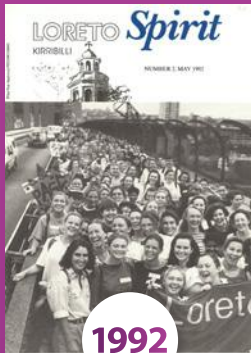




LORETO KIRRIBILLI

spirit

ISSUE 100 April 2026



1992



1997



2003



2005



2008

CELEBRATING 100 ISSUES OF SPIRIT MAGAZINE: Loreto Kirribilli's Spirit magazine is celebrating its 100th birthday. First published in December 1991, Spirit magazine has covered the life of the school, the careers of ex-students, the development of our campus, and captured the spirit of Loreto Kirribilli. See page 24 for an interview with former parent Fergus MacLagan, who brought his expertise from Time magazine to help launch the little magazine, which was born "to let everybody know what was going on". We hope you enjoy this 100th issue!

FRONT COVER: The final scene in the Loreto Kirribilli production of *Midnight: The Cinderella Musical*. See page 32. *Midnight: The Cinderella Musical*. Music and Lyrics by John Foreman and Anthony Costanzo with Additional Music and Lyrics by Kate Miller-Heidke. Book by Dean Murphy and Pip Mushin. Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).



LORETO KIRRIBILLI

Contributions for inclusion in *Spirit* should be sent to:
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85 Carabella Street, Kirribilli NSW 2061
Phone +61 2 9957 4722
communications@loreto.nsw.edu.au

SUSTAINABLE SPIRIT
As part of our drive to make our school more sustainable, we are no longer printing and mailing out *Spirit* magazine. However there will be a few copies available to be picked up from School Reception if desired.

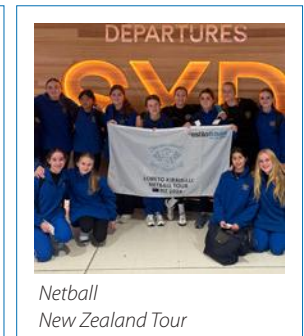
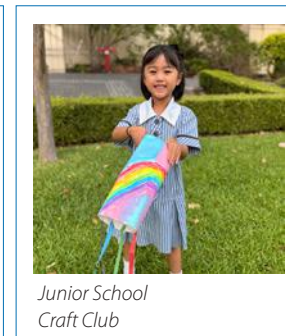
Our magazine will always be available to read online at loreto.nsw.edu.au/connect/community/spirit-magazine/

Please remember also that our social media platforms are a great way to keep in touch! We hope you enjoy this edition of *Spirit*.

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Follow us to stay up to date with the latest Loreto Kirribilli news



A Message from the Principal

DR NICOLE ARCHARD | BA DIPED, MA, MEDLEAD, MTHEOLST, PHD

FELICITY, GROWTH, AND THE ENDURING SPIRIT OF LORETO

There is something very special about a Loreto education that extends well beyond the classroom. Whilst academic learning is critical, it is often the experiences, relationships, and values that shape our girls - and indeed our alumnae - that have the most profound and lasting impact.

As we commenced the 2026 school year, I spoke to the girls about our Loreto value of Felicity. The Loreto Schools of Australia Mission Statement defines Felicity as “*an attitude of mind, a disposition of the heart which manifests itself in cheerfulness, good humour, joy, happiness, hope, optimism, friendliness, courtesy, positive thinking, inner peace, self-acceptance and courage*”. Importantly, Felicity is not simply about our own happiness, but about how we make others feel. It is expressed in the smallest of actions - a smile, a kind word, an invitation to belong - and in doing so, it strengthens both the individual and the community.

One of the most powerful ways we practise Felicity is through gratitude and in the way we build positive relationships. As a school, we place great emphasis on relationships grounded in trust, respect, and empathy. These are not skills that develop by chance, but through intentional teaching, modelling, and practice both at school and at home. In a world where words can so easily divide, we are called to use them instead to build connection, understanding, and peace. Sometimes the most important act of self-discipline is simply refraining from words that harm.

This focus on relationships sits at the heart of a Loreto education and extends across all aspects of school life. It is also what gives rise to the distinctive spirit that so many recognise in a Loreto girl. Recently, we announced

our first ever Open Day, not because we need to attract enrolments, but because we simply cannot meet the demand. Our tours are fully booked months in advance, and without formal advertising, our Open Day quickly reached over 750 registrations. This level of interest speaks not to our facilities, but to our people, our culture, and our spirit - something our alumnae know and understand deeply.

Central to this spirit is the courage to grow. Over the summer break, I challenged the girls to learn a new skill - and in a moment of ambition, I decided to learn the drums. What followed has been a humbling experience of moving from complete beginner to developing some very basic skills, guided (patiently!) by one of our students. It reminded me that learning is not about immediate success, but about setting small goals, persisting through challenge, and gradually improving over time.

This same process of growth is brought to life through experiences such as camps and retreats. Recently, I had the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Camp with our Year 9 students. Spending time in the outdoors provides an important opportunity to slow down, reflect, and reconnect. More importantly, it teaches our girls about themselves.

They learn that they can face challenge, overcome discomfort, and achieve things that they may not have thought possible. Whether it is navigating unfamiliar





terrain, working as part of a team, or managing their own thoughts and emotions in difficult moments, they begin to understand that they are stronger and more capable than they realise.

These lessons extend far beyond the campsite. They are the same lessons that apply to study, to work, to relationships, and to life - break things down into manageable steps, persist, regulate your thinking, and have the confidence to take on new challenges.

When we bring these elements together - Felicity, positive relationships, gratitude, the courage to learn, and the resilience developed through challenge - we see the true impact of a Loreto education. It is not only about what our girls achieve during their years at school, but about the women they become and the way in which they move through the world.

This is the enduring connection that binds our Loreto community across generations. It is seen in the spirit of our current students and in the lives and contributions of our alumnae. And it is why we continue to hold such strong belief in the education of girls.

