



DAMASCUS COLLEGE

DECEMBER 2014

The Road

Students explore sustainable transport

The Damascus College Energy Breakthrough Team has gone from strength to strength over the past three years since it was rejuvenated in 2012. Last year 27 students were part of the team and this year that number has grown to 46, along with a large contingent of staff and parent supporters.

The team entered two main events this year, with the first taking place in Wonthaggi in March and the second and largest event held in Maryborough in November. After spending over 3000 hours since the start of the year building and testing their vehicles, as well as undertaking fitness training, the team entered three hand-crafted machines into the main event in November.

This is the seventeenth year that Damascus students have competed in the challenge which comprises a 24 hour non-stop endurance race. Each vehicle has a team of 8 students who rotate as drivers and a combined support crew of 22 additional students.

This year Damascus entered vehicles in three different categories: Energy Efficient Vehicles (EEV), Hybrid (pedal-electric assist) and Human Powered Vehicles (HPV). It was a grueling event, with teams battling hot and humid conditions on the race track and drivers needing to change over every

half hour during the warmer times of day. There were tears, toil and triumph as all three vehicles made it over the line, intact, although a little worse for wear.

Students show great dedication to the Energy Breakthrough Team throughout the year, with after school workshops running twice weekly on top of allocated class time. Mark McLean, the College's EBT Coordinator and Justin Brennan (staff member and former EBT student), spend countless hours running the Energy Breakthrough Program, even roping in their family members. Mark's wife generously caters for the 70-strong-crew of students, staff and parents who attend the three day event in November.

This year Damascus was also lucky enough to secure the sponsorship and support of a number of local businesses. Findlay Engineering generously donated a purpose-built trailer, which Jeremy Foster (EBT parent) worked on for several months. Other sponsors included Astec Equipment Services, Aussie Farmers Direct, Ballarat Aquatic Centre, Bunnings, Shepp Cannery, Sportzbiz, Spring H2O and Telstra.

The Energy Breakthrough Program will run again in 2015, housed in its new purpose-built shed adjacent to Jones Avenue.

20 Year Celebrations in 2015

20 YEAR CELEBRATION DINNER

Damascus College warmly invites all current families, alumni and friends of Damascus to join us for an evening of celebration on Saturday 21st March 2015 in the John Shannon Centre.

The evening will commence at 5.30pm with an optional school tour accompanied by champagne and canapés on the lawn. We will then proceed to the JSC for a 2 course sit down dinner.

Be entertained by the talents of past and current students while you catch up with old friends, teachers and colleagues and reminisce about your time at Damascus or the foundation Colleges.

Tickets can be purchased through the College website at a cost of \$50 per head or from the school front office. For website purchases, simply click on the 'News and Events' tab, then go to the '20 Year Celebrations' page. Seating will be arranged in tables of 10 and people can choose to purchase an entire table or individual tickets. Ticket numbers are limited so we recommend organising your tickets as soon as possible. The last day to purchase a tickets, depending on availability, will be Friday 27th February.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

All Damascus Community members are invited to join us for our Opening School Mass on Thursday 19th March at 1pm in the John Shannon Centre. This liturgical celebration will mark the commencement of the 2015 school year as well as our twentieth year as a school community.



ANNIVERSARY ROSE

The Damascus College Anniversary Rose grows to around 160cm in height and has an exquisite fragrance with dark red blooms.

The rose can be ordered online through the Damascus College website or from the College front office at a cost of \$25. The roses will be distributed as bare root stock in July 2015, and can be picked up from the College or mailed out for an additional fee. Supplies are limited so we recommend placing an early order.

See the College website for further details. Click on 'News and Events' tab then go to the '20 Year Celebrations' page.

SPONSOR A TREE IN OUR NEW STAND OF GUM TREES

In recent months, a number of pines and gum trees have been removed from the Damascus College site along the Geelong Road frontage to allow for the widening of Geelong Road. Once these roadworks have been completed, Damascus will plant a stand of significant gum trees along the new road frontage. We estimate that 80 new trees will be planted in autumn 2015. We are offering families the opportunity to sponsor a tree by making a donation of \$100 to this project. Donors will be recognised for their contribution via a communal plaque which will be situated at an appropriate location near the stand of trees. If you would like to sponsor a tree either as an individual or as a family, please email info@damascus.vic.edu.au



Jacob lands a job at Boeing

When Jacob Holmes starting his schooling at Damascus in 2008, he had never had the opportunity to use a power tool, even though he knew this is what he loved. Within a week of joining the Energy Breakthrough Team in Year 7, Mark McLean had shown him how to use a bench grinder, a lathe and a welder. From here on in he was hooked on EBT, and was a member of the team for the next three years.

Despite finding his niche in EBT, school was not a place that Jacob wanted to spend his time and in Year 9 he longed to finish up at school and start a trade. However he pushed on and continued through until Year 11, where he studied Electronics, Wood and Metal. In 2012 he attended WorldSkills in Sydney, a competition which aims to nurture the skills of Australia's youth. Jacob competed in the VET Engineering section where he took out third place in the three-day event.



Jacob Holmes works on an EBT vehicle back in 2009.

When he returned to Ballarat, Jacob set about trying to line up an apprenticeship. Although he was offered two apprenticeships in Ballarat, he decided to apply for a job with Boeing. After completing his application and undergoing aptitude testing, Jacob was shortlisted and interviewed by Australian Industry Group Training Services. He was asked to bring along something he'd made to the interview, so he took a toolbox and a carbon fibre race seat he'd made at EBT. Two hours later he got a phone call saying that Boeing wanted to meet him, so Jacob headed off to be interviewed by Boeing, race seat in hand.

Boeing, as it turns out, has the patent on Vacuum Infusion Technology (VIT), a process Jacob was familiar with from his time as part of the Damascus Energy Breakthrough Team where he'd used this technology. Jacob was able to demonstrate his knowledge of VIT during the interview with Boeing and needless to say, they were impressed. Two days later Jacob was one of four people to be offered a job.

Jacob now works at Boeing's factory in Port Melbourne as a Carbon Composite Infusion Technician, making aircraft components out of carbon fibre. Jacob has a passion for aviation, and this combined with the skills he learnt at Damascus, has launched an exciting career with the world's leading aerospace company. So the next time you fly, you might think about the boy from Damascus who helped to make the plane that's taking you to your destination.

CELEBRATING OUR MOTHERS AND FATHERS

This year Damascus held its first Mother's Day Liturgy and Breakfast on Thursday 1st May and its first Father's Day Liturgy and Breakfast on Wednesday 3rd September. Both celebrations commenced at 7.30am in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel, which was officially opened earlier in the year. Fr Justin Driscoll led us in a lovely celebration of motherhood and Fr Adrian McInerney showed gratitude to the role that fathers play in our lives. Both liturgies were followed by breakfast in the undercroft, where students, staff, parents and grandparents came together to share a meal in celebration of our loved mothers and fathers. Both events were attended by around 70 people and everyone seemed to enjoy this new tradition, which will continue on in years to come.



Photo: Three generations enjoy the Father's Day Breakfast; Matilda McKinnon, grandfather Bruce McKinnon and mother Kate McKinnon.

