



DAMASCUS COLLEGE

NOVEMBER 2013

# The Road

## *Builders move out as Students move in*

Visitors to Damascus College often remark on the sense of space and serenity that greets them as they arrive on the 20 hectare campus. Of late, these sentiments have come to include comments about how the College has been transformed in recent times.

Six years ago Damascus embarked on an ambitious capital works program to build new classroom spaces, upgrade existing buildings and improve the school grounds. Over \$15 million has been invested in the College during this time.

The final stage of the building program was completed in July this year when the Year 7 and 8 multi-storey classroom wing opened on the first day of Term 3.

This refurbishment project which commenced construction in 2012, saw the complete interior remodelling of the upper two levels of the original St

Martin's in the Pines classroom building adjacent to the oval. Fourteen spacious, light-filled classrooms have been created along with an impressive, central staircase which opens out onto the northern lawn. Timber from the original building has been used to line the foyer area on each level, bringing with it a piece of St Martin's history. An elevator has also been installed to provide wheelchair access to all levels, from the undercroft right up to the top level of the courtyard.

People familiar with the school will be delighted to see how the original classroom building has been rejuvenated by this latest stage of works.

The completion of this building has also allowed the College to move most of the portable classrooms off site. These had been used during the transition phase to bring the school onto a single campus before the capital upgrade was finished.

Accompanying the construction of contemporary classroom spaces has been the significant transformation of the College grounds. Native gardens now flourish around the building perimeters and a large lawn area has been created between the Science block and the Sacred Heart Wing, formerly the boarding house. The tennis courts were also resurfaced earlier in the year with a synthetic grass surface known as Tiger Turf which has given the courts a new lease on life and has made them much more reliable in the Ballarat weather conditions.

A number of past students and staff members have toured the College during open days and school reunions and have marvelled at the transformation that has taken place. Whilst the essence of the school and the history still remain, the current student population is certainly enjoying a new era of learning in their state-of-the-art classroom spaces.

# The transformation of Building 4

*BEFORE*



*AFTER*





# Outstanding student achievements

## *PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2012 DUX*

Damascus is proud to recognise the achievements of our 2012 Dux, Anna Farrelly-Rosch, who was awarded the prestigious Macpherson Smith Rural Foundation Scholarship earlier in the year. One of only three students in Victoria to receive this scholarship, out of a field of over 200 bright young leaders, Anna commenced a Bachelor of Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne in 2013. The \$45,000 scholarship will assist Anna with her expenses at University during her undergraduate degree.

The Macpherson Smith Rural Foundation was established in 2009 with a \$5.75m grant from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, an independent philanthropic trust created by the late Helen Macpherson Schutt (nee Smith).



Photo: MSRF Executive Officer, Pete Ekstedt; Anna Farrelly-Rosch; Member for Ballarat East, Geoff Howard MP; MSRF Chair, Hon. Rob Knowles.

The scholarship program supports and develops future leaders in Victorian rural and regional communities by providing scholarships for Year 12 students who demonstrate leadership potential and a passion for rural Victoria, to study at a Victorian university. Recipients of the scholarship are nurtured during their undergraduate university course to develop their leadership skills and connections with rural and regional leaders, organisations and communities.

Anna says she's having a fantastic time at University and hasn't yet decided what she will do after her undergraduate degree, however there are many paths in the medical field which flow on from Biomedicine. We wish Anna all the best with her future studies and congratulate her on this wonderful achievement.

## *MEDICAL STUDENTS FOR A DAY*

During the July school holidays, Mia Whytcross and Stephanie McKenzie (both in Year 12) were given the opportunity to travel to the University of Notre Dame in Sydney to participate in the 'Rural and Aboriginal Students' Advocacy Medicine Program.' Mia and Stephanie submitted written applications for this scholarship and were among a small group of students to be selected.

Their day in Sydney was a valuable experience that gave them an insight into the life of a medical student. They spent the day with the Associate Dean of Medicine and many enthusiastic first and second year medical students who led hands on activities such as suturing, CPR, intubation and short arm plastering. The girls also took a tour through the orthopaedics ward, an operating theatre and the emergency department. This was a fantastic opportunity for Mia and Stephanie and they reported that "it was a very enjoyable day that made the prospect of studying medicine all the more exciting".



Photos: Mia and Stephanie try their hand at plastering and suturing.

# *The Diary of Anne Frank*



Photo: Year 11 student Sian Daykin portrays Anne Frank.

Following in the footsteps of St Martin's in the Pines, Damascus has always had an enviable reputation for dramatic productions. Since the inception of the College in 1995, the Performing Arts staff have worked hard to instil a love of performance within their students and this passion is certainly evident time after time in the work they produce.

After the huge success of *Annie the Musical* last year, the College chose to take on a very different style of production this year with *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

This moving play tells the story of Annelies Frank, a 13-year-old Jewish girl who fled with her family from the Nazis in 1942 and together with another family, hid in a secret annexe for two years. During this time Anne kept a diary which documented the terror, boredom and friction experienced by a group of desperate people thrown together by circumstance.

The outstanding performances of the cast members as well as the beautifully crafted set and the use of real video footage from the era, took the audience on a moving journey through the horrors of World War II. At the end of each of its five sold out sessions, there was barely a dry eye in the house. The maturity with which the subject matter was handled by the young cast was a tribute to each and every one of them, as well as to director Mr. Andrew Seary. *The Diary of Anne Frank* has been forever cemented into the dramatic traditions of Damascus College and will be remembered by all who witnessed it for years to come.





# Students experience Brunei and Malaysia

On Wednesday the 26th of June, 24 eager students and 4 teaching staff met at Melbourne Airport to embark on the 2013 Indonesian language trip to Brunei and Malaysia. After a 7 hour flight landing at Bandar Seri Begawan, staff and students were given a quick tour of the city and their first taste of Bruneian cuisine. The following day, after being awoken by the 5am Muslim call to prayer, they took part in an extensive tour of the city. Students and staff were given a wonderful insight into the culture and traditions of Brunei.

The next 3 days of the trip were for many the highlight. During this time students enjoyed a home stay experience with a Bruneian family. Students were deeply immersed into the culture of Brunei through their experience at the Sayaidina Husain Secondary School where Damascus students were paired up with one of the school's families. It was incredible how quickly bonds developed with the families, where after the 3 days there were many tears and sad farewells. For Damascus students the experience of staying with a family allowed them to extend their language skills and become immersed in Bruneian culture. Some students had the experience of attending a Bruneian wedding with their host family where they were given traditional dress, not only for the occasion but as a keepsake. Other students were given extended tours of the city, had traditional cooking classes at home and gained an insight into the traditions of the Muslim lifestyle. For many students the kind and generous nature of the families broke down many stereotypes that were perhaps carried before the journey.

After a wonderful closing ceremony by the host school, students made their way back to the hotel for a single night of rest before the next adventure an overnight stay at the Temburong National Park. Getting to the park involved a one hour journey on traditional long boats, a one hour hike and then a magnificent canopy walk. One had the sense of being in an environment that was completely untouched by human civilization and a feeling of being on top of the world. During the overnight stay at the park the group was also given a cooking class where the traditional techniques and foods used formed the basis of our evening meal.

