



DAMASCUS COLLEGE

APRIL 2013

The Road

More than just a Door

For generations, the iconic sculpture pictured above has been admired by staff, students and visitors to Damascus College and before it, St Martin's in the Pines. But how many of us know the history and meaning of this sculpture?

The sculpture was created in 1968 by renowned sculptor Hans Knorr. Hans was born in Germany in 1915 but came to Australia during World War II after fleeing South Africa where he had lived for several years. He was interned in Tatura near Shepparton for 7 years and was released to freedom in 1946. In the subsequent years he became a well-known sculptor, working mainly in the area of religious art. He opened a gallery in Emerald in 1961 and his artwork now stands throughout Australia and in many parts of the world.

The sculpture, known as 'Education and Achievement' was commissioned by the Sisters of Mercy and was created in

1968, the year the school was officially opened. The Principal at the time Mother Genevieve notes that "the aim of this school is symbolised in the sculptured aluminium panel by Hans Knorr on the doors of St Martin's. This semi-abstract sculpture represents man's growth through education from embryonic beginnings with roots in the earth to an increasing mastery of his surrounding and ever upwards toward the things of the spirit."¹

The sculptor's notes can be used to elaborate on this. "The theme of the panel is education. From man's primeval roots, and from beginnings symbolised by the two ovoid shapes, which are both basic and universal, man is raised by his natural yearning and by education towards things of the spirit; so that in the second level of the panel we see a church building and a book, a dam and the ploughed field, such diverse

inventions as the crucible and the wheel, the aeroplane and the radar screen, and symbols of commerce and culture. The continuing central pillar, or tree, symbolises the life of Christ which binds together and culminates, not only in the Cross but in the full Unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

As a College we are fortunate to have such a unique, meaningful and valuable piece of artwork on display to us every day. The theme of education and achievement, knowledge and growth, is as relevant today as it was when the artwork was first commissioned. And whilst the College has witnessed many changes since 1968, the constancy of these doors amidst the ever changing school landscape can be called upon to remind us that the journey of education is at the core of our mission and the heart of our College community.

1. Taken from the Principal's Page of the school magazine, *In Altum*, 1968.

Towards a Sustainable Future



Photo: Sculptor Hans Knorr circa 1968.

ENERGY AND WATER INITIATIVES

Last year the College was successful in obtaining a federal grant which allowed us to install a 10 kilowatt solar system on the roof of our staffroom building. To date, these solar panels have produced around 13,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, saved the College approximately \$2,800 and avoided over 16 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. We have also undertaken an Energy Audit at the College which outlines ways in which we can further reduce our electricity consumption. Through the Schools Water Efficiency Program (SWEP) we have installed a data-logger which monitors the College's water consumption via an online system and alerts us when there is a spike in our water consumption, allowing for quick detection of leaks or alike.

RECYCLING PROGRAM

In Term 1 of 2013, the Green Group and the Sustainability Committee coordinated the roll out of a paper and cardboard recycling program across the College. Each classroom and office now has a blue eco bin which is used for the disposal of waste paper and cardboard. Students and staff are responsible for emptying these bins into larger recycling stations when they are full. This initiative has been well received across the school and we are already noticing a decrease in the amount of general waste being generated.

During Term 2 the College will focus its attention on the roll out of comingle recycling bins across the school. These bins are used for plastic, glass and aluminium waste. The College has adopted the widely accepted colour coding system of recycling and in line with this, yellow comingle bins will soon appear around the College grounds. Green organic waste bins will also be situated in the staff room, administration wing and the food technology rooms. This waste will be composted and used by our horticulture students. Red bins for general waste are also being phased in across the College. The amount of waste generated versus the volume of recyclable items will then be monitored through the SETS waste module.

SUSTAINABILITY AT DAMASCUS

Damascus College has a number of goals as part of its Strategic Plan, one of which is "to become an environmentally sustainable College". To this end, Damascus appointed a Sustainability Coordinator at the start of 2012, Mr David Neate. David is a passionate teacher of Biology, Horticulture and Maths and has been doing a wonderful job in his additional role as Sustainability Coordinator.

Last year, a student committee known as the Green Group formed, and has been actively working out ways to raise awareness of sustainability amongst the student community. A staff group known as the Sustainability Committee also meets regularly to organise the implementation of sustainability initiatives around the College.

In 2012 Damascus signed up to the SETS (School Environment Tracking System) program which allows schools to record their sustainability initiatives and guides them through a series of modules aimed at making schools more sustainable. Last year Damascus commenced two of these modules: the Core Module and the Waste Module.

As part of the Core Module, Damascus has drafted a Strategic Environment Management Plan (SEMP) which broadly sets out the actions the College community will take in order to achieve the aim of becoming an environmentally sustainable school. As part of the Waste Module, Damascus has commenced the implementation of a school wide recycling program.



Sustainability in the Early Days

Whilst the term 'sustainability' may have experienced a resurgence of late, history tells us that the concept of trying to live in a sustainable way has been part of our school community's culture for many years.

In 1981 St Martin's in the Pines received a Federal Government grant of \$15,000 as part of a program to assist students to make the transition from school to work or further study. The focus of the Transition Program was to introduce students to alternative styles of living focusing on self-sufficiency and the development of resourcefulness in practical living skills.

Originally the school had applied for funding to develop an experimental garden which would involve the fencing and cultivation of approximately a quarter of an acre of the school grounds and then later to extend the program to building a mud-brick structure. However, funding was given for the school to build the mud-brick building but not the garden, so this meant some rather radical changes in their thinking.



Photo: L-R Kathy Hutt, Kate Gannon, Margo Martin, Rebecca Henry, Trudy Augustat, Sr Mary Darcy & Sam the dog

Planning for the 'mud-brick hut' as it's now fondly known, began in earnest in September 1981 with visits to 'alternative lifestyle communities' who had already built mud-brick structures. A great deal of time and effort went into researching and planning for the building and in March the following year, building plans were at last finalised.