Students soar in Superman



55 excited students took to the stage in July for the school musical *It's a Bird It's a Plane It's Superman*. The talented group were supported by fellow students, staff and community members who worked behind the scenes in various roles. All involved had an absolute blast performing this cult classic and the cast even received fan mail from an excited group of primary school students!

Choosing a musical is never easy but the well-known story of Superman was hard to pass up. The plot revolved around Superman's efforts to defeat Dr Abner Sedgwick, a ten-time Nobel Prize-winning scientist who sought to avenge the scientific world's dismissal of his brilliance by attempting to destroy the world's symbol of good.

The cast was a great mix of experienced and first time performers from Years 7 to 12 who took to the stage with great enthusiasm. While the story contained familiar characters such as Clark Kent, Lois Lane and Perry White it was a piece of its time, being written in 1966, and we tried to stay true to its comic book origins.

The lead roles were capably portrayed by Griffyn Pearce (Superman/Clark Kent), Sian Daykin (Lois Lane), Zac Kazepis (Max), Chiara Angeli (Sydney), Jack Gillard (Sedgwick), Bradley Martin (Jim), Ebony O'Brien (Ling) and Daniel Gay (Perry White).

The production team consisted of Mrs Vicki Rowe (Director/Choreographer), Ms Nicole Burness (Assistant Director), Mr Andrew Seeary (Set Designer), Mr Adrian Newman (Musical Director) and Mrs Shiona Long (Choral Director). These dedicated staff gained immense pleasure from helping foster a lifelong love of theatre and performing in the students involved.

Before the production was finished the students were already talking about the next one but the staff just wanted to rest for a bit! Congratulations and thanks to everyone involved. You did yourselves and Damascus College proud with your infectious enthusiasm and talent. Up, up and away!

Mrs Vicki Rowe

Photos:

Top Left - Sian Daykin & Griffyn Pearce as Lois and Superman

Bottom Left - Jack Gillard as Dr Sedgwick

Bottom Right - Griffyn Pearce as Superman with the Chorus



Record funds raised for Caritas



Photo: 2014 College Captains Jack Cuttler & Demcee Davies present a cheque to Sue Searle from Caritas Australia.

As part of its Social Justice Program, each term Damascus College students and staff support a different charitable organisation. During Terms 2 and 4, support is given to St Vincent de Paul through their Winter and Christmas Appeals. In Term 3, funds are raised for Catholic Mission and during Term 1 each year, fundraising efforts are geared towards supporting Caritas Australia through Project Compassion. The Damascus community also conducts fundraising events for Timor Leste throughout the year.

In Term 1 of 2014, the staff and students at Damascus did an outstanding job of raising funds for Caritas Australia and were able to present a record amount of almost \$13,500 to the organisation in May this year. Money donated to Caritas Australia goes towards helping the world's poorest communities and over \$10 million was raised in 2014 to help fund their programs.

CHANGES TO THE DAMASCUS UNIFORM



Students commencing Year 7 at Damascus in 2015 will be the first to start wearing the new Damascus V-neck pullover, the new striped tie and for girls, a winter blouse with a pointed collar instead of the round collared shirt which has been part of the uniform for many years. Whilst all students are welcome to commence wearing these new uniform items in 2015, they are only compulsory for Year 7 students next year. The College is also introducing school socks with a tricolour stripe for the girl's summer uniform, the boy's uniform and the sport uniform.

2015 COLLEGE CAPTAINS



Damascus is pleased to introduce the 2015 College Captains, Marie-Angeline Economou and Ben Taggart.

The Year 12 House Captains for 2015 are:

McAuley - Eloise Francis, Madison Donovan, Jack Leonard & Tayla Davies-Flanagan
O'Collins - Ashlea Bylsma, Tayla Jans, Brooke Wythe & Riley Holloway
Rice - Georgina Richardson, Liam Carter, Sophie Anstis & Ryan Veale
Xavier - Jake Gowers, Sophie Hobbs, Kate O'Reilly & Bianca Litchfield

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW TRADITION



Damascus commenced a new tradition this year when it gave the Class of 2014 a unique gift from the College. Girls received a sterling silver pendant which was engraved with the words "Damascus College Class of 2014". Boys received a pair of cufflinks in the College colours, which were engraved with "DC 2014". From now on as each group of Year 12 students departs Damascus College, they too will receive a pendant and cufflinks engraved with the year of their graduation. These gifts will be given to the Year 12's at the final House assembly each year.

Ainaro celebrates



Santa Maria at dusk.



The Procession as part of the official opening and blessing of Santa Maria.

Damascus College Assistant Principal of Catholic School Culture, Tony Haintz, accompanied by his daughter and former Damascus College School Captain Anna Haintz (2012), journeyed once more to Timor Leste for a significant event in Ainaro, the town of our sister school Santa Maria Escholae. Beginning at 9am on August 29, 2014, Ainaro's Catholic Church, Santa Maria, was blessed and opened. What a day of celebration! Following years of construction and months of planning for the ceremony, Fr Everisto (Lito) the parish priest was asked if the day would be a busy one. He replied, "Pray for me." The prayers were surely answered.

At the foot of the new open piazza style area at the front of the church, traditional drummers and costumed dancers introduced the event to the crowd gathering in the morning sun. Altar servers, seminarians, priests and bishops formed into two lines. There were announcements in the Tetum language and music played. On the steps of the piazza, a group of teenage girls performed a dance, an invitation to prayer, before the procession stepped up onto the piazza. The foundation stone blessed and the ribbon that had been binding the main double entrance doors cut before movement into the building for Mass. The choral singing was indescribably beautiful in its harmony, melody and strength.

The bishops of Dili, Alberto Ricardo da Silva, and Maliana, Norberto do Amaral, were concelebrating with about 20 priests. Perhaps 80 seminarians, many religious sisters and a massive congregation overflowed from the venue to surrounding shaded areas. Many more were outside than in.

The Eucharistic celebration included the blessing of the church and the anointing of the altar as well as a litany of the saints. The communion procession took about 15 minutes as over 3000 people received the consecrated hosts. After communion there were speeches to acknowledge the occasion before the church emptied to the piazza for the cutting of a cake and opening of champagne for a toast and the release of balloons. It was 1 pm. The event was four hours in the enactment.

The traditional music began again as the throng proceeded to lunch in the new parish hall – the feeding of 3000 was an amazing achievement. During lunch an engraved pyx (small container for carrying communion to the sick) was given to Fr Lito, a gift from Damascus College for the occasion.

On the Sunday following, Bishop Alberto confirmed over 700 of the local community in their faith. A massive weekend in Ainaro.

It was with a touch of sadness that Anna and Tony left Ainaro. Fr Lito advised them in the presence of his bishop that he is likely to move from Ainaro in late 2014 and may be stationed in Darwin or Dili. After seven mighty years at the parish of Santa Maria, that has seen major refurbishment of most of the parish properties and the establishment of the Damascus College Timor Leste Immersion, he will be greatly missed.

As each year passes, Damascus College continues to strengthen its relationship with Timor Leste and in particular with Ainaro. In June this year while our immersion students were in Ainaro, so too were four of our alumni (Shelby Sherritt, Elle-Louise Smith, Anna Haintz and Jess Corden) who had returned to the town as volunteers and much-loved visitors. In 2015, our fifth Immersion Program will run for Year 11 students and planning is already well underway for what is sure to be a life-changing experience for this group of students and staff.

