be citizens of the world. We could achieve whatever we set our hearts and minds to, and that above all, it is our duty to help others and do good in this world. So, in 2011, I left Sydney to experience a lifelong dream of living and working abroad. London was the place I had initially planned to base myself in, but then Beirut stole my heart and has kept it ever since.

Fast-forward to Tuesday 4 August 2020, I was teaching in my classroom when suddenly myself and my students felt the building shake – the first of the blasts. Thinking it was an earthquake, we moved away from the windows which we were next to only seconds before. We headed towards the tables (to hide under for safety) and that was when the sheer lethal force of the second earth-shattering explosion was felt as it ripped through our room. The sound was deafening, alarming, ear-splitting, louder than anything I had ever heard before. The building was moving and felt like it was about to collapse and we were going to go with it. It was as if the blast was directly outside

our building. I thought my time may be up.

I distinctly remember a dear student reaching out to me to try and protect me. Survival instincts kicked in, social distancing went out the window and I reached towards him. That feeling will remain with me forever and I will always be grateful for that act of selflessness at a time of crisis. Then it stopped. We stopped. Time stood still for those initial seconds afterwards, as you begin to process what you just miraculously survived. The second I realised my class and I were safe, I looked up and thanked my guardian angel. I truly believe that Sarah Royle (Class of 2000) who is in heaven was looking after me that day.

We stood there in sheer and utter disbelief. Other students and teachers came running out of their classrooms; we heard screaming, we saw injured students, we saw blood, we saw chaos, we saw hysteria. Words cannot describe both the sound and sight of this, and of the other classrooms and offices. Mine seemed to be the only one without a scratch. I felt incredibly torn, fearing for my safety and the need to leave whilst I could

but there was no way I was able to leave when those around me were hurt physically and emotionally. It did not sit right with my moral conscience. Immediately thinking of my family in Sydney and how they would react to hearing the news of the blast, I went to call them but saw my phone battery was on its last legs. However, the urge to help those in my vicinity instantly took precedence.

Finally, after ensuring that the injured students were seen to and that my colleagues were safe with a way to get home, and that my class were all together (I was not leaving until I knew each and every one of them had left the building safely with me), we began walking down the stairs. The shock continued as we witnessed the widespread damage in the building, each and every floor of the high-rise, blown to pieces. We then made it to the ground floor and entrance, a sea of glass that we had no choice but to walk over. We looked beyond and saw complete destruction all around. Eventually, I was safely taken home, only to find that my apartment had also been damaged. The explosion was so powerful that it blew my locked front door wide open. Windows in both my living room and bedroom had come out of their frames and shattered. The attic door too.

Had I been home and teaching online, it would have been a whole other story.

As the night passed, we learnt of the sheer scale of the catastrophic blast in the port of Beirut (about 10 minutes from where I lived and worked). The beating heart of the city, its people and their livelihoods were devastatingly, heart-wrenchingly destroyed. It is also important to note that well before the explosion, Lebanon had already been suffering not only from the pandemic, but from a massive economic, political, financial and social crisis.

I plugged my phone into the charger, went to call my family and check on my loved ones in Beirut. However, I could not connect to the Wi-Fi nor the phone networks. Both had been damaged by the blast. At this point, I knew my family and loved ones both in Lebanon and overseas would be panicking. My neighbour came home, and as she was with a different phone network, generously loaned me her phone and found a locksmith to fix our doors so that we could sleep that evening (not that anyone with a connection to Lebanon did). This was one of many

examples of how we banded together to help each other despite everything happening.

The next day, I joined my fellow Beirut and Lebanese residents in the clean-up efforts on the streets of the hardest-hit areas. The despair and destruction were (and still are)

"...every thought, prayer, bit of support, love and assistance we received both from those in Lebanon and all around the world, including the Monte community, filled our broken hearts and meant more to us than will ever be known."

utterly unfathomable. Imagine whole city neighbourhoods and inner-city suburbs in Sydney totally destroyed. Each and every building. That is how widespread it was.

I could not be a survivor and then do nothing to try and help wherever possible. This was how I felt. Innocent lives were lost, loved ones had vanished, horrific injuries sustained,

homes, businesses and livelihoods had gone too. The results of people's lifelong blood, sweat and tears disappeared in a matter of seconds as did a good part of Beirut's architectural heritage and culture. I wanted to help regardless of what was happening around me. This is what Monte instilled in us. As the days went on, I continued to volunteer and do what I could as I owe it to the people and city that have given me so much over the years. This was where I was meant to be despite the risks, and I will keep doing so even though I have now returned to Australia.

