



SIENA COLLEGE

*Celebrating*  
**75**  
*Years*

# The Spirit of Siena



SIENA  
COLLEGE  
CAMBERWELL

Issue 8 | 2015

## Mission Statement

Siena College, a Catholic secondary school in the Dominican tradition, offers young women an education which challenges them to make intelligent and responsible use of their personal gifts and develop a lifelong love of learning.

## Vision

As a vibrant, faith filled, Catholic community we will provide exemplary and inspiring education with a commitment to justice, truth, reconciliation and compassion. In the spirit of St Catherine of Siena, by word and action, young women are nourished in faith and encouraged to spread the Good News and embrace the future with hope.

## Values

We value and live the Dominican pillars of:

- Prayer** by nurturing spirituality and celebrating as a community of Faith
- Study** by striving for excellence, thinking critically and seeking truth
- Service** by empowering young women to actively engage in local and global justice issues
- Community** by recognising God's presence in others and fostering right relationships

## Editorial Team

Tracey Grobbelaar, Susan Law,  
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Philip Webb, Susan Law and Matt Graham

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# Message from the Principal

*“This is a year to reflect on the past, to challenge the present and to be formed again as we redefine our vision and look to the future.”*



Seventy-five years ago on 6 February 1940, a group of fifteen young women entered Siena College to begin their secondary education. Their names were written by hand in an exercise book that we still have in our College Archives. The advertisement for the new school made reference to the new school being located *‘in (an) elevated position and in one of Melbourne’s healthiest suburbs!’*

Seven and a half decades later, we welcomed a hundred and forty-six Year 7 students and, almost seven hundred and fifty students all up at the start of the 2015 school year.

The Dominican Sisters’ fashions have changed over the years as has our College uniform and it was lovely to see all students arriving in the new College uniform at the start of the year. We began the year with refurbished rooms in the Art and Design area of the College and a newly refurbished Resource Centre thanks to the generosity of many who supported the first stages of our Butterfly Campaign. It was an ambitious undertaking to complete these works over the holiday break. The last few days before the return of our students were reminiscent of the many ‘renovation shows’ on television. The College was a hive of activity with trades people in high visibility vests and our own staff worked long hours to complete the project.

Our first community event for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year was a Fun Run at Wattle Park. It was a great day, despite a cold start and lovely to have current and past students, staff and supporters participate. The Colour Run was particularly popular, with many participants looking very different by the time they crossed the finish line, including our Run Ambassador, Mr Tristan Miller, who ran fifty-two marathons in fifty-two countries in 2010.

There are many more events planned for this anniversary year and we hope you will join us to reminisce, to celebrate and to look to the future.

2015 marks a special anniversary as we celebrate seventy-five years of Catholic education in the Dominican tradition in Camberwell. This is a year to reflect on the past, to challenge the present and to be formed again as we redefine our vision and look to the future. We give thanks for the legacy of the Dominican Sisters who established this school and to all on whose shoulders we stand. As this year unfolds, may we be granted wisdom to discern what needs to be preserved and courage to challenge the present. May we continue to be witnesses of the living God in our community.

Gaynor Robson-Garth  
Principal



Chair of Siena College Board Dr Beverley Begg, Principal Gaynor Robson-Garth and students at the Siena College Fun Run



2015 Colour Fun Run

# The St Catherine Centre

## Those who dare to dream



We are indeed creating transformational change at Siena.

I have watched with great joy, over the last months, the laying of the foundations and the development of our new \$8.5m St Catherine Centre, and have been absolutely thrilled by the response of parents, alumnae and friends to the Butterfly Campaign. This campaign has already enabled the change of the proposed Lecture Theatre to the fully equipped Susan Alberti Auditorium and the transformation of the library into an amazing Learning Hub and Resource Centre. The impact on learning and the potential for even more successful VCE results is very evident. Staff and students are already acknowledging the many ways they can access information and complete research projects.

Our eyes are now firmly fixed on Pillars 3 and 4; the Agora and Terraced Gardens and the transformation of the Convent and Cloisters into a new gateway to the College.

This is a historic year of celebration for Siena College and we are determined to ensure that we appropriately recognise the future role of Siena as a leading educational college for young women. As we near completion of the new building, we recognise the need to also provide the right learning environment to assist and stimulate future generations of Siena students.

A critical aspect of creating a stimulating environment is the Agora and Terraced Gardens, a design envisaged by landscape architect Karsha Dickinson, a Siena alumna. The Agora and Terraced Gardens are envisaged to include water features, native plants and terraced steps, gardens, seating areas and gathering points.

As Chair of the Butterfly Campaign, former Music Director for more than twenty years, and a committed supporter of the Siena community, my focus is now clearly centred on assisting the vision that Siena College has developed for its future as a leading educational institution for young women. The continued support of our Siena community is eagerly sought to enable us to achieve and realise this vision.

We have been fortunate to have the outstanding support of Susan Alberti, many parents and friends plus, importantly, alumnae of the College. I invite your generosity in your continued support as we strive to achieve many goals in this year of celebration.

Please donate at [www.sienaconnect.com.au/#h\\_donatenow](http://www.sienaconnect.com.au/#h_donatenow)

Please donate at [www.sienaconnect.com.au/#h\\_donatenow](http://www.sienaconnect.com.au/#h_donatenow)

*Pauline Sheehan*  
Campaign Chair



Gaynor Robson-Garth, Susan Alberti, AO and Dr Beverley Begg



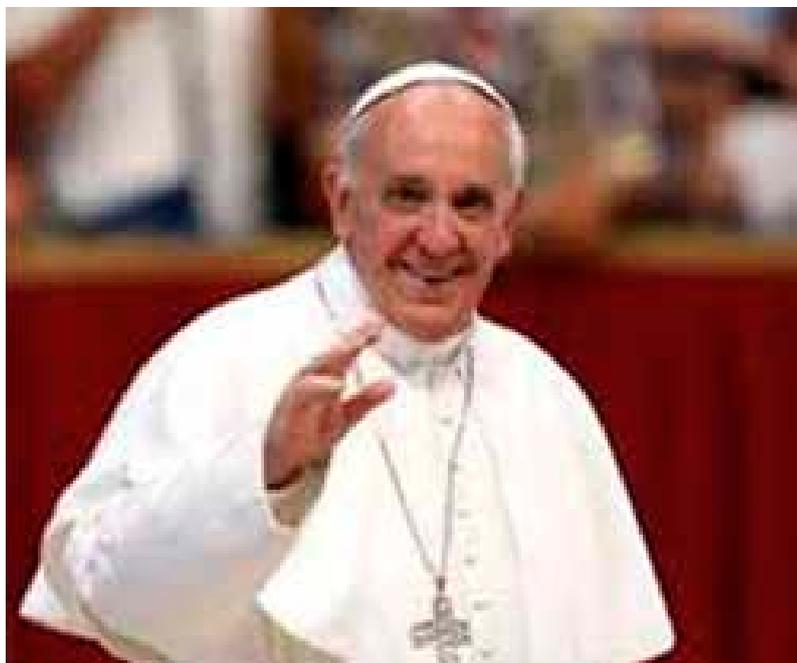
Project Appeal Campaign Committee (PACC)



View of the St Catherine's Centre March 2015



# Dominican News



## The Year of Consecrated Life

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2015 the Year of Consecrated Life. In his message he invites all religious priests, brothers and sisters:

- To look to the past with gratitude
- To live the present with passion
- To embrace the future with hope.

The Pope expressed his expectations for the yearlong observance: that consecrated men and women would be witnesses of communion, of joy and the Gospel, and go evermore to the peripheries to proclaim the Good News. *"I am counting on you 'to wake up the world', since the distinctive sign of consecrated life is prophecy,"* he wrote. *"This is the priority that is needed right now."*

The Pope said he also expected consecrated men and women to examine their presence in Church life and to respond to the "new demands constantly being made on us, to the cry of the poor."

Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands; Dominican Sisters of Malta and Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, (foundation from Vietnam) joined

representatives from the ninety-one different religious congregations with communities in Victoria for the Annual Mass for Religious on 31 January. Archbishop Denis Hart celebrated the Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral for the Feast of the Presentation in this Year of Consecrated Life.

*Sr Julianna Drobik OP*



Sisters in the Solomon Islands

## Dominican Sisters in Iraq

In the middle of makeshift refugee camps, the Dominican Sisters of St Catherine of Siena are trying to make life work.

They get up every morning for prayer, and then they spend the rest of the day visiting the thousands of Iraqi refugees living in the abandoned malls and unfinished construction sites of Erbil, the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan. As the sisters move about the camps, people clamour to touch them. After all, they have become the visible church for deeply spiritual people who have lost everything.

The Iraqi sisters have endured a lot. The first Iraqi nationals joined the community in 1877, and theirs is the first congregation of Catholic women religious in modern Iraq. They've stayed committed to their homeland throughout its embattled history, refusing to leave Iraq during the Gulf War in 1990 and again during the US led invasion of Iraq. Even when a missile hit and damaged their motherhouse in 2003, they stayed. The sisters intended to outlast ISIS, too, but like tens of thousands of others, they were ultimately forced to flee north to Iraqi Kurdistan.

*by Dawn Cherie Araujo*

*Extract taken from Global Sisters Report Project of National Catholic Reporter*



# Learning and Teaching

*“Learning can be hard work, but every day I learn something new which is very exciting.”*



The ‘Looking for Learning’ process which was introduced at the College in 2013 has been further developed and embedded into our practice. One of the key elements of the ‘Looking for Learning’ process is conducting Learning Walks during which teachers visit a class and engage in conversation with students about their learning. Throughout

2014 Learning Walks were conducted across faculties to collect data around student learning. This informed our discussions as educators in reflecting upon and enhancing student learning at the College.

As part of our ongoing commitment towards our own professional learning as teachers and developing a strong culture of thinking, a team of twelve teachers participated in the Making Thinking Visible program over the course of 2014. The program involved two days working with Mark Church (Harvard Graduate School of Education - Project Zero) and a series of workshops. Through the use of thinking routines and the development of thinking dispositions that promote understanding, increase metacognition and make thinking visible, a culture of inquiry, deep thinking, engagement and creativity was fostered in our classrooms.

In addition to the Making Thinking Visible program, another initiative in 2014 was the introduction of a Learning Series for teaching staff. These workshops showcased some of the knowledge and skill of our own staff who shared their expertise in particular areas. Topics included: strategic questions for teachers, peer tutoring, effective note taking and summary strategies, Making Thinking Visible and personalities in the classroom.

Another important component of being a learning focussed school is to make the learning that is taking place clearly visible and to celebrate the learning journey. Another very important component is to get students thinking and talking about their own learning. To achieve this, a digital ‘learning display’ has been established outside the Resource Centre. These vibrant learning displays celebrate the learning that takes place in our day-to-day classes across each of the curriculum areas. As a result, the whole school community has been able to share in the learning journey of others by enjoying visuals and students’ thoughts and reflections on what they have learnt.

Some of our students’ own reflections on their learning captured in the learning displays were:

*Learning can be hard work, but every day I learn something new which is very exciting.*

*I enjoy learning in a supportive environment alongside my peers.*

*I am motivated to achieve the best that I can in my learning.*

*Different subjects require a different kind of thinking.*

*‘I see, I think, I wonder’ is a key thinking routine we use in our learning.*

The readiness of Siena staff to embrace new programs and initiatives such as these, reflects their deep and ongoing commitment towards enhancing student learning at the College.

To further inspire students to continually strive to the best of their ability and celebrate their achievements, Academic Colours have been introduced. Like all Colour Awards at the College, Academic Colours can be earned at three levels as follows:

**Black Academic Colours** are awarded to students who are in the top 5% of academic achievers for their year level in any two years

**Silver Academic Colours** are awarded to students who have been in the top 5% of their year level in any three years

**Full Academic Colours** are awarded to students who have been in the top 5% of their year level in any four years

If a student is awarded Full Academic Colours and Full Colours in two other areas at the College they earn the very distinguished privilege of being able to wear the full braided honours blazer. At the Academic Honours Evening in December 2014, the very first Honours Blazer was presented to Eliza Black (College Captain 2015). This is an outstanding achievement and one that Eliza can be exceptionally proud of.

*Nicole Mangelsdorf*

Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching





# Learning and Teaching



# Staff Profile

## Donna Laughlin



Donna Laughlin commenced at Siena College in 2010 as an English and Humanities teacher, bringing a wealth of experience in Catholic education. A passionate and highly dedicated teacher, Donna's commitment to her students and their learning is clearly evident in all that

she does. She distinctly remembers first becoming interested in being a teacher in primary school, when her Grade 4 teacher inspired her 'due to her fantastic relationships with all of her students'. Donna's passion for the study of English, English Literature and Legal Studies occurred during her secondary schooling as these were the studies that she enjoyed most.

As someone who thrives on new opportunities and challenges, it is not surprising that Donna has mastered several roles and responsibilities at Siena College. In 2011, she organised a highly successful Careers Expo for Year 9 and 10 students utilising her skills and interest in this area. She also took on the role of NAPLAN and Subject Selection Coordinator. Donna's passion for the study of the English language and exceptional leadership skills led to her appointment as the Head of English late in 2012. Under her leadership, the English Faculty has gone from strength to strength, continually striving to improve learning and challenge each and every student to perform to the very best of her ability.

As a lifelong learner, Donna is an outstanding role model to students and colleagues, constantly embracing opportunities to learn and further develop her skills as an educator and leader. Students and colleagues alike have benefited from her experience as a VCAA Assessor for both Business Management and Legal Studies. Her ability to fully extend and motivate her students to achieve outstanding results is testimony to her wonderful student rapport and passion for her subjects.

What Donna enjoys and values most about being a teacher is 'forming connections and interacting with students, parents and colleagues'. She loves the energy that she gets from her colleagues and students at Siena and that students are taught to value and appreciate everybody. Donna also cherishes the beauty of the College grounds, particularly the serenity of the chapel and cloister area.

In her limited free time, Donna enjoys spending time with her family, keeping fit, following many major sports and is an enthusiastic gardener.

## Staff Profiles



### Sue Lee

Sue Lee's name is synonymous with Physical Education, Sport and Health at Siena College. Through her teaching and coaching she has encouraged, empowered and inspired hundreds of young Siena women.

Sue started at Siena in July 1994 and has been employed on a part time basis, teaching Physical Education, Health Education, Science and Sport.

Sue is very highly regarded, both by staff and students, as an outstanding classroom teacher. Her enthusiasm and dedication to her students and for the subjects she teaches, is legendary. Sue's students know that she cares for them and their learning. Students want to go to her classes because they know they will be fully engaged and respected as learners. She is prepared to 'go the extra mile' for all her students but particularly for the girls in her VCE classes. She provides many resources and is always available outside class time to tutor the students. Sue runs online lectures for VCE Health and Human Development. These lectures are highly valued by students far and wide. She is also an examiner in Units 3 and 4 Health and Human Development. Sue's excellent results in Units 3 and 4 are living testament to her outstanding teaching. Not only do a significant number of students achieve a Study Score of 40 or above, but many of the students attain scores well above what is predicted. Students do not just do their best, but in many cases, achieve well above what is thought to be their best.

Sue has been instrumental in developing curriculum in the Physical and Health Education Department. She has reviewed and changed the health programs to make them relevant for the students. She introduced and raised the profile of VCE Health and Human Development.

It was through Sue's work that the sports uniform was updated at Siena in the late 1990s. It was because of her persistence that the colour navy was introduced to lift the 'fashion' profile of the uniform. If any former student has a tartan netball skirt they should keep it as a tribute to Sue. It was all her work.