A landmark film for Timor-Leste

Damascus College past student and East Timorese national, Jose da Costa (1999), works as a producer, director and actor and was a driving force behind Timor-Leste's first feature length movie, *A Guerra da Beatriz* (Beatriz's War). He also played a lead role in the film.

In June this year, Jose along with Luigi Acquisto, the film's co-director, attended a screening of the film at the Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts. The screening was attended by many Damascus College staff and students, past and present.



Jose da Costa as Tomas in the film, *A Guerra da Beatriz*.

By Anne Gleeson, former teacher and McAuley House Leader (1999-2007)

I may have moved geographically and career-wise from Damascus, but certainly not emotionally. I continue to meet Damascus students (and staff) at their exhibitions and performances, at their workplaces, at the funerals we do, and sometimes at more random events.

My work as a Funeral Director has many attributes, one of note is the geographical. I delight in the drives through glorious countryside from Ballarat to Port Campbell, Warrnambool to Colac. It was on one of these drives that I heard David McPhail speaking about Beatriz's War on ABC Ballarat radio. He spoke of the role of former Damascus student Jose da Costa in the creation of the film and as an actor in one of the lead roles, and encouraged us all to be there at the Saturday pre-release screening.

For most of the time I lived in Ballarat, I was involved with East Timor action but this seemed a particularly important event to support. I wrongly presumed it wouldn't be well attended so I was unprepared for the long lines of people queued at the box-office and I was unprepared for the noise, Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts was abuzz.

I quickly took my place between my beautiful friend Jacey Kavenagh whom I have known since childhood and a former colleague from UB. The precursor was like that, as people met new and old friends, colleagues and East-Timorese supporters, as they shared their excitement, merged in and out of the queues and most significantly, waited to have their turn to chat with Jose.

On one level, in speaking with Jose, it was as if no time had passed since we had been at Damascus and at ACU, yet I was conscious of the enormity of his experience since then, and now, this film. Inside the Arts Centre we listened to the stories of the creation of the film. I am sure like me, many were in awe of the undertaking, but it was the viewing of the film that captured my spirit so completely.

I have listened to dozens of East Timorese people; enjoyed their music through the Boite, their food through fundraisers, welcomed them to our home, taught them as students and met them at civic events. But I was not prepared for the power of this story.

There are dozens of retellings of the plot on the internet, but what this film showed me was, that fine shifting line of where we all sit on any moral imperative. It allowed me to understand the complexities of the Indonesian occupation and its devastation in a way I had not known previously. It enhanced my understanding of the difficulties for current generations of East-Timorese people. I was moved by the capacity of these young actors, the directors and script writer, to convey the horror but also have us carried along with the plot. Of course we were all excited to see Jose as a film star, but being aware of some of the challenges he has faced kept a lid on my reaction to this. Knowing too that some of the 'extras' in the film were the family members of men massacred at the time, added to the chilling reality.

For those ex-students of mine who have gone on to be teachers and parents, this film reminds me of two things we often spoke about; the value of fostering imagination and the worth of story. This film is testament to both.

Jose da Costa, I salute you and your colleagues. I think you have created something remarkable.

From the halls of SHC to the halls of Parliament

By Judy Brewer (SHC 1976- 1979)

I hold the dubious honour of being the last boarder who attended Sacred Heart College, from year 7 to year 10, before the closure of the boarding school after so many years. The 1970s were not easy times for Catholic boarding schools with declining numbers and new pressures leading to the end of so many famous and veritable institutions. I was just 11 years old in 1976 when I left the farm at Mudgegonga in north east Victoria to join about ninety boarders that year at Ballarat East. This number dwindled to around ten junior boarders in my final year when the dormitories were closed for good and our very close knit little group spent year 10 living at St Martin's in Mt Clear and catching the bus to SHC each morning. As they say in the classics, we left with a whimper rather than a bang!



Photo: The Hon Ian Macfarlane MP, Minister for Industry and Judy Brewer.

But for all that, there are so many vivid and emotional memories of my time at Sacred Heart, and I have enjoyed keeping up with many classmates, Sisters of Mercy and teachers from that time. Some of the teachers and also the families of the day students made a huge difference to the lives of the boarders by taking us to sporting events and even to their homes for a few hours to break the monotony of the weekends. I will never forget their kindness and the difference it made, as I must admit that I struggled continually with being away from home and the farm life that I loved so much.

My life since school has been something of an unusual and unexpected life path. My father died when I was in year 12 and for some years I returned to full time farming with my mother, in a close partnership that remains to this day. I did my tertiary studies externally for a decade, managing off farms jobs as diverse as a horse racing stipendiary steward, a lecturer at La Trobe University and working for local Members of Parliament. A passion for politics led me, at age 23, to run as an endorsed Candidate for our local State Seat, and then after some years working in Canberra, I ended up marrying a Federal Member of Parliament, Tim Fischer, who is my soul mate and life partner.

Not long after our wedding, for me, career wise things took a very serious U-turn. Tim was the Leader of the National Party and in 1996, on the election of the Howard Coalition Government, became the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade. Life became very busy for a while, particularly as by then we had two beautiful boys, Harrison and Dominic, who are now 21 and 18 respectively.

Tim retired from politics in 2001, but then became involved in many organisations, both corporate and not for profit, including as Chair of Tourism Australia, the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Fred Hollows Foundation and various international aid agencies. For three years he was the Australian Ambassador to the Holy See and based in Rome, and this was a particularly interesting time in our lives dealing with the Vatican intrigue and protocol plus a close engagement with the Catholic Church. A highlight of this time was being involved in the Canonisation of St Mary of The Cross, Australia's first Saint, Mary Mackillop.

However, by this stage it was not politics nor diplomacy that continued to inspire me, it was our older son, Harrison, being on the autism spectrum and also having a number of health issues, that was the most significant change in my life. Having a child with a disability is a considerable shock to any family and requires many adjustments, but living with autism is particularly challenging as it affects so many facets of life; communication, behaviour, social interactions, anxiety and sensory perceptions. Every person with autism will have a different mix of these strengths and deficits, and the most effective interventions are intensive and exhausting. Yet surprisingly little is known about autism spectrum disorders and the evidence base for treatment is only just developing, despite the growing numbers.

My life since Harrison's diagnosis nearly eighteen years ago has largely revolved around autism education, research and advocacy. After some years on the Autism Council, working on Government Committees and for Autism Spectrum Australia, I now Chair the National Co-operative Centre for Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders, known as the Autism CRC (www.autismcrc.com.au) and devote the rest of my time to leadership and training for adults with autism. This is an amazing privilege. I work with people who are inspiring, resilient, courageous and great thinkers. Every day I learn from them and have gone from being an educator, to being the one that is educated. My understanding of the world has changed so much and my horizons greatly expanded. People with autism have an extraordinary capacity to think and act 'outside the square' and to challenge what it is to be 'normal'. They are the innovators not the talkers.

I have been so blessed to have this career path, certainly not what I would have imagined lay ahead of me when I was sitting on the end of the bed in a big dormitory dreaming of the future. But perhaps it was the resilience and determination developed from my boarding days at Sacred Heart that have equipped me for this task, and for that, and so much more, I am grateful.