These are the experiences that shape strong, confident, and capable young women - women who, as Mary Ward so powerfully stated, *"in time to come, will do much."*



Taronga Learning Partnership

DR NICOLE ARCHARD | BA DIPED, MA, MEDLEAD, MTHEOLST, PHD



I am delighted to share with you that Loreto Kirribilli has entered a formal Education Partnership with Taronga Conservation Society Australia. This partnership marks an important step in bringing our Strategic Vision to life, particularly our commitment to Environmental Stewardship, Social Justice and Community Engagement, and the development of ethical and courageous leadership. Through this collaboration, our students will be immersed in authentic, real-world learning experiences that inspire them to become informed and active future conservationists.

As an official Education Partner of Taronga Conservation Society Australia, Loreto Kirribilli students will have access to a wide range of curriculum-aligned and extra-

curricular opportunities. Through these experiences, our girls will deepen their understanding of biodiversity, environmental sustainability, and the complex local and global challenges facing our world. Importantly, they will also be encouraged to think critically, act ethically, and see themselves as capable of shaping solutions for the common good.

This partnership strongly aligns with the Loreto Kirribilli Education Framework, which places students at the centre of Learning, Wellbeing, Mission, and Professional Practice. It will nurture intellectual curiosity, critical and reflective thinking, connection across disciplines, and a deep sense of responsibility, hallmarks of a holistic education in the Mary Ward tradition.

St Joseph Upgrade

DR NICOLE ARCHARD | BA DIPED, MA, MEDLEAD, MTHEOLST, PHD



The year began with great excitement as we opened the doors to a newly-upgraded St Joseph Building, with fully-refurbished classrooms, a new Student Reception and Health Care Centre, and integrated lockers and breakout areas for students. The upgrade has transformed the old corridors and classrooms into larger, brighter spaces for learning. I am a firm believer in 'the positive impact of beautiful spaces on students wellbeing and learning. It was a joy to be on hand, along with parents, friends, and senior staff, to share the excitement of the girls as they made themselves at home in their new 'J Block'. Thank you to BVN Architecture, Baseline projects, Northrop, JHA and Cunneen, and we extend our gratitude to the Loreto Kirribilli Building Committee, led by Anthony Elias.



At the end of term, we invited the architects, engineers, builders, members of the P&F, and the Building Committee for an informal tour of the renovations, an opportunity to acknowledge the many people who contributed to the project, and celebrate the completion of this significant upgrade.



A Message from the Board Chair

KATE GILLINGHAM | SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

It is with a great sense of privilege and gratitude that I take up the position of Chair of the Loreto Kirribilli Board. For me, this role carries personal significance. I am a proud Loreto Kirribilli girl, as are my daughters, my mother, my sisters, my aunts and my nieces. My family's inter-generational connection with Loreto Kirribilli is not unique. Generational connections are many at Loreto, and for good reason. Loreto Kirribilli is special.



As I settle into my new role, I am continually reminded of the remarkable opportunities afforded to our students; the history, traditions and shared experiences that bind our community; and the Loreto values which shaped us at school and continue to do so today.

Felicity, our guiding value for 2026, is especially relevant at a time when it may seem that the world is shifting away from our Loreto values. Mary Ward believed that Felicity was more than happiness and cheerfulness but followed from an inner peace and spirituality. Having endured imprisonment and persecution, she understood Felicity, not as the absence of hardship but as the courage, resilience and grace to rise above it. She viewed joy as something to be found and

expressed in the ordinariness of everyday life - in friendship, in work and in community. She connected Felicity closely to generosity of spirit, expressed in kindness, warmth and care for others.

Significantly, Felicity is not passive. It requires action, generosity and relationships. Every day at Loreto Kirribilli we experience or witness Felicity in our students' friendships; the partnership between our parents and the school; the dedication and expertise of our teachers; the generosity of our many volunteers including our P&F Committee and the Loreto Ex-Students' Union; and the purposeful leadership of our Principal, Dr Nicole Archard, her Executive team and the Board - with special mention of our former Chair, Ms Sheila McGregor.

2026 is proving to be another big year. In May, Loreto Kirribilli will be opening its gates to the community for Open Day, an opportunity for all to see our Loreto spirit in action across the campus. In October, Loreto Kirribilli will host Loreto Federation. Since 1955, members of the Loreto community from all over Australia have gathered to reflect, reconnect and engage. Over one weekend, we will focus on leadership, purpose and the impact of Loreto women across generations. Everyone is welcome.

I am looking forward to what lies ahead. May 2026 be a year in which we all find and share Felicity in the ordinary, and in our endeavours to strive for the extraordinary.

Student Leadership



JUNIOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Congratulations to our Junior School Student Representative Council (SRC) for Semester One. The councillors are elected by their peers to act as advocates for the students in the Junior School. The SRC is the voice of the students, and meets with the Head of Junior School, Mrs Sharon Portlock, every fortnight to voice their views and give valuable feedback.



WAR ON WASTE

As a school community we produce about 60 tonnes, equivalent to 60,000kg, of waste per year, with only a small fraction being recycled. Senior and Junior Environment leaders, alongside some amazing volunteers, gathered in the Quad and sorted through just one day's worth of school waste and separated it into the correct streams so it could be properly diverted. We noticed a lot of food scraps still inside packaging, as well as paper and recyclable containers (like bottles and cans) ending up in general waste. Let's all work together to help reduce our waste!

BEATRIX ROSS, ISSY SEETO & LULU WARREN

Senior School JPICD Environment Leaders

CLAUDIA GRAY, ELLA MOORE, ELLE TAYLOR, LARA DIAMOND & CHLOE GORDON

Junior School Environmental Leaders & Year 6 SRC



COMMISSIONING OF LEADERS

At the commencement of Term 1 we commissioned our Year 6 Leaders for 2026. The Principal, Dr Archard, presented the School Captains, House Captains and Student Representatives with their badges. Congratulations to Captain, Sadie Lavin, and Vice Captain, Imogen Boyd, as they embark on their special task of leading the school in this year of Felicity.



