



The Road

DAMASCUS COLLEGE

Autumn 2020

OUR COVER

Sharen Wolfe and Mia Lepair, art class.

Scholarship recipient and Year 11 student Mia Lepair is pictured on the front cover, with Sharen Wolfe, Art teacher participating in an Art class at the College, one of the many opportunities available to students at Damascus College. Mia has received two scholarships so far in her Damascus journey, which have helped her to fulfil her dream of going to France to fine tune and practice her favourite subject, French. Read more about scholarships on pages 8 & 9.

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MATTHEW BYRNE

Welcome to the autumn edition of The Road.

As I sit here writing the Principal's address, I am struck by the silence of a school without students and staff. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has required the College to end Term 1 prematurely. The student, staff and family experience of a Damascus education has been turned on its head over recent weeks and we are all uncertain about what the coming months will look like. The correlation of this time of uncertainty with the Lenten period requires me to await the hope of the Resurrection—the time when we will be free from the fear and confusion that is rife in our society—as we look forward to Easter.

Educationally, the College has been challenged to respond to the prospect of remote learning for students and staff. The short time of preparation has meant that there will be a great many challenges for our remote delivery. But, in the tradition of the College, the staff team has pulled together to work hard in the best interests of the students. Damascus will maintain our sense of community and our commitment to high-quality learning throughout these difficult times.

This year Damascus enrolled its largest-ever student population—a total of 1134 students commenced the year. We have expanded our staff team accordingly, with increased functions in Diverse Learning and Careers. We have also commenced a Hands on Learning Program for selected students in Year 10, and we are excited about Year 10 students undertaking Content Learning in Language (CLIL) from the middle of the year. CLIL students study the content of Humanities in French or Indonesian to complement their language study. Year 10 students can also fully elect subjects from their second semester offerings to provide more targeted pre-VCE and VCAL learning.

Damascus College is very fortunate to have strong governance through the leadership of Sr Berenice Kerr and Fr Kevin Maloney. Our College Board, appointed by the Governors, is committed to the best strategic leadership possible for our community. Michael Myers concluded two years of exceptional leadership at the end of 2019 and we acknowledge and thank him for his great contribution to our community. Paulene Barton and Justin Marson will continue the excellent leadership of the College Board in their respective roles of Chair and Deputy. We farewell and acknowledge the work of directors Ray Wright, Marc Amos and Sr Elizabeth Dowling and thank each of these individuals for their generous contribution to the College Board and subcommittees over many years. I also thank and acknowledge the many other generous volunteers to the Board subcommittees for their contribution



Newly refurbished science facilities support student learning

I have already mentioned the spirit of our hard-working and committed staff team. We are also very happy to welcome to our community the newest members of our team in 2020:

- Finian Augustin who joins us as a teacher of Indonesian/ Maths
- Belinda Dwyer commencing in the role of Applied Learning (VCAL) Coordinator
- Matthew Edwards as Teacher of English and Assistant House Leader of Rice House
- Sharon Hayes as Education Resources (Library) Leader
- Michelle Tapera commencing in the new Careers Officer role
- Kristiana Withers (a member of the instrumental music team) joins us as a teacher of Music
- Carley Young joins us as a teacher of Mathematics and Science for the duration of Peter Sartori's leave over first semester
- Nicole Saleta joins our Science technical support team
- Mary Vanderlinden joins as the Food Technology Assistant
- Naomi Price commences as specialist support within the Diverse Learning team.

Since the start of last year, we have welcomed a number of staff into our ranks:

- Paul Blanchfield as Rowing Logistics and Technical Support
- Angela Carr as Assistant Library Technician

- Andrew Curran in Maintenance
- Hamish Walsh, Teacher of Mathematics and PE and Rowing Administration and Support Teacher
- Emily Gray as a Learning Support Officer
- Lisa Meade as the Food Technology Assistant
- Shaun O'Loughlin as Teacher within PE, the HoLP and VCAL.

It is wonderful to have these great new additions to our staff team and we look forward to their contributions over the coming months and years.

In this edition you will read of the retirements of Loretta Kaval (25 years of service), Noelene Ward (16 years of service), and Nancy Meiklejohn (25 years of service). We also formally farewell Karen Simpkin and Jane McKendrick at the conclusion of 2019. These women are truly women of Mercy in the spirit of Catherine McAuley and their respective vocations at Damascus College have been pivotal to the success of our community today. I thank and acknowledge their contribution to our educational community.

Our new Music facility is supporting the great work of the Performing Arts team and the refurbished Science facilities support contemporary project-based learning for our ESTEEM program. These are beautiful learning spaces. We have commenced our building works on the Gathering Space and Examination Centre. These works are designed by Laws Architects, undertaken by Magellan Builders, and funded by the Damascus community. The project is scheduled for completion for the start of Term 4 and will be a great asset to the College community.



The dynamic new music building at Damascus

The Damascus alumni strongly support our community and over the past few months we have been privileged to celebrate the achievements of two significant alumni. The Shining Light Award recognises inspiring alumni and this project has brought forth two remarkable women. Dr Cathy Vaughan and Judy Brewer OAM have both provided inspiring contributions to all within our community and I urge you to engage with their stories, each of which gives a lived manifestation of the Cristian outreach on which Damascus is founded.

I congratulate 2019 graduate Imogen Brown on being Dux of the College with an ATAR of 96.95 and 2019 College Captain Matthew Snibson on his 96.90 ATAR. I extend the congratulations of the entire College community to the class of 2019 for their individual achievements and for the joyful way they concluded their secondary schooling — we look forward to following your individual journeys in the future.

Our Year 12 class of 2020 is one of the largest in the College's history and it was a genuine privilege to spend time with them on retreat in Anglesea at the start of February.

Damascus proudly competed across all divisions in the 2019–20 rowing season and has commenced the year strongly in the BAS interschool competitions. Very few premierships were awarded due to the early completion of the term, but Jarrod Joyce is to be congratulated on winning his second Rob Benoit Cup for junior tennis and Megan O'Beirne on being runner-up in the final for the Henderson Shield for senior girls tennis. We had a fantastic House Swimming Carnival with St Martin House coming away victors.

Congratulations to the 55 students who represented Damascus at the BAS Swimming Carnival. You should all be proud of your efforts, and it was wonderful to see many of you step outside your comfort zone. Damascus was placed 4th in the overall boys and girls aggregate and 3rd in the Co-ed aggregate. Well done to all involved!

Our co- and extra-curricular activities have been thrown into turmoil, with sports, productions, trips, excursions and camps postponed or cancelled due to the outbreak of COVID-19. We are exploring different means of engaging students, and I am sure that there will be amazing stories of creativity arising from this shared adversity to come from this community over the coming months.

Each year the College chooses a theme to frame our prayer, reflections and liturgies. This year our theme comes from the prophet Micah around 700 years before Christ's ministry:

Do justice,

Love kindness,

And walk humbly with your God! (Micah 6:8)

This comes from text Jesus would have been familiar with and which would have guided his ministry and actions. We too are invited to look at ways that we can 'Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God'. The current global crisis does indeed call us to respond to this beautiful invitation and we are working to do that at Damascus College in 2020!

Enjoy this great edition!

MATT



Michele Taperia – Careers Officer, Georgia Shillito – Careers Leader. Joanne Lawrence (absent) – Careers Educator

THE DAMASCUS DIFFERENCE

OUR INNOVATIVE LEARNING & TEACHING PROGRAMS

At Damascus College we offer a holistic education experience with a range of innovative learning and teaching programs to maximise the educational outcomes for our students.

Here, we step you through the range of programs that give us 'The Damascus Difference'.

Careers - All Year Levels

Our Careers program offers a professional service for Damascus students that meets the challenges of the changing world of work in which we live.

It focuses on:

- Explicitly incorporating careers education into the curriculum;
- Enrichment activities and opportunities to learn from employers, including visiting speakers, career counselling and mentoring;
- Every student to learn through first-hand experience at work experience, work visits and work shadowing; and
- Ensuring every student understands the full range of opportunities available to them, academic, vocational and in the workplace.

Diverse Learning - All Year Levels

This team of four staff support the academic and social needs of students by working on strategies that enable the student to meet the goals they set for themselves.

The team works with:

- Students with disability, special and additional needs;
- Literacy and numeracy interventions;
- Gifted and talented students; and
- Strategic interventions.
- And will work on:

Monitoring the progress of students with additional needs and identifying and coordinating support mechanisms required to meet the educational, pastoral, safety and health needs of each student;

Partnering with parents/guardians in developing the program to suit each student's needs; and

Involving student and parents/guardians in the Personalised Learning Plan in Program Support Group and Review meetings.



The Damascus College Diverse Learning Team

ESTEEM – Year 8

A practical hands-on learning environment covering scientific, mathematical and technological knowledge, allowing the application of skills in project/scenario-based learning activities. This develops Higher Order Thinking Skills, including the transfer of learning, problem solving and critical thinking skills. This program runs over 15 periods in a 10-day cycle in Semester 1 and 18 periods in a 10-day cycle in Semester 2.

Units can include:

- Thunderstorms Asthma
- Robotics
- Kite Design
- X & Y marks the Spot
- Amusement park ride of the future

Focused Pathways – Year 10

Year 10 is a critical year for students to design their three year pathway to their future career. This program enables students to acquire specialist in-depth knowledge and skills during Year 10 in specific learning areas of interest before committing to decisions about their Senior School education for Year 11 and 12.

Students can choose a subject elective within the core strands of English, Mathematics, PE/Health, Science and Humanities.

CLIL – Year 10

Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) is an internationally recognised approach to teaching both a language and subject content at the same time; for example, teaching chemistry content using French as the medium of instruction.

Students electing CLIL will study a language (French or Indonesian) and apply that learning to their elected Humanities class in their chosen foreign language.

Hands on Learning Program (HoLP) – Year 10

This Hands on Learning Program (HoLP) focuses on learning by doing that caters to the different ways young people learn, helping to build confidence and capacity, leading to greater engagement and achievement in schools. It develops students' social and emotional learning skills to succeed in life, including:

- Collaboration;
- Problem-solving;
- Communication;
- Resilience; and
- Empathy.

Students are selected to be part of HoLP which prepares them for their senior years of schooling where students and teachers work collaboratively to negotiate, create and implement meaningful and practical projects that benefit the school and the community. Students build self-esteem, friendships and a sense of belonging and become more content at school.

Excel – Year 12

A targeted approach to acquiring the key social and emotional learning skills to be a success in Senior School.

Consisting of:

- Academic Mentoring - 1:1 and Group mentoring with all students.
- Study skills workshops led by Elevate Education – maximising study period and work life balance and tailored study programs focusing on soft skills and growth mindset.
- Career counselling workshops and follow-ups throughout the year.
- Wellbeing workshops (prevention and intervention) and presentations led by key external facilitators in the areas of mental health, social responsibilities and nutrition.
- Tailored academic workshops in key subjects, to assist students in the lead up to exams.
- VCE Support Group counselling, programs and interventions.



Year 8 students studying ESTEEM



Year 8 students studying ESTEEM

Year 10 students studying HoLP



DAMASCUS COLLEGE ALUMNI ART PRIZE



**THIS IS YOUR CHANCE
TO EARN \$2000 FOR A PIECE
OF YOUR ARTWORK.**

The Art Prize is open to Damascus College Alumni
(including past students or staff from Sacred Heart College, St Paul's College
and St Martin's in the Pines)

Artwork must explore the College motto 'To Live By the Light of Christ'.