The students were involved at every stage of the building process: drawing up plans, orientation of the building, choice of the site guided by Mr Bob Martin (an engineer), selection of second-hand materials, learning mud-brick making and testing guided by Mr John Searle (an experienced mud-brick builder), building the frame guided by Mr Brian Walsh (the maintenance manager) and Bob Martin, mud-brick making, brick-laying, construction of walls and rendering of the walls. You name it, the girls did it! The construction was overseen by Mr Jack Walsh (Master Builder) and some of the more difficult tasks were undertaken by commercial builders (laying of the slab and construction of the chimney, windows and the roof).

The project was to take 2 years but ended up taking over 3 years from September 1981 until December 1984. During that time over 300 students participated in the building process through the school's activities program, as well as several staff members. And so with a lot of hard work from Sr Mary Darcy and the extended St Martin's community, the mud brick hut was finally completed using clay and topsoil from the site.

The building was originally constructed as a Craft Centre and was set up with spinning wheels and weaving looms. An organic garden was also established. Overall the program was to show that it is possible to provide shelter, food and clothing in a sustainable and self-sufficient manner.

Over the years, the mud hut has been used for various activities but fittingly, it's now utilised by our horticulture students as well as the Energy Breakthrough Team (EBT).



The Final Hours



This year celebrated the 12th production of what has become an Easter tradition at Damascus. What started from humble beginnings with two lights and a simple raised stage in 1990 has grown into a very complex theatrical event.

The story of Jesus is familiar to us all, and has been explored countless times in every different form of human expression. The tradition of the outdoor passion play began in the 1300's and continues today, most notably at Oberammergau, Germany every ten years.

The format of the Passion narratives makes it easy for us to step into the shoes of the different character-types we meet here. Each station constitutes a simple scene. We feel drawn to participate in the drama and to ask ourselves where we would have stood in immediate relation to the trial and crucifixion of Jesus.

The 2013 production showcased not only the remarkable talents of our students but also the picturesque College grounds, which provided a dramatic backdrop for each of the stations. As the audience quietly followed the glowing crucifix, they could not help but be awed by the beauty of the school bathed in soft, coloured light and by the moving performances of the cast. Tears were shed by audience members as Mary cradled Jesus in her arms, his earthly body limp and bloodied after being removed from the Cross.

Over forty cast and crew members can now take their proud place within the continuing tradition of this event, as they proclaim, like so many others before them, the real message of Easter.

If you would like to share an experience or account of your participation in The Final Hours, past or present, we invite you to do so via the Alumni facebook group, which can be found on the Damascus facebook page.



Br Frank Hennessy Fundraising Event

The Silent Auction Fundraiser held on March 15, 2013 to support the work of Brother Frank Hennessy in Timor Leste was a gathering of the extended Damascus College family.

Past students and families of St Paul's Technical College and Sacred Heart College came together with the Damascus College community to raise funds to support ongoing projects in Timor Leste.

At a time in one's life when most people are thinking of retirement, Brother Frank Hennessy has embarked on social justice in action, travelling to Timor Leste last year to work as the Edmund Rice Project Leader in Dili.

Brother Frank spent two periods of his professional life at St Paul's: firstly as a teacher in 1970/71 and then as Principal from 1983-1990.

Our MC for the night Fiona Tonkin (SM 1971) introduced Brother Frank with the words; *"A great teacher inspires students to learn not just knowledge but skills and attitudes, a great principal inspires a school community to strive for the higher things in life like community outreach and social justice."*

Brother Frank is indeed a great teacher. He presented the facts and statistics about the challenges faced by the growing nation of Timor Leste with clarity and realism. He told moving stories of his time with the Timorese people and through photographs and film clips we were transported to his place of work and touched by the spirit of the people.

Many of Brother Frank's former students and their families came on the night not just because he taught them but because he inspired them and provided a model of one who aspired for the greater good of the community. The words "he is awesome", "he was my Principal" and "Frank is a great man" were sprinkled through the conversations had with past students and their families.

With a warm handshake Brother Frank was quick to remember names, recall family relationships and greet people he had never met. Very soon the people who had gathered in the John Shannon Centre were reminded of their community links and enjoyed each other's company.

The main aim of the event was to raise funds in support of Frank's work in Timor. Fiona Barnett (SH 1983), John Maher (SP 1965) and Ron Geurts (SP 1970) led us through a Silent Auction. Bids were made on chocolate, wine, cards, jewellery, meals, plants, artwork, sourdough bread making classes and several 5kg bags of potatoes, all of which had been generously donated by local businesses and supporters of the College.

We enjoyed tasty savoury selections from Jo's Catering and were treated to enticing cup cakes made by the Damascus College East Timor Immersion Group. Many packets of East Timorese Coffee were sold by Marcus Downes from Charisma Coffee and the East Timor handicrafts and cards brought over by Brother Frank were also snapped up the crowd!

At the end of the evening everyone was able to take home a large or small item they had won in the auction or purchased at the stall and know that their participation in this enjoyable event will make a significant difference in Timor Leste. Around \$3700 was raised on the night which will go towards Brother Frank's work as well as other organisations in East Timor.

Thank you to all the community businesses who generously donated their goods and services and to all the attendees for their support of Timor Leste and the Damascus community.



Photo: Br Frank Hennessy & John Cairnes



Photo: Ron Geurts & Fay Frawley

Tree Change of a Different Kind



Photo: Adam Talbot & Linda Reus

With horticulture running through three generations of the Reus family it was no wonder that 2001 past student Linda Reus decided to take a leap and open her own business "The Treehouse Nursery" in Main Road, Ballarat.

Even though Linda enjoyed her time at Damascus College she never felt quite sure about what she wanted to do with her life after school. The thought of university never really appealed to her, so after successfully finishing Year 12 in 2001 Linda decided to join the family business, 'Reus Nursery' at Warrenheip.