Making our way back to the capital and somewhat re-energised by the experience of nature, students were eager to begin the next stage of the journey, a trip to Kuala Lumpur and then 2 days of immersing themselves into the culture of Penang. Making our way back to Kuala Lumpur for the next stage of the journey involved a five hour bus journey. The bus trip through the Malaysian countryside allowed students to gain an insight into the lifestyles of those who live outside the capital cities. Students were able visit the Kuala Sepetang Charcoal Factory where the processes in making the product dated back over 200 years.

Kuala Lumpur greeted students though the Petronas Twin Towers - perhaps the monument that most represents the growth in technology that this city has experienced over the last 20 years. Other highlights in Kuala Lumpur included the Batu Caves where students had to contend with the cheeky monkeys who were ready to pounce on any exposed food items as well as the 250 plus steps that open up to a spectacular view. Students also had the opportunity to design and paint a traditional Malaysian Batik, bargain at the Chinese Market, shop at the traditional Central Market and of course on the last day attend the Sunway Lagoon Water Park.

The journey back to Australia was via our first port of call at Bandar Seri Begawan. An overnight stay there and a day experiencing the first day of Ramadan was again an example of the many incidental experiences that overseas travel involves. While all staff and students are enriched by being able to see the many tourist attractions that are covered over the two weeks, there is no doubt that the depth of experience is about the people and culture that you are exposed to. The Muslim call to prayer, an understanding of the dress of Islamic women, the reverence of Islamic traditions, the food (and lots of it), the language, the weather, the living conditions that many people endure all encapsulate the value of the language program. Congratulations to the students who were a pleasure to take on such a journey. May this experience open their eyes to the importance of expanding their language skills and the many opportunities that this can offer.



Photo: Megg Mathers, Brooke Wythe, Sarah Collinson, Bethany Claridge



Photo: Lachlan Dempsey, Rory Hudson, Lachlan England, Harry Hauke, Ann Kane

# Diversity in the sporting arena

## NEW ROWING PROGRAM FOR DAMASCUS

Damascus students have always competed in a wide range of sports, from football to badminton, tennis to netball, clay target shooting to croquet, but not for over ten years has rowing been on the menu. This all changed at the start of 2013 however and since then, rowing has grown in momentum and over fifty students are now participating in the newly formed Damascus College Rowing Program.



Photo: Jai Jamieson, Macquenzie Amos, Ambre Herbu-Louise and Flynn Jamieson show off the new Damascus College rowing suit.

A number of crews have been training diligently throughout the year and have recently competed in regattas in Bendigo, Ballarat and Dimboola. Our Year 9 girl's crew enjoyed their first win in Dimboola in mid-November after a hair-raising finish, narrowly beating Melbourne Rowing Club.

Numerous crews will continue to train under the guidance of Damascus College's newly appointed Head of Rowing, Peter Moon, and are aiming to be part of the Head of Lake regatta on Lake Wendouree in March 2014, sporting their new Damascus rowing suits. We encourage the Damascus community to come along and support these crews on the lake next March.

## SPORTING EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE BOARD

Year 8 student Ashlee Flintoft has a sharp eye and a steady hand. Having only started training and competing in recent times, Ashlee has already made a name for herself in the world of Clay Target Shooting. Ashlee won the junior girls category at the Regional School Students Clay Target Championships (South West Zone) in Noorat in August which led her to the state finals in Bendigo where she took out third place. She recently competed in the Victorian State Trap Carnival in Echuca where she won the Ladies Sub-Junior category and placed 8th in the Ladies competition, competing against shooters who have represented Australia. She will now go to the Nationals in 2014.



Year 10 student Jake Francis has covered some kilometers this year, travelling back and forth to Melbourne twice a week to train at the National Training Centre as part of a program funded by Football Federation Australia in conjunction with Football Federation Victoria. In 2012 Jake played in the Victorian Country Squad and from there, was selected to take part in the National Training Centre program. In 2013 he also represented Ballarat as a member of the U/15 Ballarat Metro team for the Ballarat District Soccer Association. Jake's not sure who he will play with next year, but there's no doubt in his mind that he will continue to pursue his dream of becoming a professional soccer player.

Year 10 student Ashlea Bylsma can be found at Llanberris Athletics Track several times a week training for the sport in which she excels, the Long Jump. In March this year she placed second in the National U/16 competition in Perth and was also part of the first place winning 4 x 100m relay team. More recently she won the U/16 Long Jump title at the Victorian All Schools State Championships with a jump of 5.40 metres. She now has her sights set on the Nationals which will be held in Sydney in 2014. Ashlea will continue to compete in a range of State Championships over the coming months and we wish her the best of luck!



Year 10 student Mitchell Quiddington has been spending time on the track at Phillip Island where he recently took out second place in the 2013 Confederation of Australian Motorsport Victorian State Championship. Mitch qualified in second place on the grid after the practice round and placed fourth, eleventh and second during the three-race round. After falling victim to a crash in the second race, he came back in the third race to take second place and even broke his lap record at Phillip Island in the process. Mitch hopes to race V8 supercars in the coming years but his ultimate dream is to race Formula 1, although he acknowledges that it won't be an easy road. Mitch will race at Phillip Island again at the end of November.

# Making a difference in Kenya

I am Kelly-Louise Marsden (Sharp), and I graduated from Damascus College in 1999. Whilst I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Damascus, I left school feeling a little lost and unsure what path to take. After spending many years working in Government administration, singing in bands, some travel through the UK and Europe, and re-locating to live in sunny Townsville, I found myself more and more drawn to Africa, and in particular Kenya. I have always been fascinated with the wildlife and the people of Africa, so I started planning a holiday there. But then, suddenly, everything changed, for me and for Kenya.



Three days after Christmas in 2007 I flicked on the news and was completely horrified by what I saw. On the screen I saw my holiday destination being torn apart by civil unrest. Due to an election held on Boxing Day, and its disputed outcome, violence and bloodshed had broken out all over the beautiful nation. These people needed help, and I needed to be one of those who helped them.

Fast forward to October 2008 and I was on a plane and on my way! I was so excited and nervous, anxious and thrilled. I met my fellow volunteers who were starting at the same time as me and we spent two days together doing some basic training, learning some Swahili, basic first aid and AIDS management skills, and learning about the organisation that we would be working with on the ground in Kenya, VICDA. Then, after a phenomenal three day camping safari we were off to our new homes, ready to start our new lives for the next few months.

My placement was at the Caroline Wambui Mungai Children's Home (CWMCH). CWMCH is located in a slum called Wangigi, which was a short and scary fifteen minute Matatu (minibus) ride from the locked gates of our street. CWMCH is an amazing children's home and school catering for orphans and vulnerable children. During my time there I taught in the school, assisted the teachers with the classroom work, taught the children all about Australia, as well as helped out around the home, making lunch, doing the washing and the dishes, helping out in their massive garden across from the school yard and entertaining the children during the Christmas break. Many of these children were orphans, whose parents had died from AIDS. Others were bought to the home after being abandoned by their parents, who simply could not afford to keep them anymore.