Application deadline: 4pm Monday 1 June, 2020

Details and application form
damascus.vic.edu.au



connecting@Damascus

SCHOLARSHIPS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

DAMASCUS COLLEGE

Around the world, 124 million children and youth are out of school. This is an alarming figure as education is an important part of life. Education gives us a knowledge of the world around us and changes it into something better. It develops in us a perspective of looking at life and helps us build opinions and have points of view on things in life.

As Nelson Mandela said

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

At Damascus College, we welcome nearly 1,200 students to our education facility, and we aspire for Catholic education to be accessible to as many people as possible in our community. However, accessibility can be a challenge for some.

In 2018 we launched the Bright Futures scholarship, which gives one Year 7 student 50% tuition fee relief for their entire six-year journey at Damascus College. This scholarship supports students and families who are experiencing financial or personal disadvantage and who demonstrate a strong commitment to social justice activities, contributing to their local community, but may not otherwise be able to afford a Catholic education.

Some current Damascus students shared with us their experiences and how receiving a scholarship has helped them achieve their dreams.

Year 11 student Mia Lepair’s favourite subject has always been French. Mia said that she has always dreamed of going on the French excursion trip at Damascus.

“My parents said that they couldn’t pay for me to go on the French trip unless I won a scholarship.”

Year 11 student Mia Lepair

“After receiving a scholarship, I was able to really focus on my school studies without having to worry too much about my family struggling to pay my school fees.”

Year 11 student Nicholas Kattula



Mia Lepair



Nicholas Kattula



Megan O'Beirne



Patrick Western

"Thanks to the scholarship, I was more motivated to pursue my passion of Art; I see that someone cares about my education and I feel more encouraged to continue on my chosen path."

Year 12 student Sofie Sawka

"The scholarship helped me to fulfil my dreams of travelling to Indonesia as part of the immersion trip at the College."

Year 12 student Jude Skewes-Clinton



Maya Tolliday

"Thanks to the scholarship, I'm able to compete in more sporting events outside of school. I am part of a large family, so it relieved some of the pressure on my parents to pay the school fees."

Year 10 student Megan O'Beirne

"Receiving the scholarship enabled me to get reassurance and confidence that what I have been doing at Damascus is the right path for me and it has motivated me to continue doing what I enjoy."

Year 12 student Hannah Mroczkowski

"Through the scholarship I have been able to access more music lessons which has helped with my passion for musical theatre."

Year 12 Patrick Western



Symantha Sawka

"I am able to take on a community action expedition project, where I will travel to a remote country, Nepal, to lead a group in making a difference to the Nepalese community."

Year 11 student Maya Tolliday

"I am able to fund my trip to Timor Leste to help other people who don't have the privileges that we do."

Year 11 student Connor Montgomery

"The scholarship has enabled me to become more confident and I'm able to achieve my version of success."

Year 12 student Symantha Sawka



BRIGHT FUTURES BREAKFAST WITH JUDY BREWER

DAMASCUS COLLEGE COMMUNITY EVENT

On Thursday 12 March Damascus College held its annual Bright Futures fundraising breakfast for the Scholarship of the same name. The College was thrilled to welcome a large contingent of alumni, staff and community members to the event held at the Ballarat Golf Club. Other special guests included a number of Sisters of Mercy, leaders from the Catholic Education Office Ballarat (CEOB) and the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat offices.

The assembled crowd were welcomed to the breakfast by Assistant Principal, Tony Haintz who opened the festivities with a simple prayer of welcome. Sarah Boswell, Leader of School Development then shared details about the Bright Futures Scholarship, its benefactors and the need to support the scholarship through fundraising, before welcoming to the stage Year 10 student Megan O'Beirne. Megan spoke from the heart about what receiving the 2018 Sporting Scholarship meant to her and how it has impacted her life.

The special guest speaker for this event was Judy Brewer, Order of Australia. Judy, from the Class of 1979 is Chair of the Autism CRC since its inception in 2013. In 2017 she became Pro-Chancellor of Charles Sturt University. In 2019 Judy received a Churchill Fellowship and was named one of the inaugural Shining Light, Inspiring Alumni Award winner. She is the mother to two amazing boys Harrison and Dominic and widow of the former Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer.

Judy spoke openly of her time as a boarder at Sacred Heart, the loss of her beloved husband Tim and her work with Autism CRC. Judy shared her journey as the mother of an autistic son with all its bounties and challenges. Judy then engaged with the audience during a lively and very entertaining Q&A session. She discussed the significance and importance of her personal motto "bloom where

you are planted" and her journey to create a more inclusive and welcoming world for everyone, including autistic people.

Guests of the event were able to enjoy learning more about Damascus College and the educational opportunities available to its students as well as enjoying a sumptuous buffet breakfast.

The final speaker for the day was College Principal Matthew Byrne who thanked the crowd for supporting Damascus College and its Bright Futures Scholarship. He spoke of the importance that an education can make in a child's life. As a Catholic school, Damascus College is committed to providing excellence in education, and it is our privilege to be able to offer opportunities that benefit our students and the wider community. He spoke of the importance of the welfare of our young people and hence the emphasis on providing an environment which is secure and safe, happy and productive.

He reminded the attendees that their generosity and commitment can help to make a real impact on the lives of our students.

“Your gift allows us to support an exciting and enriching educational experience for students.”

In holding this fundraising event Damascus College sees to extend the Bright Futures Scholarship to more than one Year 7 student per year. If you wish to Give towards this worthy cause, you can do this by calling the College office (03 5337 2222) or online at damascus.vic.edu.au



BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP

THANK YOU

Damascus College wishes to thank the following donors for generously giving to the Bright Futures Scholarship so that Damascus College can extend this scholarship opportunity to more than one Year 7 student per year.

John and Darunee Cairnes • Rev PJ Connors
Davis Family • Kylie Fenwick • Fran Hanrahan
Margaret Lavery • McLeans Cleaning Services
O' Beirne Family • Maurine Pheland
Stephen Reilly • Louise and Michael Smith
Margaret Stewart • Paula Tobin

**and the
Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation**

Our heart felt gratitude to the numerous donors who have made contributions to the Bright Futures Scholarship fund but have asked to remain anonymous.





2020 ALUMNI ART PRIZE

RACHAEL BEARDALL

The 2020 artist commissioned is Rachael Beardall, Class of 2014. Rachael created this unique art piece of acrylic and impasto on canvas. Each artist is asked to develop an artist statement describing the motivation behind the piece.

2020 Artist Statement

TO LIVE BY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST (2020)

When applying for this Art Project I sat and pondered our College Motto 'To Live By The Light of Christ'. For me, Damascus College represents a wonderful community of young people who are on their own journey in life and have so many stories to share. Then I considered some of the great things that Damascus is involved in and I kept coming back to the environmental aspect.

Our College is set on such rich land with beautiful views in every direction. This campus has beautiful nature grown into its roots, so I began to peel away the layers of the environment. We have beautiful Gum trees, walking trails, wildlife, big and small, and for me the mightiest of them all; the humble Bee.

The Bee is such a wonderful creature. Bees are perfectly adapted to pollinate, helping plants grow, breed and produce food. Nearly two-thirds of Australia's agricultural production benefits from bee pollination but the numbers of bees are shrinking at an alarming rate.

I hope that focusing on the bee will raise awareness of them and their importance.

The Blue-Banded bee ties in with the cycle of a student at Damascus. Our College nurtures students to be whatever they choose in life, offering many pathways. I have seen many examples that, through education, students understand and care for our planet.

Blue-Banded bees are native to Victoria and are very prominent on our campus grounds. I wish to pay respects to the Wadawurrung people for the care of this land that I hope we walk gently on. I have featured the Murnong plant. The Murnong daisy connects to our indigenous brothers and sisters who have walked this land for generations and used this little yam as a food source, pollinated by our little bee. I have also included purple lavender as I find it interesting that the Blue Banded bee is drawn to purple flowers and foliage and, therefore, these have a higher pollination rate.

With my artwork, I invite the audience to consider how they 'Live by the Light of Christ' within their own community. Hopefully, through this artwork, the awareness of our native bees will become more apparent and we can start to appreciate them in their entirety. To me, a simple bee, often unseen but one of God's beautiful creations, brings forth the presence of the 'Light of Christ'.

Rachael Beardall, Class of 2014



YOU'RE INVITED

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

RESCHEDULED

2020 REUNION DATES

Past students and staff of Damascus and its foundation colleges, Sacred Heart, St Paul's and St Martin's in the Pines, it's almost time to celebrate your 2020 reunion

CLASS REUNIONS

50 Year – Class of 1970	Sunday 25 October, 11.30am – 3pm
40 Year – Class of 1980	Saturday 24 October, 2-4pm
30 Year – Class of 1990	Saturday 31 October, 2-4pm
20 Year – Class of 2000	Sunday 11 October 2-4pm
10 Year – Class of 2010	Friday 30 October, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

SPECIAL REUNIONS FOR 2020

St Paul's All School Reunion	Saturday 10 October, 2-4pm
Timor-Leste Reunion	TBA Date

Visit damascus.vic.edu.au/past-students-reunions-events
Please update/provide your contact information
and get all of your 2020 class reunion details



connecting@Damascus

TULLY DREAMS OF BECOMING A STAR

TULLY HEENAN

Year 12 student Tully Heenan dreams of one day becoming an actor and he has clear plans in place to reach his dream career.

At the tender age of nine, Tully's love of film and acting was ignited when he took part in a national Volkswagen advertisement.

More recently, Tully was cast as an extra as part of the Stan Original, 'The True History of the Kelly Gang' which was filmed in Clunes and recently launched on 26 January 2020 (Australia Day).

Tully said that he saw the ad in the local newspaper so applied and was cast as an extra, whereby he took part in two scenes.

As part of the audition process, hundreds of people from across the Ballarat region lined up for the chance to be an extra. A headshot was taken, measurements for costume recorded and performance experience listed, which included dance training. Only a small number of people were chosen for the scenes so Tully did really well to be cast.

"I was involved in a dance celebration, where I got to dress up as a bushranger and dance with film star Essie Davis," he said.

"I also sang 'God Save the Queen' with a group of others and I think you can see me in the movie during this particular scene."

The film also stars Russell Crowe, George Mackay, Nicholas Hoult and Charlie Hunnam.

Being involved in the movie gave Tully a good taste of the intricacies of film making, where he was able to experience all of the behind the scenes action, which he loved.

Tully's favourite subjects at Damascus College are Drama and Media, as he loves to tell stories and portray characters.

"I particularly enjoy entertaining people, it's a lot of fun. Working closely with the committed and passionate Drama staff at Damascus has developed my knowledge and passion for the craft, so much so that I want to make acting and entertaining my full-time profession."

Tully was also in the local musical Chicago mid last year with local studio Curtain Call Performing Arts.

After school, Tully plans on taking a gap year to travel in USA and will then apply to do an acting degree at Queensland University of Technology (QUT). Upon graduation, he intends on getting an agent to assist him in applying for acting roles in Australia and abroad.





NEVER TOO OLD

ALUMNI STORY

Bernadette (Bern) Wilson, née O’Toole, Class of 1957, was thrilled to receive her first passport last June, just a few days before her 80th birthday. She had a bucket list of places she has wanted to visit her whole life, and with the help of her six grandchildren she is hoping to travel to them in the next few years.

Bernadette was a day scholar at Sacred Heart College for four years. She left when she was offered full-time employment at Faulls Shoes in Ballarat. She worked there for the next two years while being courted by her soon-to-be husband, Stan. The year after they were married, Stan and Bern packed up their belongings from the house they were renting in Humffray Street and moved to Mount George in the lush hills outside Adelaide.