Like all the sport staff, Sue has coached many teams most notably Softball, Netball, Basketball and Volleyball.

Another of her memorable achievements was the introduction of the circuit room. Without Sue's drive the College would not have this excellent facility that can be enjoyed by the whole community.

Outside school, Sue practices what she preaches about physical activity. At the moment Spin classes, Pilates and golf are integral to her exercise routine. Sue is also a keen traveller. She is always encouraging the students to 'think of movement as an opportunity rather than an inconvenience.'



### Marie Salinger

Marie Salinger studied teaching (art and craft), at Melbourne State College, now part of The University of Melbourne. The minute she started, she knew she had made the right decision. It really had been a light bulb moment.

"I loved art right from a really early age," she says. "My dad was a builder and I can remember him teaching me to draw a house in perspective. My mother took me with her to her art classes at night school."

University opened up a whole new world of people and experiences. Marie met lifelong friends and joined a study tour of Europe at the end of her course. It took in galleries in England, France, Germany and Italy. The group even had its own expert commentary from lecturer Ken Wach.

"Seeing art works first hand was so different to studying from a text book," Marie says. "It also impressed upon me the need to see art works, to experience them, to stand in front of them and to see the texture of the paint and to walk around a sculpture. It's wonderful to learn from books, but to actually be there and experience original work, there's nothing that compares to that."

Since starting at Siena College as an art teacher in 2010, Marie has ensured that all of her senior students have an online gallery space. "By the time they go to university they've already got a really strong digital portfolio that they can show at interviews," she says.

Marie moved to Siena College after taking long service leave and travelling to Europe in 2009. She returned ready for a change and immediately knew Siena was a good fit. "I think you know right away when you come to a school whether it's right for you," she says.

While she teaches VCE Studio Art, Marie is also Director of Programs and helped develop the Pillars leadership program, which is based around the four pillars of Dominican life: prayer, study, service and community. Last year, about eighty students participated, with many discovering leadership qualities they hadn't realised they possessed. Thanks partly to Pillars, the College has no problems filling its sixty-five leadership positions across all year levels. Many students are also involved in community service programs locally and abroad.

Marie also oversees immersion programs to Central Australia and South Africa. She has participated in both trips and in the first term holiday travelled to South Africa again, where Siena students visited the Dominican Sisters' Kopanang Project.

As part of the project, Sister Sheila Flynn teaches local girls and women skills such as embroidery so they can become self sufficient. The Siena girls immersed themselves in the local culture and in the project. They take no technology or watches to South Africa or Central Australia, where they learn about Aboriginal culture and history with a local Aboriginal family.

Students return from both trips as "changed people" with a much better appreciation of the world and wanting to help others. As Marie knows from her own travels, there is nothing better than learning through experience.

"They understand how lucky they are, how privileged they are," says Marie. "You're out there in the moment, in the desert. It's the most beautiful landscape. To sit under the stars at night time, it really makes you appreciate the beauty of Australia. It's just the best way to learn."



**Siena College**

connecting girls • empowering young women

# Open Mornings

2015

Friday, 8 May

Friday, 19 June

Monday, 27 July

Friday, 4 September

Monday, 30 November

9.30am - 11.00am

Phone 9835 0200



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[www.siena.vic.edu.au](http://www.siena.vic.edu.au)

# Archives

## The Siena Story

In 1923, the Dominican Friars established St Dominic's Priory in Camberwell, a newly formed parish in Melbourne. Archbishop Mannix was quick to enquire what nuns would be coming, a mandatory question for those establishing parishes. Fr Hogan, the Provincial, immediately replied "our own" from Maitland NSW. The only hitch was that 'our own' were enclosed nuns, and the Archbishop insisted that any Sisters coming into his diocese should visit the families of their students. Consequently, the Friars approached Dominican Sisters in Adelaide, New Zealand, South Africa and Oklahoma – unsuccessfully. Finally, the Archbishop was forced to agree to the Dominican Sisters of NSW taking up the offer, though not without stating that the Sisters would eventually see 'the error of their ways'.

So, on 14 August 1926, Mother M Concepta O'Donoghue (Superior) and Sisters M Loreto Cockerill, Perpetua Hermann and Placid Flaherty arrived at their new home. This was the first time a foundation had been established by a community, all of whose members had entered in Australia. Far from home, the Sisters were met by several of the priests, some past students and happy parishioners.

Their small house, with just two bedrooms and a sleep-out on the back verandah, was purchased for £2500. It would be their 'temporary' convent for thirteen years. Officially named Siena Convent, in honour of St Catherine, the real reason was the request of Fr Powell, the Provincial, who had strong ties with Siena Convent in Drogheda, Ireland.

The Sisters opened St Dominic's School on 30 August 1926, with twenty-eight pupils. Thus began the first Australian experience of Brothers and Sisters in partnership – given the patriarchal restrictions of the day. A new primary school building was opened on 23 November 1939.



1926 Paddock

On 11 February 1939, the first sod was turned for the building of the new 'Siena Convent' and secondary school. Fr Crofts and the community wrote their names and placed them in a bottle which, legend has it, was placed under where the Chapel altar stands today. The extraordinary plans were drawn up by Hameleto Agabiti, a young Italian architect and civil engineer. He was tragically killed in a motor accident on his way to Siena on 25 November 1938. The project was completed by Mr Bolton Millane on 14 October 1939, and blessed and opened by Archbishop Mannix on 17 December 1939. The building remains a wonderful testimony to Mr Agabiti and to the nuns who had the imagination and aesthetical appreciation to realise his dream.

Siena Convent School opened on 2 February 1940, with fifteen pupils, two in Intermediate class, two for a commercial course, six for Sub-Intermediate, one for Second Year and four for First Year.

How delighted those early Sisters and Fathers would be to see what has grown out of such simple beginnings, how much we owe them for the sacrifices they made, and for the risks they were prepared to take so that young women would receive a Dominican education.

Sr Elizabeth Hellwig OP  
Archivist, Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia  
and the Solomon Islands

*Register Number*

1	J. Gannon, Betty	6 Feb., 1940	Left 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec., 1941
2	J. Wallace, Thérèse	"	Left 20 <sup>th</sup> April 1942
3	Cecil, Shirley	"	Left 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec., 1941
4	Conroy, Pamela	"	Left 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 1942
5	Deale, Joyce	"	Left 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb. 1943
6	Schring, Selma	"	Left 17 Dec. 1943
7	Heritage, Joy	"	Left 15 <sup>th</sup> April, 1940
8	McKenna, Joan	"	Left 17 Dec. 1943
9	Mooney, Dorothy	"	" 12 Dec. 1941
10	O'Connor, Patricia	"	" 14 Dec. 1941
11	Walker, Rhoda	"	" 10 Dec. 1943
12	Schring, Margaret	"	Left Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup> 1942
13	March, Patricia	"	Left 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 1941
14	Holan, Thérèse	"	" 17 Dec. 1943
15	Smith, Margaret	"	" 12 Dec. 1941

First fifteen students on register



Opening and Blessing 17 December 1939

*"Siena" Dominican Convent*  
Riversdale Road, East Camberwell

*The Mother Prioress & Community*  
request the favour of the presence of

on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1926,  
at 3.30 p.m.  
at the  
Blessing of their new Convent  
by His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne.

Invitation to Blessing of Convent 12 September 1926



Siena Convent 1926



# Past Dominican Principals

*“ I have great memories of Siena as a close-knit community. I found it a happy place ... (where) good relationships existed between the students themselves, between students and staff, and between staff and parents. ”*

When Siena College opened, like many similar Convent schools, the Convent Superior (in Dominican terms, the Prioress of the community of Sisters), and a Directress of Studies (or someone with a similar title), jointly administered the College.

By 1967, this arrangement had outgrown its usefulness, and when Sr M Julie arrived in 1968, she was appointed as Principal, while the Prioress was responsible for the leadership of the religious community.