SERGEANT SIRCELJ

Sergeant Camila Sircelj (Year 10) has been a part of the Australian Army Cadets, Unit 206 for the last three years. "Cadets is an amazing learning and leadership experience, but I've also found it's a great way to meet new people. We learn great skills, such as navigation, first aid, radio and communication, and survival techniques." For any girls thinking of joining Cadets or wanting more information, just ask Sergeant Sircelj!

Sharing our Faith



FELICITY LAUNCH

On the first day of the new term, our Student Leaders in the Senior and Junior Schools welcomed students and launched our Year of Felicity. Our foundress, Mary Ward, told her followers more than 400 years ago to remember there is "no surer way of being happy than in trying earnestly to make others so". The Student Executive launched their 'Felicity Film' at Senior School assembly, while the Junior School Captain and Vice-Captain introduced the 2026 mascots, Felicity and her friends the JOY Seekers. The Principal, Dr Nicole Archard, spoke to the students about how the smallest actions can bring joy to others.



HOUSE LITURGIES AND SUPPER

This year the Senior School has launched a House Liturgy and Supper. This gathering of prayer and celebration was the idea of the Student Leaders. Each House will have its own special gathering in the coming weeks and months.

"With great energy, Barry Captains Lucia and Juliette, alongside a group of other enthusiastic and generous students, proceeded to organise, coordinate and facilitate this beautiful community event, which saw more than 250 people gather in celebration of our beautiful House."

PAUL ACHMAR Barry House Patron

"This was a wonderful opportunity for families to share in our House spirit and enjoy supper after to meet and get to know each other."

ROB MAGNER Heaton House Patron



HOLY WEEK K-12

Senior and Junior School students and staff came together for a solemn and reflective Holy Week Liturgy, with readings, prayers, music and enactments following the journey of Jesus' last days before his crucifixion: Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Passion.



Sharing our Faith



FATHER DAUGHTER MASS

Our annual Father Daughter Mass and Morning Tea is a celebration for our girls and their fathers, grandfathers and father figures. Thank you to Fr Brett O'Neill SJ for celebrating Mass, and Michael Henry and his daughter Lucy for an inspiring address about the bonds between fathers and daughters. Afterwards, dads and daughters enjoyed a sausage sizzle prepared by the mums.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Students marked the first day of Lent with reflection, prayer and the distribution of ashes during our Ash Wednesday Liturgies. Our Student Leaders also launched Project Compassion for 2026, with the theme 'Unite Against Poverty'.

Social Justice

TARA EGGER | COORDINATOR OF FAITH, JUSTICE AND SOCIAL ACTION K-12

THE SCHOOL OF ST JUDE

Congratulations to Barry House Captains Lucia Biasotto and Juliette Bailey for their efforts in raising awareness of poverty around the world. They reached out to Gemma Sisia OAM, foundress of The School of St Jude in Arusha, Tanzania. In a recorded message for our students, Gemma spoke to the students about how she moved to Tanzania to build a school to educate the poorest of the poor. The school started with three students and 25 years later, there are three schools and thousands of young children have been given the gift of a free quality education. Today Gemma now sees her dream come to fruition with the next generation of doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, businessmen and women all shaping the future of Tanzania.

In Gemma's words, *"One person cannot do everything, but everyone can do something"*.

SHROVE TUESDAY

On Shrove Tuesday, the Barry House Student Leaders held the traditional pancake sale to raise funds for Project Compassion. This Lenten charity, run by Caritas Australia, helps transform lives - bringing clean water, education, healthcare and opportunities to communities facing poverty and injustice. At Assembly, Barry House Captains spoke about how organisations like Caritas, as well as individuals, can all do something to unite against poverty.



Social Justice



JUNIOR SCHOOL EASTER EGG DRIVE

Thank you to our Junior School families for donating so generously to our annual Easter Egg Drive. The Easter goodies will be delivered to people receiving Meals on Wheels in the local area as a special surprise with their Easter meal. Olga and Grahame from Meals on Wheels (Crows Nest) visited the Junior School to collect the donations and told the girls how much this gesture is appreciated, sharing a little bit of happiness with many isolated and lonely people in our community.



WARRINGAH YOUTH VOICES

Year 11 students Marie Bagala, Imogen Dobbs and Caroline Brown were excited to attend this year's Warringah Youth Voices, a youth-led civic engagement forum for Year 11 and Year 12 students, hosted by Zali Steggall OAM MP. The event was an opportunity for senior students to understand civic participation and democratic processes, and to share their perspectives on issues that matter to them and their communities.

IGNATIUS FORUM

Loreto Kirribilli Year 11 students joined their counterparts from St Ignatius' College, Riverview, St Aloysius' College and Loreto Normanhurst to have a conversation about the power of language, including cyber bullying and the laws around hate speech. The Ignatian Forum provides opportunities for students to meet and engage in meaningful discussion, participate in building reflective communities, and work together as a representative voice of youth to discuss issues and to develop possible solutions.

Companions in Learning



STEM DAY



Year 6 students joined their Companions in Learning from St Aloysius' College for a rich and engaging STEM Day. Working in small, mixed teams, students were challenged to create a 90-second persuasive film on the theme 'AI for Better', exploring how artificial intelligence can positively impact areas such as health, education, safety, farming and wildlife protection. Students planned their ideas through scripting and storyboarding, developed a clear call to action, and brought their concepts to life through filming and editing. The day culminated in a class 'watch party' where students proudly shared and celebrated their work.



YEAR 10 PASTORAL BBQ



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FORUM



HARMONY DAY



JUNIOR SCHOOL BOOK CLUB

Student Wellbeing K-12



YEAR 7 FIRST DAY

A glorious summer's day to welcomed our Year 7 students to the first day of their Senior School journey. Students met their Year 10 'Big Sisters', their Circle and Class teachers, and their House leaders, and had a tour around the school while parents gathered for a 'getting-to-know-you' morning tea.