Together they had four children and then opened their home to Stan’s orphaned nephew. “The house was always full. Lots of yelling, some singing, but always laughter”, said Bern. As the children were growing up, Stan continued his work as a mechanic at the local garage and Bern split her time between the house and duties at Our Lady of Rosary Catholic Church. Each year for the summer school holidays, the family would pile into the car, with the caravan secured to the back, and they would head out to Whyalla, but Bernadette always yearned to be seeing new sights, further afield.

She dreamed of travelling to America, seeing the Statue of Liberty in New York and the Hollywood sign in California. She wanted to hear the bells ring at Notre Dame in Paris and smell the water of the canals in Venice.

As so often happens, Bernadette found that once she had finished raising her own children, she was called into service to assist with her grandchildren. “When I was raising my children I could afford to stay home and Stan worked. We didn’t have everything, but what we needed we did. When my kids started having kids, with house and car payments, plus everything else they needed help with, and Grandma duty meant that I got to take them to and from school, make lunches, do laundry and all the other things that might have slipped through the cracks, and I loved every minute of it”, continued Bern.

At her granddaughter’s 21st birthday party, Stan and Bernadette were called up to the front. “It was a bit odd. I thought they were going to ask us to do a speech or sing happy birthday, but instead we got the birthday envelope”, said Bernadette. In addition to travel vouchers, flight information and hotel coupons, they found their passport forms filled out and ready to be signed. “The kids had all gotten together and between them worked out where we would be going for the next year. Our first trip was to Europe with Cathleen, our eldest child. We spent almost eight weeks going from Germany to Switzerland to just everywhere”.

“It was worth waiting for, and I can’t wait to see the rest”.

Bernadette Wilson nee O’Toole, Class of 1957,



DAMASCUS COLLEGE CAPTAIN

HANNAH MROCKOWSKI

As one of the Damascus College School Captains for 2020, I feel great honour in representing the incredible students of the school. By taking on this role, I am showing my dedication to the college, its values and the students. As College Captain, I will endeavour to act as the voice of the school population, representing the very best that Damascus has to offer.

As I embark on my sixth and final year at the college, I am looking forward to participating in sports days, organising McAuley and Damascus Day, making lasting memories with my year level as well as growing in confidence and leadership alongside my enthusiastic co-captain, William Smith.

With two older brothers as past students of the college, I became comfortable with the family-friendly environment before I even became a student. Through the many engaging programs at the school, I was able to cultivate valuable connections with staff members and fellow students to enrich my education experience.

I feel so privileged to be a part of a school community that provides its students with a range of opportunities to help them find their niche. One of my favourite memories of the college was the recent Year 12 retreat, where we took a break from the stresses of Year 12 to break down barriers and form new connections. Another personal highlight was the French Language Tour, where I developed my confidence, French language and social skills by immersing myself in the culture. The food was amazing too!

As a school of mercy, Damascus College has taught me the importance of generosity and supporting people in the community.

I have been a volunteer coach for soccer for the past five years, both in school and local competitions. At the beginning of the year, I volunteered at my first Edmund Rice camp, spending time with disadvantaged children, introducing them to new experiences and basically acting like a kid again! By giving up my time to help others, I have grown a deeper understanding of what it means to be a part of a wider community.

In my limited spare time, I work at my part-time job at the local supermarket, play soccer with my local club, play the ukulele and spend time with friends. Of course, I find time for study too! This year I am taking maths and science classes in the hope of going to Monash University next year. My dream job is to be an environmental engineer, helping the planet by finding scientific solutions to its problems.

When choosing a secondary school, I think it is important to understand the range of opportunities available. Damascus provides students with experiences in creativity, design, academics and sporting fields, ensuring the students are given the chance to choose their preferred path.

To those about to begin their secondary schooling, my advice to you is to make the most of your time by participating in extra-curricular activities, making new friends and embracing high school life. The only way to experience high school is to experience it 100%!



DAMASCUS COLLEGE CAPTAIN

WILLIAM SMITH

It is a privilege to have the role of College Captain, striving to be a positive role model that younger students can look up to. I am most looking forward to the opportunities to work with staff and students of the representative council for my second year in a row.

Initially, I didn't know a lot about Damascus College, apart from having some relatives who had gone to the school. However, after attending the open night, I didn't want to go anywhere else as I knew this was the school for me. I am now heading into my final year of secondary school after being at Damascus since year 7, having been taught many values that have made me the person I am. What I enjoy most about Damascus is the caring nature from students and staff and how they embrace all students, allowing everyone to have a go no matter their ability.

I have many favourite memories at Damascus College. Year 9 camp is one that stays in my mind. Before this, I was never a tremendous lover of camps and didn't like being away from home. However, going on camp with a great group of friends helped me get the most out of the event and grow as an individual. The Year 12 retreat was also a memorable experience, enabling the year level to build closer relationships and recognise the support available for us in our final year.

I have lived in Ballarat for most of my life and had all of my schooling there but have spent a few months living in Queensland when I was younger. I'm a part of a wonderful family consisting of my twin

brother, my mum and my dad. Family is very important to me, and without the support they have given me, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Outside of school, I play soccer for Ballarat City FC; this will be my sixth year. This requires three training sessions a week with a match at either Ballarat or Melbourne on the weekend, teaching me many leadership qualities as well as a range of organisational skills to maintain a school-life balance. Additionally, I spend a lot of time composing and producing music, allowing me to get my creative energy out. In the future, my dream is to be a professional soccer player or music producer, travelling the world and experiencing different cultures!

To all of the students starting Year 7, my advice is to participate in as many things as possible, whether it be an after school sport, drama groups, ensembles, debating or much more. There are places where you can meet a range of new people with similar interests to you, allow friendships to be formed or simply create familiar faces around the school. This can definitely help with what can be a daunting experience entering a new school become a lot easier.

This year I will try my very best to be the best leader I can and I am really looking forward to what the year holds.



Castley Macoe Webb

AS A QUEEN'S SCOUT

*you have prepared yourself
for service to your God and all
people, and have done your
self a worthy member of the
world wide SCOUT MOVEMENT.
I wish you God speed in your
journey through life; may
it prove for you a joyous
adventure.*

29 February 2020

Elizabeth R.

TRAVEL LESSONS

ALUMNI STORY

Travel lesson 1: if you know your hand luggage is WAY more than 7kgs, take your mum to the airport. At check-in, pile all of your technology into her handbag, weigh your backpack and head to the bathrooms to put everything back. You can take 11kgs of hand luggage instead of 7kgs.

This was the first lesson of many I learned when I embarked on my first 'adult adventure' to the International Scout Centre in Kandersteg, Switzerland. Little did I know when I walked through the departure gates of Melbourne Airport on 2 June last year just how life changing the next three months would be.

Twenty-four hours later, I discovered another important travel lesson for my trip: When flying to Europe, book two stopovers instead of one.

I arrived at 1pm in Geneva, exhausted, dehydrated and regretting my decision to take extra hand luggage and was so grateful to walk into the welcoming arms of my host mother from the school French trip two years prior. I spent the next five days in their home, and I helped my host brother practise English and got back into speaking French. I taught my host father some Aussie slang and I remember him clearly smiling as I came down the stairs one morning as he informed me that he was "pulling a sickie" to take me to Kandersteg.

I journeyed seated in the last car of a train through the mountains and four hours later I arrived, where I got my first glimpse of my new home. Instantly, I was amazed, not just at the absolute beauty of the village and the mountains, but at the friendliness and love that surrounded the Scout Centre.

Over the next three months I made family with people from 45 different countries. Combined, they spoke 38 languages. I worked with a team affectionately known as the 'pinkies', after the colour of our shirts. I climbed 46 mountains, drank 187 beers, rock climbed 36 times and even went tubing on the ski slopes. Travel lesson 4: If you intend to rock climb a Via Ferrata course up the face of a mountain on metal pegs, which includes a flying fox over a 300m drop and if you fall the only way off is to be airlifted, tell your mum after you've done it.

However, the most memorable part was the people, the lifelong friendships that were made and the fun we had. We came from all parts of the world but quickly became a family, sharing a common bond in Scouting, we were a very small part of a global community incorporating 50 million people in 191 countries. This is what the centre was about, uniting people in doing good. I was an activity

guide, over the three months that I was on staff and during that time I worked with 113 groups from 27 countries, each as special and fun as the next.

One truly special experience in Kandersteg was the International Campfire, which can only be described as magical. At our busiest we had over 1,000 guests; we all sat around, enjoying the company of each other. This is where I was presented with my Queen Scout's Award by the mayor of Kandersteg. This is the highest achievable award in the Commonwealth countries, highly regarded within Scouting as a measure of your character. The award is achieved with over 300 hours of work between the ages of 15 and 18, requiring you to earn 17 badges over four development areas including Leadership Development, Outdoor Activities, Personal Growth and Community Involvement. Usually, this award is presented in late September to recipients by the Governor on the grass in front of Government House. I was going to be in Europe for the expected date and organised to have my certificate sent overseas instead.

I was lucky enough to have my family come over to pick me up at the end of my three months and we spent the next seven weeks travelling to some of the most beautiful places I have ever seen but Kandersteg will always hold a special place in my heart; for me, it's home. In October last year, we were informed the Queen Scout's Award presentations had been delayed until February 2020 meaning I was back in the country to receive the award at Government House presented by the Governor of Victoria on behalf of the Queen.

Solo travel lesson number 4: Travel while you can and have as much fun as you possibly can, do what you want to do and be yourself. Say yes to new experiences, and you'll get more out of it than you ever could have imagined.

Before my gap year, I had no idea what I intended to do in the future. Now that I'm back in Australia, I've started planning for the future. This month I started a Bachelor of International Studies at Deakin. I intend to build a career in humanitarian aid, ideally working with the United Nations. I owe this choice completely to my experience in Kandersteg, living with so many people from different places has opened my eyes to so much more of the world and made me more aware of the need for assistance.

Solo travel lesson 5: At beer halls in Munich after 6pm they only sell a litre of beer, nothing smaller. Don't buy more than one. You'll regret it.

Castley Webb, Class of 2018

NEXT GEN EXHIBITION

DAMASCUS COLLEGE

The VCE Next Generation 2020 art and design awards exhibition opened to a packed audience in February 2019 at the Art Gallery of Ballarat. This exhibition showcased the work of students who completed their 2019 Year 12 VCE studies in Art, Studio Arts, Design and Technology, Visual Communication and Design and Media. The students are from government, Catholic and independent schools, mainly from the Ballarat and Grampians region.

Congratulations to the numerous Damascus College Visual Arts students whose work was selected for this professionally curated exhibition. Our talented participants from the class of 2019 include Isabelle Tomic, Joshua Frawley, Abby Cody, Lauren Bradshaw and Mitchell Labbett.

A special congratulations to Isabelle Tomic on winning Next Gen's Innovation Award with her Studio Arts Photography artwork 'Never ending story'. The judges commented that, as the title suggests, this work in its sublime and evocative beauty, can be symbolic of our society today with its constant social media and 24/7 news feeds. Never ending story loops and animates a static image, refreshing our starting point and suggesting endless innovative interpretations.

- Abby Cody - The Deep significance of time, Graphite on pastel paper
- Isabelle Tomic - Never-ending Story
- Joshua Frawley - Frawley productions presentation 1 and 2
- Lauren Bradshaw - Malicious mouse games presentation 1 and 2
- Mitchell Labbett - Entry Table



Lauren Bradshaw



Joshua Frawley



Isabelle Tomic



Abbey Cody



Mitchell Labbett



Isabelle Tomic

2020 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

DAMASCUS COLLEGE



Absent: Jack Davidson, Kaitlyn Handreck, Brayden Joyce and Hugo Prehn



2020 SRC PRESIDENT

RYLAN WALKER

Hi my name is Rylan and when I'm not down at the fire station as a volunteer firefighter for the CFA, you might find me jamming on the guitar, hiking through the bushland or frantically studying for a SAC.