An opera star in the making

By Bridget Davies (2007)

I grew up in a household where I was always encouraged to perform. My older sister Erin (DC 2004) was always putting on a show and I just wanted to do whatever she did. This trend continued when I began my studies at Damascus College in 2002. As a Year 7 student, I auditioned for *The Little Shop of Horrors* simply because Erin was auditioning and I wanted to be in it with her. The College had an established, successful performing arts department in which I happily found my place. My love of performing was nurtured and grew over the following 6 years. In 2004, Erin and I performed together again in *Fame* - a memory I will always cherish. I remember looking out into the auditorium of Her Majesty's theatre on opening night and knowing I had set myself on a path. I wanted more opening nights. I continued to sing for Damascus College in musicals, masses, assemblies - anything I could.

I graduated from Damascus in 2007 and deferred an Arts Degree at Melbourne University. A turning point in my mind came in 2009 when I was performing as "Cosette" in a local production of *Les Misérables*. I discovered my voice was more suited to classical music and so set a goal to be accepted at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. I had never learnt a classical song and other than a natural affinity with French music, (my love of the French language and culture having begun at Damascus) I knew nothing at all about opera. I ended up being accepted and in 2010 began a Bachelor of Music at the Conservatorium.

I found I was quite behind in my vocal development compared to the other first year students. Most of them had been studying classically since they were very young, often playing other instruments or speaking other languages fluently. I knew I would have to work twice as hard to make up for my lack of knowledge. I began to live and breathe opera. I spent a huge amount of time in the Music Library of Melbourne University, reading everything, watching performances on YouTube, and going to the State Theatre to see operas by the national and state companies. I performed in workshops and master classes as often as I could and entered competitions to gain more experience. The criticism a young singer receives can be harsh and I came home in tears on more than one occasion. I was forced to learn that singing is a subjective business and not every performance will be received positively. The only thing you can do is be as prepared as you can, practise as much as you can and learn from every experience because dwelling on your mistakes will only impede your development.

In my third year of study I received The Athenaeum Award, auditioned by the Conservatorium for the most outstanding undergraduate vocal student. It was my first important award and I danced around the kitchen when I got the call to say I'd won. After completing my first 3 years of study I decided to stay and complete my Bachelor with Honours. It was a successful year; I performed the lead role of Venus in the Conservatorium's performance of *Venus and Adonis* and won two important scholarships, The Sleath Lowrey and Harold Fisher Opera Prize. My greatest achievement though, was performing a recital of French, German, Czech and English works for my final university assessment. After a lot of hard work, world class coaching and determination, I achieved a recital score of 96 and graduated with the CM Middleton Scholarship for the female student with the highest marks.

Soon after graduating I won the City of Melbourne Acclaim Ambassadorial Fellowship for study in Italy in 2014. Along with a group of other Australian singers, I arrived in Jesi, in Le Marche, Italy in early June this year. I studied the language daily and had singing lessons with soprano Valeria Esposito, and Rossini specialist, the conductor Maestro Carlo Morganti. Maestro Morganti did not speak any English so our lessons took place entirely in Italian. At the Teatro Morriconi I was cast in a production of *Le Nozze di Figaro* by Mozart, and also *Il Flaminio* by Pergolesi. In *Figaro* I played "Cherubino", a mischievous pageboy who I had wanted to play for a long time. After completing my studies in Jesi I traveled to Milan to undertake a course in *bel canto*, an Italian style of singing. The course was held at the Accademia of the legendary opera house, La Scala. The Milanese are incredibly proud of their operatic history so it was an intimidating yet incredible experience to study at this Mecca of my art form. I was so fortunate to be able to experience the Italian culture and their appreciation of opera while studying with some revered specialists in amazing places. After Milan I flew to London to undertake singing lessons at the Royal College of Music. I was also asked to perform a recital for the Britain-Australia Society in Bath, attended by Dame Marie Bashir, the outgoing Governor of NSW. I returned home to Melbourne to take part in a production of *The Play of Herod* with The Victorian Opera and will finish 2014 by attending the Lisa Gasteen National Opera School in Brisbane, having been offered a full scholarship.

I think back to my very first audition in front of Andrew Seary and Vicki Rowe in the music room at Damascus. What might have happened if they'd turned down that eager little girl just wanting to be like her big sister? I couldn't tell you the number of auditions I've endured since that day. I believe so strongly that all students should be exposed to music and the performing arts, as you never know what it might spark in a young mind.



Bridget backstage at the Teatro Morriconi about to give her first performance as Cherubino in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

The tale of three generations

Maureen Rawlings (now Holding) attended Sacred Heart College between 1957 – 1962. Her daughter Pamela Holding (now Oddie) attended Sacred Heart from 1987 – 1990 and St Martin's in the Pines in 1991/92. Maureen's granddaughter and Pam's niece Jacqueline Holding now attends Damascus College, having commenced Year 7 in 2013. In the article below, Maureen, Pam and Jacqui reflect on the similarities and differences between their experiences at Sacred Heart, St Martin's and Damascus.



Maureen Rawlings (1957-1962)

UNIFORM

We wore navy blue tunics, a grey blouse, blue tie, blue blazer with grey trim and College crest on the left top pocket. Grey stockings and black shoes; grey hat with a blue band and grey gloves. A summer dress in my later years. PE uniforms were a light grey short tunic, grey blouse with a red narrow stripe on the sleeve.

SUBJECTS

From Year 7 to Year 10 subjects were mostly the same: Religious Education, English Expressions, Algebra, Geometry, Arithmetic, Geography, Science, English Literature, French, History, Art & Craft. Domestic Science began in 1959 when I was in Year 9. In Years 11 & 12 (1961-62) we did fewer subjects but they were more involved. My Matriculation subjects were English Expression, Biology, Geography, British & Modern History. Commerce subjects were not mixed – we were either "P" or "C" that is "Professional or "Commercial" courses.



Pamela Holding (1987-1992)

UNIFORM

At Sacred Heart the summer uniform was a blue check dress with brown socks, navy shoes and navy blazer with the gold school emblem on the pocket. We had to wear the navy blazer to and from school every day except in really hot weather. Winter uniform was a gold shirt, navy round neck jumper (really uncomfortable) and navy/red/gold tartan skirt with navy tights. Strict adherence to the uniform was expected by Mr Mullaley (Principal) and Sr Marie Davey (Vice Principal); attempts to get around wearing the correct uniform included wearing white socks underneath your brown socks in the summer, bike pants under the summer dress, and long navy socks under the winter skirt, all of which you were reprimanded for if caught.

At St Martin's the summer uniform was the same as at SHC except that we wore long sky blue socks instead of the brown ones. The winter uniform was also still the same except for a much nicer V-neck jumper with the St Martin's emblem printed on it; we didn't have a blazer so the uniform was slightly more casual than at SHC.



Jacqueline Holding (commenced 2013)

UNIFORM

The summer uniform is a light blue checked dress, navy blue round neck jumper (although this is changing to a V-neck jumper in 2015), navy blue blazer (unless 26° or over), white socks and black leather lace up shoes

The winter uniform is navy blue tights, maroon and navy blue skirt, gold shirt, navy blue jumper, navy blue blazer and black leather lace up shoes

The PE uniform is navy blue tracksuit pants with 'Damascus' embroidered on one leg, navy shorts, a maroon polo top and a navy rugby top with a large maroon stripe around the middle as well as smaller gold stripes .