KINDY FIRST DAY

There was plenty of excitement as our Kindergarten students stepped through the gates for their first day of school. They were welcomed by their Year 6 buddies, who made cards and little gifts to greet their new young friends. Afterwards, new parents enjoyed a social cup of tea provided by the P&F.



WAVES AND CONNECTIONS

'Waves and Connections' is a new Wellbeing program in the Junior School, where every Wednesday after lunch we meet up in our class groups, stage groups, House groups and even whole school gatherings to learn, share and connect with each other. In our Waves sessions, we are teaching the girls specific social and emotional skills to help them, at their developmental stage, navigate through challenges that they are experiencing. Then in Connections times, we celebrate belonging to the Junior School family, with fun cross-year group activities.



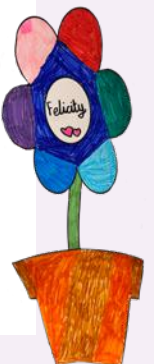
YEAR 12 COMMON ROOM

There was much excitement and enthusiasm among the Year 12 cohort when Principal Dr Archard officiated to cut the ribbon for the traditional grand opening of the Year 12 Common Room.



YEAR 5 CAMP

Our intrepid Year 5 campers enjoyed an action-packed overnight adventure at the Collaroy Centre. Off the grid, and outside their comfort zone, the students tackled abseiling, archery, team building and more.



Senior School Camps & Retreats

Loreto Kirribilli spirit was in full swing as students embarked on camps, retreats and pastoral days. Students in Years 7 and 8 enjoyed a wonderful break from routine at Stanwell Tops, participating in outdoor activities including abseiling, the giant swing, high ropes, go-kart racing, archery and more. Our Year 9 students took on a challenging Duke of Edinburgh camp, an experience that tested their endurance, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. The Year 10 Pastoral Days provided opportunities for connections and friendships to be fostered and deepened and a time to delve into servant leadership qualities to prepare the girls for their senior years. Years 11 and 12 students found time for renewal and reflection on their respective Retreats. We are so proud of the way the girls embraced the adventure, friendships and laughter of their week together. A very special thank you to all our wonderful Year Wellbeing Coordinators, Retreat Coordinators, and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinators for the time and effort they have put into organising these experiences for the girls.



YEARS 7 & 8 CAMPS



YEAR 10 PASTORAL DAYS

Senior School Camps & Retreats



YEAR 9 DUKE OF EDINBURGH



YEAR 11 RETREAT



YEAR 12 RETREAT

Class of 2025

MATHEW CLAUSEN | DIRECTOR OF TEACHING & LEARNING

It is my pleasure to share the outstanding HSC results from the Class of 2025. We are proud of these achievements, which reflect the girls' perseverance and hard work. These results would not be possible without the dedication and expertise of our exceptional teachers who have worked with the girls, assisting them to reach their full potential. Loreto Kirribilli was ranked 30th in The Sydney Morning Herald school list, making us the highest-ranked Catholic girls' school, second-highest Catholic school, and highest non-selective Catholic school in NSW. This is an outstanding achievement for a non-selective comprehensive school.

It is also with great pleasure that we announce Dux, Portia Paranchi, who achieved an ATAR of 99.75, and Proxime Accessit, Isabelle Bannan (School Captain), who achieved an ATAR of 99.65.

STATE SUBJECT PLACINGS

We congratulate the following students who achieved subject placings:

Portia Paranchi	2nd Studies of Religion II
Isabelle Bannan	3rd French Extension
Indiana Cook	4th Geography
Juliet McWilliam	15th English Standard
Portia Paranchi	17th Legal Studies

ATAR RESULTS

Loreto Kirribilli students achieved the following ATAR results:

99+ (4%, 6 students. Top 1% of the State)
98+ (13%, 18 students. Top 2% of the State)
97+ (16%, 22 students. Top 3% of the State)
95+ (24%, 33 students. Top 5% of the State)
90+ (51%, 69 students. Top 10% of the State)
80+ (75%, 102 students. Top 20% of the State)

MEDIAN ATAR
90.95



HSC ALL ROUNDERS

We congratulate the 12 students who placed on the NSW HSC All Rounders list with ten units or more in the Band 6 or E4 range.



Portia Paranchi



Isabelle Bannan



Abbie Blanks



Amelia Feeney



Elsie Hutton



Anouk Leyden



Olivia Madsen



Georgia Moran



Mabel Oxenham



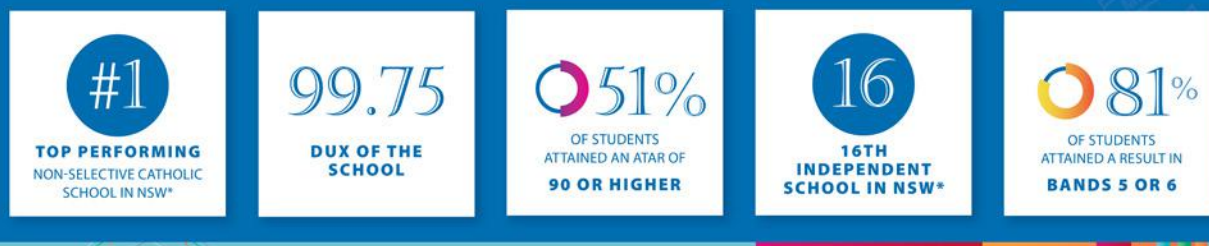
Genevieve
Price Pontifex



Amber Reid



Samantha Wong



NOMINATIONS

In recognition of courses with practical components, the following students were nominated and/or selected in their various fields:

ARTEXPRESS (Art) Nominations/ Selections

- Juliet Betar (selected for exhibition)
- Lucy Zaknic (selected for exhibition)

ENCORE (Music) Nominations

- Eloise Seeto
- Kaitlyn Siow
- Samantha Wong

OnSTAGE (Drama)

Individual Nominations

- Grace Butler
- Victoria Digges
- Louisa Flynn
- Maeve Foley-Jones
- Isabelle Howard
- Indiana O’Dea
- Anna Saliba
- Grace Woodward

SHAPE (Design and Technology) Nominations

- Annabel Peel

We celebrate every student, their personal best achievements, and their individual journey to success. Throughout the year, the girls have succeeded across many domains including sport, debating, public speaking, performing arts, and many other extra-curricular pursuits. We are proud of our girls!