In Siena College Hall, portraits hang of those Directresses and Principals who have served the College. The first six were actually Directresses of Studies, and deserve credit for their ministry. They were great women who laid the foundations for the future.

They are:

**Sr M Magdalen OP**

**Sr M Norbert OP**

**Sr Alphonse Marie OP**

**Sr M Bonaventure OP**

**Sr M Cyprian OP**

It was during Sr M Cyprian's time that the role was subsumed into the title of Principal. Here, we offer a profile of each of the Sisters who actually served their terms as Principal. They stand on the shoulders of those who went before.

*Sr Margaret Mary Brown OP*  
Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia

## 1968 – 1970 Sr M Julie (Diana) Woods OP



Diana was appointed Principal of Siena at a time when our growing schools were still passing from a “family” type of management to a more professional one. Diana participated in this transition, coinciding with a time of a dramatic change in the face of education, in a smooth and effective manner and with her usual thoroughness and attention to detail.

Diana grew up in Strathfield and received her education at Santa Sabina. After beginning an Arts degree at the University of Sydney in 1950, she joined the Dominican Sisters in 1951, and following her

initial formation was able to complete that degree and later, her Diploma of Education. She went on to teach in Newcastle, Maitland and Tamworth. In 1963, Diana was assigned to the staff at Santa Sabina, becoming Principal in 1967.

When Diana came to Siena in 1968 (as Sr M Julie), the enrolment was about three hundred, and she worked tirelessly to increase that number and to broaden and enrich the curriculum. At the same time, she encouraged the same Dominican approach of a love of learning, a thirst for enquiry and an ability to think critically, which had become a hallmark at Siena since its inception.

Many years later, Diana wrote: “I have great memories of Siena as a close knit community. I found it a happy place ... (where) good relationships existed between the students themselves, between students and staff, and between staff and parents. The lay component of the staff was still quite small, and names are etched deeply (she names them) in my consciousness ... My three years as Principal of Siena are amongst the happiest of my teaching life.”

After leaving Siena, Diana undertook further study, then returned to be Principal of Santa Sabina once more. She later served as supervisor of Dominican schools. A Fulbright Fellowship in the USA in 1976 gave her an opportunity to broaden her understanding of education at a wider level.

A special experience came when Diana was invited to spend four years in Rome as director of an international Dominican House of Studies. Thereafter, her ministry has mainly centred on retreat work and spiritual direction. Forty-five years after leaving Siena, Diana is still in that ministry. She treasures the opportunity and privilege to share something of a person's unique inner journey as they search for God, and finds herself always challenged and stretched, humbled and delighted.

She writes now, “My life has been singularly blessed. I could never have dreamed, when I entered a semi-enclosed Order more than sixty years ago, what extraordinary surprises and opportunities, heartaches and disappointments, joys and struggles lay ahead, and I can say that it's all been good! And the journey still goes on.”

## Past Dominican Principals

1971 – 1972 Sr Teresa Cathie OP



Teresa was born in Bourke, NSW, but her family moved to Sydney to ensure that she, an only child, was given a good education. She attended Ravenswood Methodist Ladies College, and went on to the University of Sydney to complete her Bachelor of Arts and library qualifications.

In 1949, Teresa moved to Melbourne where she met the Dominican Fathers, and it was through their influence that she became a Catholic in 1952. Later, she returned to

Sydney and joined the Dominican Sisters in 1955.

After teaching in several of our schools, Teresa became Principal of St Mary's Maitland, and then Siena College in 1971, after two years at a Newcastle College.

At Siena, Teresa demonstrated her enthusiasm and methodical approach to whatever the day brought. There's no such thing as a Dominican "mould," but if there were, Teresa would not have fitted it. There was something very individual about her. She could speak her mind without being self-righteous; she was free of inhibitions, very matter-of-fact, yet liked routine; she possessed practical skills in cooking and gardening but she would happily join in other community pursuits. She loved ANZAC Day and

Melbourne Cup celebrations. She was familiar with the TAB, and crazy about AFL. She maintained a wonderful sense of humour which helped her through the ambiguities of life. She brought all of this to Siena, providing an interesting contrast to both her predecessor and successor.

Teresa was not, on her own admission, a natural teacher, but she applied her other skills to administration. After Siena, she was assigned to Tamworth where she helped establish the co educational Rosary High School. There she remained until 1983.

From 1984 until 1995, Teresa worked at San Miguel family refuge in Richmond, NSW. This was a special time for her; she loved working with those in great need, showing that education is found not only in schools, but also in safe, loving family environments. She saw out her latter years back in Tamworth where she continued her involvement with former students and their families, and pastoral care in the local parish and high school. She was also a member of the Catholic Women's League (and the local RSL club ...)

After care in our hostel in Newcastle, Teresa died in 2013. She had always maintained a special interest in her cousins and their families. One said of her, "You decided (early) that your life must take a slight detour. You wanted to be a part of God's world, a decision not taken lightly, as you were from an Anglican family and in those days the two religions were quite different. Your family's only wish was that you would be loved and cared for, a wish granted many times over."

1973 - 1978 Sr Rosemary Lewins OP



Rosemary was born in Bathurst NSW, and received her education from the Dominican Sisters in Tamworth. On leaving school she went to the University of New England to complete her Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education.

She entered the Dominican Sisters in Wahoonga in 1964, and, after initial formation, being a qualified secondary teacher, was assigned in 1967 to teach at Santa Sabina in Strathfield. After two years there, Rosemary came to Siena College as Deputy Principal, a role she filled for

four years. She loved teaching, and in contrast to expectations and practice today, had a heavy teaching load as well, enjoying "the variety and challenge" it brought, helped no doubt by her youth and enthusiasm. "I have always found that teaching gives me a grounded sense of the challenges of education, and it certainly enabled me to get to know students and understand their idiosyncrasies and gifts."

Rosemary was well prepared then to take on the principalship of Siena College in 1973. With the support of staff and a keen student group, she led the building of a vital community, planning a host of school activities. She continued to teach during this time, and prided herself on being able to name every student in the school.

There were, of course, inevitable problems. In the early 70s it was difficult to find qualified lay staff, and finances were difficult (there was no government funding until 1973). The effort to keep fees at a modest level proved difficult when new buildings were needed. There was occasional disagreement about curriculum or management issues. Rosemary recalls "Parents were, however, extremely supportive, staff worked harmoniously and students were vibrant, energetic and generally cooperative." Helped by an extended period at Siena and by her interest in people, Rosemary built up a network, much of which persists to this day, with students and their families. "For me, those ten years provided a rich, formative, rewarding experience, where I learnt my educational and management skills."

After an opportunity for renewal, Rosemary went on to be Principal at Santa Sabina for seven years. Then began her long association (1987 to 2001) with Signadou College in Canberra, a teachers' college which, under her leadership and guidance, became a campus of the Australian Catholic University (ACU). She was Principal of the new campus for five years, then became ACU Dean of Students and Director of Ministry. At the time of Signadou's 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations in 1963, Rosemary was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from ACU for this significant contribution.

Her administrative and personal skills proved useful when she was elected Prioress of our Congregation, a role she filled for two four-year terms. After all of this, Rosemary continues membership of a number of boards and committees, and finds time for tutoring, especially overseas students.



# Past Dominican Principals

## 1979 – 1981 Sr Frances Carver OP



Frances Carver was born in Moree NSW, but the family later moved to a property near Charleville in Queensland. Frances came to Santa Sabina as a boarder in Sydney for her education. After leaving school, she returned to Moree where she worked as a radio announcer. Then, displaying a spirit of adventure she retained through life, she travelled and worked widely here and overseas. One of her experiences was to

participate in the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela at a time when, unlike today, pilgrims from the Antipodes were rare.

Frances undertook a lifelong adventure by joining the Dominican Sisters in 1965. After the novitiate, she completed her teacher training at Signadou in Canberra, and her Bachelor of Arts at Australian National University. She then taught in Tamworth, Sydney and Maitland, before becoming Principal of Siena College in 1979, occupying that role for three years.