During my time in Kenya, when not working at CWMCH I also had the chance to visit an IDP camp and see firsthand the conditions that the displaced people were living in following the violence that brought me to Kenya. Huge tent cities, no running water or waste disposal of any kind. Makeshift schools had been set up alongside clinics and kitchens. Everything was muddy, as the wet season had set in. It was the most intense day of my life. Seeing how these people were living, with absolutely no end in sight.

When I returned to Kenya with GVN in 2012 distributing funds to their projects there, I visited 2 more IDP camps. Sadly, there are still many thousands of people living in these camps. Many are still too scared to return to their villages as they know there is still a huge chance they will be killed.

Leaving Kenya at the end of my four months, I knew I would never be able to forget the things I saw, and the impact of the work GVN was doing. So when a few months after I returned home, I received a call from the girls in the GVN Foundation office asking if I would like to take part in a fundraising initiative called Eat So They Can, I jumped at the chance! Eat So They Can is a fundraiser that invites people around the world to host a dinner, invite their friends and family, gather donations and send those funds to GVN Foundation's work on behalf of women and children across Africa, Asia, and South America. The money goes to four different areas – Greatest Need, Feeding Projects, Sustainability Projects and Organisational Development. For more information on Eat So They Can and these amazing causes, go to [www.eatsotheycan.org](http://www.eatsotheycan.org). If you are interested in hosting an event or making a donation, please email me at [Kelly.estc@gmail.com](mailto:Kelly.estc@gmail.com)

Over the years through my involvement with GVN and Eat So They Can I have been an Ambassador, an International Intern, last year I was the highest fundraising International Intern, and now I am on the Advisory Board of GVN Foundation. My role is to raise funds for all of our campaigns, recruit for our volunteer programs and our treks, and to raise awareness for the causes that we are so incredibly passionate about. The one thing I wish more than anything is that I found GVN sooner. I have seen many younger folk using their gap year after graduating high school to come and volunteer with us before embarking on University or full time work. Volunteering gives them such a different view of the world, so many amazing experiences, and teaches them so many valuable life skills. It changed my life, for the better, and now I work to help better the lives of others. I found my calling. And I love it. <http://www.gvnfoundation.org/> <http://www.globalvolunteernetwork.org/>



# The fine lines of design

Julia Moloney (nee Taffe) attended Sacred Heart College from 1990-1993 followed by six months at St Martin's in the Pines in 1994, before heading off on an exchange program to Canada where she completed her final year of school. After many years away from Ballarat travelling and studying, Julia returned to Ballarat in 2007 with her husband to set up their business, Moloney Architects. In the article below Julia shares her journey and experiences since leaving school.

Whilst my secondary education gave me an excellent grounding for study and life, at the end of high school I was far from career focused. It wasn't until several years after I had finished high school that I decided to become an architect.

In 1994, back when I was in Year 11, I went on exchange to live with a family in Winnipeg, Canada. The Canadian school year starts in the middle of the calendar year, so I was lucky enough to graduate high school 6 months earlier than my friends at home! My host father was a home designer and he would often take me along for site visits to houses that he had designed and that were under construction. In Canada summer is called 'construction season' as it's too cold to build in winter. I enjoyed learning about the building industry on these visits, but it never occurred to me at this time that architecture would become my future career.



Photo: Julia Moloney pictured in front of her recent home extension, designed by herself and husband Mick and built by Shane Lavery (Year 11, 1994).

After high school I spent 2 years travelling, working, and exploring other career options. I was a terrible travel agent, and hospitality was not for me. I decided to turn my attention to something more substantial, and enrolled in a 5 year long architecture degree.

University was great. Studying architecture can be hard work, with lots of very late nights drawing, writing, and gluing your fingers to your eyeballs while making models. As with any creative field, it's hard to come to terms with the fact that there are no definitive right answers. Design is subjective - what you see as beautiful and poetic, others may call boring and contrived. During design 'crits' I was required to stand up next my work and argue my case to lecturers and reviewing architects. It was incredibly daunting, but it did prepare me for certain aspects of the career ahead.

I graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture with Honours from Deakin University in 2004. I made great friends at university, including my best friend Mick (...we got married in Ballarat in 2007). After university I moved to Melbourne with Mick and worked in an architecture practice called Irwin Alsop. Irwin Alsop gave me experience with an array of different sized projects including small-scale holiday houses, hospitals in Tonga and luxury apartments in Melbourne.

After moving to Ballarat in 2007 Mick and I entered a national architecture competition, and were awarded joint first prize in the first stage. The prize money enabled us to set up our studio and supported us for the first nerve-racking months of starting a business.

Residential architecture is the area of design that I enjoy most. Designing a home for your clients is a very personal experience. You need to create spaces for people that not only serve their function, but spaces that bring delight, inspire and enrich your clients' lives.

People are often intrigued as to how a married couple can work together in the same field, but I couldn't imagine working with anyone else. Mick and I have strengths in different areas but we have a similar design philosophy. That's not to say we don't have some heated design arguments!

Our design studio is connected to our home, and I find this works really well with running around after two small children. I love that our kids will grow up seeing what we do. I feel very lucky to have found a job that continues to interest and challenge me every day. There's always something new to learn.



By Toni Rice nee McGee (2003)

Technically, I am a Scientist. I completed a Bachelor of Biomedical Science in 2008 and have worked as a Research Assistant ever since. But I rarely wear a lab-coat; instead, I spend most of my time chatting to people, taking medical histories, performing blood pressure measurements and giving recipe suggestions.

I work at Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute, a not-for-profit research institute that specialises in translational medical research – ideas that can be transferred directly into medical practice, for the prevention and treatment of diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and related conditions. Our Institute covers the full spectrum of biomedical research, from molecular biology and genetics (eg. identifying the genetic changes that predispose a child of a mother with diabetes to the same disease) to research in cells and tissues (eg. learning about how good cholesterol protects the liver and muscle), to clinical studies (trailing new laser-based treatments for high blood pressure), and even population level public health research (eg. a recent report that links excessive time in front of the television with early death).



My group's research focuses on the illnesses that are linked with obesity. By having a better understanding of disease processes, we hope to be able to identify targets for new or improved therapies. We gather a lot of our information by measuring the changes in people's blood tests, metabolism, nervous system and cardiovascular activity during weight loss trials. We are interested in the best ways to achieve weight loss, but more importantly, we want to understand why weight loss brings about health benefits, and whether there are other ways that these health benefits can be achieved.

I became very interested in obesity and other chronic conditions through my undergraduate studies. I was not a qualified health professional, so research seemed to be the best way to gain work experience in this area of health. I was very enthusiastic - I thought that all people needed was someone to teach them and then everyone would become as excited about healthy lifestyles as me and then the obesity and diabetes epidemics that Australia is facing would be solved! I sought out researchers and health professionals who were working in this area and spoke to as many of them as I could. I even applied for a position at Monash University that I was completely under qualified for, just in the hope that I'd get to speak to the Professor who was hiring. Surprisingly, he did interview me, and while I was clearly never going to get that job, he kept me in mind and offered me a position at Baker IDI.