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Juliet Betar, Class of 2025 Visual Arts student, whose print series, 'White Noise', is included in the Art Gallery of New South Wales' ARTEXPRESS 2026 exhibition. Juliet, her family and friends, along with Visual Arts Subject Coordinator Claire Harrison and teacher Manon Anderisen, were at the Gallery for the opening of ARTEXPRESS 2026.



Congratulations to Lucy Zaknic for selection in ARTEXPRESS for her multimedia artwork, *Traces*. Also Lucy's Design & Technology project, *Spora*, was selected as one of Australia's top nine STEM projects that will be representing Australia at the 2026 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair to be held in Phoenix, Arizona in May 2026, an amazing achievement.

Class of 2025 Celebration Assembly

MATHEW CLAUSEN | DIRECTOR OF TEACHING & LEARNING

We welcomed our Class of 2025 back to school to celebrate their outstanding HSC results and acknowledge everything they contributed to our school community. Our Dux of 2025, Portia Paranchi, who achieved an ATAR of 99.75, attended with her parents and addressed the assembled students, along with fellow ex-student Indiana O'Dea. The Principal, Dr Nicole Archard, congratulated the girls and commended them to always remember their Loreto values.



"Some of my fondest memories come from throwing myself into new experiences ... The beauty of a school environment is that no one will judge you for simply trying, and the culture of participation is like no other. Even if the House Debating speech was written a mere hour before, or my tendency to severely overestimate my ability to tread water almost always resulted in a near-drowning experience at the Swimming Carnival, the funny stories make every effort worth it.

"Whilst the 7.30am Water Ballet practices, on dry land, seem insanely unappealing, I implore you to seize every opportunity which Loreto throws at you, in both extra-curricular and learning. Because this is where the fun happens, where you can take a break from study, and where lifelong memories form!"

PORTIA PARANCHI ('25)



"There is no single 'right' way to do high school. It doesn't matter if you're a Water Polo girl, a Science girl, a Soccer girl, a Robotics girl, a Debating girl, or a Theatre girl - every passion belongs here.

"It's never too late to change direction, try something new, make new friends, or join a club. Don't let labels or expectations make you feel stuck. Be open to opportunities, trust the journey, and remember that you can succeed in whatever you choose."

INDIANA O'DEA ('25)

Learning is not easy

ROMALINA ROCCA | DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



Recently, I was chatting with my niece, who is in Year 1. I asked her the simple question: “How’s school going?” She sighed deeply and replied, “Learning is hard... and I have too much work to do.”

It struck me that even at six years old, she was already feeling the stretch of learning. As we talked, I told her something important: learning can be hard and still be fun. In fact, it is meant to stretch you. When your brain must think, try again, and work things out, that is when it is growing. What matters most is not whether everything feels easy, but the effort you put in when it feels challenging.

That conversation reflects something we have been discussing with families across K-12.

At our Parent Information Evenings, we outlined our approach to Effort Tracking, Goal Setting and Coaching, explaining why we are intentionally shifting the focus from “*What mark did I get?*” to “*What kind of learner am I becoming?*”

This approach is strongly grounded in the research of Professor Herbert Marsh and Associate Professor

We are shifting the focus from 'What mark did I get?' to 'What kind of learner am I becoming?'

Rhonda Craven. Their work explores a longstanding educational question: does achievement build confidence, or does confidence build achievement?

Marsh’s research demonstrates that the relationship is reciprocal. Academic self-concept and academic achievement are mutually reinforcing:

- When students experience success, their academic self-concept strengthens.
- When students believe they are capable learners, they are more likely to achieve at higher levels.

In other words, achievement builds belief, and belief builds achievement. Simply boosting general confidence does not improve academic outcomes. What matters is helping students develop a realistic, evidence-based belief in their ability to grow through effort, practice and feedback.

This is why we place such importance on diligence, focus and behaviour. When students track their effort, reflect on feedback

and measure progress against their own previous performance, they strengthen their academic self-concept. That strengthened belief then influences persistence, resilience and future achievement.

It also clarifies why a Grade Point Average (GPA) should be viewed as a monitoring tool, not a label. Academic identity is not fixed. It develops through cycles of effort, reflection and growth.

When I finished talking with my niece, she was not suddenly convinced that learning was easy. But she did smile and say, “*‘I’ll just try my best tomorrow.’*”

And perhaps that is the heart of it. Learning will stretch our girls. At times it will feel hard. But when they understand that effort matters, that growth is possible, and that challenge is part of becoming capable, they begin to see themselves not just as students chasing marks, but as learners who are growing stronger every day.

Junior School Learning



JUNIOR PARENTS LEARN THE CELLO

It was wonderful to see courageous parents of our Year 1 beginner cellists at a special cello workshop. This session introduced parents to the cello, learning more about the instrument, the curriculum, and how they can support their daughter as she begins her Year 1 Instrumental Program.



KINDERGARTEN'S OUTING

The Kindergarten students enjoyed a wonder-full excursion to the Botanical Gardens, inspired by Pamela Allen's much-loved story Alexander's Outing. With great excitement, the children followed Alexander's journey through the gardens, bringing the story to life through exploration and hands-on learning.



YEAR 2 TO THE PARLOUR

During their visit to the Loreto Kirribilli Archives, our Year 2 students discovered how artefacts help us understand the past, and give us clues about how life has changed and what has stayed the same. The students explored historical items including pen and ink, a nun's pocket watch, report cards and school uniforms, each offering a glimpse into life at Loreto Kirribilli in years gone by.