As Principal, Frances brought her gentle, supportive presence to students, staff and parents. She was committed to education in all its forms, and encouraged students to take a broad but rigorous approach to learning. She demonstrated an ability to listen at all levels, and to ask probing questions. Her principalship was characterised by thoughtfulness and understanding, and an ability to sustain equanimity when things were tough.

After leaving Siena, and completing a brief term as a parish associate in a Sydney parish, Frances was called on to exercise leadership in our Maitland and Strathfield communities, and to serve as a member of our Congregational Leadership Team for a four-year term. In addition, she served at various times as a member of the Signadou College Council, the ACU Senate, the Dominican Education Council, and the Board of St Lucy's, our school for children with disabilities. Characteristically, she had a special love for St Lucy's.

Frances pursued further studies in Religious Studies and then a Master of Education in Counselling Psychology, both in Canberra. This led her to work for twelve years as a psychologist/family therapist for the Sydney Catholic Education Office. In 2002, she began a private counselling and spiritual direction practice at Bethany Holistic Health Centre in Strathfield, NSW, continuing there for ten years, when her declining health forced her to retire from this work she loved so much.

Through all of this, she maintained a keen interest in Siena, returning on occasion for reunions and openings of new buildings.

Frances died in 2011. She had a deep love of country and her family roots in north-western NSW, and of her extended family of nephews and nieces. She is remembered by our Sisters, her wide circle of friends and family, and by her professional clients, for her sense of humour, her keen interest in politics, rugby and cricket, and her deep, reflective spirituality.

## 1982 - 1989 Sr Maura McAvoy OP



Sr Maura is the only one of our Sister Principals at Siena to be born overseas – she is Irish. Born in England of Irish parents, she grew up however in Northern Ireland, where, after her primary and secondary education, she attended the Dominican Training College in Belfast and went on to teach in Northern Ireland for three years.

In 1960 Maura came to Melbourne, where she taught with the Brigidine Sisters at Mentone. In 1963, she entered the Dominican novitiate in Wairoonga NSW. Then began a long career of teaching and administration which included positions in Watson ACT, Strathfield, two stints at Siena, then Newcastle and Maitland.

After a trip back to Ireland where she completed a Graduate Diploma of Religious Education, Maura arrived at Siena College as Principal. She set about the task in typical fashion, "I studied the school photographs and memorised the faces of the students and staff before school began ... On the first day I could call most people by name." She wanted the College to be at the cutting edge of theory and practice in education, and during her time made a number of curriculum initiatives. She always gave credit, however, to her staff, "They took up the baton, I was merely the conduit." One of her particular contributions was to head a group to respond to the implication to Catholic schools of the ground breaking Blackburn Report.

She was determined that the pastoral care offered to the school community would be of an excellent quality, whatever the difficulties. Maura was humble enough to admit that sometimes her pastoral care efforts did not always live up to her own expectations, but she was probably hard on herself. It was said of her, "Sr Maura has shown herself to be a person of great compassion and feeling. Many parents, students and staff have experienced these qualities especially in times of grief and crisis."

Wherever Maura was stationed, her keen interest in Catholic education took her beyond the school boundaries. In Melbourne as elsewhere, she was heavily involved in leadership programs, and worked closely with CEOs on induction processes for teachers, as well as conferences and committees. In her own time, she undertook a variety of post-graduate studies, and served on various Dominican committees. She served two terms on the Congregational Leadership Team. Yet somehow she always managed to present an imperturbable demeanour to the world around her.

After Siena, Maura was stationed in Hobart where she was Principal of Dominic College Senior School for three years. In 1994, she became Deputy Director of Catholic Education in Tasmania, a position she held for five years, followed by four years as CEO senior consultant in Tasmania.

Maura is now semi-retired, but finds time to coach students, and to supervise homework with refugees in a St Vincent de Paul program in state schools.

## Past Dominican Principals

### 1990 – 1991 Sr Anne Ryan OP



Anne was born in Surrey Hills within St Dominic's Parish, and received her primary education at St Dominic's and her secondary education at Siena College – the only Principal who can make that claim. She recalls her time at Siena as a student, "We went from one stream to two, the hall burnt down, the number of lay staff increased, three of us did Maths/Science for HSC, there was freedom for students to do much that is now done by staff (organising sport, preparing courts, cleaning school); there was a close connection

between nuns and students even though the Sisters were still 'living as enclosed,' we were trusted and given responsibility because the Sisters could not accompany us to public occasions."

She joined the Dominicans in 1969, and after her initial formation taught in various schools in Strathfield, Camberwell, Maitland, Tamworth, Dubbo, and Tenaru in the Solomon Islands. Like so many of our Sisters, Anne completed a number of post-graduate studies along the way in her own time.

When Anne arrived at Siena in 1990, she had already served as Deputy (1978 to 1979). During that time, she notes that there was a broader curriculum, lay staff were in the majority, and the

Parents and Friends moved beyond social activities, fundraising and working bees to include input on policy and curriculum.

Being the person she is, it is not surprising that Anne has always been involved at some level in organisation and administration, whether at congregational or school level. Her tenure at Siena as Principal was marked by meticulous attention to planning and organisation, both educational and financial. She is better remembered, however, for her kindness and thoughtfulness to all in her care: students, staff and parents. She always had time for others. A keen sense of social justice required her to question attitudes and actions not consistent with Catholic and Dominican values, and to raise these concerns with colleagues.

She writes of this time, "Staff were encouraged to undertake theological study, having course fees refunded upon successful completion of each unit ... Siena was student-centred ... there was a freedom of spirit and a belief that not all ideas had to emanate from staff ... The highlights would have been around the dedication of staff, the diversity and creativity of the students, and the breadth of the opportunities offered. I was also delighted to be able to encourage a number of students who took on great leadership in liturgy and social justice areas."

When Anne saw her time in the classroom should come to an end, she worked with people who wished to avail themselves of Church processes to deal with irregular marriage situations in the Regional Tribunal of Queensland. At present, she continues to serve on our Congregational Leadership Team for a second term.

### 1992 - 1995 Sr Margaret Mary Brown OP



"Siena is a fine school with a warm spirit, but it is up to each one of us to cherish and maintain the spirit. The measure will always be to what degree we each collectively respond to the call of the Gospels."

These words from Sr Margaret Mary Brown are from her first Principal's report in the Siena College Magazine in the first year of her appointment in 1992.

Sr Margaret Mary was born in the Western District of Victoria in Coleraine. Her primary education was at the local government

school and her secondary education with the Brigidines in Horsham. Margaret Mary entered the Dominicans Sisters in Maitland in 1952. She reports that it was because of the influence of the Dominican Fathers that she made this choice.

After completing her novitiate and teaching training, Sr Margaret Mary started her career in education spanning forty years. She began as a primary school teacher in Strathfield, NSW, in 1956, then going to Canberra where she completed a Bachelor of Arts and later a Diploma of Education in Hobart.

In 1963, she was appointed to establish Signadou Teachers' College in Canberra. It is now a campus of the Australian Catholic University. Sr Margaret Mary was there until 1976. In 1977 she had her first association with Siena College when she was employed as the Deputy Principal. From 1978 to 1981 she was the School Supervisor for Dominican Schools.

Sr Margaret Mary was appointed Principal of Dominican College, Glenorchy, Tasmania, Senior Campus, a position she held until 1992.

Her next appointment was as Principal of Siena College. After such a rich and varied career in education, she was the ideal Principal to take Siena into the future, to prepare the College for the handover to a lay Principal and set it up for the transition to a school of the 21st century.