One last thing I would like to leave with you is that every thought, prayer, bit of support, love and assistance we received both from those in Lebanon and all around the world,

including the Monte community, filled our broken hearts and meant more to us than will ever be known. Our pain, grief, trauma and anger are immense, but knowing we have the beautiful humans of this world like yourselves behind us, gives us the strength to go on.

Yasmin Kassis
(Class of 2000)



Alumni Career Video Series

This year, to ensure the girls were supported and able to benefit from invaluable Alumni insights and experience, we were delighted to launch our Alumni career video series.

The students had the unique opportunity to hear from five inspirational Alumni who are leading the way within their individual careers of Law, Medicine, Accounting and Design. The video series featured Alumni answering a range of questions about their

career progression, what their position involves on a day-to-day basis, the advice they would give to their 16-year-old self and what values they learnt at Monte that have helped them in their career.

The videos were very well received by students.

Special thanks to the below Alumni for generously giving their time and being involved in the project:

The Hon. Justice Kathleen Farrell
(Class of 1973) – Federal Court Judge

Jessica Campanaro (nee Horton, Class of 1996) – Radio Journalist / News Reader & Senior Lecturer

Josephine Hellstern (Class of 2002) – Chartered Accountant / Partner

Paula Martins (Class of 2010) – Product Designer

Jacqueline Strudwick-Day
(Class of 2005) – Doctor



Alumni Lunchtime Zoom Session

Students from Years 9-12 enjoyed an engaging lunchtime Zoom session where they had the opportunity to learn about the career experience of a Paediatric Nurse. They embraced the chance to ask questions and learn from the wisdom and advice shared. Special thanks to **Pippa Cadwallader** (nee Cameron, Class of 1992) – Paediatric Nurse.



VALE
Mrs Anne Galbraith

Anne Galbraith became Sr Maureen McGuirk RSM's Personal Assistant in 1979, a role which included acting as Registrar of the College. She continued in the latter role until her retirement at the end of 2002. Anne's warmth and good memory for names provided a genuine welcome to some 6000 students during her time as Registrar. Her well-known

quotation was: "You are now a Monte girl".

"Anne's role as Registrar at the College meant she was a pivotal part of the life of Monte; she knew so much and so many, always accommodating and full of grace." – Ex-Monte Staff Member

She was dedicated to all students' sporting achievements. This resulted in the Anne Galbraith Award for Commitment

to College Sport being set up and was presented by Anne for the first time at the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony in 2002.

Anne passed away in September 2020 and will be deeply missed by family and friends.

Mrs Mary Doughty AM
(Class of 1947)



Vale

Louise Allara
(nee Kerslake, Class of 1961)

Susan Fordree
(Class of 1974)

Geraldine Gavin
(nee Burke, Class of 1960)

Wendy McCormick
(nee Lawson, Class of 1956)

Victoria Wardley
(Class of 1977)

2021 Dates for Your Diary

The below events are currently tentative and will depend on COVID-19 restrictions at the time.

COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Sunday 7 March

ALUMNI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 7 March

BLUE & BLUE LUNCH

Friday 21 May

CAREER INSIGHTS EVENING

Tuesday 25 May

*If you are interested in being a guest speaker at this event, or at any other time throughout the year, please contact alumni@monte.nsw.edu.au

MASALOU LUNCH

Tuesday 12 October

2021 Reunions

CLASS OF 2015
5 YEAR REUNION
(RESCHEDULED FROM 2020)

Saturday 13 March
Contact: Marina Farac
alumni@monte.nsw.edu.au

CLASS OF 1980
40 YEAR REUNION
(RESCHEDULED FROM 2020)

Saturday 30 October
Contact: annmary14@bigpond.com

SUNSHINE COAST

Saturday 4 December 2021
For Alumni living, working or studying on the Sunshine Coast
Contact: lesamaywilson@gmail.com

We would love to hear from Alumni of the following year groups who are interested in organising their reunion for 2021. Please contact: alumni@monte.nsw.edu.au

5 year reunion: **Class of 2016**

10 year reunion: **Class of 2011**

20 year reunion: **Class of 2001**

30 year reunion: **Class of 1991**

The below 2020 reunions will be rescheduled to 2021

CLASS OF 2000
20 YEAR REUNION
Contact: melissaashcraft@icloud.com

CLASS OF 1990
30 YEAR REUNION
Contact: nicolepodonnell@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1960
60 YEAR REUNION
Contact: coraliey@bigpond.com