Some of the things I'm looking most forward to this year in Year 12 is the opportunities that I am provided with, such as retreat and formal. I am also looking forward to finishing school knowing that I am equipped with the skills to guide me through my dream career.

I've had the privilege to spend my entire secondary schooling experience at Damascus College. I have found it to be an exciting journey being a part of a community that helps light the path to each individual's own success, to have a supportive network of staff and students that show genuine passion through actions not just words, and to have a safe space and the right platforms to be the best you.

I had the honour of holding the role of SRC Vice President last year as the McAuley Year 11 student representative. It enabled me to see first-hand the outstanding work the leaders of our school do, and I hope to continue and expand the work of our past leaders this year.

My goals as SRC President are to expand the platforms we have for younger students to help them better express their views, to give students the opportunity to shine in their own individual ways and to help guide fellow student leaders in their roles.

After completing Year 12, I hope to study a Diploma of Land Conservation & Management at Federation University, to lead me into a career as a project firefighter for Forest Fire Management Victoria or a rappel firefighter down in Gippsland

Rylan Walker, Year 12

2020 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

POSITION	McAULEY	ST MARTIN	RICE	XAVIER
College Captains	Hannah Mroczkowski			William Smith
House Captain	Ellen Billinghurst	Jack Davidson	Imogen Batrouney	Charles Smith
House Captain	Elijah Ludowyk	Paris Murrell	Kiara Powell	Jai Hillas
House Captain	Jude Skewes-Clinton	Tully Heenan	Hugo Prehn	Emily Williams
House Captain	Rylan Walker	Lynae Howlett	Stephanie Fitzgerald	Abbey Mokotte
Year 11 SRC	Olivia Reynjtes	William Norwood	Shaun Leonard	Zac McCarthy
Year 10 SRC	Tristan Clonan	Sinead Sugars	Amy Wells	Isla Casey
Year 9 SRC	Sophie Busutil	Jessica Hodge	Sara Abu Asbeh	Kaitlyn Handreck
Year 8 SRC	Jonah Skewes-Clinton	Brayden Joyce	Tara Orchard	Samuel Henwood
Year 7 SRC	Joachim Henderson	Kylan Jans	Kassidy Jewel	Violet Fyfe-Jennings

FLYING SOLO

JAMIE DOVE

Damascus College Year 11 student Jamie Dove became an Australian Air Force (AAF) Cadet some two years ago, not knowing where it might lead, and was overjoyed to recently accept an offer in a highly coveted course to learn how to fly a plane solo.

Jamie began as a Cadet and has, over a two year period, progressed through the ranks to become Leading Cadet, Cadet Corporal and has recently become a Cadet Sergeant.

Jamie said that recently becoming a Cadet Sergeant enabled him to teach classes on fieldcraft, aviation and drill (marching).

"I had to complete a formal application form and be selected to attend a 17-day course to learn instructional techniques, conflict resolution, leadership and drill," he said.

The next challenge Jamie soon set for himself was to apply for an AAF training course to fly solo, where there were over 100 Victorian applicants, which was later reduced to a group of 21.

In December last year, these 21 applicants attended a weekend of exams, panel interviews, team-building exercises, instructional advice and uniform inspections, which then lead to Jamie being one of the 16 chosen for the flying course.

"As part of the course we did a week of theory in Point Cook where we received a pilot kit and learnt basic aeronautical knowledge and also had the opportunity to do an introduction flight, where I got to taxi out the Diamond DA40NG four-seater aircraft."

“ I loved being able to get some hands-on experience in the aircraft rather than just observing. ”

Jamie took part in a two-week practical course in Point Cook during the April school holidays where he learnt to fly every day in the same aircraft, with the ultimate aim of flying solo at the end of the course.

"I was a little bit nervous about the prospect of flying solo but also extremely excited by the opportunity it presented."

For years, Jamie had dreamed of being a pilot and now he is setting out to achieve the goal of being a fighter pilot in the RAAF. He plans to apply to ADFA in Canberra, which has a rigorous selection process.

"Over the next two years, I plan to get more flying hours at the Ballarat Airport to fulfil my short term goal of obtaining my recreational pilot licence before I turn 18."





REPRESENTING VICTORIA AT NATIONALS

LILLEE BARENSEN

Damascus College Year 9 student Lillee Barendsen is counting down the days until she represents Victoria in the Under 15's Female National Cricket Championships held in Canberra at the end of February.

Lillee started playing cricket at the tender age of nine when she was encouraged to give the sport a go by a friend. Since that day, she hasn't looked back and started playing competition cricket with the U12's VRI Delacombe boys' team.

Lillee said she was the only female in the team at the time as female cricket was still developing, but she loved the opportunity to play with her mates and learn from the boys.

"I am passionate about cricket and love that it is a team sport. I enjoy getting to know so many different people where I make new friends from different walks of life," she said.

Lillee now plays for the Ballarat Women's Cricket Club senior team and has represented Central Highlands in the Youth Premier League State Championship tournament for the past four years in the Under 14's and 17's age groups.

"Being a part of the Youth Premier League gave me the further opportunity to be invited to try out for the U15 Victorian squad, for which I am forever grateful."

"I will soon participate in the National Championships in Canberra from 26th February to 3rd March and I am really looking forward to it. I haven't travelled outside of Victoria so I am excited to see another state of Australia."

Lillee has been travelling to Melbourne for selection trials and training sessions on a regular basis with the Victorian squad since mid-last year and is both excited and overwhelmed that all of her hard work is paying off, as she has wanted to progress to the next level in female cricket.

Lillee's sporting skill extends beyond cricket as she also plays AFL and has done so since age six. She currently plays for East Point Dragons Under 15's female team and, prior to that, played for the East Point Bulldogs male teams. Last year Lillee played in the Youth Girls Interleague Competition, representing AFL Goldfields, where she played against AFL Central Victoria.

"One day I would love to play both cricket and AFL professionally. I dream of donning the baggy green cap to represent my country in cricket, playing in the Women's Big Bash and would also one day love to play in the AFLW. Go Cats."

After school Lillee hopes to pursue a career in the sporting industry, either as a physiotherapist or personal trainer, as sport is her real passion.

DRIVEN TO SUCCEED

ALUMNI STORY

I commenced at Damascus College in 2005, completed VCE in 2010 and was in Rice House with my twin sister Stephanie. During my time at Damascus, I was an avid graphic designer having completed many projects for the school, which included creating the covers for a few of the school yearbooks. I did a mix of subjects as I wasn't particularly sure on my career pathway at the time but knew I wanted to go to university after I had finished VCE.

After high school, I went onto study a double degree of Arts (International Studies) and Management (Human Resources) at Federation University Australia.

Having enjoyed Human Resources (HR) as a potential career, I obtained a graduate position at Ford Motor Company in Melbourne in 2015 within their HR department. During my time at Ford, I also completed a Master of Human Resources with RMIT to help develop my professional HR skills.

“ This was a challenging time as I was working and studying full-time but I truly enjoyed the experiences I was given at university and work. ”

Since having joined Ford, I have undertaken many different roles from HR shared services, HR-IT, talent recruitment and development and am now an HR business partner for the Geelong and Lara sites. During my time at Ford I have experienced many diverse situations from supporting the closure of manufacturing in 2016, lead bulk recruitment for the Ford graduate program and now supporting the business in growing and developing its workforce on a strategic level.

I have been incredibly lucky to have driven all different types of Ford vehicles from F150s, Rangers, Everests and Mustangs.

One particular trip I planned was a Product Immersion Experience for the new Ford graduates where I drove a convertible mustang around the Great Ocean Road, which was an incredibly fun experience!





In addition to the cool stuff I get to do at work, I have also been to numerous AFL Geelong Cats events (with Ford being the major sponsor) which included the Best and Fairest award nights, AFLW season launch parties and Fair on the Field events. Within the workplace, I successfully launched 'Bring Your Dog to Work Day' last year, where employees bring their dogs to work for a day. I am incredibly proud of this achievement as bringing pets on site was a big challenge that I managed to influence and overcome.

In my spare time, I am an active member of the Australian Human Resource Institute (AHRI), which includes creating HR networking and learning events for the Ballarat and surrounding community. I have a passion for giving back to the community and to helping develop other HR professionals and students.

In 2019, I went on a Europe trip with friends and family to attend one of my high school friend's wedding in Los, Greece. It was an amazing experience that I got to share with my friends and was also lucky enough to continue travelling in Europe after the wedding to countries like Italy, France, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands. Later this year I will be travelling to the USA to visit Ford's global head office in Detroit and will also stop by New York and Florida over the Christmas and New Year's period.

Sophie Burzacott, Class of 2010



MEMORIES OF MY DAYS AT S.H.C

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Here in the Damascus College archives, we are fortunate to have a small collection of beautiful stories written by former students of Sacred Heart College. Their reflections on the time spent within the walls of the Victoria Street Convent allow us a small glimpse through the window of time back to a very different world than the one our current students navigate today.

As I think back on my six years as a student boarder at Sacred Heart College, I am deluged by a whole host of memories. I remember it as a very happy time filled with great opportunities for making lasting friendships and attaining spiritual, academic and personal development.

Daily Mass, RE classes, yearly retreats and regular prayer times were all there to help us spiritually. I'm sure most of us can still remember Mother Bon's discourses on the sacredness of our 'alabaster vase' and her unfailing enthusiasm in helping us recall our daily sins or misdemeanours during those painfully long prayer sessions each night.

Ample time was available for formal and private study pursuits both during the day and again after sport and tea-time. Only the most daring would attempt to disrupt the strict silence which prevailed when, each evening, the classroom partitions were withdrawn and a study hall created. Occasionally one would approach the supervising Sister and request permission to seek lesson assistance from a friend. Should it appear that the time was being used for a more frivolous purpose, there was a quick recall to return to base.

To prepare us to be able to take our place in society, even should it be in the upper classes, we had weekly Dancing and Social Etiquette lessons. Here we learnt to dance, dress, converse and entertain with elegance and ease.

Under the expert guidance of Sister Peter Damien we were shown how to round our "au" sounds, lift up our 'a's and 'i's and blow out our 'wh's whenever and wherever they occurred in the spoken word. In due time, some of our natural 'Aussie' twang was replaced by a cultured English accent.

Sr. Mary Raphael proved to be an excellent coach for all types of sporting activity and the many trophies attained testified to her success. Mr. Stanley played his part in helping us maintain our physical fitness during his weekly classes over in the 'White House'. We especially enjoyed our own warming up routines carried out as we prepared for bed in the bitter cold of Ballarat's winter nights.

It was in the 'Academy' where our musical advancement took place. In the early hours of dark, wintry mornings we would rise from our warm beds and parade across to the other side to practise scales and sonatas until breakfast time. The warm, genial presence of our gifted music teacher, Sr Mary Angela, alleviated the unpleasantness of this particular activity.

During those impressionable years, I think we were very fortunate to have the words and example of so many great Sisters of Mercy helping us to grow in faith and knowledge. We remember them all with lasting love and gratitude.