SUBJECTS

In Year 7 & 8 all students must do LOTE (Indonesian or French), Maths, English, Science, Religious Education, PE/Health, Humanities, Drama, Music, Art, Visual Communication, Textiles, Food, Wood and Metal. Then from Year 9 onwards we can pick elective subjects like Drama, Art, Visual Communication, Music, French,

CO-EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

We did not have any co-ed school activities. In Year 10 (called Intermediate) we had Domestic Science or Cookery on a Saturday morning at St Paul's Tech in Lydiard Street on the top floor but there was nobody at the school on these days!

TEACHERS

The nuns were our teachers in all subjects as far as I can remember. I learnt piano for five years, my teacher was Miss Josie Healy. She was a sister to Mother Bonaventure and Sister Catherine of Sienna. Miss Healy's room was across the hall from Sr Catherine in a house facing Victoria Street. I was not very talented at music so finished music and theory after Year 11 or Leaving as it was called. Sacred Heart had lots of pianos for practice and teaching. There was only 1 male teacher as I recall – Mr Golby taught us PE.

THE CANTEEN

We certainly had no tuckshop or canteen as there are today. I think some mothers made sandwiches sometimes on a Monday.

SPORT

We did not have large sporting grounds at SHC. There were tennis courts that we used for basketball and we practised our "marching" on these as well. Not much grass area, mostly just asphalt. Some girls played tennis and some learnt golf at Mt Xavier I think.



Marching practice at SHC circa 1962.

SUBJECTS

In the early years of secondary school subjects included Maths, English, Science, History, Social Ed, Health, Geography, RE, PE, Music, Art and electives of Home Economics and Needlecraft. We did both French and Indonesian and after Year 8 could choose to go on with one language if we wanted to.

CO-EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

There were no boys at Sacred Heart, except on Friday mornings when a busload of boys came from St Paul's to use our Home Economics facilities. On these days, many a girl seemed to find an excuse to walk past the Home Ec room and peek in the windows, or hang out the windows from the upstairs Art Room! St Martin's was co-ed as the Senior School for Sacred Heart and St Paul's Technical College. When I was there in years 11 & 12 the ratio was five girls to every one boy.

TEACHERS

At Sacred Heart the majority of the teachers were quite strict and we were taught to be respectful and disciplined and to work hard at achieving the most we could. All teachers were referred to as Mr/Mrs/Sister. At St Martin's we called all of the teachers by their first names which fostered good relationships between students and teachers and in some ways made the teachers seem more approachable, and helped us as students feel more like responsible young adults.

THE CANTEEN

The canteen was very popular; when I was occasionally allowed a lunch order my favourite things were a hot sausage roll and a bag of mixed lollies and icy poles or "sunny boys" in the summer.

HOUSE GROUPS

There were 4 house groups: Healy (blue), Xavier (purple) Connell (yellow) McAuley (green). There was quite a strong focus on house groups particularly for sports days, such as the swimming carnival, where we were encouraged to dress up in house colours and learn the various team chants.

Indonesian, Horticulture, Footy Codes, Hoops & Nets, Information Technology, Food Technology, Wood, Metal, Energy Breakthrough and Textiles. During these years we also have to do Maths, English, Science, RE, PE/Health, and Humanities. Then for Year 11 and 12 we can either do VCE or VCAL as well as VETiS courses. In these year levels there are even more subjects to choose from.

CO-EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

All our classes are mixed and there are no single gender specific classes. Both girls and boys are able to do textiles, wood and metal.

TEACHERS

We are required to call our teachers Mr, Mrs, Miss or Sister. I have mostly male teachers, this has been quite different from my primary school.

THE CANTEEN

The canteen at Damascus has a range of healthy options like salad rolls, fruit, fruit salad and wraps. It also offers the traditional pies, pasties, hot dogs, slices and icy poles.

HOUSE GROUPS

There are four houses. Rice - Red, Xavier - Blue, McAuley - Yellow, O'Collins - Green. House groups get very competitive for school sports, swimming sports, etc. We dress up in our house colours and when the main event is on each house has their house chant.

SPORT

During PE everyone plays whatever sports are in the school curriculum. Both boys and girls are mixed together on teams and will play, for example soccer against each other during class time.

For after school sports students can play whatever is available. For example footy, soccer, netball, basketball, rowing etc. Both boys and girls are offered a wide range of sports.

Jason attends Space Camp



Photo: Jason White (Year 11) at the Space Camp in September.

During the September school holidays, I had the opportunity to be a part of Ballarat High's Space Camp Tour to America. Our first day was spent at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. We got to view the iconic landmarks at the centre, see the launch countdown clock, gaze at the active launch pads on Cape Canaveral and view the shuttle landing facility. Unfortunately for us the weather sensors had detected a code 3 situation, which meant there was a very real possibility of lightning strikes around the base, so we were unable to get off the tour bus to walk around the launch pads and landing facilities.

At lunchtime we enjoyed attending a presentation talk with Astronaut Bob Springer, who had served as a mission specialist on two shuttle flights. He spoke about how he went from working as a pilot in the Air Force, to become a pilot for NASA. Afterwards we toured one of the firing rooms of the launch control centre, came up close to the massive 363 foot long Saturn V rocket and experienced a simulation ride of the space shuttle's eight and a half minute ascent into orbit.

Following this we spent three days in Washington and then headed to Huntsville, to Space Camp. At Space Camp we had to undertake a number of missions and engineering challenges. One of our missions required us to launch, orbit and then land a virtual shuttle. During each mission we were given the roles of either pilot or mission specialist. The pilot's role was to drive and man the vehicle on the Stimulated International Space Station. The mission specialist carried out the technical work outside the vehicle.

For our first engineering challenge we had to plan out a small rocket designed to hold an egg inside, and then undertake a spin test and a drop test. A spin test identifies the centre of gravity in the rocket, and that it's below the centre of pressure. A drop test demonstrates a controlled landing. Unfortunately my team's rocket had an engine failure causing it not to reach the maximum height, however our egg was the only one to land intact. We were then tasked with creating a paper plane made out of paper and straw. My team was equal first with another, after being tested for distance and its navigational capabilities.

During our time at Space Camp we also did some other great activities like completing a space walk by scuba in a neutral buoyancy simulator, the 10 metre scuba tank that emulates micro gravity. We also got to use the free fall machine where you are strapped in and then spun in multiple directions.

Day 3 of Space Camp commenced with an extended duration mission (EDM), which was a 3 hour long mission. This mission required 2 pilots and 2 mission specialists to dock with the International Space Station (ISS). Then to change over the crew already on the ISS, which was manned by a scientist, a commander and 2 flight engineers - and land back on earth guided by the Mission Operations Control Room (MOCR). This mission was very chaotic and the crew had to overcome various problems at each step through the mission. On our final day, we attended a graduation ceremony before flying back to Dallas and then onto Melbourne.

Should the opportunity come round again, I would strongly encourage others to take advantage of the chance to attend Space Camp. Space Camp challenges you mentally, physically and tests your overall endurance. I learned a lot about space history, how spacecrafts operated (past and present; and how they were changed from each other), how the ISS and Sky Labs functions, how objects in microgravity work, launch sequences, abort programs and how anomalies are solved. I had non-stop fun the entire time I was there and I would highly recommend it to other students.