It was a wonderful opportunity – co-ordinating clinical research in one of Australia's most highly regarded research institutes. Yet I was almost disappointed in the beginning, because while I was working in obesity and heart disease research, I wasn't going to be working on studies about healthy eating and exercise; instead I was going to be involved in research about bariatric surgery (weight loss surgery). Surgery – isn't that the easy way out, when people have given up? I was very naive, and very ignorant. What I didn't understand was that bariatric surgery is most definitely NOT an easy way out. It is a tool to help people live a healthy lifestyle, and indeed, without putting in the effort of a healthy lifestyle, it does not even bring about weight loss!

So my first year at Baker IDI involved a whole lot of learning – learning to prepare ethics applications, learning to perform all of the clinical test procedures, learning to record data, and learning about the challenges faced by people with obesity. I learned about not only the risks to their physical health, but also about the discrimination that people can experience, the way they may be judged by others and the way they may blame themselves. I learned the importance of both a person's genetic make-up and their lifestyle in determining whether or not they develop a chronic illness and gained an appreciation of how difficult a healthy lifestyle can be, when people work long hours in sedentary jobs, or cannot afford to buy healthy foods.

As my understanding of this massive health problem grew, I found my own ideas changing. I came to appreciate that health is a complex issue, and to realise that we will not achieve a healthier society by simply having better knowledge about diet and exercise (although this is important too). And we will certainly NOT get anywhere by "shaming and blaming" those with chronic conditions (it is often said that being disparaging towards obese people is the last socially-acceptable form of discrimination). I now spend much of my time talking to friends and family and strangers about what obesity and bariatric surgery actually involve – on a factual, biological level - and recounting the stories that study participants have told me about their struggles or their accomplishments, in the hope of sharing this understanding.

I'm more enthusiastic than ever about the area that I work in, and I hope that our research will not only contribute to improved healthcare for those who experience chronic conditions, but that we will help to build a less prejudiced and more compassionate society.

# *Blast from the past*

*ST PAUL'S TECHNICAL COLLEGE - FORM 1, 1967*



*ST PAUL'S TECHNICAL COLLEGE - FORM 3, 1967*





# Students return to Timor-Leste

## FORM 1, 1967

Back: K Flynn, M Relouw, W Oellering, R Geurts, C White, M Howard, D Skrokov  
Third: S Perovic, J Byrne, N Keating, C Ducardus, P Zeegers, D Gibbs, R Gargan, P Rowan  
Second: B Briody, J Walta, P Veeken, L Nester, N Desailly, K Quarrell, G Madden, S Grigg, D Kelly  
Front: S Cunningham, J Pywell, P Irvin, B Rix, C Sinnott, B Robertson, B Maher, G Harris, B Sabo, B O'Halloran  
Sitting: P Holloway, A Hynes, S Dodd, J Finley, L O'Keefe, M Mullane, P McCartney, A Smith, J Young  
Absent: G Klein, R Turkenburg, M Casey, A Zilles

## FORM 3, 1967

The full list of names for this photo was not available, however there are a few famous footballers we know of. Val Perovic (2nd back row, 2nd from right) and Mick Malthouse (front & 4th from right).

## WHERE ARE THE BROTHERS NOW? (Information provided by Br PB Kelly from Saltor Point WA)

Br Peter Faulkner is now living in Magill, SA and is the oldest (85) of the Brothers who taught at St Paul's Technical College. He is now working on a voluntary basis for the United Nations. Br TP Parton (63-66) lives in Glenburne VIC. Br DS Herrick (64-69) lives at East St Kilda VIC. Br PB Kelly (67-68) lives in Saltor Point WA. Br BB Kelly (66-69) lives in Townsville QLD. Br FT Hennessy (70-71, 83-90) lives in Dilli East Timor. Br BE Zoch (70-71) lives in Ballarat. Br PL Ellis (71-72) lives in Bunderberg QLD. Br Terry O' Shannessy (77-80) and Br Laurie Goodison (86-94) live at Amberly VIC. Br J O' Halloran (90-92) lives in Parkville VIC- the second last Brother Principal of St Pauls.

## ANNA AND JESS REVISIT THEIR FRIENDSHIP WITH TIMOR-LESTE

Jessica Corden and Anna Haintz (2012) travelled to Timor-Leste in 2011 as part of the College's inaugural Timor-Leste Immersion Program. Two years on, they returned to Ainaro, sharing with us below a snippet from their journey abroad.

*During our gap year in June this year, we embarked upon a journey. Our objective was to teach English at the girls' boarding house in Ainaro, Ballarat's sister city, but we had limited understanding of what lay before us. We didn't have class plans, we didn't know where we were teaching and we weren't aware of the sleeping or hygiene arrangements. Timor-Leste is very different to Australia. You can't really plan too much in advance and must live in the moment. We were excited about teaching the beautiful Timorese girls and the rest would be revealed.*

*In Timor-Leste the students are educated from Monday through to Saturday. But the major difference with Australia is that the senior students (from Year 10 to 12) attend school in the morning and the junior students (from Year 7 to 9) go to the same school in the afternoon. We taught the girls whenever they were free.*

*We were well aware of the style of teaching in Timor-Leste. With limited access to technology or variation in learning strategies, the teachers in Timor-Leste have only one option, blackboard and chalk. We needed to be creative. Lesson 1 – the rooms of the house, so we dressed in our pyjamas to create a certain sense of authenticity. Lesson 2 - weather and dress. We dug into our fashion supplies and took a piece of every type of clothing to class. We chose a student to come out the front and one by one she put on every piece of clothing; first pyjamas, then shorts and pants, then a skirt and every other item we had. The girls had obviously never seen anything like it before as their reaction was brilliant. They screamed with laughter and banged on tables. Unforgettable! Now teaching has become our chosen pathway. No doubt we will be back in Ainaro teaching sometime in the future.*

*The people in the township of Ainaro speak highly of their many friends from Ballarat and we are full of admiration for the wonderful Ainaro locals.*



# Timelines Exhibition 2013

We are proud to say that the opening of the "Timelines 2013 Alumni Art Exhibition" held on May 10th once again celebrated the creative work of generations of visual artists from across the wider Damascus community.

Keynote speaker, **Robyn MacDonald (nee Barnett)**, a former student of Sacred Heart College spoke of her travels and creative journey since her school days. Robyn has gone on to pursue an extensive career in education, recently teaching at Ballarat Grammar and currently working at the Clunes campus of Wesley College. Robyn also has her own Art school - Artiz, that offers art classes to all stages and ages for budding artists.

Our group of artists this year included **Wendi Cowell** who was on staff at St Martin's in the Pines and continued teaching Mathematics into the early years of Damascus College. In recent times, Wendi has developed a passion for art and painting with vibrant colours and exploring subject matter that was enjoyed by all.