Anne Gargan, Class of 1934



The College Archives department does not always have photographs of the authors of these small biographies. Instead we have a small, yet beautiful collection of photos representing College life at the time. The selection of photos accompanying Anne's story include:

- Junior School Class Photo C1929
- The College Study Hall C1929
- Mr Stanley teaching his Physical Culture class
- The boarding house dressing room C1929



The Damascus College archives needs your help.

We are always looking to expand our collection. If you have any item you think may be of interest to us we would love to hear from you.

Of particular interest are:-

- Photographs (especially pre-1990)
- Uniforms
- Badges
- Yearbooks
- Student memoirs

Items can be donated or simply loaned to us to scan or photograph before being returned. Don't forget we also hold memorabilia from our foundation colleges – Sacred Heart College, St. Paul's College and St. Martin's in the Pines.

For more information email archives@damascus.vic.edu.au or visit damascus.vic.edu.au/about-us-archives





2019 AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENT EVENING

DAMASCUS COLLEGE EVENT

The annual Awards and Achievement evening was held on Wednesday 4 December 2019 at the Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts. This event recognised students throughout 2019 who have achieved academic excellence, general endeavour, sporting endeavour and age group champions.

The 2018 College Dux, Sean O'Beirne was invited back to receive the Dr Yvonne Aitken Scholarship sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. Sean provided a heart-warming address to the audience on what he has been up to in the year since finishing high school. Sean xx

For the first time, the College inducted the 2019 two Shining Light Award Recipients. This new award is bestowed upon two alumni every two years to recognise past students or staff who have contributed significantly through their chosen field to Damascus College and our global community and who will be an inspiration to current and future students.

The inaugural inductees were Judy Brewer, Order of Australia, (Class of 1979) and Dr Cathy Vaughan (Class of 1989).

The audience was treated to various performances throughout the night including, a piano solo by Year 10 student Bethany Irwin to welcome guests upon arrival and a solo drama performance by Year 12 student Milly Frost, titled 'Toy Story'.

A video showcasing the extra-curricular activities available at Damascus College and the College Choir sang 'I sing the Body

Electric' from Fame, including choir members: Sara Abu Asbeh, Amalee Eden, Declan Eden, Montana Forster, Elarin Johnson, Meg Jones, Lucy Leviston, Sophie Leviston, Amy Magee, Laura McDonald, Jasmine McKay, Zoe Newman, Tara Orchard, Payton Overall, Paige Pickering, Sage Seear, Taya Thiele, Ella Thornton, Mikayla Vincent Wade and Freya Wallis. Band members were Ryan Holloway and Zac McCarthy, on the violin was Williams Deans and Mr Jason Harrison on piano.

Also acknowledged and celebrated at the Awards Night were the 2019 Senior and Junior Art Acquisition Awards that went to:

Senior Art Acquisition – Lauren Bradshaw, Yr 12, for her Year 12 Visual Communication Design brief around a video game concept including a unique donkey character where she presented it as merchandising for the intended audience. She also created an accompanying promotional poster for Malicious mouse games which was skilfully executed using photography and graphic design skills.

Junior Art Acquisition – Jayden de Groot, Yr 9, for a beautiful painting of a beach scene.

The evening was an affirmation of Damascus College students who have been given significant skills and talents and who have been required to make the most of their blessings. Congratulations to all award recipients on their contribution to the College and on their hard work and commitment to their education throughout 2019.



'2019 Special Awards' were awarded and the recipients are listed below:

Junior Leadership Award - **Mikayla Montgomery**

Senior Leadership Award - **Matthew Snibson**

Junior Performing Arts Award - **Elarin Johnson**

Senior Performing Arts Award - **Milly Frost**

Junior Social Justice Award - **Morgan McCann**

Senior Social Justice Award - **Maya Tolliday**

Jo Reilly Award - **Thomas Stevens**

Debating Award sponsored by Michaela Settle - **Nicholas Kattula**

Bill O'Loughlin English Endeavour Award - **Symantha Sawka**

Bill O'Loughlin English Endeavour Award - **Hugo Prehn**

Bill O'Loughlin English Endeavour Award - **Matthew Snibson**

Bill O'Loughlin English Endeavour Award - **Ruby Haeusler**

Australian Olympic Change-Maker Award - **Charlotte Ashley**

Sports Person of the Year - **Eliza Lepair**

Damascus College Academic Honours Award - **Laura Gibson**

Damascus College Academic Honours Award - **Ruby Haeusler**

Damascus College Academic Endeavour and Excellence Scholarship - **Symantha Sawka**

Damascus College Arts Endeavour and Excellence Scholarship - **Sofie Sawka**

Damascus College Sporting Endeavour and Excellence Scholarship - **Rory Ludeman**

Dorothy Irene-Ellis Thomas Scholarship - **Matthew Snibson**

Dorothy Irene-Ellis Thomas Scholarship - **Daisy Jessup**

Diocese of Ballarat Scholarship - **Maya Tolliday**

Sisters of Mercy Dorothy Griffin Scholarship - **Mia Lepair**

Sisters of Mercy Dorothy Griffin Scholarship - **Connor Montgomery**

Catherine King Community Shield - **Nicole Burness**





PASSIONATE ACADEMIC & TRAVEL EXPERT

ALUMNI STORY

Dr Margaret Deery nee Howley, Class of 1971, was inducted into the prestigious Association of Australian Convention Bureaux (AACB) Hall of Fame for 2019. Marg was presented with her award as part of the Destination Business Events Gala, held at the Crown Aviary on Friday 20 September 2019 in Melbourne.

The AACB Hall of Fame recognises individuals who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of the Australian convention bureaux and the business events industry. It seeks to provide a historical narrative of leaders who have grown and nurtured the industry to the present day. It is important that every industry recognises its trailblazers, and this acknowledgement truly reflects Margaret's dedication to the advancement of the business events sector within the travel industry.

Margaret has always worked hard, and her success began early. As a student at Sacred Heart and later St Martin's in the Pines, Margaret was proudly Head Prefect and Sport's Captain. She was invited to board at St Martin's in order to fulfil her duties to both day scholars and boarders. It was an experience that she still remembers fondly for the great friendships that were forged, as well as the time spent working to help the College achieve its aims.

Over the last 30 years, Margaret has taught and researched in tourism, hospitality and human resource management. Her research activities in hospitality initially focused on Human Resources issues, specifically in the area of employee turnover in the hotel industry.

Margaret has been a dedicated and passionate teacher at both the secondary and tertiary levels. Her experience within the tertiary sector focused not only on teaching but also on leadership and administrative roles. She was the Head of School and Acting Deputy

Dean at Victoria University. Margaret was Head of School at the University of Canberra, and at the University of Surrey, she was the leader for the Athena Scientific Women's Academic Network (SWAN) program for the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Margaret's expertise in tourism focuses on the social impacts of both tourism and events. She has led a large number of consultancy and research studies in this area, working with local, state and national authorities to examine the impact of tourism on the host residents of tourism destinations. The results from her research and consultancy in this field have been applied to a number of communities. Margaret's other tourism expertise is in business events. She was the project leader for the Australian National Business Events Study and the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)-funded project on A Framework to Evaluate the Global Meetings Industry.

Margaret has over 100 peer-reviewed publications and has written for academic and industry audiences. She is the co-editor-in-chief of the Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management and the regional editor for the International Journal of Event and Festival Management. She is on the editorial board of a number of other international journals. She has been the recipient of a large number of funding grants, including Australian Research Council (ARC) and industry-funded grants.

Margaret looks forward to continuing her work within the hospitality and travel industry while also making time to mentor both PhD scholars and early career academics.

Dr Margaret Deery nee Howley, Class of 1971



VICTORIAN CRICKET TEAM TO WEAR JOSH'S HELMET DESIGN

JOSHUA FRAWLEY

Past student, Joshua Frawley, Class of 2019, loves art and design and recently entered a competition to design a cricket helmet for the Victorian Cricket Team.

Josh's design was selected as the winning design, and was worn by the Victorian team during a Sheffield Shield test match on 19 March against Tasmania at the Junction Oval, St Kilda.

Jamie said he was on social media and saw the Masuri Helmet Design Challenge which was closing later that day.

"I saw the opportunity and got on to it straight away. I spent the next couple of hours developing my hand-drawn design before submitting it prior to the closing time later that day," he said.

Josh's design included everything he could think of at the time with objects that related to cricket which included cartoon drawings of flowers, cricket stumps, buildings etc.

As part of the winning prize, Jamie attended the game to present the Victorian Team with their helmets and received a signed cricket bat from all members of the team.

Josh wishes to thank everyone that has supported him to date, in particular his mum, dad and best friend Bonnie.

"I also want to extend a big thank you to my Visual Communications teacher at Damascus College, Anne Griffin, for helping me develop my visual design skills and getting me through VCE."

Josh is in his first year of a Bachelor of Communications at Federation University where he enjoys graphic design and visual communication. He dreams of one day working for Disney as a character designer.

“ I was over the moon when I was told I had won the competition. I have always been a cricket fan and to have my idols, like Aaron Finch, wearing my design is truly unbelievable. ”



Construction at Mt Clear site, 1966



Construction C1966



Taking shape 1966



Further works at Mt Clear site C1967

CONSTRUCTION ON MOUNT CLEAR SITE

BLAST FROM THE PAST

No one could have failed to notice the construction currently taking over part of our beautiful College and we look forward to the day we can begin to enjoy the exciting new building which will rise up in its place. Where there is progress, there will often be a preceding period of inconvenience and as a progressive school we have seen our share of construction. The 1965-67 period was where it all began for our Mount Clear site and we are lucky to have these beautiful photographs in our archives documenting the building process. The building came close to being destroyed before a student had even stepped foot in the school when fire swept through the area in January 1967; if not for the hard work of firefighters and the Sisters of Mercy (pictured together) history may have been very different.

Once the initial building process was complete, students were able to move out to St. Martin's in early 1967. They were so overjoyed at the prospect they wrote a song about it. The following is a selection of the lyrics put together by the excited students. We will let you be the judge as to their songwriting talents...

So Let the Sun Shine In

*Now the day has come at last, the Exodus is here
The Sisters are all leaving for the ranch out at Mount Clear
They're packing up refrigerators – one by one by one
And stacking up the mattresses to make it all ten tonne.*

*Chorus: And ere by one they'll go, Sisters in a row
Mattresses come flying up the stairs and on they go*

But let the sun shine in, face it with a grin,

Open up your heart and let the sun shine in.

*When ablution time is near we'll surely think of you
Of those who cannot reach the taps and those whose heads poke through*

*If you think without a bath you cannot seem to last
Just go and visit Martin and slip in as you go past.*

*Chorus: But let the sun shine in, face it with a grin
The bath they seem to lose and showers seem to win*

So let the sun shine in and face it with a grin

Open up your hearts and let the sun shine in

*Now the staff have learnt to drive they surely needn't fear
'Bout how they'll come to Ballarat or get back to Mount Clear*

*When the drivers have become proficient hands and feet
To meet all their requirements they will need a taxi fleet.*

*Chorus: So let the nuns drive by, sometimes they will fly
When there are some Maths to teach or maybe fish to fry*

They surely won't need us in the old green bus

But if the wagon has a breakdown then they'll call on us.



DAMASCUS CELEBRATES HISTORIC RESTORATION

DAMASCUS COLLEGE EVENT

Damascus College was thrilled to welcome students, staff, alumni and very special guests to the reopening of the Mud Brick House on the afternoon of Friday 22 November, 2019. The celebration took place at the Historic Mud Brick House which is nestled in the beautiful natural bushland of Damascus College.