Reus Nursery started about 50 years ago and has been an entirely family run business for the last seven years. Joe Reus and his two sons Andrew and Michael Reus now work together with their mum Leanne to continue the family tradition. As a nursery specialising in growing and selling cut flowers, Leanne's background in floristry has worked into the business perfectly and they also now supply floral arrangements for local weddings.

Linda worked at Reus nursery for eleven years; growing, picking, planting and loving the time that she spent with her family. But it was Linda's own wedding that began the new stage of her journey.

On April 8, 2012 Linda married Adam Talbot (also a past student from 2001) on a beautiful autumn's day at Brim Brim Gardens in Buninyong. Together they went on a three month honeymoon to the USA driving from Los Angeles along the coast all the way to New York.

This trip was to be the turning point in Linda's life. She had always dreamed of travel to the States and this experience completely changed her outlook and left her wanting more.

So after returning to Australia and settling back into life, Linda felt that she needed a change. At a rare breakfast outing to a local restaurant Linda glanced over at the Ballarat Courier that Adam was reading and noticed a real estate advertisement for a plant nursery and instantly knew that this was what she wanted to do.

Although this new venture has been a big change from her past job Linda has never been happier.

Linda knows she has much to learn and is rapidly acquiring knowledge about the thousands of plant species on offer and insights into the business side of nursery life.

Customers have commented on how attractive the site now looks. Linda has successfully revitalised the nursery, is selling cut flowers from her Dad's garden and has added ice-cream for those who wish to have a cool snack as they shop. She is successfully marketing her business both online and through the tried and true methods of print and letter drops. And as well as servicing those who call in as they pass along busy Main Road, Linda is building up a loyal clientele from all over Ballarat.

The support from the Ballarat community has been a driving force, proving that taking such a leap was the right decision for her. And together with Adam and her love of the horticulture industry she has set her sights even higher - Linda already has plans for a second nursery, a bit further down the track.

A STUDY PROGRAM TO INDONESIA

Mairead Rodgers (2011)



I began learning Indonesian in Year 7; originally because it was something different and I thought it seemed simple compared to French. But as the years went on, my thoughts on the language completely changed. It was not as easy as I expected but it was, however, rewarding and worthwhile and by the time I had completed Year 12, I was in love with not only the language but also the culture it shared.

Initially I didn't plan to continue my Indonesian studies at a university level, as I was studying professional writing and journalism at Deakin University and I didn't think the language would fit suitably into my course. But the opportunity presented itself and exactly one year after finishing high school, I was offered the chance to travel overseas to Indonesia for the first time and study for six weeks in an intensive learning program.

Travelling to Indonesia was something I never thought I would be able to do, due to my commitment to study and also my lack of finances. But thanks to a year of hard work studying, I was lucky enough to be offered an Indonesian in-country program travel grant, which helped me achieve my dream of finally visiting the country I'd studied about for so long.

While studying at UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim, a university in East Java, I was able to observe the many cultural differences between Indonesia and Australia and improve my language skills at the same time. I ate national cuisines from local warungs (restaurants), learned traditional dancing and spent hours walking through local markets and using my Indonesian to barter for discounted prices. The local university students were very welcoming and excited to swap stories about culture as well as helping me to improve my language skills. I'm certain now that the friends I made and the memories we shared while studying in Indonesia will stay with me for the rest of my life.

So to those who are considering continuing with Indonesian, I strongly encourage you to do so. Indonesia offers a different and exciting culture and has one of the most diverse and rewarding languages to study. And to those who have chosen Indonesian as part of their VCE, semoga sukses! And I hope upon completing your studies, you will consider studying Indonesian at university and perhaps even participating in an in-country program similar to mine, which are available at various universities around the country; trust me when I say that nothing is more rewarding!

INDIAN ADVENTURES

Michaela McCaw (2012)

I've been in India for over a month now and every day brings new surprises. India never fails to amaze me! So far I've been to Delhi, Darjeeling, Siliguri, Varanasi and Kalimpong which is where I am living. Kalimpong is a lovely little yet busy town which is situated up in the hills of north east India. The sights here are to die for and the colours are just wonderful!

The children I am working with are simply amazing and I am having a blast with them all. For little people with such horrible backgrounds, I've never met a bunch of children so happy! One boy who is fairly new to our mix has settled in well and is really bubbly and confident, yet we cannot imagine how as he has such a sad past.

Through my travels so far I have met some other amazing travellers and have done some really cool things. Just last week I was in Varanasi celebrating Holi festival and staying not 100 meters away from the holy river Ganges. One night we went on a boat ride where we dipped our feet in the water and did a special prayer out in the middle of the river for luck. Whilst on the water we watched a special puja (prayer) with bells, fire, drums and music which lasted over an hour. We were also able to experience a cremation on the waterfront and sat with some sadhus that were the most chilled people I've ever met.

All in all so far India is proving to be the biggest roller coaster ride with great ups and great downs, but it's by far the best experience of my life. At the moment I'm planning to stay here for the rest of the year instead of returning in June/ July but we'll see!



Year 12, 2012 - Final Day



Farewell, Good Luck and Stay in Touch!

Awards and Achievements 2012

In 2012 the Awards and Achievements structure at Damascus was reviewed and as a result, a number of changes were made to the awards that are given both during the year as well as at the end of the year. Amongst other things, it was decided to change the venue for the Awards and Achievements Evening which has traditionally been held at Founders Hall. In 2012 this event was held at the Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts on Tuesday 20th November. In keeping with tradition, the College invited a past student to speak about their life and experiences since leaving school. Julie Carey (1996) generously agreed to take on the role of Guest Speaker and spoke about her professional career, now working as a senior manager with international firm KPMG. The evening also showcased the many talents of our current students with a performance from the 2012 musical 'Annie', a spoken word piece from the Timor Leste Immersion Team and a breathtaking performance on the gymnastics beam. The Awards and Achievements Evening was a great success and the new format will continue in 2013.