Wendi's daughter **Celeste Cowell** graduated from Damascus College in 2005 and went on to complete a Bachelor in Graphic Design/Multi Media at the University of Ballarat. After graduating Celeste moved to London to work as a graphic designer at Select Model Management. Celeste has continued her passion in the area of photography and her interest in conservation was evident in the photographs she chose to exhibit.

**Judith Sullivan** was a boarder at Sacred Heart College where she was an art student of **Sister Margaret Mary Batros** who instilled in Judith a love of art and a belief in its centrality to an interior life. In 2012 Judith completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Fine Arts, Painting) at the University of Ballarat. Through her work Judith explores landscape as internal memory and hopes to create contemplative spaces for both herself and the viewer. Damascus College this year acquired one of Judith's paintings, an oil on canvas entitled "Joy and the Remains of Sorrow".



"Joy and the Remains of Sorrow" by Judith Sullivan.



Robyn MacDonald and Judith Sullivan.



Wendi Cowell



Principal Matthew Byrne and Seona Murnane

**Seona Murnane** graduated from Damascus in 1995 and has been a great supporter of our Timelines Exhibitions. Seona first exhibited in Timelines 2007 with dramatic and bold paintings of burnt orange and red cityscapes. This year Seona exhibited intricate recycled postage stamps that took us into a new world of Seona's creativity.

**Peter Thomas** (St Martin's 1992) entrusted us with his amazing sculptures. Pete is now a qualified plumber and his fascination with machinery was evident in his work. The pieces were highly evocative of reaching for meaning in the daily occupation of work and life. Peter was first introduced to ceramics at St Martin's in the Pines by his "favourite teacher" Sharen Wolfe and went on to gain a degree in Visual Arts (Fine Arts) at the University of Ballarat majoring in Ceramics.

The quality of creative work on display at "Timelines 2013" and the opportunity to socialise with family and friends from each of the eras of our College's history has indeed added to the rich connections we all share.

Many thanks go to **Gavin Nash** (1992) for generously designing our Timelines poster, invite and new logo, to **Anna Haintz** and **Jessica Corden** (2012) for providing hospitality and to our fantastic staff **Sharen Wolfe**, **Bronwyn Strachan**, **Anne Griffin** and **Andrew Seary** for supporting this event.

Timelines will now be held every second year and we are eager to hear from any artists who may wish to exhibit in the future. Please contact [connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au](mailto:connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au) with your expression of interest.



# Awards and Achievements 2013

The Awards and Achievements Evening was held on Thursday 21st November at the Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts. As well as celebrating the many significant achievements of the award recipients, the audience was treated to a number of excellent entertainment items - a high-energy drumming ensemble, a Year 7 comedic drama piece written by and featuring Charlie Gibson and Reid Howard, and two fantastic songs performed by the Damascus College Choir. In addition, we were fortunate to welcome back to the school Jordan Roughead, school captain in 2008 and current AFL player at the Western Bulldogs. Jordan gave an entertaining yet sincere speech about his time at Damascus, his career as a footballer, the challenges of being an elite athlete and his plans for life after football. Jordan is an exceptional role model for our current students and we thank him for making the time to speak at the awards night.

During the evening, a number of awards were given to students across all year levels for academic excellence, general endeavour and sporting prowess. Many 'special awards' were also given and the recipients of these awards are listed below:

Sisters of Mercy Dr Yvonne Aitken Scholarship Awarded to the 2012 Dux of Damascus College	Anna Farrelly-Rosch
Damascus College Scholarship for the Arts	Giarn Carroll
Damascus College Scholarship for Sport	Ashlea Bylsma
Damascus College Scholarship for Academic Study	Bethany Claridge
Dorothy Irene-Ellis Thomas Scholarship	Lucas Cooper Stephanie McKenzie
Sisters of Mercy Dorothy Griffin Scholarship	Jai Jamieson Brooke Wythe
Junior Social Justice Award	Rhiannon Walker
Senior Social Justice Award	Shelby Sherritt
Junior Performing Arts Award	Jack Gillard
Senior Performing Arts Award	Lucas Cooper
Junior Leadership Award	Kirsten McCarthy
Senior Leadership Award	Elle-Louise Smith
Debating Award	Seamus West
Junior Art Acquisition Award	Molly Hutchinson
Senior Art Acquisition Award	Georgia Day
Pierre de Coubertin Award	Ryley Nagel
Sports Person of the Year	Lucas Cooper
Catherine King Community Shield	Mary Walsh (staff member)



Jordan Roughead (2008)



Anna Farrelly-Rosch (2012)



Drumming Ensemble



Reid Howard & Charlie Gibson



Damascus College Choir



Mary Walsh (staff member)

# Where are they now?

**Donna Brown nee Preece (1980)** now lives in Bunbury WA.

**Andrew Brisbane (1990)** was one of the artists with work on display at the exhibition "ART WORK" at Fairbanks Eye Gallery featuring local artists working with the City of Ballarat.

**Seona Murnane (1995)** participated in the Medibank Melbourne Marathon Series and fundraiser for the Cathy Freeman Foundation which supports educational opportunities for Indigenous Australians.

**Nicholas Houniet (1991)** married Suzanne Fredricks and now lives in Glen Waverly working in the aged care sector. In June Nicholas travelled with a team from the Crossway Baptist Church to work with local Christian communities in the villages of Kenya.

**Georgina Cooper (1998)** with her husband Cameron, and 17 month old daughter, Charlie, has moved to work in Singapore for 2 years. Georgina has a new role as Product Optimizer, Asia Pacific Product Optimization (APPO), Supply and Transportation (S&T), ExxonMobil Asia Pacific based at the Refinery in Singapore.

**Susan Malthouse (1998)** is a Uniting Church Minister and recently enjoyed her study leave travelling to London, Rome and Paris. The highlight of her trip was a retreat in Iona, off the west coast of Scotland, for a week of prayer and reflection on the future of worship.

**Amy Meade nee Turnball (1998)** has been doing sessional teaching at the University of Ballarat for IT students and will commence studies to become a secondary school teacher next year.

**Marcia Ryan (1999)** participated in the Leukaemia Foundation's "Light the Night" in Melbourne on September 25th 2013 to help raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation to cure leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

St. Pauls, St. Martins and Damascus students **Andrew Staley (1999)**, **Dean Staley (1990)**, **Noel McKeegan (1990)**, **Matt Curran (1990)** and **Jason Fletcher (1988)** reformed their band "Gonna Ball" to play in the Ballarat live final for ABC Radio's Exhumed contest. They won and are now in the running to appear on ABC TV in the national final later this year!

**Ash Lieb's (2000)** career as a digital artist and emerging comedian has featured in the press recently. He has released his first book Funny Guy which can be purchased online at Angus & Robertson, Fishpond, and Amazon.

**Sarah Monck (2004)** is planning to trek the Kokoda Trail and is holding Film and Trivia nights to raise much needed funds for MS Ballarat to help local people cope with the daily demands associated with living with MS. The Courier September 10, 2013.