The Mud Brick House was constructed by students of St Martin's in the Pines between 1982 and 1985 under the leadership of the Sisters of Mercy. The build was funded by a Federal Government grant of \$15,000 in 1981 as part of a program to support students making the transition from school to work or further study. The focus of the program was to introduce students to alternative styles of living that focussed on self-sufficiency and the development of resourcefulness.

More than 300 students and staff participated in the original building project and so, with a lot of hard work from Sr Mary Darcy and the extended St Martin's community, the Mud Brick House was completed using clay and topsoil from the site.

Over the years the Mud Brick House has been used for various activities, including the Drama and Art departments, the Energy Breakthrough Team and has most recently been a great space for the College's horticulture program. However, time and the elements had not been kind to the structure and it was in need of some attention. From 2017 to 2019, the house was refurbished by Damascus College students and staff as part of the Christian Personal Development Award (CPDA) and Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) programs. The reopening of the Mud Brick House is a testament to the College's concern for the earth which lies at the heart of social justice and mercy.

The event celebrated the original construction as well as the refurbishing work completed. The outside of the building was rendered, outside woodwork repainted and a new mantle fitted over the fireplace. The structure has also gone through a technology upgrade so that the space can be used as a fully functioning classroom.

Mr Tony Haintz, Assistant Principal of Catholic School Culture, addressed the crowd and recognised the significant amount of work and energy that had been shown by Damascus students over the past three years. For those students who participated, it was a proud acknowledgment of the work they had completed. Students William Smith and Bethany Boland recounted for the crowd their own personal experiences of working on the Mud Brick House and the joy and satisfaction it had given them. Mary Darcy recounted the journey she had gone through in the '80s; seeking funding, researching building methods and ultimately working with students and local craftsman to see the plans for the structure become the reality of the Mud Brick House.

The celebration wrapped up with Damascus Principal, Matthew Byrne, thanking teachers David Neate and Neale Thompson for the long hours they have contributed to working on the structure, many of it after hours or on weekends. He praised their commitment to their students and the building. He spoke about the significant role the House has in the history of the College, and that it has a special place in the hearts and minds of many current and past students and staff of St Martin's in the Pines and Damascus College.



MASTERPLAN BUILDING PROJECTS

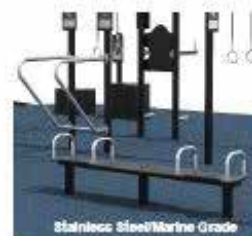
DAMASCUS COLLEGE

The current building project of the Examination Centre and Gathering Space is progressing well and remains on schedule for delivery during Term 3 school holidays. This project has been three years in the planning and will provide a multi-purpose facility for learning and teaching, particularly for large group presentations. The beautiful new structure will capture the beautiful vistas available from the College and will serve as the College's examination centre and provide a community hub.

Damascus College has partnered with regional builder Magellan Projects to build our new space and it is anticipated that the Term 4 exams will be held in this new state-of-the-art two-storey building.

We are also excited to advise that we have been successful in securing 2019/2020 Local Schools Community Funding through the Australian Federal Government. This funding will allow Damascus College to install outdoor fitness and gym equipment with multiple stations designed for students of all ages and abilities.

This equipment will be installed near the blue courts towards the back of Building 7, allowing for PE classes to utilise both facilities during class time, and will enable PE and sports staff to provide strength and resistance training for students. This funding was announced to the wider community on Friday 14 February by Federal Member for Ballarat, Catherine King MP.





2019/2020 ROWING SEASON REVIEW

DAMASCUS COLLEGE ROWING

In my first season of rowing with Damascus College, we had 60 students participate in the rowing program from Year 8 to Year 12. With the assistance of staff members Nicole Hexter, Hamish Walsh and Andy Robertson, I was given the task to lead the squad into a new era of rowing at Damascus.

Focusing on both personal and squad growth, we trained both on and off the water throughout Terms 3, 4 and 1 – all the while gradually building our strength and skill. A new method of training was introduced where the entire squad trained together on a Thursday morning at school; this was received very well – as was the bacon and egg rolls!

The goal of the Thursday morning sessions was to reinforce the bond within the rowing community and to build strength in numbers. This underpinned the entire season and assisted in building a group of rowers and coxes who knew how to work together for a common goal.

A highlight of the season was the club trivia night that was organised and run by our captains Charlotte Ashley and Bailey Wilson. The

night was a total success and aided in bonding our squad, coaches, teachers and parents together with an enjoyable team-building exercise.

Term 4 saw the start of our main competitive season, with all crews performing well and learning what it takes to be competitive in rowing. The junior rowers having the added challenge of learning to row from scratch! Some of the crews were also allowed to try rowing in quad sculls or single sculls at various times. This was a new challenge for many as it was difficult at first but became a welcome change and proved to be very popular.

After rowing camp ended, we reverted to our regular training schedule in the lead up to Head of the Lake, attending various regattas around Victoria and honing our skills to be able to perform to our best.

With several cancelled regattas, our opportunities to compete were slightly diminished but our spirit was not; we raced to our potential at every opportunity to outperform ourselves every time we hit the water. Our best performing crews were the Junior Boys 1st Crew,



Damascus College 2019/2020 Season Rowing Program

Intermediate Boys 1st Crew, Charlotte Ashley (single scull) and Angus Shillito (single scull).

The Junior and Intermediate Boys 1st crews both won their divisions at the Head of the Schoolboys Regatta with Charlotte and Angus both winning the single sculls events at the Wendouree Ballarat Regatta.

The week leading up to Head of the Lake was challenging for all. Our rowing community accepted the position we were in and banded together to support each other and perform to the best of our ability. All crews rowed their races very well and the support offered by the Damascus Cheer Squad was fantastic.

We need to recognise Phoenix College whose fantastic cheer squad at the Head of the Lake banded with our own to form a mega cheer squad supporting all crews equally!

A big thank you to all involved this past season. The Damascus College Rowing Program cannot run without the support of students,

parents, teachers and coaches. A special mention must go out to the Wendouree Ballarat Rowing Club and Alicia Ivory (Club Captain) who support the Damascus Rowing Program every season. Without them, we would not be able to row!

I am very excited to see where we can go next season while building on our growth and learning from the past. GO DAMASCUS!

Paul Blanchfield, Rowing Logistics and Technical Director

Damascus College Rowing Leadership and Coaching Staff – 2019/20

Paul Blanchfield

Rowing Logistics & Technical Director, Senior Girls Coach and Junior Girls Coach

Hamish Walsh

Rowing Administrator and Intermediate Boys Coach

Nicole Hexter

Sport Coordinator

Andy Robertson

Assistant Principal – Wellbeing

Charlotte Ashley and Bailey Wilson

Captain of Boats

Tamzin Perkins and Georgia O’Leary

Junior Girls Coaches

Michael Bennett and Rob Davis

Junior Boys Coaches

Lou Campana

Intermediate Girls Coach

Matthew Ashley

Senior Boys Coach





Damascus College Rowing Award Winners – 2019/20

Coach of the Year

Winner: **Matthew Ashley**

Senior Girls Award

Winner: **Charlotte Ashley**

Runner Up: **Olivia Reyntjes**

Senior Boys Award

Winner: **Angus Shillito**

Runner Up: **Lachie Reynolds**

Intermediate Girls Award

Winner: **Charli Walter**

Runner Up: **Georgia Peart**

Intermediate Boys Award

Winner: **Joshua Matheson**

Runner Up: **Tim Collins**

Junior Girls Award

Winner: **Poppy Boucher**

Runner Up: **Daisy Simpson-Kerr**

Junior Boys Award

Winner: **Xavier Byrne**

Runner Up: **Eli White**



Damascus College Rowing Parent Committee – 2019/20

Chair

Mary Vanderlinden

Secretary

Yas Lloyd

Treasurer

Tania McKay

General Members

Ben Gallagher

Danielle McCann

Puk Arber

Alison Boucher

Rana Stollery

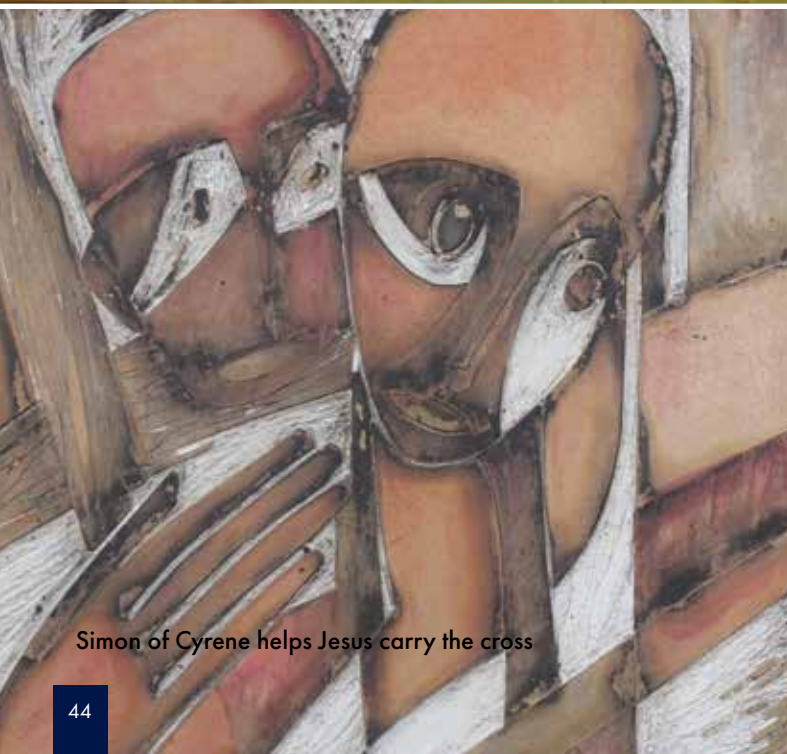




Olga Batros 1991



Olga Batros 1991



Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross



Olga and her father Roger



MARGARET MARY BATROS RSM

DAMASCUS SISTER OF MERCY

Olga Batros was born in Kousba, Lebanon, on 22 April 1909. Her family came to Australia in 1910, first settling in NSW. Olga was educated at Sacred Heart College Ballarat East and was received into the Victoria Street congregation as Sister Margaret Mary in 1931. In 1941, she gained her registration as a teacher and spent most of her teaching career teaching art at Sacred Heart, St. Martin's in the Pines and Aquinas College before moving on to Penhurst in 1976 as the parish Sister in Charge.

Sr Margaret was an accomplished artist and, in her retirement from teaching, began painting full-time after taking it up at age 70. She created several sets of Stations of the Cross which remain in churches to this day. In a 1992 newspaper interview, Sr Margaret explained that her first art studio was an old cloakroom and that the materials for her artwork came from whatever she could find around the convent, including old tins of household paint and Masonite boards. Her distinctive artwork consists of layers of materials built up over time, with each piece taking as long as three years to complete. Pieces of bitumen, old stockings, kalsomine - nothing was too unusual for her to experiment with!

In the Damascus College Mercy administration wing, we are privileged to have a beautiful set of Stations of the Cross created by Sr Margaret. In creating this set, her intention was to focus on the face of Jesus and to express a portrait of the suffering Christ. The stations were originally the prayer focus in the chapel of St Martin's in the Pines.

Sr Margaret was known as a free spirit and friend to all. She was full of fun and shared her joy with everyone she met. She passed away in

July 1996 and in her obituary was perfectly described as 'a source of artistic and spiritual inspiration to many'.

In 1995, Sr Margaret Mary Batros penned this account of her own journey to Sacred Heart College.