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 2011 Dux of Damascus College	Benjamin Lembo
Damascus College Scholarship for the Arts	Darcey Ballinger
Damascus College Scholarship for Sport	Emma Sherritt
Damascus College Scholarship for Academic Study	Stephanie McKenzie
Dorothy Irene-Ellis Thomas Scholarship	Peter Camilleri Bethany Searle
Sisters of Mercy Dorothy Griffin Scholarship	Jack Cuttler Ebony O'Brien
Junior Social Justice Award	Jason White
Senior Social Justice Award	Jemma Mathers
Junior Performing Arts Award	Jason White
Senior Performing Arts Award	Madeleine Macallister
Junior Leadership Award	Dana Farrow
Senior Leadership Award	Anna Haintz
Debating Award	Seamus West
Junior Art Acquisition Award	Lily Kerr
Senior Art Acquisition Award	Lauren Riordon
Pierre de Coubertin Award	Rachel Grawich
Sports Person of the Year	Molly Mathews



Julie Carey (1996)



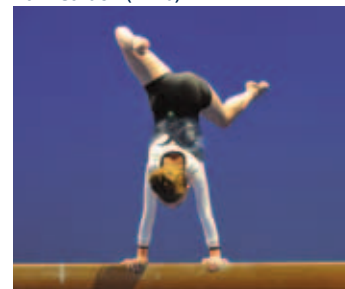
Benjamin Lembo (2011)



Zoe Nankivell, Michael Matthews & Melissa Langford



Tom Corden (Yr 10)



Emma Sherritt (Yr 7)



Peter Gay (Staff Member)

INAUGURAL AISLINN PRENDERGAST CHALLENGE CUP

In November 2012, Damascus held the inaugural Aislinn Prendergast Challenge Cup in Orienteering. Past student Aislinn Prendergast (2007) has competed at elite levels in the sport and has gone as far as representing Australia in orienteering. The Challenge was initiated by Mr Wayne Forster to encourage student participation in the sport and to recognise Aislinn's international achievements.

During Terms 3 and 4 of 2012, Year 9 and 10 students had been involved in orienteering sessions as part of their PE classes, with the support of the Eureka Orienteering Club. The PE staff then chose four representatives from each of the classes to take part in the Aislinn Prendergast Challenge Cup. Students opted to participate either as individuals or in mixed pairs. The event took place on an overcast morning in November and Aislinn was in attendance to present the trophy to the winning students.

It was an enjoyable event and the students put in a great effort. The College would like to thank the Eureka Orienteering Club for their support and of course, Aislinn Prendergast for making the time to attend the event.

The inaugural winners of the Aislinn Prendergast Challenge Cup are pictured below. From left to right they are: Ryley Nagel – Individual Girls, Anthony Kearle – Individual Boys, Saxon McDonald & Madeleine Gay - Pairs and Aislinn Prendergast in the centre.



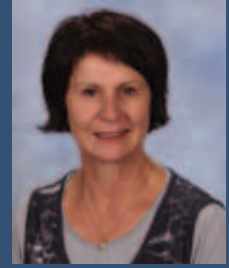
A NEW ROWING PROGRAM FOR DAMASCUS

During Term 1 an eager group of Damascus students were fortunate to be part of a rowing program run by The Ballarat Wendouree Rowing Club. The Club approached Damascus to participate in their "Adopt a School Program" and the College welcomed the opportunity to take part. A large number of students participated in the program during first term, and a smaller group will continue training during Terms 2 and 3 as part of a selected squad. The College hopes to continue some form of rowing program into the future if there is enough interest from students and their families. If you have expertise in the area of rowing and would like to assist with the rowing program, please contact the College.



RETIREMENTS

Jane Ducardus retired from the College at the end of 2012. Jane has been a generous member of our library team since 1999, looking after the Victoria Street library prior to the consolidation to one campus. In recent years she has capably led the production of the College Magazine. Jane's efficient yet caring approach to her work was very much appreciated by the College community.



DEPARTURES

As well as having been a talented and active past student of the College, **Daniel West (1997)** has been a valued staff member since 2008. He has been an excellent Music and Drama teacher as well as the Special Needs Coordinator at the Victoria St campus and the Head of Arts at Mt Clear. Daniel has been an asset to the Performing Arts Department creating numerous performance opportunities for students of all age groups and abilities. He has made a strong contribution to the Performing Arts tradition throughout his involvement in countless Damascus College productions and events. Daniel wanted to explore education in the primary sector and is now on the staff of St James Primary School in Sebastopol.



Hilary Gregson has worked for the last three years in the English and Humanities Domain at Damascus College. She was an innovative, energetic and caring teacher and has now left Damascus College in order to pursue other career opportunities.



Deb Robertson has made a wonderful contribution to the College community over the past 11 years in her role as classroom teacher of PE, Health and Science. Deb also created many opportunities for student and staff participation in her role as Sports Coordinator, Teacher Advisor and VCAL team member. Deb's work has been greatly appreciated at Damascus College. Her energy, enthusiasm and passion for education were expressed through the new ideas and approaches she brought to classroom learning. Deb will continue at the college as a CRT in 2013.



Ben Nelson and **Joanne Nelson** were sadly farewelled from Damascus College at the end of 2012. Ben secured a teaching position at Emmanuel College in Warrnambool to allow his growing family to be closer to their extended family.

Ben is foremost a family man and then a passionate teacher. He leads by example and his honest and straight forward approach was appreciated by students and staff alike. He was highly respected by both his students and his colleagues for living by the values he teaches. He also made a valuable contribution to the College in his role as McAuley House Leader.



Jo's welcoming smile and efficient manner as part of the administration team will be sorely missed. Her relaxed demeanour and easy-going nature ensured all who came into contact with her felt comfortable and cared for.



Leon Beaton will be taking long service leave during 2013 and the community wishes him well for this break.

Blast from the Past

AN EXTRACT FROM THE 1968 YEARBOOK - 'IN ALTUM'

Feb 17 - Occupants of fourth floor (boarding house) discovered a new source of electricity - the nylon of summer tunics!

Feb 24 - Matrics consulted with Mother and formulated their own "school rules" - we're more likely to keep them if we make them ourselves!