Today I went to work and taught 96 Prep students all about letter-sound relationships, reading strategies, the structure of the human body, the capacity of three-dimensional objects, and how to do Sudoku. This might sound pretty straightforward, but I have an added challenge. I'm not allowed to speak any English. At school, every word that escapes my mouth must be in French.

Je m'appelle Erin Davies (Damascus Graduate 2004) and I work at Victoria's only Government French/English Bilingual School, Camberwell Primary School. Each year, my students arrive at 4 or 5 years of age without a word of French. From day one, I'm forbidden to speak English. Like any other Prep teacher I teach literacy, integrated studies and numeracy. All this requires a lot of acting, gesturing and patience. It is both physically and mentally exhausting, but it is an incredibly rewarding job. Children learn very quickly through an immersion program, where 50% of lessons are taught in the second language, and begin responding in the target language at a young age. They have a broader understanding of literacy than monolingual children, and develop excellent listening and problem-solving skills.

So how did a kid from Buninyong, with no French background, end up being a Professeur de Français? Alors...

In July 1999 my class, 7E, began French lessons with Mme Le'anne Smith. We were incredibly lucky to have Mme Smith as a teacher. She always made sure her students were engaged in their learning and she carefully catered for all of our needs. I fell in love with the French language from our first class.

The French program at Damascus opened up a world of opportunities for me. The first milestone was winning a scholarship to undertake an exchange to Paris in 2002, as a year 10 student.



Erin's classroom at Camberwell Primary School.

A lengthy application was required, including an essay in French. I was the youngest of 150 applicants and was delighted to receive the scholarship. My exchange experience was so positive that my family hosted a French student the following year, and my friend Olivia Camilleri hosted a student the year after. This not only helped our language skills but also bridged the cultural gap for all students in our cohort. Upon my return, Damascus agreed that I could fast track the program straight into VCE units 3 and 4. This allowed me to focus on French whilst enrolled in other year 11 subjects. I received an academic award for French in 2003 with a study score of 49/50.

After graduating from Damascus I travelled back to France on two occasions, where my French served my co-travellers and me very well. Whilst studying teaching at university I decided to enrol in the Languages Other Than English (LOTE) subject on top of my required units, and in 2012 I won La Trobe's Mata Rado Prize for the

student most likely to further the cause of LOTE education through innovative and dynamic teaching.

As a teacher, I now in hindsight recognise and value the level of dedication and professionalism displayed by the Damascus staff. I was challenged, extended, supported and inspired throughout every lesson. I would not be in my dream job today without the Damascus French teachers and the support of the principal, staff and community.

So for those of you out there who are thinking about learning a second language or brushing up on skills learnt long ago, Allez-y! Whether it be for fun or for something a little more serious, language learning is an incredibly rich, enjoyable and rewarding journey. Fifteen years after my first lesson, I still love every minute!

Merci et à bientôt!

Erin Davies (2004)

Where are they now?

Lynne Muller and her Sacred Heart school friends have been very steadfast in their support of one another since school days. They've been having a cuppa every second Tuesday of the month for the last 50 years. The Courier July 10, 2014.

Sr Helen Nolan (1970) has returned after working in East Timor since 2005. Helen was based in the region next to the Indonesian border and was involved in setting up schools for the local diocese and the formation of teachers in the area which included on-the-job training.

The daughter of **Anne Lynch nee Dalton (1972)**, Rachael, was the very successful goalkeeper for the Australian Hockeyroos at the Commonwealth Games.

Leonie Saundry (1974) has been at the school lately conducting a review of Damascus College's Special Education Program. It has been great hearing Leonie's stories of St Martin's days.

Dave Sanders (1979) was honoured to receive the Australian National Emergency Medal for service at the Black Saturday Fires. Dave also holds a 20 year service award with the CFA. Dave wishes to offer his thanks to past St Paul's teachers.

Darren Jolly (1996) and his wife Deanne featured on the TV reality series 'The Block'. Darren has commenced studies in Building and Construction after departing from the Collingwood Football Club at the end of the 2013 season. The Courier July 21, 2014.

Bernadette Inman nee Hogan (1996) is now working with Mercy Youth Connect out of her home in Melbourne while expecting her second child.

Julie Carey (1996) has recently been made a partner at KPMG. Julie is a mother of three children under 4. Julie is married to Damien Rinaldi who is also a Damascus graduate who runs a successful construction company.

Marty Gleeson (1997) works for Elders as a Stock and Station agent. He is married to Sarah and has a baby boy named Liam.

Emma Barrance (1997) is the founder and director of Arthur Creative since 2007. The merger of Arthur Creative with Karden Disability Support Foundation was announced in The Courier, July 25. This cooperation will increase the capacity of both organisations to offer both creative and social supportive programs for the Ballarat disability community.

A huge congratulations to **Kim Anderson (1997)** for winning the People's Choice Award in the Swan Hill Print and Drawing Acquisitive Award with her drawing titled 'The Burden'. Her recent drawing 'Regret' is in both The MCollection Art Award and the Arc Yinnar Drawing Prize.

Rebecca Dalton (1999) is living and working in Qld and has a three year old boy named Kaleb with beautiful red hair like his mum!

Tim Dalton (2000) works in Building and Construction in Qld, and also competes in body building competitions with some success in Qld and in National Titles. Tim has obtained 1sts, 2nds and Runners Up in his age and weight division.

Congratulations to **Heath Grow (2002)** who has received formal notification that his thesis: 'Praeesse in hospitio. An investigation into leadership styles of hotel managers' has been accepted and Heath has received his testamur in October of this year.

Talented past drama student **Laura Burzacott (2003)** brought a show to Her Majesty's Theatre Ballarat. 'Long Gone Lonesome Cowboys' is an important Australian story set in the 1960's about women and isolation in the Australian outback.

Casey Thompson nee Wilson (2003) with her husband Matt and ABI case manager Dawn Veal spoke to the College Assembly and shared Casey's story of her acquired brain injury. Casey's determination and her message inspired our students to never underestimate what they can achieve. The Damascus College SRC raised \$215.75 on the 'Paint em' Pink' day to support people with an Acquired Brain Injury. Thankyou Casey for helping us all be more aware of Acquired Brain Injury.

Kate Lamond nee Torrington (2004) with her husband moved to Cairns in January of this year.

Serena Toohey (2006). After enjoying a wonderful trip to Europe last year Serena got engaged to Leigh Kirkpatrick in Mykonos, Greece. They are due to be married in February 2015, and have recently bought a house in Cardigan.

Congratulations to Damascus College past student **Samantha Brown (2006)** who has headed to Oxford University to study for her Masters in Archaeology. Sam will spend eight months gaining an education into the scientific practices used to enhance our understanding of the ancient world and then spend a further four months completing her own independent research. This is indeed a wonderful achievement!

Jacob Jones (2007) is sponsoring a new award at Damascus College, the Year 10 Electronics Award, which will be given to one student each year for excellent work ethic, effort and endeavour. The award recipient will receive \$100 and also one week of work experience with Jacob at his company JJ Electrical and Solar.