Monday 31st July, 1995

My parents, Roger and Saleemy, brought me across the ocean from our small village, Kousba, on Mt. Lebanon, and I arrived in Australia on April 24th 1910 having turned one year old. From Sydney then to Cootamundra, where we lived until I was six. In Cowra, my three brothers were born: the third one was delicate and we left him in his little grave in 1920. In 1921 we settled in Warrnambool where I attended St. Anne's Convent until Easter 1924. My eyes were pronounced too bad for further study, so I helped in our Boot Shop. I was very anxious to continue my education, and hearing about a lovely Convent in Ballarat, I gave Dad no peace until he consulted my specialist - who was in favour - Ballarat climate suitable for my condition and a splendid specialist in Ballarat. So via Connie Russo we were directed East instead of West. From 1925 until today, thank God, my journey has been with the Ballarat Mercies.

With thanks to the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Archives for their assistance providing us with material for this piece.



1999



2019

OUR 12 MONTH TOUR OF AUSTRALIA

ALUMNI STORY

We've all heard of taking a gap year after Year 12, but what about a family gap year? My name is Stephanie Davey nee Stewart, Class of 1999. In 2019, my family and I set off on a year-long lap of this amazing country we live in. We had always planned to travel as a family and decided that it was now or never!

In 2019, my family and I set off on a lap of Australia, living full time and travelling in our caravan for more than 12 months.

Were we crazy for taking our three boys (aged 7, 9 and 11) out of school, moving the family into a caravan and heading off to travel Australia? Possibly!!! But with almost a year of full-time living in a caravan behind us, we are so glad we took the leap of faith and so are our boys.

During our time on the road, we travelled Australia in a clockwise direction, covering over 40,000km, with 150 stops, visiting every state and territory, making it to the tip of Australia, exploring five islands, going for days in the outback without seeing another person, climbing mountains, swimming with whale sharks and turtles...and learning more than we even realise.

Our family is closer, we are far more knowledgeable about the geography and history of Australia and we have gained valuable life skills all round.

Among our highlights, were staying with an Aboriginal family on Tiwi Island, camping at Sydney Harbour, completing the Old Telegraph Track at Cape York (4WD with some serious obstacles!), trekking

through the gorges and taking a dip in the freshwater swimming holes at Karijini National Park. Spending days swimming in the many freshwater pools in far north Australia was one of our favourite experiences.

Travelling Australia was a very social experience. We were lucky enough to make many friends, some whom we spent months with on the road. Together, we explored new destinations every day and overcame challenges, including serious burns to the hand when our son fell into a fire pit in remote WA, dislocating and breaking his arm and requiring a hospital admission in Queensland. As one doctor told us, you don't get injuries from sitting at home on an iPad, and this is all part of the adventure.

One of our highlights was camping on and conquering the Old Telegraph Track at Cape York together with our new friends and travel buddies.

If you have ever considered a similar trip, our advice is, just do it! We documented our journey by video and blogs, all available on our website, www.todoaustralia.com. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions! We had no caravan or 4WD experience prior to leaving and learnt as we went. If we can do it, anyone can!

Stephanie Davey nee Stewart, Class of 1999





2019 ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY

DAMASCUS COLLEGE EVENT

On Friday 31 January 2020, the Damascus College community celebrated academic excellence at the annual Academic Assembly.

Senior students' academic excellence from 2019 was celebrated in front of all students, staff, Damascus College Board Directors and award recipient family members.

It was a wonderful occasion where the audience was entertained by a special rendition of 'Lady Madonna' by the Beatles. Performing on guitar, were Year 12 Music Performance Class students Seth Carter, Jack Rowland, Charles Smith, Daniel Sperber and Austin Wade.

Past student Dr Cathy Vaughan (Class of 1989) was the guest speaker for the event. Dr Vaughan spoke about her initial career decisions at high school and how these changed to get her where she is today. She went on to reflect on the instrumental people that guided her, remembering Tony Purcell fondly, a teacher who had been a mentor to her in Years 11 and 12, challenging her to do and think more. Her speech also included the idea of 'grit'; in particular her determination and persistence in continuing her studies from high school to gaining her PhD. She also shared with the audience how she has overcome challenges and worked with leaders in relation to her advocacy work in woman and family violence. Cathy explained to our students that in order to reach their goals students not only need to be steadfast in their thinking and motivation but also not afraid to take on challenges; that in order to achieve this, it is crucial for them to take up as many opportunities and supports that are presented to them.

Awards presented at the Assembly included:

2019 VCE Unit 3 & 4, Study Score of 40 plus Award:

Luka Spoljaric	Studio Arts	38.78
Imogen Brown *	Media	39.95
Imogen Brown *	Legal Studies	42.78
Matthew Snibson *	Legal Studies	47.14
Matthew Snibson *	History: Revolutions	41.33
Matthew Snibson *	Literature	42.42
Imogen Brown *	Literature	41.46
Imogen Brown *	English	47.03
Finn Clonan	English	41.44
Milly Frost	English	40.3
Tabitha Byron	French	44.53
Jordan Hill	Psychology	41.37
Matthew Snibson *	Psychology	40.25
Grace Young-Harvey	Psychology	50
Daisy Jessup	Food Studies	34.93
Kristyl Seiler	Food Studies	34.93
Tiahna Brown	Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)	36.48
Nicholas Kattula	Maths: Further Mathematics	39.14
Mia Lepair	Maths: Further Mathematics	44.96
Patrick O'Beirne	Maths: Further Mathematics	41.42
Laura Gibson	Health and Human Development	39.6



2019 VCE Baccalaureate Award:

Tabitha Byron
Ethan Handley



2019 VET & VCAL Achievement Award:

Bethany Boland
Tiahna Brown
Jorja Kennedy

Westvic Staffing Solutions VET Excellence Award:

Ellie Sbardella

Academic Honours:

Laura Gibson
Ruby Haeusler

90+ ATARs in 2019:

Matthew Snibson 96.9
Imogen Brown 96.95

2019 Damascus College Dux:

Imogen Brown 96.95





Dr Cathy Vaughan



Judy Brewer

2019 SHINING LIGHT AWARD

INSPIRING ALUMNI

The Shining Light Award is bestowed upon two alumni biennially, every two years to recognise past students or staff who have contributed significantly through their chosen field to Damascus College and our global community and who will be an inspiration to current and future students.

The inaugural inductees are Dr Cathy Vaughan and Judy Brewer, Order of Australia.

Dr Cathy Vaughan, Class of 1989, received her Bachelor of Physiotherapy from La Trobe University in 1993, her Masters of Public Health from Monash University in 2000 and achieved her PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2011.

In addition, Cathy was awarded the Research Studentship from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2005, was the recipient of the John Monash Scholarship in 2005 and won the Overseas Research Student Award from the Higher Education Funding Council for England in 2006. Cathy was the winner of the Vice Chancellor's Staff Engagement Excellence Award at the University of Melbourne in 2014, received the Post-Doctoral Award from the Melbourne Social Equity Institute in 2015 and the Vanguard Fellowship from the University of Birmingham in 2018.

A short film that shows why Dr Cathy Vaughan is an inspiration can be viewed via the Damascus College website at <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/past-students-shining-light-award>

Judy from the Class of 1979 received her award for her Service to the Global Community.

Judy has been Chair of the Autism CRC since its inception in 2013. She is a nationally recognised speaker and writer on issues relating to neurodiverse families. With two adult sons, one of whom is autistic, Judy has been actively involved in many autism and carer organisations and is a life member of Autism Spectrum Australia, convenor of the Autism Future Leaders program and founder of Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia.

In 2013, Judy was a recipient of the Asia Pacific Autism Award and, in 2016, was named Officer of the Order of Australia for her service to people with a disability. In 2017, she became Pro-Chancellor of Charles Sturt University.

Judy has held various appointments on Federal and State Government Committees, including as Chair of the National Family Carers Voice, panel member for the 2004 Review of the Disability Carer Allowance, the 2005 Ministerial Advisory Group on the reforms to Disability Trusts, the Victorian Government Autism State Plan Working Party 2007/08 and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) Advisory Committee for the Positive Partnerships program.

Judy's motto of 'Bloom where you are planted' comes to life when you look at what she has been involved with to help others in her community.

Judy has made a difference in so many areas and she has led the way for so many without a voice. She has indeed shone the light of Christ.



connecting@Damascus

2021 SHINING LIGHT AWARD

INSPIRING ALUMNI

The Shining Light Award will recognise alumni who have contributed significantly through their chosen field to Damascus College and our global community, and who will be an inspiration to current and future students.

Damascus College and its foundation colleges, Sacred Heart, St Paul's and St Martin's in the Pines, value the contributions and achievements of all its alumni.

The Shining Light Award for Inspiring Alumni was launched, to be bestowed upon two alumni biennially, to recognise alumni who have contributed significantly, through their chosen field, to Damascus College and our global community, and who will be an inspiration to current and future students.

Nominations are now open and will close Wednesday 31 March 2021, at 4pm.

Anyone can submit a nominee for The Shining Light Award, based on the following criteria:

1. The recipients must be Damascus College Alumni, living or dead. (Please note that alumni at Damascus College are defined as past students and staff of Damascus College and its foundation colleges, Sacred Heart, St Paul's and St Martin's in the Pines).

2. The recipients must be successful in their chosen fields, as demonstrated by positions held, achievements, qualifications, awards/prizes/scholarships and length of service.
3. The work/actions of the recipients' chosen fields support and uphold social justice and Christian values.
4. The alumni have made contributions or supported the College and global community in ways that are inspirational or motivational.
5. Categories for selection are:
 - Service to the global community
 - Science/Technology
 - Arts
 - Sport
 - Business
 - Academia
 - Faith Development

Anyone can submit a nomination for the award.

Nominations must be submitted on the nomination form located on the Damascus College website, under Past Students, and include supporting documentation and relevant evidence. The nomination form may be completed online and submitted electronically or printed and mailed in.



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN



2004



2020

THEN AND NOW

ANN BAWDEN NEE KANE

I think I always wanted to teach but when I was at school I just didn't realise it. It wasn't until I had my own children that the passion for learning and teaching took hold.

When my children started school, I realized that there were great teachers and there were teachers who maybe should have chosen a different path in life. It was obvious, the great teachers brought the best out in the children and the 'not so great' tended to impede their desire to learn. Observing this, inspired me to get in there and see if I could empower students with a love to learn.

I was a 'stay-at-home' mum and once all of my six children started school I found myself volunteering for all sorts of parental engagement activities at school: reading programs, camps, generally helping in the classrooms and ultimately 'President of the Parents and Friends' (as if I didn't have enough to do with six children of my own). It was from these experiences, and being involved with my own children's learning, that I decided I would love to give teaching a go!

I applied for a position as a mature-age student at ACU, Ballarat and after a nerve-wracking interview, was accepted. I had to attend a few weekends of pre-enrolment tests at Monash University to

show I was literate and numerate enough to cope with the studies ahead. I devoured every class at University and could not believe just how much I loved learning. As a primary school student and then as a teenager, I was a reluctant learner. This time around, though, I devoured everything. The lecturers I had during my time at ACU reinforced to me that this was my calling in life.

As all of my children were now at school, I found managing a home and staying on top of both theirs and my studies meant that I completed my own studies on a part time basis.

In 1998, after five years at ACU, I was fortunate enough to finish my teaching rounds at both Loreto College and finally Damascus College. During my round at Damascus, I joined one of the strategic planning groups which was to establish an 'Awards and Achievements' night for the school. I continued in this role for many years.