March 25 - House Sports at the Eastern Oval. Connell, of course, took the shield for athletics - for the third year in succession.

April 19 - First of three days of frantic preparations for the Opening.

April 21 - Official Opening of St Martin's in the Pines by His Lordship, Bishop O'Collins. Students lamented as the grounds became a mud-bath, but the farmers were happy. The Mercy nuns lived up to their reputation as rain-makers!

May 28 - Something seems to have happened to the heating system - I wish I could work out what!

May 30 - Well, look at it this way. Before long we will all die of pneumonia, then if we go UP we'll have no bodies to feel the cold, and if we go DOWN we'll be well and truly warm enough!

Oct 1 - Snow on Mt Buninyong - quite an event!

Oct 9 - Our marching instructor arrived. Those who have never heard him before have resolved to buy ear plugs.

Oct 15 - Dancing classes in the open air.

Oct 20 - VICTORY! SHC marching team brought the cup home again amid much rejoicing.

Oct 26 - A "tree planting" day at St Martin's which kept everyone busy.

Nov 1 - A walkathon organised by the magazine committee. Result - sunburn and blisters, but a considerable improvement to the financial situation.

Nov 8 - Work began on the oval again. The happy sounds of machinery as a hill was removed for use as top soil.

Nov 25 - Exams begin in earnest. The futures of many will be decided in the next two weeks. Let's hope fortune is kind!

Dec 5 - Official break-up.

Dec 6 - General exodus - except for the French, Art and Geology Students.

Dec 11 - Final exam, and those suffering students of Geology can finally pack their bags.



Photo: January 24, 1968.

Handing out refreshments to the fire fighters who saved St Martin's in the Pines from a bushfire.

Sisters from left to right:

Sr Rita Hayes (Sr Aloysius), Mother Genevieve and Sr Thérèse Power (Sr André).

St Martin's Statue Restoration

Thank you to all those people who have generously made donations to the St Martin's Statue Restoration Fund. To date we have raised \$4,800, however we still have a long way to go. The estimated cost of repair to this significant statue is approximately \$37,000.

The statue has long been admired by the Damascus and St Martin's in the Pines communities. It currently stands in the atrium at the centre of the St Martin's Resource Centre (the library).

The statue was sculpted in 1967 by Ernesto Murgo, a well-known sculptor whose works can be found in private collections all over the world, including the Vatican. The bronze frieze that spans the foyer of St Vincent's Private Hospital in Sydney, stands as a memorial to Ernesto Murgo, who died in the hospital in 2003.

Unfortunately the weather has been unkind to our statue of St Martin de Porres, and we would like to restore the statue to its former glory. All donations, large or small, would be greatly appreciated.

HOW TO DONATE

In Person

At the College Office, 8am to 4.30pm weekdays

By Mail

Send a cheque to:
Damascus College
St Martins Statue Restoration Fund
1412 Geelong Road
Mt Clear VIC 3350

BPAY

Bill Code: 37549

Reference Number: 112037

Credit Card

To pay by credit card ph: (03) 5337 2222

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

If paying by BPAY, please email your banking receipt along with your mailing address to info@damascus.vic.edu.au so that we can post a receipt to you.



Photo: Mother Carmel, Mr George Dudley Erwin (politician), Mr Kevin Foley and Mother Genevieve Circa 1967/68.

Where are they now?

Beth Unmani nee O'Connor (1969) lives on a farm in the Wimmera and helps find people affordable housing. Beth also teaches piano and is a grandmother of six.

Bernadette Brouwers (1971) now works as a Project Director at ACER in Melbourne four days per week and commutes from Ballarat.

Catherine Nicol (1988) is married to Paul Fitzpatrick (1985) and they now have a two year old son Alexander.

Anne Pryor (teacher at St Martin's 1988-1993) has recently celebrated a special birthday and is now living in Armidale NSW.

Matthew Carter (1989). Last November Mike Caldwell, the Treasurer of the Engineers Australia Ballarat Group, and Matthew Carter, a past student of St Paul's and St. Martin's in the Pines (1989), presented Daniel Mroczkowski and Bethany Claridge with the Engineers Australia Academic Award at the Year 10 Assembly. Matthew spoke to the Year 10 students about the importance and presence of engineering in our everyday lives and encouraged them to do their best at school as well as consider Maths and Science in their subject choices.

Raechel Stewart (1990) enjoys working with different people in the community as a UFS Dispensary Pharmacy Assistant. Raechel and her partner Peter have two beautiful daughters Sophie and Emmerson.

Julie Carey (1996) was the guest speaker for the Damascus College Awards and Achievements Evening in November 2012. Julie spoke of how the College with the support of her family and local community enabled her and her husband Damian Rinaldi (1994) to move into their respective careers as an accountant and builder. Julie now works as an audit account manager for BHP Billiton at KPMG in Melbourne while she and Damian parent two little boys Harry and Ned.

Justin Weyers (1997) and **Jacinta Sullivan (1999)** both moved to London to pursue their dream to establish a career in Visual Design. Justin is now the director of *'Made Visual'*, a multidisciplinary creative agency based in the heart of East London and was recently the Animation Producer on the film *'A Liar's Autobiography'*, which is based around the musings of Monty Python's Graham Chapman. This animation recently launched at the London film festival, has been heralded as at the forefront of creativity and design. Jacinta's career in Design is quite distinctive and very different to Justin's but is equally impressive. Her use of colour and line is evocative, her style is cutting edge but with a meaning and message so elegantly illustrated for a contemporary world. Jacinta's recent work *'Project Hang Up'* reflects her sustainability perspective. *'We live in a disposable time, where things are destroyed as quickly as they are created'*, so Jacinta has explored the axiom that someone's trash is another's treasure (quite literally). The excess metallic foil and paper stock gathering dust at the printing press and ending in land fill inspired in her a better solution to turn this trash into treasure, creating beautifully crafted keepsakes. Justin and Jacinta have recently announced their engagement and all at Damascus College wish them both much happiness and a successful future together.