JUNIOR SCHOOL GATEWAY WORKSHOP

Loreto Kirribilli was delighted to host the Eureka Science and Investigations program, 'Into the Unknown', in partnership with G.A.T.E.WAYS. Students from the Junior School and surrounding schools spent the day learning alongside like-minded peers, thinking like scientists while engaging in complex tasks that encouraged inquiry, deep thinking, and exploration beyond the regular curriculum. Through hands-on workshops, they explored the brain and senses, investigated the respiratory and cardiovascular systems, and examined the biology of stress. It was a wonderful day of collaboration, curiosity, and scientific discovery.



Junior School Learning



MATHS DAY - ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A 6TH GRADER?

As part of International Maths Day, the Junior School hosted a lunchtime 'Are You Smarter Than a 6th Grader?' Quiz, with four of our Year 6 students taking on four of our smartest staff members! There was great excitement as the two teams were evenly scored until the final question, when the Junior girls were victorious, and the teachers graciously conceded.



GRANDPARENTS' AND GRANDFRIENDS' MORNING

We welcomed grandparents and grandfriends to the school for a special Liturgy, led by our students, where we came together to give thanks for the invaluable role our grandparents play in our lives, with prayers, songs and stories. Following the Liturgy, our grandparents and grandfriends had the opportunity to visit classrooms, where they were warmly welcomed by students eager to share their learning. Special thanks to Grandpa 'Dotty' McCarty who read our picture book with granddaughters Laila and Willow, and to our Year 6 parents for providing and serving morning tea.



YEAR 5 LITURGY & LEARNING

We welcomed Fr Matthew Meagher from the Parish of St Brendan and St Michael, Annandale and Stanmore, to celebrate Mass. Our Year 5 students led the Mass, with many parents in attendance, and afterwards parents visited the Year 5 classrooms so that the students could eagerly showcase some of their learning.



YEAR 6 HEAD TO CANBERRA

Our Year 6 students and their teachers enjoyed an action-packed three days trip in our nation's Capital, with a tour of Parliament House and Government House and an electoral education session where the students learnt more about our democracy. Thank you to our Federal Member for Warringah, Zali Steggall OAM, who spared the time to come and speak to the girls about being an elected representative. Somehow, we also managed to squeeze in a visit to the Australian War Memorial, the National Museum of Australia, the Royal Australian Mint, the Museum of Australian Democracy, the National Gallery, the AIS Sports Centre, and the Questacon Science Museum!

Senior School Learning



LIBRARY LOVERS

A tradition on Valentine's Day is to celebrate with Library Lovers' Day in the Senior Library. Students were invited to discover their next great read with 'Love at First Lines' - to fall in love with a book from its very first sentence - and share a note about why they love our Library. As one student noted,

"Dear Library, I love how you have lots of different types of books. The library at LK is magical!"



YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY

Our HSC Geography students recently participated in a two-day intensive collaboration with students and staff from St Ignatius' College, Riverview and Kinross Wolaroi (Orange), investigating their case studies of an Urban Place, Sydney Olympic Park and a Rural Place, Orange. Students engaged in a range of fieldwork methodologies and were privileged to hear from a range of guest speakers, including town planner and ex-student Madeleine Lloyd ('11), who discussed her work on the Sydney Olympic Park Master Plan 2050.



YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY

Recently, our Year 11 Geography students travelled to Narrabeen as part of their study of Earth's Natural Systems. During the excursion, students investigated evidence of land and water cover change along the coastal environment, collecting primary data that will support their upcoming assessment task. Students examined coastal processes, observed human impacts on the landscape, and practised a range of fieldwork skills including data collection, environmental observation and geographic analysis. It was a valuable opportunity for students to connect classroom learning with real-world environments and deepen their understanding of how natural systems change over time.

HEATHER ALLAN
Social Science Teacher



Senior School Learning



YEAR 11 VISUAL ARTS PERSPECTIVE

This term, our Year 11 Visual Arts students applied their understanding of two-point perspective in detailed drawings of our iconic Chapel tower. This exercise serves as valuable preparation for their *en plein air* landscape painting, part of the 'Impressions of Kirribilli' unit.



YEAR 8 EXCURSION BANTRY BAY

Year 8 Geography students ventured to Bantry Bay in Garigal National Park to complete fieldwork on the topic 'Landscapes and Landforms'. Students undertook a range of measurement and testing activities to gain an understanding of Bantry Bay's unique geographical features.

YEAR 8 HISTORY

Loreto Kirribilli Year 8 History students and teachers welcomed (Lord) Ben and (Lady) Diana from Rampant Entertainment who shared with us their love of all-things medieval during a wonderful performance which highlighted various aspects of Medieval European life, particularly that of warfare and weaponry - swords, shields, spears, helmets, armour - which the students absolutely loved.

There was such a collective joy of experiential learning in the GBC, especially when it came to trying on different period outfits and testing the range of swords, spears and shields Ben and Diana had brought with them. The chainmail armour and wooden stocks were particularly popular during the morning's dress-up session.

CHRISTOPHER TIDYMAN
History Coordinator



This incursion gave us all insight into how Medieval Europe operated, we learnt about clothing people wore, fighting techniques and historically accurate recounts of certain wars that occurred.

ALICE GOONREY
Year 8 History Student

100 Editions of Spirit

In December 1991, a small eight-page magazine with the masthead *Loreto Spirit* was printed in black and blue and distributed to all the parents and students of Loreto Kirribilli Senior and Junior schools. The magazine was launched ahead of the centenary of Loreto's arrival Sydney in 1882, and most particularly, the opening of the school's brand new Centenary buildings.

Behind this first edition of *Spirit* magazine (now celebrating its 100th edition), was parent, committee member and *Time* magazine executive Fergus MacLagan.

We tracked down Fergus and asked him what he remembered about that very first magazine. Fergus' daughter Amelia ('99) was enrolled in the school at the time.