40 year reunion: **Class of 1981**

50 year reunion: **Class of 1971**

60 year reunion: **Class of 1961**

70 year reunion: **Class of 1951**

STAY CONNECTED

VISIT OUR SITE:
alumni.monte.nsw.edu.au

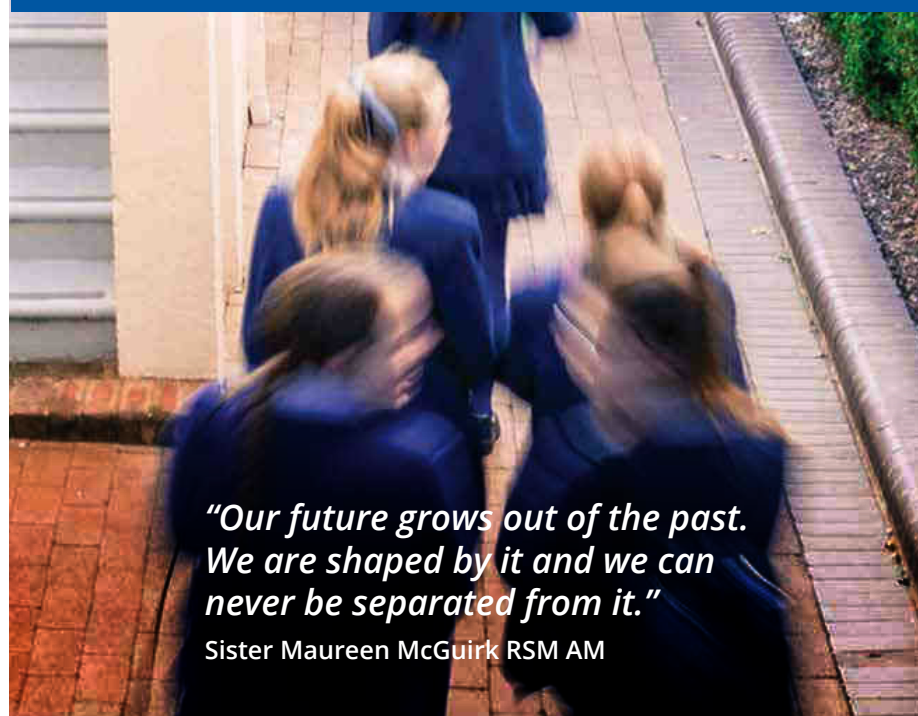
The Monte Alumni Online Community is a secure site that will enable you to:

- **UPDATE** your contact details
- **SEARCH** for and contact Alumni registered within our Online Community
- **VIEW** upcoming reunions and events
- **STAY CONNECTED, INFORMED and ENGAGED** with the College and our Alumni Community

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/MonteAlumni



MONTE ALUMNI



"Our future grows out of the past. We are shaped by it and we can never be separated from it."

Sister Maureen McGuirk RSM AM

Masalou Lunch

The Masalou Lunch, celebrating friendships that have spanned an extraordinary 50 years or more, was sadly cancelled this year due to COVID-19.

Whilst we were unable to gather to celebrate this special milestone, our Year 8 students relished the opportunity to connect with our Masalou Alumni by sending handwritten cards to let them know they were thinking of them in these uncertain times.

The Class of 1970, our newest inductees, were welcomed into this esteemed group of Alumni who have respectively contributed to the legacy of our historic College.