Kim Anderson (1997). Kim spent four weeks with Uniting Care's Aged and Disability Services as part of their *'Under the Floorboards'* Artist-in-Residence program. A piece from Kim's most recent exhibition *Skin, '58'*, has been selected for the Toyota Community Spirit Emerging Artist Exhibition. Kim's work is also featured in *'What Lies Beneath?'* an exhibition of pavement at Alfred Deakin Place, Camp Street Ballarat from 28 March – 5 May 2013. <http://www.artsatlas.com.au/event/what-lies-beneath>. Kim is currently Artist-in-Residence at Scotch Oakburn College in Launceston, Tasmania and will be drawing directly onto the wall in the College's beautiful Space Gallery, creating a brand new work especially for the College. Visit Kim's website. <http://www.kim-anderson.com.au>

Lauren Morris nee Kelly (1999) was working at McCallum Disability Services prior to having her daughter Charlotte who has now turned one. Lauren now works part time in the office at St Alipius primary school where she enjoys working with Rachel Allan nee Hayes (1999).

Ash Leib (2000) held a solo exhibition of his digital art work entitled *'How Not to be Seen'* at Red Brick Gallery, Ballarat. Citation: The Courier January 26, 2013.

Ramsay Beacham (2001) and his wife Erin were announced as winners of the Ballarat's Worst Kitchen competition. They received a kitchen renovation supplied by Malcolm Alexander's Realistic Kitchens just in time for the arrival of their new baby in May. Citation: The Courier December 4, 2012.

Katie Burrows (2002) featured in The Courier's *'My Essentials'* January 12, 2013. Katie has two children, Maddox and Solomon, after working at the UFS Dispensary she and her husband now run a panel beating business named *'Old-school Smash Repairs.'*

Melany Gatens (2002) is now living in Ballarat and working in Melbourne as an Orthopist. Orthopists are eye care specialists who work with ophthalmologists to evaluate and treat eye disorders involving eye movement and eye alignment. Citation: The Courier January 5, 2013.

Ronny Kareni (2004) has a double degree in Arts and International Relations from the University of Ballarat. Ronny was part of the *'Reclaim the Radical Spirit of the Eureka Rebellion'* march in Ballarat in December. Born in West Papua, but coming to Australia when he was 19 to study at Damascus College, Ronny now works full time for the West Papuan Cause. An interesting article about Ronny's life was published in The Age on December 1, 2012 and can be found online.

Romain Marteau (2005) is currently working as head technician/workshop controller at Audi Centre Ballarat.

Our congratulations go to former student **Brent Trotter (2006)** who was cast in the role of Joe Pesci and understudy to the role of Frankie Valli in the New Zealand and Australian productions of Jersey Boys.

Congratulations go to **Aislinn Prendergast (2007)** who was nominated for Ballarat Sports Person of the Year in 2012.

Melanie Burzacott (2008) completed a double degree in Commerce and Management at the University of Ballarat. She was offered a graduate position at Deloitte in taxation services and commenced this work in March 2013.

Ashleigh Leonard (2008) featured in the *'Flora Captured'* anthology of new works by local writers who have found their inspiration in images in the Ballarat Art Exhibition, *'Capturing Flora: 300 years of Botanical Art'*.

Jarrold Murphy (2011) received the 2013 Tafe Award for Certificate III in Plumbing.

Jacob Baxter (2008), Alistair Kent (2011), Chloe Ridge-Burns (2011) Aaron Rivett (2007) and Matt Hill (2005), members of the Ballarat Rode Rage team, went to Cambodia and Thailand in January 2013 to raise awareness of the effect of greenhouse gases on our global neighbours and their wildlife. The team of 13 spent time at the Cambodian Children's Trust Orphanage teaching the children basic welding skills so that they can build bikes, and then moved on to visit the Wilderness Friends Foundation Wildlife Sanctuary. The group is raising funds to bring a team from the orphanage to Australia to take part in the RACV Energy Breakthrough in Maryborough in November 2013.

Good luck to our current AFL players for the 2013 season:

Jordan Roughhead (2008) - Western Bulldogs

James Frawley (2006) - Melbourne

Darren Jolly (1996) - Collingwood. We wish Darren a speedy recovery.

Cameron Richardson (2005) - North Melbourne, on the Rookie List for 2013

'One Boy's War' a play written and directed by Mary-Rose McLaren nee Morgan (St Martin's 1979), was staged at the Courthouse Theatre by National Theatre Ballarat from April 6-16, 2013. The play is set during WWII and involves letters sent home during the war by Mary-Rose's grandfather Bill to his son Ron Morgan. Many past students will remember the Morgan family. Ron Morgan and his wife Monica both taught at Sacred Heart College and Loretta Kaval their daughter is currently working as Head Librarian at Damascus College.

The "Damascus connections" continued through the cast of the play. The role of Ron Morgan's father was played by Brendan Bowden, teacher at Damascus College and student Giarn Carroll and her father Simon along with another Damascus College parent John Daykin were also involved. Past student Alexandra Meerbach (1996) was also a member of the cast. This moving story about a local family recalled the history of the period and evoked memories for many families.

Marriages & Births

MARRIAGES

Roseanne Tun Tin (1998) married Antoine Tremoulet in Sare, France in July 2012. Rose is currently living in London and working as a nurse in neurosurgical ICU at St George's Hospital. Rose and Antoine are about to embark on a world trip before settling in France. Rose wishes she had chosen to study French instead of Indonesian back in school days!

Nathan Hunt (1999) married Sarah Stephens on November 3, 2012 at St Alipius Church.

Lana Stapleton (2002) married Paul McKay on March 9, 2013 at Viewpoint.

Christopher Mann (2004) and **Jessica Todd (2004)** were married at Narmbool on March 23, 2013.