"Sr Tony Matha, Sister Superior, was the instigator, and Sr Margaret Honner, who was Principal at the time. At some point, maybe it was Sister Tony who said, 'you know, we really do need a magazine that lets everybody know what's going on'.

"I was working for Time magazine on the advertising and marketing side of the business. Time was much, much bigger then than it is now, and in fact it was called the most important magazine in the world at one point.

"I suppose it's because I had this experience in publishing, Sr Tony said, 'Why don't you do something about it, Fergus?' That's how it started.



As we move into our second century in Sydney, we want to keep the Loreto Spirit alive and well. So this new venture in communication is aptly named. The Loreto Spirit means a whole range of things to a whole range of people - an atmosphere and what factors are critical to creating its continued vitality. An analysis of the current situation revealed a number of things from the past, coming from the school, community, parents and staff.

"We had a committee with some very good people. Catherine Eakin (Cahill '62) (Development Officer) was one. She and I worked on it together. The readership was to be everybody who has a good feeling about Loreto, particularly parents. As well as ex-students. The idea was to mention people and what they're up to, and how they're contributing to the success of the school.

"The readership was to be everybody who has a good feeling about Loreto Kirribilli."

"Looking back, it seems to be quite well done because we didn't have the wonderful computer activity and skills that we have today. A lot of it was cut and paste! I put it together, designed the front cover and the logo. We decided to call it Spirit. It just seemed such a perfect word for Loreto Kirribilli.

"It seemed to have been quite well received. People said, 'Oh, that's rather good!'"

That 'rather good' little magazine has flourished and is now celebrating its 100th edition! Thank you Fergus, another shining example of the great contribution Loreto Kirribilli parents have made and continue to make in the development of our great school.

Catherine Eakin remembers...

"It was with great excitement that we collaborated to produce the inaugural ex-student newsletter, which was initially just eight pages long. Today, it has evolved into a vibrant publication that beautifully showcases a wide range of school and Loreto community activities."

CATHERINE EAKIN (CAHILL '62)

Archives celebrates 40 years

TABATHA PATERSON | ARCHIVIST

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Archives at Loreto Kirribilli. The varied collections in the Archives are drawn from both the official records of the school and donations received from staff, students, and families. Four decades of archival work has gone into these collections and together they can be seen as the school's collective memory, bearing witness to the development of Loreto Kirribilli's unique identity over time.

THE STORY OF LK ARCHIVES

Professional archiving work at Loreto Kirribilli began in 1986, with the appointment by the then Principal, Sr Margaret Honner, of the school's first archivist, Marguerite Buddin. Prior to this, archiving would have been undertaken as individual efforts by Mothers Superior, Principals, administration staff and the Ex-students' Union. This consolidated collection of documents and photographs was passed on to the second school archivist, Ruth O'Hea, in 1987. When Sr Genevieve Davey took up the post in 1992, the collection was stored in a former book room in the St Joseph building. Under her guardianship, it outgrew this location and by 1996 the 'School Archives' had expanded to two rooms, which facilitated secure storage, made displays possible and encouraged visits by students. It was also during this time that an Archives Committee was formed to complete research and cataloguing tasks. In the following years, the collection continued to grow in both size and scope under the care of successive archivists Hannah Atkin, Julianne Kiely and Anna Brooks.

Loreto Kirribilli has an inspiring history spanning well over a century - from its beginnings in Randwick in 1892, to its home on the present site since 1908. The Archive collections ensure that its traditions and stories can be shared with the school community, both now and in the generations to come.



1992 STUDENT VOLUNTEERS



1993 ARCHIVE COMMITTEE

The school welcomes donations of memorabilia, particularly from the past 50 years. Although we have a comprehensive photographic collection, some gaps exist. If you have any photographs to donate or loan for scanning, please contact the School Archivist: tpaterson@loreto.nsw.edu.au
Access to the collection is available by appointment on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during term time.

Junior School Swimming Carnival



OPEN 50M FREESTYLE	
1st	Isabella Volpato
2nd	Mae Connor
3rd	Evie Arthur
JUNIOR CHAMPION	
1st	Lucy Mitchell
2nd	Chloe Liddell
3rd	Estelle Kennedy
SENIOR CHAMPION	
1st	Isabella Volpato
2nd	Mae Connor
3rd	Evie Arthur
SPIRIT AWARD	
1st	Heaton
CHAMPION HOUSE	
1st	Barry



Barry
Overall
Pointscore
winner



Senior School Swimming Carnival



OPEN 50M FREESTYLE	
1st	Eliza Damian 27.35s
2nd	Abby Damian
3rd	Amy Hill
JUNIOR POINTSCORE	
1st	Lucy Matthews
2nd	Ella Liu
3rd	Chloe Harvey
IMMEDIATE POINTSCORE	
1st	Abby Damian & Hannah Jamieson
3rd	Alessia Eerenstein
SENIOR POINTSCORE	
1st	Eliza Damian
2nd	Amy Hill
3rd	Saskia Davis
OVERALL POINTSCORE	
1st	Ward
SPIRIT AWARD	
1st	Barry
WATER BALLET	
1st	Barry

NEW RECORD



Barry Spirit Cup winner

Sport

Despite a season of heat, rain and humidity, our Sports crews and teams from across the Senior and Junior Schools put in 100% effort, in Rowing, Water Polo, Football, Volleyball, Tennis and Touch Football. Thank you to coaches, parents and fans who supported our teams from the sidelines.



HEAD OF THE RIVER

Congratulations to our mighty Loreto Kirribilli rowers, who rowed their hearts out at the 2026 NSW Schoolgirls' Head of the River. Our squad placed 3rd in overall points score, 3rd in Junior handicap point score and 3rd in overall total medals won. It was a wonderful day of celebration and demonstration of Loreto Kirribilli community spirit, with parents and students in full force on the banks, and a sea of blue and yellow cheering the girls down the course!