Her list of her achievements over her three short years at Siena are extraordinary. Her dedication and hard work led to:

- The establishment of the College Board (Siena College Limited) in 1993 and the formation of the Committee structure
- The revival of the past-students association
- A thorough re-arrangement of the College Archives
- The development of the Siena College Mission Statement



## Past Dominican Principals

- The development of the first five-year plan for the improvement of the College facilities. These included a new Resource Centre (1993), moving to where it is currently located and a new Computer Centre (1993). Two large computer classrooms occupied the area where E7, the Cassia office, the Careers Office and the former Learning Enhancement Department are now located. The 1993 building phase was completed with the conversion of the upper floor of the Convent to the Drama area that we now call Caleruega. Work had also begun adding a third floor to Benincasa for a new Art and Textiles facility and a refurbished Administration area. These were complete in 1994/95.

The five year improvement plan developed under Sr Margaret Mary's guidance, set up the following:

- A Years 7 – 10 curriculum review (1994)
- The introduction of Mandarin Chinese
- The introduction of Social Skills into the curriculum
- A technology focus in Maths and Science
- The promotion of 'Christian Education for Personal Development' as an essential focus
- Planning for a major initiative on 'Catering for Individual Learning Styles'
- Expansion of the Pastoral Care and Welfare Services with the appointment of a School Counsellor and a Pastoral Care Worker.

As an administrator Sr Margaret Mary left an impressive legacy at Siena, but she is also remembered for being a skilled

communicator and an excellent teacher (she managed to teach Year 11 English as well as be Principal). She not only led the community but was very much part of the community. She supported many other College initiatives, particularly in the area of social justice. 1993, the Year of the Indigenous People was of particular significance to her. In her Principal's report for that year Sr Margaret Mary recalls the haunting sound of the didgeridoo at the Opening Mass. She wrote:

*"...to the call of the didgeridoo, to the pride in our achievements, to our plans for the future, and to our strengths and weaknesses, we say YES."*

Throughout her career Sr Margaret Mary availed herself of a number of educational and formation opportunities. In 1968 she was awarded a Churchill Fellowship for Teacher Education, she completed a Renewal Course at Hawkstone Hall (United Kingdom), attended Dominican Conferences in Hong Kong and Manila and twice visited the Solomon Islands to tutor the local Sisters. In 2013, Sr Margaret Mary was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the Australian National University Canberra, for her work at Signadou.

From 1995 to 2009 Sr Margaret Mary held two positions as a Pastoral Associate, one here in Camberwell at St Dominic's and the second at St Columba's Ballarat North, where there was no parish priest in residence. She was also a part time Pastoral Associate in 2010 and 2011 at St John's in Glenorchy, Tasmania.

Twenty-two years after leaving Siena, Sr Margaret Mary continues her involvement in education, working as tutor at the Catholic Theological College in East Melbourne.

## Parent and Guardian Lecture Series



We are pleased to announce a series of three parent seminars for 2015 that will be held at Siena College. At a very reasonable cost, parents and guardians will be able to engage in discussions with leading academics and experts in the following areas: adolescent brain development, cyber safety and anxiety.

The first parent seminar was held on Wednesday 22 April, facilitated by Dr Pieter Rossouw. He is the Director of the Master of Counselling program at the School of Psychology and the School of Social Work and Human Services at The University of Queensland. He is an expert in anxiety and mood disorders. He has published five scientific books and twenty scientific articles. He has been involved in research in extensive clinical trials and has presented research papers at thirty international conferences worldwide. Pieter is one of the people at the forefront of brain research, particularly adolescent brain development.

More than seventy parents and guardians attended Dr Rossouw's engaging presentation titled *'What's going on in my teenagers head? Help!'*. Dr Rossouw's presentation focussed on sharing the latest findings in understanding adolescent brain development and answering questions from parents and guardians.

"I thoroughly enjoyed last night's presentation. Dr Pieter Rossouw was so thought provoking and provided a wonderful insight on the many aspects and wonders of the human brain. We were all spellbound with his knowledge and delivery and look forward to attending the next parent seminar." Siena College parent.

The second parent and guardian seminar is scheduled for Thursday, 11 June from 7.00pm and will focus on *'Parenting in the Digital Age'*.



Dr Pieter Rossouw

*Sue Thompson*  
Deputy Principal Wellbeing

# Home Project at Siena College



Towards the end of 2014, we launched the Home Project at Siena College with a large number of students across a range of year levels, enthusiastically planning their response to the theme of 'Home'. This project offered us the opportunity to collaborate with the Arts Centre Melbourne in an exciting initiative that saw seven thousand little houses decorated and exhibited in the city and

beyond. Home was the second annual project in the Betty Amsden Participation Program and was made possible by the vision and exceptional generosity of Miss Betty Amsden AO.

It was wonderful to see our community enthusiastically participating in the Home Project at Siena. Students and staff transformed four hundred and fifty little houses into pieces of art, each decorated to tell a personal story of home. On 10 January 2015, Home was launched with all the houses gathered together and proudly displayed in and around a supersized installation called 'The Big House' on the Arts Centre Melbourne lawn. At the end of the launch, everyone was encouraged to take a little house, place it in a public location, photograph and share on social media, then leave it for the next passerby to discover. The little houses began a new journey as they were moved from place to place and person to person, each voyage tracked and shared online for all to enjoy.

Many of the homes created by Siena students and staff were exhibited in The Big House on the lawns of the Art Centre. Many more went on adventures around the city and were photographed and tracked on line. Some even ventured further afield with Jessica Oakley's wonderful mobile home travelling to Kyneton and beyond. We were thrilled to hear that Julia Cincotta's home had been collected by a backpacker in a hostel in Brunswick Street and taken back to her home in Poland.

Home was a delightful project to be involved in and we look forward to our next collaborative project with The Arts Centre Melbourne in 2015. Thank you to everyone who got involved and don't forget to keep tracking the little homes at [www.home.artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://www.home.artscentremelbourne.com.au)

*Marie Salinger*  
Director of Programs





# Big Sister Little Sister Pyjama Party

Colourful pyjamas, onesies, loud music, crazy dancing, enthusiastic singing, loads of food, that's what you would have seen if you had been at the Gym on Friday, 21 February. The occasion was the student social function of the year, the Big Sister Little Sister Pyjama Party. While the Year 7 parents sipped beverages and ate lovely food in the convent garden, the Year 7 students let their hair down and danced and sang with their Year 12 Big Sisters.

There were many sleepwear fashion highlights seen during the evening. The five Year 12 students with matching pink and white candy striped, short pyjama pants with lovely grey T-shirt tops, were a great hit. Their outfits were 'topped off' with matching pink slippers. The animal theme was very popular with the onesie wearers, with tigers, dinosaurs, lions and zebras featuring. Animals also starred in the many slippers adorning the girl's feet.

Ella-Mae and Eliza kept the party rolling with their supervision of the karaoke machine. A big thank you must also go to Libby Moore and Maree Cody for organising the night and to all the teachers who helped set up, supervise and clean up.

*Sue Thompson*  
Deputy Principal Wellbeing



# New Beginnings



As Catholics our lives are structured around liturgical seasons which mark both beginnings and ends. Siena celebrates many beginnings in our College year. As Catholics we choose to mark these beginnings prayerfully. Our College community gathered at St Dominic's Church on 12 February to formally welcome the Year 7 students and their parents to our Siena family and to commission our Student Leaders for 2015.

The theme of the Mass was our College theme for 2015: Reflect on the Past, Challenge the Present and Transform the Future. Mass was celebrated by College Chaplain, Fr Dominic Murphy OP, who drew our attention to the Gospel of the day which featured the Syrophenician woman. Father spoke of her courage and faith as qualities that we can emulate in our own lives.

This woman in Mark's Gospel is indeed an interesting character. In the face of Jesus refusing her request, she is persistent and clever in the way she uses Jesus' own words to state her case. Her persistence and wit is rewarded when Jesus is moved by her words. He is moved to provide the healing she seeks. Jesus is humbled by her courage and although she is not a member of the Jewish community to whom he felt his primary call, he responds to her desperation and expands his mission in that moment. One is immediately led to recall our Patron, Catherine of Siena's own struggles and fortitude in the face of severe opposition and the difficulties she faced in her own life. Throughout it all she never lost heart, dedicating herself totally to Christ and His Church. Both of these women had the vision and courage to challenge their present circumstances and won for themselves a better future for all.