Amy Donne (2005) and **Steve Glab (2002)** married at St Alipius Church on March 3, 2012. Sue Wilson's photograph of the wedding took out top honours in the Australian bridal photography competition. They were attended by Rebecca Donne (2003), Hayley Smithson (2005) and Samantha Hill, Josh Chaffey (2002), Kane Jones and Kellie Glab (2002).

Zak Looker (2005) married Lindsay Taylor in Canberra on November 4, 2012. Zak's best man was Tim Kennedy (2005).

Matthew Mills (2005) and **Elaine Downs (2006)** married in Hobart on the February 2, 2013. Elaine works in Tasmania and Matthew works for Byrncut Mining currently at Xstrata Ernest Henry Mine with James Sanford (2004) who is also working for Xstrata.

Frances Neate (2008) married Adam Walters on March 16, 2013 at Kirk's Reservoir. Frances is the second daughter of Ngaire and Damascus College staff member David Neate of Smythes Creek. Adam and Frances are going to reside in Ballarat.

BIRTHS

Kate Britt (1996) and Ashley Taylor welcomed their daughter Neve Marie Taylor on August 8, 2012.

Rebecca Maher (1996) and Daniel Hale welcomed their son Joseph Mal Hale on October 31, 2012 in Geelong.

Claire Morris (1998) and Simon Faithfull welcomed their daughter Kaiya Zahara into the world on the February 4, 2013.

Rachel Allan nee Hayes (1999) and Matthew Allan (current staff member) welcomed their son Thomas James Allan on January 3, 2012.

Carmen Mahar (2001) and Daniel Rubens welcomed their daughter Charlotte Ava on October 24, 2012 in Townsville.

If you would like to share your news in The Road, please contact Yvette at connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au or ph: (03) 5337 2352.

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

ADRIAN JOSEPH MULLALY

30/03/1935 - 28/08/2012

Teacher and Principal at Sacred Heart College

Adrian was born in Preston, Melbourne on March 30th 1935 to Annie and Richard Mullaly. He was the fifth of nine brothers and sisters, a typically large Irish Catholic family of the time.

The family's Caulfield home overlooked the back straight of the Caulfield Racecourse, so in his early years Adrian would join his brothers in checking discarded tickets to see if there were any winners following a protest.

At the tender age of 14, Adrian began his journey into religious life, a journey that would define him as a person throughout his adulthood. He moved from the familiar surroundings of Caulfield to Sydney where he entered the Brothers at Castle Hill and continued with his schooling.

Adrian was professed a De La Salle Brother, aged 21 and started teaching the following year. During these years he taught at numerous schools and locations. These included Lithgow, Adelaide, Mentone, Malvern, Bankstown and New Zealand.



Adrian always had to work hard to achieve his goals and this was reflected in his teaching – he understood the various challenges that students faced in learning. Among his gifts as a teacher were his rapport with students, his compassion and his understanding. Adrian was extremely generous with his time and would often spend extra hours after school with students providing tutoring and support. He was an extremely patient teacher which also transmitted to his home life.

Adrian met his wife Jan after leaving the Brothers and he moved to Ballarat at the commencement of the 1978 school year. He began working at Sacred Heart College which culminated in him being Principal between 1987 and 1991. During this period, Adrian immersed himself in school life and led by example providing the students with a strong role model in faith. Not only did he ensure the efficient running of the school but he also supported the students in numerous extra-curricular activities. He offered pastoral support to the students and their families in times of need, visiting sick staff members, parents or members of the wider school community.

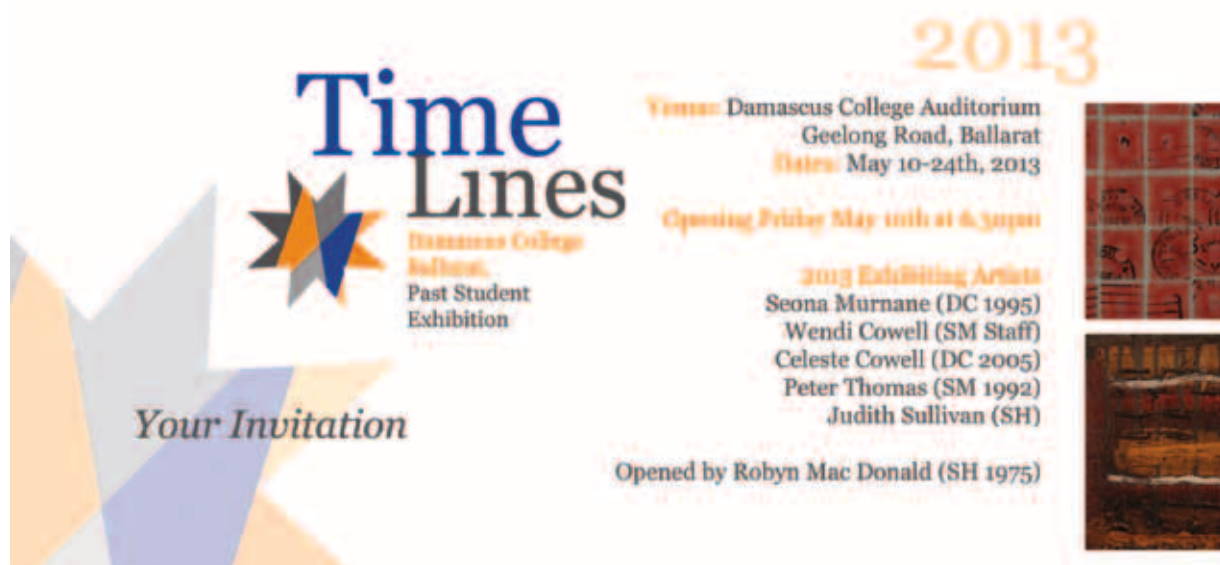
Adrian's last appointment was at St Patrick's College Ballarat, where he was well respected by fellow colleagues and students alike.

After a career spanning over 43 years, Adrian retired in 1999 due to poor health.

Adrian's career will be remembered by his unselfish commitment to his students, his hard work and by the example he set through his deep faith. He had an impact on so many and his memory will remain in those that knew him.