**Gabby Leonard, Jayne Fuller (2003) and Tom Kent (2006)** were featured in The Courier attending the St John of God Volunteer Afternoon High Tea.

**Jayne Crawley (2007)** was part of Grit Theatre Group and performed in the show "On for Young and Old" held at the Mechanics Institute as part of Ballarat Heritage Week. The group interviewed senior members in the community to develop the characters and stories to illustrate life in Ballarat during the 1930's-1960. The Courier April 26, 2013.

**Bradley Orr (2008)** has commenced a Doctorate in Engineering.

**Hayden Harvey (2010)** received the RMIT Equity Travel Grant and Study Support Scholarship to help fund a study tour in Brest as part of the Bachelor of Business (Economics and Finance) Degree he is currently completing.

**Maddison Newman (2010)** was part of the Combustion Theatre Company Group that wrote and developed the play "Painted Pictures" performed as part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival. This interactive and abstract theatre piece asked the audience to be thoughtful of the way we treat our children! The production poster was designed by Tim Corrigan (2011).

**Peter Camilleri (2012)** has been fundraising to help support his latest short film venture, "Moo". Peter is currently studying at Footscray City Films and runs his own production company, Superfly Productions. The Courier September 20, 2013.

**Rudi Doyle (2012)** is now working as a Mail Clerk with Saines & Lucas Solicitors in Lydiard Street.

**Anna Farrelly-Rosch (2012)** was a recipient of the Macpherson Smith Rural Foundation (MSRF) Scholarship in 2013.

**Liam O'Brien (2012)** has been a member of Urban Neighbours of Hope (UNOH), doing a one year apprenticeship known as Submerge. He has worked as an urban missionary in Bidwill with the UNOH team whilst also being enrolled in a Bachelor of Theology through Stirling Theological College.



**Ash Quiddington** (Yr 10, 2008) won the third round of the Victorian Formula Ford State Championship at Melbourne's Sandown Raceway on May 17-19. The Courier May 29, 2013.

Congratulations to **Neale Thompson**, current staff member at Damascus College who was the winner of the 2013 Flanagan Art Prize with his piece "From Backyard to Table" judged the finest in the exhibition by judge and National Gallery of Victoria assistant curator Beckett Rozentals.

Damascus College Performing Arts personalities **Andrew Seary, Brendan Bawden and Daniel West (1997)** joined past and current parents Tim Gay, John Daykin and Matt Noble in the Ballarat National Theatre Company's performance of "12 Angry Men" at the SMB Courthouse Theatre in October.

Thank you to **Emma Hoban (2008), Miranda Pearse (2012), Samantha Brown (2006), Josh Shuttleworth (2006), Mitchell Dargaville (2012), Pauline Nunan (1969)** and **Tanya Cates (1993)** who met up with our Year 12 students in July to show them around Latrobe Bundoora, RMIT and Melbourne University as part of our annual Year 12 university visit.

## MARRIAGES

**Maree Landrigan (2002)** and **Rodger Heap** held a 1950's style outdoor wedding ceremony and reception with family and friends in Brown Hill on January 12, 2013.

After their marriage on December 1, 2012, **Grant Shilito (2002)** and **Jody Hayes (2004)** enjoyed travelling to Ireland, England, France, Italy and Malaysia for their honeymoon.

**Dominic McNeil (2003)** married **Elizabeth Stratton** on November 30, 2013 at Mt Beauty. They have been living and working in Armidale NSW.

**Jessica Todd (2004)** and **Christopher Mann (2004)** were married on March 23, 2013 at Narmbool in Elaine. They were attended by Sarah Parker, **Lucy Coxall (2008)** and **Lara Ebery**.

**Sarah Hughes (2005)** married **Nathan Kochskamper (2005)** at St Alipius Church on April 6, 2013. Sarah now teaches at St Patrick's College and Nathan is working in the family business as a mechanic.

**Rebekah Crawford (2007)** married **Donovan Jasper** on February 23, 2013 in Ballarat, at the Gillies St Church of Christ, and are now living in Melbourne.

**Nick Santamaria (2007)** and **Cat Pike (2007)** married in 2011 and live in Torquay. Catherine is a Team Leader at the Geelong VicRoads office.

## BIRTHS

**Kalista Kaval (1996)** and her husband **Guillermo** welcomed a beautiful daughter **Violeta Paz Guzzoni** in July.

**Hayley Kane (2000)** and her partner **Peter McKenzie** welcomed their son **Raffi** on July 4, 2013.

**Regina Walsh (2000)** and **Mark Paganini** welcomed **Mitchell Owen** born on the July 1, 2013.

**Rebecca Mills (2000)** and **Phidias Burnell** welcomed **Thomas Kevin** on March 28, 2013.

**George Davidson (2001)** and his partner **Katie** welcomed **Lily Christene Davidson** born on July 9, 2013.

**Emma Petrie (2004)** and **Corey Grills** welcomed a lovely little boy, **Paddy James** born on July 11, 2013.

**Ericka Hennessy (2008)** welcomed daughter **Jayda Louise Richardson** on 2nd January 2013. Ericka is married to **Sam Richardson**.

# Reunions

## CLASS OF 1972 REUNION

On a crisp Ballarat morning in April, the class of 1972 gathered at Damascus for our slightly belated 40 year reunion. As each new arrival walked up the driveway, there were gasps of recognition, followed by hugs and laughter all around. Herding 50 excited "schoolgirls" through a tour of the campus was quite an achievement for Damascus staff members, Yvette and John, and we are grateful to both of them. High on the agenda for ex-boarders was a visit to their former dormitories, rekindling memories of fun, friendship and mixed emotions. Lunch at Oscar's Hotel and Café Bar was filled with much hilarity, warmth and good humour. It was extra special to have five of our former teachers join us as well. Ageing photo albums were pored over, amid squeals of amusement and groans of horror! Absent and deceased friends were remembered through photos and conversations. Many gathered afterwards for an informal dinner, and some stayed overnight, meeting up again for breakfast and lunch. All too quickly it was over, but the farewells were tempered with promises to stay in touch and requests for another gathering in 2017.