The Year 12 Student Leaders fulfilled their roles admirably, leading processions, proclaiming the Word and offering the gifts, accompanied at times by their new Year 7 'little sisters'. They were supported by Year 8 students Olivia Ventura, Claire Sullivan and Rebecca Hwang who served the Mass wearing their new altar server albs complete with black cinctures.

As always the choir and musicians, under the direction of Mrs Kerryn McGillen, led us in worship with their sacred music. We concluded our liturgical celebration with a Hymn to St Catherine.

*Deborah Kent*

Deputy Principal Mission and Catholic Identity





# Director of Development



As we celebrate Siena College's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary through the 2015 College theme *Connecting Past, Present and Future*, we look forward to the opportunity to bring the Siena community together to acknowledge the rich legacy of the Dominican Sisters and celebrate the accomplishments of the extraordinary women who have passed through our College. At Siena College we are blessed to have a community that recognises the past, present and future.

I wish to acknowledge the Siena Parents' Association (SPA) for its dedication and continuous hard work throughout 2014 and the present. During 2014, SPA introduced a number of sub committees such as Friends of Sport (FOS), Friends of Music and Performing Arts (FOMPA) and the Siena College Uniform Shop. I enjoy attending SPA meetings and the well organised events they host. This year the SPA has hosted a Year 12 Welcome Breakfast, the Year 7 Welcome Evening, and has assisted with catering and support at the inaugural Siena College Fun Run. At the end of Term 1, FOMPA successfully hosted the Siena Night of Jazz and FOS the Swim Dive Dinner. The genuine community spirit and commitment shown by these groups to the College are inspirational.

When considering the College's growth from its foundations in 1940 to today's enrolment of seven hundred and forty students, we are reminded of how Siena College has embraced challenge and adversity. Our 75<sup>th</sup> year is no different; we rely on the support of the College community to strengthen the opportunities and outcomes for our students. It is these partnerships, collaboration and ongoing engagement between teachers, students, parents and alumnae that contribute to the thriving Siena College community.

As a community we have many events planned for 2015, including our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events, the opening of the St Catherine Centre, and the Careers Evening hosted by the Siena College Alumnae Association. Please register at [www.sienacollect.com.au](http://www.sienacollect.com.au) to attend any of our events. We look forward to welcoming past, present and future members of our community to Siena College.

*Tracey Grobbelaar*  
Director of Development and Community Relations

## Year 7 Parent Evening



## Year 12 Breakfast



## Creating a culture of Philanthropy

Giving is not a new concept at Siena College. Our College was founded by people who understood the importance of giving and the strong sense of community that has always been part of Siena College. We are proud to have a connected and engaged community that recognises the traditions and achievements of the past, while embracing the future. In 2014, we embarked on a philanthropic campaign, our aim to create a culture of philanthropy or giving, and ultimately provide for the future.

Past students have benefited from facilities made possible by the generosity of others. We now look to you to support the next generation of Siena College students, joining previous donors who helped shape our school.

The College is committed to providing an affordable education in a deeply competitive environment. In 2014, the College Board founded the Siena Philanthropic Society to support major building projects, now and in the decades to come. While fees pay for the operational costs of running a school, the Society is designed to assist with larger, more transformational projects.

Pillar 1 in 2014, was to raise funds for a new Auditorium. Pillar 2 was to raise funds for a complete makeover of the library.

The next phase is to raise funds for Pillars 3 and 4, which will see the classic convent building become the iconic gateway to the

College, and the development and landscaping of a green space at the rear of the College, known as the Agora and Terraced Gardens.

The participation and involvement of our community in supporting the Butterfly Campaign and the College's future demonstrates to our students why giving matters.

We look forward to welcoming you to the opening of the St Catherine Centre in August 2015.

For further information on how you can assist please call Tracey Grobbelaar on 9835 0266 or [tgrobbelaar@siena.vic.edu.au](mailto:tgrobbelaar@siena.vic.edu.au)

To make a gift visit [www.sienaconnect.com.au/#h\\_donatenow](http://www.sienaconnect.com.au/#h_donatenow)

*Tracey Grobbelaar*  
Director of Development and Community Relations



Donors view the St Catherine Centre Building



## Making a Difference

### Realising the Siena College Dream.

At the time of printing we would like to acknowledge the generosity of our donors, including those who wish to remain anonymous, for supporting The Butterfly Campaign. All donors are part of the Siena Philanthropic Society.

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Siena Parents' Association  
Frank and Tania Ciampa  
Anthony Vadala



# International Women's Day 2015



On Thursday, 5 March this year one hundred and forty members of the Siena community gathered at Box Hill Golf Club to celebrate the achievements of women in our community and around the world. We also came together to acknowledge the work of Sr Sheila Flynn with the Kopanang community in South Africa, and to raise funds to support Sr Sheila in her work with the marginalised, sick and oppressed.

The focus of International Women's Day 2015 was *Make It Happen*. Our College theme for this year is *'Reflect on the past, challenge the present, transform the future'*. Both themes provide us all with an opportunity to build on the foundations laid by those that came before us. Over time and distance, the equal rights of women have progressed. We celebrate the achievements of women while remaining vigilant and tenacious for further sustainable change. There is global momentum for championing women's equality and a yearning for social justice in our world.

At our annual IWD breakfast, we were extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to listen to a very influential figure within Australian society, Susan Alberti, AO (née Jenkins) Class of 1964. With an extensive list of accomplishments, and as an advocate for women's rights, Susan is a leader in a variety of fields, many of which are traditionally dominated by men. Susan is one of Australia's most admired women. She was co-founder of the DANSU Group, a leading property development company, has been a member of the Western Bulldogs Football Club Board since 2004 and was elected Vice President in 2012. Susan is Chairman of the Susan Alberti Medical Research Foundation and Chairman of St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research Foundation.

Susan credits the Sisters and teachers from Siena College with having had a profound influence on the person she is today. She has been made both a Member (AM) and Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her philanthropy, fundraising and advocacy for medical research. She has twice been a finalist for the Australian of

the Year Award, yet Susan claims that it is the \$32 million redevelopment of the Western Bulldogs complex, in which she had a major role, of which she is most proud. Susan reflected on her time at Siena saying, "I particularly admired the culture of care and compassion at Siena College."

Our Visual Arts Captains, Claire McGibbon and Isabella O'Leary, designed the beautiful centre pieces for the tables at the IWD breakfast.

"We decided to go with the idea of selecting images from the beautiful embroideries made by the woman of Kopanang, depicting symbols of how wonderful woman are, how they deserve to have a voice, to be noticed for their hard work and celebrated. The trending hashtag #MakeltHappen was then incorporated to the design, as it was the official theme of IWD."

Social Justice Captain, Anna Pradhan and Social Welfare Captain, Carlotta Graham, welcomed our guest speaker and later reflected:

"Listening to Susan share her story was such a privilege and as students, we feel very lucky to have yet another inspirational figure within our Siena community. We look forward to celebrating Siena's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Susan throughout the year."

Many members of the Siena community got involved in our celebrations for IWD and their hard work, dedication, generosity and enthusiasm ensured that the day was a great success. During homeroom on the morning of the IWD breakfast, the SRC helped students create their own figures of inspirational women in their lives. SRC members then collected all of these women and with the help of the Visual Arts Captains and numerous girls from around the College, displayed them on two walls to make an enormous collage of inspirational woman. Facts about women were also placed on the wall so that students were informed as well as inspired by the wonderful 'Wall of Women'. Thank you to everyone who helped make International Women's Day a memorable one for all involved.