Many Alumni took the opportunity to respond to the girls, sending wonderful

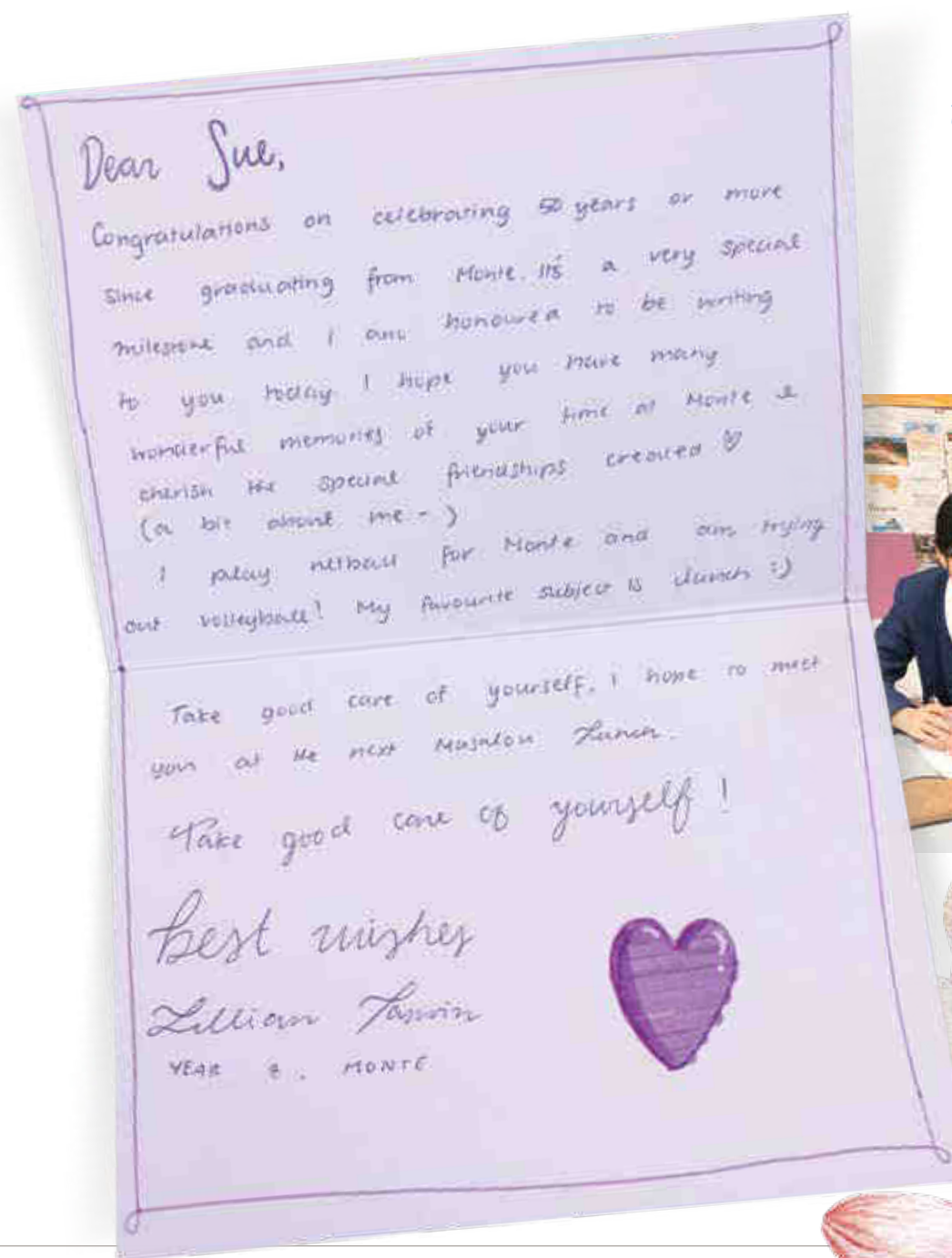
cards and emails of appreciation, recalling what they were involved in whilst at Monte and encouraging the girls to treasure their school days and friendships forged.

Together, we will continue to support each other and share our collective experiences as we reminisce about our rich history and look with optimism to our future.

We look forward to welcoming our Masalou Alumni back to the Mount of Holy Angels in 2021.

"What a beautiful surprise to receive your card and lovely letter this morning. Thank you for your thoughtful words which made me take the time to sit with a cup of tea and remember again the wonderful days I spent at Monte".

Judy Jack (nee Ryder, Class of 1958)



MONTE BURSARY 2020 BLUE RIBBON APPEAL thank you

In extraordinary times our community has achieved an outstanding result, raising **\$124,662** for bursaries

The collective pooling of kindness and generosity has enabled the College to make a profound difference to the lives of many young Monte women in need.

As we have witnessed this year, we are all susceptible to life's unexpected twists and turns, financial hardship does not discriminate. For our families seeking financial support so that their daughters can continue their Mercy education, 2020

has been extremely difficult. We extend our gratitude to the donors who made it possible for these families to maintain their dignity, providing stability for their daughters as the world around them abruptly changed. It was humbling to witness this generosity, gifts small and large have truly made a difference.

Our College community, through these challenging times, has continued to exemplify our core values of mercy,

compassion and human dignity. On Blue Ribbon Day, our students proudly demonstrated these values by purchasing a blue ribbon pin in support of bursaries. Their generosity and energy as they embraced their peers in solidarity was heart-warming, with the girls raising over \$2,000 for the appeal.

On behalf of the College, our bursary recipients and their families, thank you.