Row 1 (L-R): 1. Sr Therese Power, Joanne Nunan, Annette Smith. 2. Sr Veronica Lawson, Sr Anne Forbes (Stan) 3. Chris Liston, Annette Baxter, Mary Templeton 4. Donna Fitzgerald, Anne Dalton, Debbie Tuck, Kathy Maslin, Rhonda Jury 5. Leonie Tellefson, Mary Egan  
Row 2 (L-R): 1. Carmel Brody, Eleanor Preece 2. Cecilia Bowman, Marg FitzGerald, Leonie McNicol 3. Leonie Brennan, Marg Mahoney, Rosa Ginevra 4. (Rear) Mary Egan, Maryanne Jess, Jo Nunan, (Front) Wilma Dickman, Annette Smith, Cathy Cusack 5. Pam Hogan, Wendy Vonow  
Row 3 (L-R): 1. Mary Lou Leech, Bernadette Dwyer 2. Licia Randi, Anne O'Donohue 3. Liz Bates, Gaye Butler, Annette Smith 4. Jerene Houston, Jennie McGrath

## CLASS OF 1973 REUNION



BACK: Bernadette Merlo (Coppock), Robyn Kazakoff (Loftus), Dianne Molloy (Mullane), Gwen Molloy (Whelan), Theresa Dawson (White), Catherine Quirk, Julianne Fogarty, Sue Connellan, Sharon McCartin, Geradine Prendergast (McLoughlan), Marica Hingston (Bignold), Deb Barnett, Jan Sherritt, Sandra Harvey (Hegert), Colleen De Saily (McNulty)  
FRONT: Christine Barkla (Byrne), Annie Davey (Hall), Maree Moloney, Margaret McGarry, Rosemary Fithall, Barb Van Egmond (Mullane), Gerda Ross (Van Egmond)



## CLASS OF 1993 REUNION



Row 1 (L-R): 1. Belinda Finn, Claire Deutsher, Sarah Higgs, Leah Mulder 2. Monica Mullins, Fiona Clark, Gabrielle Eskdale, Melissa Gielnik 3. Martina Simpson, Paula Libbis, Louise David, Felicity McMeekin, Fiona McMeekin 4. Amanda Gervasoni, Amanda Tollidey, Renee Horhan 5. John Reus, Carrina Darroch, Kylie Lynch, Baby Olivia

Row 2 (L-R): 1. John Litrus, Andrew Harrington, Megan McGuigan 2. Matthew Hutton, Kimberley Britt, Danny Mellon 3. Natasha Callahan, Belinda Page 4. Lyndel Roberts, Tammy O'Loughlin, Jayne Lewis 5. Sharni Govan, Sarah Thorne, Sally Punshon, Amanda Tolliday

Row 3: (L-R): 1. Adrian Van Orschoot, Matt Hutton, Bronwyn Hutton, Tammy Murphy 2. Michelle Walsh, Monica Mullens 3. Jayne Lewis, Bernadette Steenhuis 4. Gabrielle Adam, Sharni Govan 5. Sky Mannix, Catherine Tigchelaar, Sarah Thorne

## CLASS OF 2003 REUNION



Row 1 (L-R): 1. Darren Delaney, Joe Cleary, Peter McDaid 2. Alex Thurgood, Claire Neale, Sebastian Bertoli, Liz Reus 3. Aaron Smith, David Tung, Michael Flynn, Nicholas Morton, David Ryan 4. Aislyn Corrigan, Rachel Heinrich, Katie Gilchrist, Victoria Hingston, Rachael Matheson 5. Jarrod Start, Jarrod Tobin

Row 2 (L-R): 1. Jamie Middleton, Ryan Spiteri, Haidee O'Dougherty 2. Casey Pilmore, Jenna Dean, Katie Gilchrist, Amy Berry 3. Lauren Lancey, Lee Connor, Naomi Glasson 4. Marnie Egan, Stacey Johnston, Alirra Reeves, Holly Ellis 5. Andre Wans, David Tung, Marcus Veal.

Row 3: (L-R): 1. Tom Atkinson, Rebecca Poloski, Rebecca Ratcliffe, Tim Mahar, Victoria Hingston 2. Rachel Heinrich, Paige Cahir, Ella Dean, Amy Berry, Josh Eltringham 3. John Ferguson, Matt Madden, Rochelle Shorter 4. Teagan Edwards, Casey Pilmore, Stacey Reese 5. Rachael Matherson and Paul Clark

## *LESLEY ELIZABETH GOVE*

03/04/1937 – 07/06/2013

Lesley was the second child of the Wood family and lived with her parents in Moonee Ponds. Lesley was educated at Genazzano in Kew and went on to study ballet at the Borovansky Ballet School (which later became the Australian Ballet School) until she was 17 years old.



When her parents discouraged Lesley from having a career in ballet, she took exams in Librarianship and began her first job in a library in Preston. Lesley came to Ballarat in 1958 to take up a job in the Ballarat Children's Library. She married Bill Gove in 1962, and her son Lock was born at the end of the next year.

In the late 60's Lesley presented a BTV6 segment called "Let's read!" where she introduced and read books to children as part of her work as a librarian. She then went on to work at the Ballarat City Library and as a librarian at Ballarat East High School, before arriving at St. Martin in the Pines in 1972.

Mrs Lesley Gove was "an institution" in the Library at St Martin's in the Pines working there until the amalgamation of Damascus College in 1995. Lesley then continued on as the Campus Librarian of the Mt. Clear Campus until ill health forced her to take a 12 month leave of absence. On her return to Damascus Lesley became the College Archivist, formally setting up the Archives with protocols that are still being followed today.

Lesley was the consummate librarian. Many a teacher or student walked into her library to be told, "I have a book here that might interest you" – and invariably she would be right. Lesley did put up a "scary and tough exterior" to run a silent and efficient library but once the students got to know her, they found she was an intelligent woman with a wonderfully dry sense of humor, an absolutely generous friend and colleague who would go out of her way to help. Lesley was held in high regard by the students and she maintained contact with many of them long after they had left the College.

Lesley was a fiercely independent person with a quirky sense of humour...a loyal person who valued genuine friendship. She had many interests and continued to practice her faith diligently despite ill health. Her generosity and patience in passing on knowledge to others was outstanding. She

never seemed to mind how many times the same question was asked, as long as the answer was finally understood. Her attention to detail was phenomenal!!

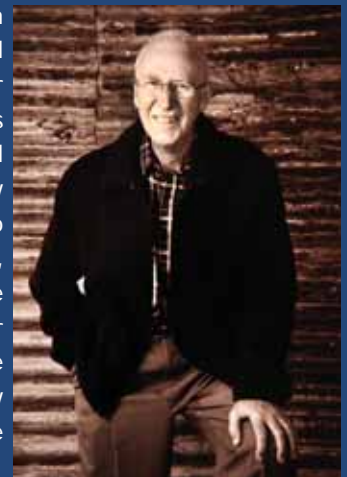
Lesley has been a great friend and mentor to many across the generations of our College and finally retired from Damascus College in March 2007. She had suffered from ill health for a number of years and died suddenly at her home on Friday 7th June 2013.

Rest peacefully, Lesley! Your work is completed!

## *THOMAS ARTHUR MILLINGTON*

17/5/1936 – 7/5/2013

Thomas Arthur Millington was the son of Alice and Tom Millington and brother to Marie. Tom spent his early days in Ascot Vale and attended St Mary's Primary School and then went onto St Joseph's Technical College, South Melbourne where he developed his love for technical work. It was here



also that Tom was captured by the ideals and example of the brothers who taught him. So in 1951 he decided to set out to join the Christian Brothers attending the St Joseph's Junior Training College in Box Hill.

Tom began his teaching career in 1956, and went on to work in Fremantle, Perth and Geraldton then back to schools in Victoria.