*Marie Salinger*  
Director of Programs

# Siena College Fun Run

On Sunday, 15 March, Siena College hosted its first Fun Run at Wattle Park. This was a wonderful community event enjoyed by all five hundred and sixty-seven participants and fifty-three volunteers.

Special thanks to all our sponsors, donors and volunteers for helping us make this event happen:

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Siena College Parents' Association





# Alumnae Association



Siena alumnae have much to be proud of this year with Siena College celebrating 75 years. Not only is this a significant milestone in the history of Siena College, but also an exciting time to reconnect with the College, long time Siena friends and other Siena alumnae.

The 75<sup>th</sup> celebration events have been designed with Siena alumnae in mind with a variety of events to suit your personal and professional commitments including a choice of weekday, evening and weekend events.

Alumnae have expressed much interest in these events, so book your places now to avoid disappointment. Many alumnae have been booking tables to represent their year levels for 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball, so get your year level together and secure your table.

Please visit [www.sienacollect.com.au/event](http://www.sienacollect.com.au/event) to register and purchase tickets for these events. For further information or queries please email [alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au](mailto:alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au) or phone (03) 9835 0217.

When	Event	Location	Cost	Tickets remaining
Thursday, 6 August 10.00am	<b>75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass</b>	St Patrick's Cathedral	N/A	All welcome No booking required
Thursday, 6 August 12.00pm	<b>75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon</b> Two course buffet, wine and refreshments. Includes fashion parade of uniforms through the ages.	Park Hyatt Hotel, 11 Parliament Square, East Melbourne	\$115 pp	300 tickets are remaining 100 already sold
Friday, 7 August 4.30pm	<b>St Catherine Centre Opening Ceremony</b>	Siena College, Camberwell	N/A	RSVP required
Friday, 7 August 6.00pm	<b>Commemorative 75<sup>th</sup> Book Launch</b>	Siena College, Camberwell, Susan Alberti Auditorium	N/A	200 places remaining RSVP required for catering purposes
Saturday, 8 August 7.30pm	<b>75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball</b> Three course menu, wine and refreshments.	Regent Plaza Ballroom, 191 Collins St, Melbourne	\$150 pp	350 tickets remaining 100 already sold
Thursday, 13 August 7.00pm	<b>75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Music Concert</b>	Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University, Clayton Campus	\$30 adults \$20 students	Bookings open 1 August <a href="http://www.monash.edu.mapa">www.monash.edu.mapa</a>

## Siena College Careers Expo

**Tuesday, 16 June 2015**

After the success with our inaugural Careers Expo in 2014, we are thrilled to be preparing for another valuable Siena Careers Expo evening in 2015.

The event is specifically designed for Siena's Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students and their parents, to hear firsthand from a variety of Siena alumnae about their career journeys. There is a wealth of talent and experience across the years in the Siena alumnae who not only give back to Siena, but to also create a valuable and memorable experience for Siena's current students.

If you would like to be a guest speaker at our upcoming Careers Expo, please email [alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au](mailto:alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au)

*Vanessa Barcellona*  
President Siena College Alumnae Association

## Memorabilia Donated



Our thanks are extended to Gwendolyn Meagher (née Daly) Class of 1948 for her generous donation of her three London Trinity College of Music – Victorian State Award for Elocution medals, and a commemorative photograph taken on presentation of the third award in 1947. Gwen was awarded the medals for Advanced Preparatory Elocution, Advanced Senior Elocution and Higher Local Elocution during the 1940s when she attended St Dominic’s Primary School and Siena College.

Please contact the Siena College archivist Catherine Judd should you wish to donate any memorabilia to the College on (03) 9835 0217.

## We Remember

### Dr Ursula McHenry (née McKenna)

#### Class of 1948

Ursula McHenry holds the distinction of being Siena College’s first student to complete a tertiary education. She graduated with a science degree in 1952 and a medical degree five years later. The path to university was not an easy one for Ursula. At school, she already had her eye on a science degree, yet Siena College did not offer Science as a subject. Not to be deterred, Ursula left the grounds of Siena College twice a week to go to St Kevin’s College, Toorak, where she studied Physics alongside ninety male students.

After completing her medical degree, Ursula spent two years as a residential doctor at St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne, before travelling in Europe. On her return, she worked in the psychiatric unit at St Vincent’s Hospital for fifteen years before joining general practice, where she stayed until retiring at seventy-three. Coping in such a male dominated environment was the least of Ursula’s challenges. Her mother, father, aunt and husband all died before Ursula was forty, though she managed to maintain both her career and role as a mother of five thanks to the help of her mother in law.



### May they rest in Peace

Joan Martin (née Zantuck) alumna, Class of 1952, passed away peacefully in Ballarat on 13 December 2014.

Loretta Kerley (née Archer) passed away, aged 97 on 11 February 2015. Loretta taught Chemistry at Siena College from 1967-1977 and was amongst the first group of lay teachers to teach at Siena which was staffed mostly by the Sisters at the time.

## Births

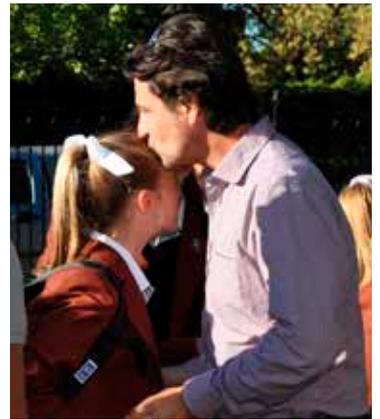


Congratulations to the following members of the Siena College Community on the birth of their babies:

- a) Virginia née Cullinan Class of 2000 and Christian Burns welcomed their baby daughter Rebecca Mary Burns, born 10 November 2014, sister for Dominic (6 years) and Madeleine (3 years).
- b) Casey Lord and James Sutherland welcomed Isabelle Eileen Sutherland born 12 November 2014, weighing 2.546kg.



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PAST  
PRESENT  
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FUTURE**



# Siena Night of Jazz



On 26 March, Siena's Night of Jazz was held at the Monte Carlo Reception Centre in Doncaster East. The night was full of highlights with fabulous performances from the Stage Band, Sisters of Swing, Groove Train and Guitar Ensemble. The Stage Band and Sisters of Swing performed the set pieces for the Generations in Jazz tour and it was very obvious they have been working very hard this term.

Bob Sedergreen, Australian Jazz legend and educator, joined us and played with the house band for our up and coming musicians including Junior Jammers, soloists, Alumnae Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Police and the unforgettable Trombonanza! It was a fun night and we are proud of all the students for performing so well, for improvising and supporting each other throughout the night.

I would especially like to thank Emily Caracella, Tracey Lawson, Michael Mimmo (SPA), FOMPA parents and the music staff for all working towards this wonderful event for Siena students.

*Kerry McGillen*  
Director of Music



**SIENA COLLEGE**



*75th Anniversary  
Celebrations*

**75th Anniversary Mass**  
Thursday, 6 August 10.00am  
St Patrick's Cathedral

**75th Anniversary Luncheon**  
Thursday, 6 August 12.00pm  
Park Hyatt Hotel

**St Catherine Centre  
Opening and Festival**  
Friday, 7 August 4.30pm  
Siena College

**Commemorative  
75th Book Launch**  
Friday, 7 August 6.00pm  
Siena College

**75th Anniversary Ball**  
Saturday, 8 August 7.30pm  
Regent Plaza Ballroom

**75th Anniversary  
Music Concert**  
Thursday, 13 August 7.00pm  
Robert Blackwood Hall

**CONNECTING  
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**SIENA  
COLLEGE**  
CAMBERWELL

Join the celebrations at  
[www.sienacollect.com.au/event](http://www.sienacollect.com.au/event)

Phone 9835 0217

Email [alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au](mailto:alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au)

IF UNDELIVERED RETURN TO:

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE  
SIENA COLLEGE  
815 RIVERSDALE ROAD  
CAMBERWELL VIC 3124



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