Donor Recognition

Anonymous (Class of 1976)
Anonymous (Class of 1950)
Anonymous (Class of 1954)
Anonymous (Class of 1951)
Anonymous (Class of 1967)
Anonymous (Class of 1977)
Anonymous (Class of 1976)
Anonymous (Class of 1971)
Anonymous (Class of 1965)
Anonymous (Class of 1962)
Anonymous (Class of 1976)
Anonymous (Class of 1971)
Anonymous (Class of 1950)
Anonymous (Class of 1987)
Anonymous (Yr 8 Parent)
Anonymous (Yr 9 Parent)
Anonymous (Yr 9 Parent)
Anonymous (Yr 10 Parent)
Anonymous (Yr 11 Parent)
Anonymous (Past Parent)
Anonymous (Past Parent)
Eileen Arndt (Class of 1970)
Brigid Asquith-Hunt
Gioconda Augimeri (Class of 1956)
Russell & Francisca Barlin
Annette Benaud (Class of 1974)
Gabrielle Bookallil (Class of 1959)
Rachel Bradbury & Lachlan MacDonald
Sonia Brennan (Class of 1983)
Pamela Brown (Class of 1956)
Alison Browne & Justin Needs
Judith Bryant (Class of 1947)
Anne Burrows (Class of 1968)
Louise & Rodney Campbell
Belinda Clark (Class of 1991)
Michelle & John Cook
Grace Sachs
Edith de Boer
Danielle Delaney (Class of 1990)
Siobhan Doran (Class of 1995)
Mary Doughty AM (Class of 1947)
Scott Egelton & Michelle Magill
Sarah Evans (Class of 2016)
Kathleen Farrell (Class of 1973)
Zita Farrell (Class of 1953)
Merilyn Ferguson (Class of 1965)
Olivera & David Ferguson
Stephen Flannery
Rosemary Flynn (Class of 1961)
Malcolm & Barbara France
Margaret Frater (Class of 1954)
Mary Gilmour (Class of 1957)
Gobee Family
Robyn & Bronwyn Haney (Class of 1986)
Brett & Brigitte Hildebrandt
Paul & Caroline Hill
Alison & Andrew Housego

Mary Howell (Class of 1964)
Chris & Jane Hutchinson
Terrie Johnson (Class of 1963)
Annette Keenan (Class of 1974)
Catherine Kernot (Class of 1975)
Stephen & Rachel Klemenic
Olga Kovac (Class of 1959)
Thomas & Lan Le
Kim & Stephen Levy
Fei Loke (Class of 1959)
Geraldine Magarey (Class of 1986)
Arturo Maulean & Jennifer Hornery
Frances May (Class of 1974)
James & Pamela McAinsh
Sean & Anne McElduff
Suzanne McEvoy (Class of 1963)
Wendy McLean (Class of 1959)
Dolour Meagher (Class of 1956)
Scot & Fiona Menzies
Carmel Milne (Class of 1959)
Michael & Maryrose Morgan (Class of 1977)
Kathryn O'Neill (Class of 1985)
Michael Murray
Anne & Miles Newman
Rob & Selina Nichols
Elizabeth O'Connor (Class of 1985)
Sean & Emma O'Connor
Margaret O'Donnell (Class of 1948)
Helen O'Neil (Class of 1963)
Janice Old (Class of 1962)
Lyn Owens (Class of 1959)
Dalbon Family
Carolyn Pittorino & Gavin Douglass
Katrina Proust (Class of 1969)
C Pye
Andrew & Melanie Rankin
Martin & Johanna Rigg-Smith
Maureen Roberts (Class of 1964)
Steven & Megan Rubic
Annette Ryan (Class of 1979)
Jacqueline Scott
Nicholas & Patricia Sissons
Gai Francis Smith (Class of 1958)
Margaret Smith (Class of 1959)
Roger Smith & Lisa Tierney
Richard & Diana Speedy

Patricia Stedman (Class of 1963)
Linda Steinborn-Richter (Class of 1969)
Stitt Family
Mark & Annabelle Tallentire
Judi Taylor (Class of 1969)
Olivia Terry (Class of 2017)
Dwyer Family
Mary-Lou Thorpe (Class of 1971)
Jan Tompsett (Class of 1956)
Florence Tsang (Class of 1977)
Craig & Nicole Southon Ueland (Class of 1981)
Margaret Walsh (Class of 1969)
Ward Family
Peter & Angela Williams
Alice Yan
Alexandra & Aleksandra Young

MONTE SANT' ANGELO MERCY COLLEGE

Mercy
RESPECT FOR
Human Dignity

2020



RELIGIO SCIENTIA CULTUS



Monte Sant' Angelo
Mercy College

128 Miller Street, North Sydney NSW 2060
Phone: 9409 6200 | www.monte.nsw.edu.au