When Tom made the decision to leave the Order his faith and his passion for education led him to continue to teach in Catholic schools. But Tom was soon to begin another stage of his life journey when he married Maree and for the next 38 years together they wove a rich tapestry of love that has embraced family and friends and all who have known them.

Tom will be fondly remembered by many students and colleagues from his time at St. Paul's Technical College, 1990-94 and Damascus College from 1995-2002. Tom was a dedicated teacher who loved his students. He had a magical way with young people. Always firm, the students knew the boundaries, but Tom was always positive, vital and encouraging. As well as teaching in his loved disciplines of Maths and Science, Tom was sports master, grounds man,

football, cricket and golf coach, excursion organiser, driving instructor, blood donor enthusiast and general factotum.

It would not go unnoticed that no matter what the activity Tom was always impeccably dressed. It mattered not if it was teaching, playing golf or squash, mowing the oval, going to support Essendon, coaching football, hosting a barbeque or attending a dinner dance, Tom always lifted the sartorial bar. His elegant bow ties, generous smile and kind words would always brighten our day.

Tom was the embodiment of a Christian gentleman; he was honest, genuine, loyal, open and positive. Tom never spoke an unkind word of anybody; he had a rich love of life, a wit that was razor sharp and a sense of humour that saw him through many challenging situations. He brought so much fun and laughter to all.

Tom maintained his uncomplaining dignity over the latter years of sickness and growing debilitation. Those who were close to him looked on with admiration at the way Maree cared for Tom and encouraged him to live life to the fullest through all of the difficult part of their journey together. As often as he could Tom would attend our retired staff luncheons.

Tom's colleagues and past students at all the schools he taught at over 47 years will testify to the positive influence he had on them. Tom was an inspiring teacher and mentor, a true friend and gentleman to all who knew him and he will be sadly missed by all at Damascus College.

May he rest in peace.

## *MICHAEL KENNEDY*

14/03/1966 – 19/08/2013

Michael was a teacher at Sacred Heart College from 1989-1994 and at Damascus in 1995. He was an inspirational teacher, colleague and friend whose memory lives on through the beautiful music he created. We wish to thank Michael's wife Carla for kindly allowing us to take some words from the Eulogy she gave, to share with the Damascus College community in remembering Michael.



Written by Carla J Kennedy

Michael loved life and it's surprises, it's twists and turns ...he was passionate about baking bread, growing a garden, looking after the bees, singing, cycling, teaching, bush walking, potting, woodworking. His gift lay in 'making' and 'creating' in the physical world and this allowed him to be truly present and grounded when searching for meaning in his song writing...the words that made his music live and breathe amongst us all.

Writing about Michael is not an easy task....he has never been easily captured and can't be pinned down by words or images...he was many different things to many different people.

The Boy - Bryan and Mary's son. Damian, Kathryn and Carmel's little brother. Eating his mum's much loved lamingtons and Sunday roast. Cycling to school, around that Echuca cycling track, training every night and beyond for cycling competitions....a medal winner! Ballroom dancing... more medals! His favourite pastimes were drawing with pencils and paper, listening to 1970's music – 'Fox on the Run' an absolute favourite, watching the cricket and the Tour De France were mandatory and of course playing his guitar.

The Potter - A dedicated artist who had command of the wheel and the beautiful shaping of clay. The building of kilns, wood firing, salt glazing. A practice that possessed him as a young man and that followed him relentlessly throughout his life...a symbol of his connection to the earth.

The Teacher - Michael brought great wisdom to the classroom. He insisted on challenging his students...in their thinking and in their actions, especially in Religious Education! He provoked, questioned, supported and guided. Although he has been away from teaching for quite a few years a great many students from the Sacred Heart days still keep in touch with him. A testament to the power of his teaching and what he meant to his students.

The Musician - The voice. The voice...that lifts us, the words that shape us. A voice for our humanity, a voice for the Earth. Michael's presence on stage when he sang was masterful, beautiful and silenced us all. When he sang he brought us closer to God. How lucky we are.

In the last days there were prayer circles praying, singing for a miracle...but in the intensity of those moments we had forgotten that the miracle was before us....Michael was and is the miracle, reminding us to live well...to live our lives fearlessly, passionately and not take for granted, each and every breath.



# 2014 Alumni Events

Up to date details of each event will be emailed and posted on the Damascus College Website and on the Damascus College Alumni Facebook Group Page.

"TIMELINES" Alumni Art Exhibition will now be held every second year. We are eager to hear of any artists who might wish to exhibit in the future.

Please email [connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au](mailto:connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au) with your expression of interest.

**A NIGHT @ THE TROTS** is planned for Thursday June 5th. All past students are welcome to attend. Cost of \$30 includes entry, race book and a two course meal. Enquiries and bookings to [connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au](mailto:connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au)

## ST MARTINS IN THE PINES

"October Spring Lunch". For bookings please contact Jo Reidy: [reidy.joanne.m@gmail.com](mailto:reidy.joanne.m@gmail.com)

"Chat and Cuppa" will be held at Sails on the Lake on August 30 at 2.30pm. For bookings please contact Mollie Cleary on 5338 7248.

**RETIRED STAFF NETWORK** of Damascus College and the former schools Sacred Heart College, St Martin's in the Pines and St Paul's Technical College are invited to gather during 2014 on Wednesdays March 26, June 18, October 15, and December 3.

"CUPPA @ CONVENT" will be organised for a Wednesday in August for those wishing to visit the retired Sisters of Mercy who have worked at our College. For inquiries please contact Yvette at [connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au](mailto:connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au)

## CLASS GROUP REUNIONS

### 1974

Organising group: Therese Kitching (Pocock), Anne Maree Collins, Colleen Holloway.

Date& Venue: August 2nd at the Barkly on Main Rd.

Tour of School will commence at 4pm.

### 1984

Organising group: Louise Diviny (nee Scanlon).

Date: Saturday 1st March.

Venue: Details yet to be confirmed

Tour of School will commence at 4pm.

### 1994

Organising group: Ailie Cuthbertson.

Date& Venue: Details yet to be confirmed

Tour of School will commence at 4pm.

### 2004

Organising group: Charlene Conroy.

Date& Venue: Details yet to be confirmed

Tour of School will commence at 4pm.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The planning group meets on the fourth Monday of every month, excluding January and December and school holidays. Please contact Yvette if you would like to be involved at [connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au](mailto:connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au) or phone 5337 2352.

### DROP US A LINE

If you have information you would like to share with the Damascus Community through The Road, or you wish to add your email address or update your contact details, please email our Past Student Coordinator Yvette Nesire-McNeil at:

[connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au](mailto:connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au)

### STAY IN TOUCH

Have you joined the Damascus Alumni Facebook Group? This is a great way to stay in touch with news and events at Damascus. Simply go to the Damascus facebook page, click on the Alumni tab and request to join.

<http://www.facebook.com/DamascusCollege>

You can also share you news via the Alumni Facebook Group on the Damascus College Facebook Page:  
<http://www.facebook.com/DamascusCollege>