Jess Bennett's (2007) world was turned upside down in 2012 when she was diagnosed with a rare form of gastrointestinal neuroendocrine cancer. Jess has been in remission for two years and has now taken on the role of president of CanTeen Victoria to mentor other young people struggling to cope with their diagnosis. Jess took part in The Age RUN MELBOURNE event on July 27th to raise money.

Congratulations to **Joel Findlay (2007)** who won the National Title in the men's doubles at the Australian Badminton Championships in Geelong. He was also part of the Victorian team to take out the mixed interstate challenge, the Ede Clendinnen Shield. Joel works as a podiatrist in Ballarat.

Dylan Licastro (2008) featured in a musical version of the children's classic 'Wombat Stew' at Her Majesty's Theatre on June 30th. This production showcased a combination of Dylan's talents of storytelling, mime, music, dance and puppetry.

Esse Cahir (2008) has received a teaching appointment for 2015 at St Alipius Primary School, Ballarat East.

Staff member Wayne Forster caught up with **Jordan Roughead (2008)** past student and current AFL Western Bulldogs player at the Ballarat Sportsmen's Club dinner. Jordan spoke about his involvement in sport as a young child both in and outside school, as well as how he got drafted, and stories about what it's like being a player in the AFL.

Katelyn Bugden (2011) took home Bronze in the Open Female Black Belt division at the National Taekwondo Championships in Ballarat and is placed second in her event which may lead to selection for the Taekwondo Championships in Edinburgh, Scotland in November.

Laura Ryan (2011) is majoring in Human Resources in her third and final year of a Bachelor of Management Course at Federation University. Laura is currently on the Student Senate for the second year in a row and is also Student Representative on the Academic Board at Federation Uni. Laura was sponsored by Federation Uni to attend a Business and Entrepreneurship conference in Christchurch, NZ and in Sydney.

Lachlan McColl (2012) took up the opportunity of an overseas study exchange, spending a semester in Turin, Italy studying French, Italian and a couple of International Law subjects.

Patrick Ryan (2013) has enjoyed his first year at Melbourne University studying a Bachelor of Arts.

The Damascus College community was once again well represented in Ballarat Theatre. The production of Chicago was held in May 2014. The cast included current teachers Vicki Rowe and Brendan Bawden supported by dancers **Darcy Ballinger (2013)** and Vicki's daughter Adeline. Behind the scenes were current teachers Nicole Burness and Sallie Burke-Muller alongside past students **Amy Jeffreys (2005)** and **Rob James (2009)**. **Damian Muller (1981)** was the Set Designer and Stage Manager. Damascus College drum and brass teacher Ian Govan was the Musical Director.

Former Damascus teacher Leon Beaton is currently running workshops for people who are looking for work. The workshops entitled "Little successes" and are run through Centacare and have been held in Ballarat, Bendigo and Frankston.

MARRIAGES

Susan Malthouse (1998) married Daniel Law on July 5, 2014 at UCA Williamstown.

Louise Carey (2001) is engaged to Peter Cain and they plan to be married in January 2015.

Jennifer Gibcus (2002) married Justin Wood at Holy Family Catholic Church at Barwon Heads on April 12, 2014.

Ash Hughes (2002) married Trina Keyle in Mildura on October 12, 2013. They have recently built a new home in Warrailly Estate near Torquay.

Claire Karslake (2007) married Richard Jones of Mansfield on April 12, 2014 at Our Lady help of Christians Church Wendouree. **Katrina Doodt (2007)** and Kate Thompson were bridesmaids.

Alexandra Howlett (2010) and **Joshua Wolfe (2010)** were married at Kirks Reservoir on the February 27, 2014 and **Rebecca Howlett (2006)**, Wenonah Bowman, Alexander Trice, Liam Howlett and **Ben Woolfe (2008)** were in the bridal party.

Births

Katrina Scopel (1991) (O'Brien/McMahon) with her husband John recently welcomed a baby girl named Francesca. We are glad to hear that Katrina's daughter Alice is doing well after having two lots of neurosurgery in March and April of this year. Alice will feature in a documentary filmed at her special school.

Andrea Dillon (1995) and partner Luke welcomed their third child Isabel Anne Bennett on October 21, 2014.

Jarrold Hibberd (1995) and his wife Melanie welcomed their third child Lachlan Marcus on July 31, 2014 at BHS.

Amy Hucker (1998) and her husband Bohden welcomed Archie Rian, brother to big sister Marley on March 27, 2014.

Pauline Barton (1998) and her husband Will and daughter Lily announced the arrival of Zara Frances on August 21, 2014. Pauline is currently serving as a Damascus College Board Member.

Shannon Doran nee Cuddy (1998) and her husband Aaron welcomed their second child in June. Big brother Cooper now has a little sister named Milla.

Congratulations Matt Allan (staff) and **Rachel Hayes (1999)** on the birth of their daughter Matilda (Tilly) Josephine Allan born on June 26, 2014.

Rachel Glasson (2000) and her husband Jahn Knight welcomed their son Jackson Maxwell on June 18, 2014.

Dylan Giles (2004) and his wife Celeste welcomed their daughter Bonny Louise on May 14, 2014.

Jessica Mann nee Todd (2004) and **Chris Mann (2004)** welcomed their first baby Jack James Mann on March 17, 2014.

Carla Hughes (2009) and her husband Josh announced the arrival of their first child Amaeley Anne born on the July 2, 2014.

Blast from the Past



ST PAULS 1951 PREMIERSHIP TEAM

Back Row: 2nd from left - Tom Watson, 4th from left - John Malloy, R/H end - Tom Maher

Middle Row: In suit - Neil Constable, 5th from left - Pat Prendergast

Front Row: 4th from left - Bernie Klein, 5th from left with ball - Frank Sheahan, 2nd from right - Jim Kierce

Do you recognise anyone else in this photo? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please email us at connecting@damascus.vic.edu.au

LOUISE QUINN

16 June 1979 – 13 May 2013

Lou transitioned from Sacred Heart College to Damascus and graduated in 1997, Year 12.

Her teachers and the fellow students that knew her best recount Lou's academic achievements. Whilst not excelling in any specific subject I am certain she would be recalled as polite and attentive, a good and true friend, and a person with a wickedly keen sense of humour and of the ridiculous. Lou particularly enjoyed participating in the school choir and performing under the guidance of Constance Lemke.



Lou's ability to befriend and converse with all who she came into contact with earned her enormous popularity and respect. Friends, colleagues, all levels of staff and management enjoyed her honest and forthright nature and her zany humour.

She had a deep and abiding love for all creatures great and small. Ill-treatment or suffering in any animal was not tolerated, she never balked at rectifying any situation regardless of the consequence. Marching on the steps of Parliament and "sitting in" to promote "Oscar's Law" is just one example.

Organisational skills were a strong trait of Lou's. She was the girl with the laptop on her knee arranging transport, flights, accommodation, tours and streamlining the overseas travel she so enjoyed, particularly to the UK with her brother Phillip and her Mum.

In early April 2013 Lou was beset by fatigue and increases in weight, both of which were attributed to her daily commute to work in Melbourne and to a sedentary lifestyle.

By May 1, her increasing level of fatigue took her to the Royal Melbourne Hospital for a basic consultation. Within hours she was transferred and admitted to the Royal Women's Hospital for further investigation. Ultrasound revealed a large pelvic mass.

Surgery was carried out on May 2 and the awful truth of her condition became known.