At the end of 1998, the then principal, Mr. John Shannon, rang me to offer me a position of replacement teacher at the junior campus for 1999. After the first term, of teaching Humanities, English and RE, to Years 7, 8 and 9 students, I was offered more work and then finally



Ann with 8 of her 11 grandchildren

was to replace a retired teacher Mr. Brendan Dwyer as a full time, permanent teacher.

I travelled across campuses from Victoria Street to Mt. Clear campus to teach Year 10 English, Humanities and Industry and Enterprise. This was always a challenge. Firstly to get a park and then to get to class on time!

In those early years of teaching, I would often exclaim how amazing it was that I was getting a pay packet for doing something that I absolutely loved.

I must admit I entered my role as a teacher with very little 'self-belief' but was so fortunate to be surrounded by an amazing, supportive group of work friends. The women were the ones who stood out the most in those days! The likes of Kathy Wood, Kath Milne, Sister Luke and Sister Marie Davey. All passionate, inspiring teachers in their own right.

I experienced many challenges but always felt supported during this time. I was encouraged to put my hand up for leadership positions which I never felt I truly was capable of but because of the belief from my peers. I was the Society and Environment (SOSE) leader first and then filled in for House Leading positions as a replacement.

My position as Xavier House Leader was one position I absolutely saw as the next calling in my teaching life. I was, and still am, passionate about wellbeing, resilience, justice and empowerment

and this role enabled me to develop these, in myself and in many of the students who I worked with. In 2016, I completed my Masters of Education, Student Wellbeing, at Melbourne University.

I am still teaching Humanities and RE today and have been given another challenge with teaching VCE Unit 3 / 4, Australian History. I had taught this about 12 years ago but the course has changed and the expectations seem more daunting than ever.

Teaching across a range of year levels enables me to establish where the gaps are and to try to address them in my teaching. One thing I have noticed in the last few years is the way many of the students say "thank you" as they leave the classroom. Once, this was a rarity, but now it is more common practice. This always makes you feel much more appreciated in the work you try to achieve.

As my position at the school is starting to change and I am beginning to think about the next phase in my life, I am forever grateful to those people, who have been an inspiration to many students and me. They were so supportive, nurturing and committed to ensuring our school motto was truly at the forefront of how we dealt with everyone involved in our community. I will always see myself as a teacher and, whether it is in the classroom or engaging with my own children or grandchildren (I have 11 grandchildren now!), I love it and I am so grateful for the opportunity of being part of this profession.

Ann Bawden nee Kane, Damascus teacher



David and Maureen at Mount Etna, Italy

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

ALUMNI STORY

David Santamaria arrived in Ballarat in 1988 to take up the role of Year 7 coordinator at St Paul's Technical College. It meant that he was challenged to fill many duties, teaching various classes and ensuring that the newly enrolled cohort of boys were actively involved in their education. David's background was in music, so he used those skills to develop a music program that would engage students in learning, he worked with a great group of teachers who banded together to reinvigorate the school camps, and even made the trek down Victoria Street with his class from St Paul's to Sacred Heart to make pancakes for the occasional Home Economics class.

David remembers fondly the comradery that he enjoyed with some of the other teachers and parents of St Paul's on camping trips to the mountains where they made igloos in the snow and had adventures in the Grampians. Those were times outside of the classroom that sustained him as a teacher and a father. His son Luke remembers those trips as well and now wants to share them with his own children.

As the amalgamation of St Paul's, Sacred Heart and St Martins began to form in 1993 and 94 David remembered that his initial reaction was to take stock of the great curriculum that had been developed and trepidation that it might be interrupted with the merger. Recognising that it was moving forward, David focused on the positives that the joining of the schools would bring. He found as both a teacher and later as a parent of four Damascus students that a coeducational learning space offered lots of benefits.

After a long battle with kidney disease that became very serious in 2016 David was faced with end stage renal failure at the end of 2017. From March through the end of the year he and wife Maureen began investigating what options were available to him as well as going on some bucket list holidays. The solution that presented itself was to attempt a transplant from a living donor, in this case his wife.

A long investigation followed that included testing for both David and Maureen. To ensure that she was strong and compatible enough to provide one of her healthy kidney's to David. They received the good news on Christmas Eve. They were a match and results from tests were positive. Surgery was then scheduled for the 13th of February, or Valentine's Day Eve. 2 years down the track David still

sees his doctor every two months to make sure that everything is going well, but both he and Maureen are loving life and making the most of it.

David's online journal a "Valentine's Day Kidney gift - a personal journey with a new kidney" can be found at valentinekidney.wordpress.com It is a reminder for David of the incredible sacrifice that his wife made for him. He recalls being in Church on Good Friday and the sermon posing the question "what would you give up for love?" he knows Maureen's answer.

David's legacy at Damascus College continues in the form of the junior and senior Social Justice Awards that are presented each year at the Awards & Achievement Evening. The award includes a donation to the recipients chosen charity or special project. David set up the awards as he has always felt that the College was his spiritual home, and when his father died in 2011 he wanted to do something that would honour him and his commitment to his faith. David said his dad was a man of action, and if he saw a need he made an effort to do something about it. In setting up the Social Justice Award David wanted to acknowledge Damascus students who shared the same commitments as his late father.

David left teaching at Damascus College in 2010 but has kept very busy with various endeavours including his music education business. 170 schools Australia wide are using his music programs and David spends time in terms 2 and 3 traveling around the countryside visiting about 110 of them. He facilitates conversations and sharing of ideas to ensure that the programs stay fresh and relevant. He jokes that he is the "conduit for great ideas". He can still also be found in the classroom, teaching a sound production course at Mt Clear College. And if that wasn't enough he has taken on the role of liturgy convenor at St Alipius and he is investigating new opportunities for young people to become involved with the Church.

David Santamaria, Past staff member, St Paul's Technical College & Damascus College 1988 - 2010

WHERE ARE THEY NOW BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & IN MEMORY

ALUMNI NEWS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Adrienne Annear nee Moloney, a past student of Sacred Heart and St Martin's in the Pines, has been working on a collaborative project to write a book about the 'Quilt of Hope'. The 'Quilt of Hope' was created as a practical response to reach out to the mothers of victims. The intent was to develop a tangible outcome that could be used as a memorial in recognition of the victims, survivors and their families.

Past students **Michael Curie** and **Marie Yorston** spent most of January deployed as Australian Army Reservists as part of Operation Bushfire Assist. Marie is with the 4th Combat Service Support Battalion (4CSSB) based out of Ranger Barracks, Ballarat. Her civilian job is as a Family Violence Practitioner for Relationships Australia, Victoria. Marie worked as a driver and led a team of drivers in regional Victoria with the primary task of transporting Metropolitan Fire Brigade fire investigators into fire impacted areas of Gippsland to conduct property damage impact assessments.

Tabitha Byron, Class of 2019, was awarded a High Achiever's Scholarship to Federation University in Ballarat and looks forward to studying for her Bachelor of Biomedical Science degree. By staying in Ballarat, she hopes to focus on learning and to continue her journey in martial arts.

BIRTHS & MARRIAGES

Aleceia Smith, Class of 1990, was married to Ray Gason on 28th September 2019 in Split, Croatia.

Corrina Dichiera, former staff member and student from the class of 1995, and husband Patch Moore welcomed their daughter Wren Adelaide Moore on 14 February 2020 at St John of God, Ballarat.

Past students **Genna Miller nee Petrie**, Class of 2008, and **Matt Miller**, Class of 2008, welcomed baby boy Henley Miller on 7 June 2019.

Class of 2007 alumni **Chris Kennedy** and **Melissa Kennedy nee Doodt** have been blessed with twin girls, Hallie May and Eloise Daisy, on 1st September 2019. The twins are sisters to big brother Carter.

IN MEMORIAL

Kathleen Crange, a past student of Sacred Heart in the late 1960s, died on 1 October 2019. Kathleen came from Edenhope, was an accomplished pianist and loved playing other instruments.

Micelle Ann Niele, Class of 2014, sadly passed away in November 2019 from complications related to her cystic fibrosis.

A wonderful friend to the Ballarat Diocese, **Leopoldine (Poldi) Mimovich OAM**, died on Christmas morning 2019 in Mercy Place, East Melbourne, aged 99. Damascus College is blessed to have several pieces of artwork created by Poldi. The 'Madonna and Child' and 'Our Lady of Mercy' Icon in the Our Lady of Mercy Chapel. 'Jesus' in the Board Room and 'The Risen Christ' and 'The Sacred Heart'. We also have a 'St Martin de Porres' statue, which was bequeathed to the College by Sr. Emmanuel RSM.

Jerene Houston, class of 1972, passed away on 3 January 2019.

Leonie Clarke nee Brennan, class of 1972, died on 24 January 2020. A Funeral Mass was held at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, Cheltenham, on Friday, February 7 2020 at 1.00pm. Leonie was buried on Sunday, 9 February 2020 at the Donald Cemetery.

Past Sacred Heart student **Lorraine Hogan**, affectionately known as "Stubby", sadly passed away on 8 February 2020.

Rest In Peace **Beryl O'Gorman nee Wilson** who passed away on 20 February 2020. Beryl came from Mortlake. She was a Sister of Mercy for a time before choosing a different path. A student of Sacred Heart College in the 1950's.

Brian Perkins died in early March 2020. Brian was a former Business Manager of St Paul's Technical College.



Wren Adelaide Moore



Leonie Brennan Clarke



Aleceia Smith



Kathleen Cranage



Michael Curie and Marie Yorston

STAFF FAREWELLS & RETIREMENTS

DAMASCUS COLLEGE



Loretta Kaval

Loretta Kaval

Loretta retired at the end of the 2019 school year. Loretta has been a teacher for the past 42 years in Catholic and state schools. She has been Teacher Librarian at Sacred Heart College and then Damascus College for the past 25 years, serving many of those years as Head of Library Services. Loretta has been a passionate Librarian, Mathematics teacher, and she has proudly facilitated many Damascus College students to progress as public speakers and debaters. Loretta has been a strong voice for women and laypeople within our diocesan community, serving multiple terms on the Bishops Advisory council. I acknowledge and thank Loretta for her contribution over the past 25 years to this community.



Nancy Meiklejohn

Nancy Meiklejohn

Nancy Meiklejohn will also retire at the end of this year. Nancy Meiklejohn has been a teacher in Australia for the past 46 years, working across Catholic and state schools. Nancy has worked at all three secondary Colleges in Ballarat and did a year at St Martin's in 1985 before joining the newly amalgamated Damascus College in 1995. Nancy's past 25 years of service to this community has been characterised by her sense of fun and engagement with students and her absolute commitment to their best outcomes. She has taught across English, Drama, Humanities and RE and has always been respected by her students, who have appreciated the high levels of engagement in her classes. We celebrate Nancy's contribution and thank her for her service.



Noelene Ward

Noelene Ward

Noelene Ward also retired at the conclusion of 2019. Noelene is affectionately known as Bu Ward in recognition of her contribution to the Languages Learning area and her teaching of Indonesian. Noelene has taught Indonesian, Humanities, English and RE over her time at the College. Noelene first started in Catholic education 35 years ago and she has been a valued member of the Damascus team for the past 16 years. Her love of Indonesian has characterised her commitment to Damascus College and as a community we acknowledge and thank her for her service.

IN 2021 DAMASCUS COLLEGE IS
PROUDLY CELEBRATING

140 years

OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

*building on our shared
history since 1881*



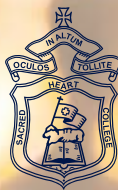
1881

Sacred Heart
College



1948

St Pauls
Technical College



1967

St Martin's
in the Pines



1995

Damascus
College

with a

GALA EVENT

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2021



The best start for a **bright future**
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