Our deepest condolences go to Jan, Damian and Luke.

May he rest in Peace.



2013


Time Lines
Damascus College
Ballarat
Past Student
Exhibition

Your Invitation

Venue: Damascus College Auditorium
Geelong Road, Ballarat
Dates: May 10-24th, 2013
Opening Friday May 10th at 6.30pm

2013 Exhibiting Artists
Seona Murnane (DC 1995)
Wendi Cowell (SM Staff)
Celeste Cowell (DC 2005)
Peter Thomas (SM 1992)
Judith Sullivan (SH)

Opened by Robyn Mac Donald (SH 1975)



Since 2005 the Damascus College 'Timelines' Art Exhibition has offered past students who have continued working in the Visual Arts the opportunity to exhibit their current works in an annual exhibition held at the College.

The original organising team of Art teacher Sharen Wolfe, Tegan Crosbie (2001), Kim Anderson (1997), Ben Kochskamper (2002), Simon Dunbar (2002) and Yvette Nesire-McNeil were very clear with their intention for this event. As well as supporting our past visual arts students as they forged careers in the art world, the committee believed that the 'Timelines' exhibition would challenge and motivate our current Visual Arts students by exposing them to art beyond VCE.

We are proud to say that 'Timelines 2013' continues to fulfil these aims.

This enjoyable event brings together a richness of connection across the generations of the Damascus Community. Whether hobby or professional artists, art teachers or university lecturers, graphic designers and photographers, sculptors and costume designers, past students have met and exchanged ideas and aspirations as they have exhibited and sold their creative works at the Timelines exhibitions.

Our artists and guest speakers, all past students of the College, have reminded us of the importance of the visual arts in shaping our society and our current students have been inspired by the works of past students who now have successful art related careers in Australia and beyond.

Damascus College is committed to promoting the strong tradition of Visual Arts within the community. We invite past students with their families and friends to join our current families to come along to the 2013 Timelines Exhibition.

TIMOR LESTE TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

A trivia night is being held on Friday 14th June at 7.30pm to raise funds for our friends and neighbours in Timor Leste. The trivia night is organised by our Year 11 East Timor Immersion Group and its always a great evening.

If you would like to organise a table, or simply just come along as an individual, please contact Tony Haintz to organise your tickets.

Tony can be contacted on 5337 2222 or by email:
t.haintz@damascus.vic.edu.au



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

REUNIONS

1973 - Saturday 19th October at the Royal Oak Hotel (evening). Tour of the School will commence at 4pm.

1983 - Saturday 12th October. Venue and details to be confirmed.

1993 - Saturday 19th October. Venue and details to be confirmed. Tour of the School will commence at 4pm.

2003 - Saturday 19th October at the Alexandria on Lydiard at 8pm. Tour of the School will commence at 5pm.

PAST STUDENT 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.

BALLARAT ASSOCIATION EVENTS

All past students are welcome to attend "Drinks at Seymours" on Friday 18th October from 6pm.

MELBOURNE ASSOCIATION EVENTS

The St Martin's Melbourne Association group will gather for "Christmas in July" at a Melbourne venue.

The "October Spring Lunch" will be held on Sunday 13th October at a Carlton Restaurant. More details to come.

A "Chat and Cuppa" for St Martin's in the Pines Past Students who live in Ballarat will be held at Sails on the Lake on August 24th, 2013 at 2.30pm. For bookings please contact Mollie Cleary on 5338 7248.

ST PAUL'S PAST STUDENTS

St Paul's Past Students are invited to gather for a meal on Sunday 5th May and Sunday 4th August at Red Lion from 6pm. Meals and drinks at bar prices. All age groups are welcome to attend.

May 5th Guest Speaker - Mr John Maher. "Our young people and road safety - the real cost".
RSVP by May 1st to connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au or phone Yvette on 5337 2352

OTHER EVENTS

The Timelines Art Exhibition is being held from May 10 - 24 in the Damascus College Auditorium. People are invited to attend the Exhibition Opening at 6.30pm on Friday 10th May.

Retired Staff 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 for lunch on Wednesday 16th October and Wednesday 4th December.

For further enquiries please contact Yvette at connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au or phone 5337 2352

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>

BUY AN ENTERTAINMENT BOOK AND SUPPORT DAMASCUS COLLEGE

Damascus College is selling The Entertainment Book as a fundraiser for the College. The Entertainment Book contains hundreds of great offers for discounts on food, entertainment, retail and more, including a 5% discount when you shop at Coles, Woolworths and their associated retail stores. The College receives money from each book sold. Books for any of the 19 Entertainment Book regions around Australia and New Zealand can be purchased through the school by visiting the Damascus College website or the following webpage:

<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/1132g04>



DAMASCUS HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

Earlier this year Damascus launched its new website. As well as having lots of great new features for current students and families, there is also a new 'Past Students' section.



Here you will find news from the Past Student Association, details about upcoming reunions and events, current and past issues of The Road, past student profiles and news from our alumni.

You can also use the online forms in this section to update your contact details, submit a profile, tell us your news or volunteer to become involved in the College community.

If you would like to keep up to date with current news and events from the College, check out the News & Events section of the website. We now have a web-based newsletter which is updated each Wednesday and can be found on the 'This Week's News' page in the Latest News section.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT DAMASCUS COLLEGE

Since the beginning of 2011 the College has been located on one campus in Mt Clear at the former St Martin's site.

We currently have 1015 students and 130 staff members.

Each year we enrol approximately 200 Year 7 students.

The College is co-sponsored by the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea and the Parish Priests of Ballarat.

We have two governors that represent each of our sponsors.

The College is an incorporated body and has a Board that is responsible for the management of the College, a number of Board Sub-Committees and a Leadership Team.

The College has four houses named: McAuley (gold), O'Collins (green), Rice (red) and Xavier (blue).

Each morning the students meet in Teacher Advisor (TA) groups before Period 1. The TA groups comprise students from each year level with a total of 16-18 students per group.

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