An extensive ovarian cancer with metastatic secondaries in her liver, diaphragm and pelvic organs meant her prognosis was extremely poor and no treatment possible.

Lou took charge of making her final arrangements and prepared for her death with honesty and candour. Her calm, strength and courage never wavered and as Mother's Day, Sunday May 12 dawned, we gathered together to smile, laugh and cry a little, to be sad that this would be our last together.

On May 13,, just twelve days after her surgery and diagnosis, encircled by her partner, brother, Mum and family, Louise very peacefully died.

To honour her wishes to promote awareness, education and research into ovarian cancer, the Lou Quinn Ovarian Cancer Foundation was set up under the umbrella of the Royal Women's Hospital.

The 'Giving Gold For Lou' fundraising committee has donated \$8000 bringing a total of \$33,000 in donations to the Women's Ovarian Cancer research laboratory.

Further fundraising and awareness campaigns are planned. Donations and assistance are always welcomed.

Giving Gold For Lou Maggie: 0417 408 856 Dot: 0400 331 624

<https://www.thewomens.org.au/support/fund/lou-quinn-ovarian-cancer-fund/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/louquinnovariancancerfund/>

Reunions

CLASS OF 2004 10 YEAR REUNION



Row 1 (L-R) 1. Miranda Curran, Elise Torrington, Jo Cunningham 2. Thomas Elford, Brendan O'Donnell, Aaron Lewis 3. Josh Francis, Kyra Smith, Daniel Simpson 4. Georgina Allen, Ben Jones, Shane Zammit 5. Jo Dash, Josh Francis, Emma Leeding, Rene Kermond, Melanie Matheson
 Row 2: 1. Xavier Bromely, Jess Thorton, Edith Menzies 2. Lauren Van der Ploeg, Anna Harmes 3. Luke Winter, Gabby Smith, Lisa Donhardt 4. Bryce Quigley, Robert Smith 5. Clare Skrobalak, Mark Slingo, Miranda Curran, Jo Cunningham
 Row 3: 1. Lisa Donhardt, Elise Dixon, Laura Hollioke, Michelle LaFranchi, Louise Catronea 2. Melanie Matherson, Gavan Walsh, Andy Robertson, Jo Dash 3. Melanie Matheson, Stacey Jones, Sarah Monk 4. Chris Madden, Sean Toohey, Ben Hall, Tim Irvin, Xavier Bromely 5. Erin Burns, Erin Davies

SHC & ST MARTIN'S 1969 - 1974 40 YEAR REUNION

Right: Group photo taken at Damascus after the school tour.



Below Left: Sacred Heart College, June 9 1970, Form 2R.

Below Right: Sacred Heart College Hockey Team circa 1970.



Awards and Achievements 2014

The Awards and Achievements Evening was held on Wednesday 19th November at the Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts. This event celebrates academic achievement and endeavour as well as sporting success. This year Damascus recognised six BAS premiership teams: Junior Girls Soccer, Thirds Netball, Year 9 Netball, Intermediate Girls Basketball, C Grade Table Tennis and Badminton. Three Year 12 students also obtained Damascus College Academic Honours, an award given (very rarely) to students who have attained an academic award in all of their six years at the College. We also welcomed back Laura Burzacott (2003) as our Guest Speaker. Laura gave a wonderful speech about her career in the performing arts and her love of performance, which began at Damascus when she was cast as a chicken in Animal Farm. It was great to hear about Laura's life and career since leaving school and we thank her for taking the time to be part of our Awards and Achievements Evening.

As well as the many academic, endeavour and sporting awards given at awards night, a number of 'special awards' were also given. The recipients of these awards are listed below:

Sisters of Mercy Dr Yvonne Aitken Scholarship Awarded to the 2013 Dux of Damascus College	Stephanie McKenzie
Damascus College Academic Honours	Bethany Claridge Michael Donaldson Ebony O'Brien
Damascus College Scholarship for the Arts	Ellie Carroll
Damascus College Scholarship for Sport	Matthew Snibson
Damascus College Scholarship for Academic Study	Bianca Litchfield
Dorothy Irene-Ellis Thomas Scholarship	Daniel Mroczkowski Eleanor Snibson
Sisters of Mercy Dorothy Griffin Scholarship	Raphael Mroczkowski Elise Wright
Junior Social Justice Award	Flynn Jamieson
Senior Social Justice Award	Marie-Angeline Economou
Junior Performing Arts Award	Erin O'Beirne
Senior Performing Arts Award	Ebony O'Brien
Junior Leadership Award	Marla Gibson
Senior Leadership Award	Katie Barnett
Debating Award	Paul Kelly
Junior Art Acquisition Award	Peggy Yandell
Senior Art Acquisition Award	Krista Hodges
Pierre de Coubertin Award	Katie Barnett
Sports Person of the Year	Anthony Kearle
Catherine King Community Shield	Jason White (Year 11)



Laura Burzacott (2003)



Stephanie McKenzie (2013)



Jason White, Shiona Long, Elise Wright & Sean O'Beirne



Ebony O'Brien & Petea Stark



Jack Cuttler, Demcee Davies & Matt Byrne



Jason White & Catherine King

Snow time at Damascus

On Friday 1st August 2014 temperatures in Ballarat fell and by late morning, so too did the snow. For most people who grow up in Ballarat or have lived here for some years, the sight of snow is not completely foreign. However on this day, the snow blanketed the city and Damascus College to an extent not normally seen and it brought students and staff out of their classrooms to enjoy the spectacle.



Snow in Ballarat May 31st 1977. What are my recollections? At that time I slept on 4th floor South and next to the fire escape. Sr. Marie Davey was our charge sister at the time - she slept furthest away from me and closest to the toilet block.

Photos:

Above: Snow falls on the St Martin's Statue - 1 August 2014

Below: Snow blankets the ground at St Martin's - 31 May 1977

On this day I recall being woken really early with lots of noise in the dorm. All we had to do was look out the fire escape door (next to me) and there it was - a winter wonderland. I don't recall who woke us on that morning but the chances are she couldn't sleep because she was so cold! Once awake and staring out onto the fire escape covered in snow we were all ready to go!

Who led the brigade? I can't remember but we were all out of our PJs - or rather, more clothes on top of our PJs - we tentatively stepped outside and rushed back in to grab any plastic garbage bags we could find.

The snow was so thick we tobogganed down the slopes of St. Martins on any available plastic bag we could find - until gam. There was a run going from school level down to the oval. There was a run going from the oval down to the woods. We tobogganed down, ran up and did it all again. At some stage it was apparent that "day students" were arriving but we weren't ready to leave our slopes for them. The bell for gam classes sounded and I seem to remember no-one was really fussed about classes that day, including our teachers.

Eventually we might have settled down and wistfully looked out our windows; snow men and mounds of snow, tracks beaten by boarders on garbage bags and by the end of the school day, much of the mystical snow tracks had disappeared. We were left with just a few mounds here and there.

For so many of the boarders at St Martin's this was a truly magical day. We came from Casterton, Walpeup, Sealake, Ouyen, Carapooee, Manangatang, Speed - desert country. It was a magical day for us and thankfully we had some understanding teachers on the day. I'm guessing Murray McKean (Physics) had never seen snow either. Treasured memories from St. Martins!

By Suzanne Considine