TILDESLEY SHIELD TENNIS

The Tildesley Shield Tennis team played some great matches in this prestigious competition, placing 10th overall out of 26 schools. Alex Bova (Year 9) played through to Round 4 in the singles, while three sets of doubles players also made it through to Round 4. Well done to players and coaches!



ELIZA DAMIAN - NEW RECORDS

Eliza Damian (Year 11) set two new records at CGSSA for the 50m Breaststroke and 200m Freestyle. Congratulations also to the all-age freestyle relay team who placed 1st.



JUNIOR MATILDA

Goalkeeper Annabelle Croll (Year 11) has been selected to represent Australia in the Junior Matildas at the U17 Women's Asian Cup in China.



EMERGING MATILDA

Star winger Alannah Toouli (Year 10) was selected for the NSW 16s Metro (Sky) in the Emerging Matildas Championships, competing in Melbourne during the school holidays.

Sport



CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to our Junior School athletes who were selected into the Cross Country team to compete in the IPSHA Cross Country Carnival at The Kings School.



VOLLEYBALL SILVER

In a fitting finale to the two-term Volleyball season, notable mention goes to LK4 who finished second place in their division, taking home the silver medals.



TOUCH FOOTBALL WINNERS

Congratulations to Touch Football LOK 10 Senior K team who won their division of Eastern Suburbs Saturday morning schoolgirls' competition.



JUNIOR WATER POLO

Our Junior Water Polo teams have had a great season in the IPSHA Saturday morning Water Polo competition, including our Year 5 team, new to the sport this year, who played extremely well, particularly in defence.



WATER POLO GRAND FINAL SILVER

Our mighty Year 12 students in Loreto 2, bolstered by two skilful Year 11s, had to settle for silver in the final seconds of their Grand Final vs Santa Sabina, in front of a large crowd of supporters who for most of the game could not keep to their seats!



BALMORAL SWIM FOR CANCER

Loreto Kirribilli entered two teams into the annual Balmoral Swim for Cancer event, raising money to support the Children's Cancer Institute. Our Junior Year 8 Loreto team won the Junior Girls School Relay Challenge, while our Junior Year 6 team swam incredibly well in the open water.

Extra-Curricular



YEARS 9 & 10 DA VINCI SCHOLARS

Our Year 9 and 10 Da Vinci scholars have been making the most of their time, dedicating themselves twice a week to the Da Vinci program - a space where curiosity meets challenge. Selection is based on academic merit across a range of disciplines, from Engineering and Mathematics to Science, English, Art, and Creative production. We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievements of these girls, whose creativity, critical thinking, and dedication have truly set them apart.

Year 10 Team Achievements

Amelie Elias (Team Captain), Olivia Massey, Amelie Harvey, Asher Phillips, Georgiana Holford, Chanelle Wilson, Olivia Tang, and Mackenzie Maher secured 1st place in English.

Year 9 Team Achievements

Holly Westaway (Team Captain), Carolyn Simpkins, Eloise Christian, Ruby Little, Lulu Chidgey, Juliet Khoury, Eloise Chambers, and Alicia Fleming secured 1st place in English, 1st place in Science, and 3rd overall.

Their hard work proves that with focus and passion, time invested yields extraordinary results. Congratulations to all our Da Vinci scholars, your time, talent, and tenacity are truly inspiring!

LARA STRATI

Gifted & Talented Teacher (7-12)



MOCK TRIAL TEAM

Our Mock Trial team competed in our first round of the competition against Epping Boys High School, and we are very excited to share that we won!

The evening was a great opportunity for everyone to put into practice what we've been working on over the past weeks. From opening statements to cross examinations and closing addresses, each member of the team played an important role in presenting a strong and cohesive case.

It was a very rewarding experience to see our hard work come together, and we are incredibly proud of the effort and teamwork shown by everyone involved. We look forward to building on our skills in the upcoming rounds and continuing to develop our skills as a team.

CAROLINE BROWN, ISABELLE CHEUNG, IMOGEN DOBBS, CELIA NIXON, CHLOE OLESNICKY, ISABELLE TRIPPE, INDIA WILLS & ARABELLA WRIGHT

Dance Night

JESSICA FARRELL | HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS (EXTRA-CURRICULAR)

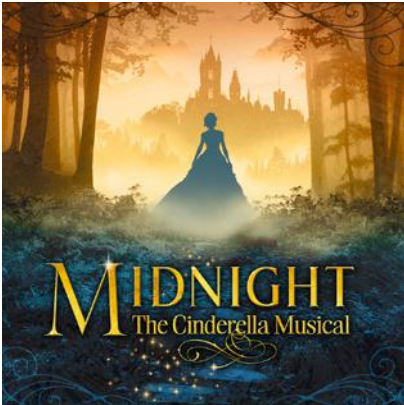
Our annual Dance Night was a wonderful celebration of Dance at Loreto Kirribilli. In a packed Centenary Hall, the audience of parents, families, students, and staff was entertained by each House and their wonderful routines, the talented soloists and duo performers, and the LK Modern and Jazz troupes. How lucky we are to have such talented dancers in our school, displaying such rich and diverse dance styles. Congratulations to Barry House for winning the Spirit Cup and Ward House for winning the Dance Shield. It was a truly spectacular night, and all of the dancers can be extremely proud of their performances.



Loreto Kirribilli Musical

JESSICA FARRELL | HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS (EXTRA-CURRICULAR)

Our magical show, *Midnight: The Cinderella Musical*, dazzled audiences with a fresh and contemporary retelling of a classic tale - one filled with heart, humour, courage, and the power of choosing your own destiny. Now our brilliant performers, stage managers, musicians, and crew must take a bow and return to normal life. Parents, students, families, staff and friends who gathered in the Auditorium for the final performance gave a standing ovation to complete the evening's entertainment. Congratulations all!



Midnight: The Cinderella Musical. Music and Lyrics by John Foreman and Anthony Costanzo with Additional Music and Lyrics by Kate Miller-Heidke. Book by Dean Murphy and Pip Mushin. Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).

Musicals are in the Air

This year's *Midnight: The Cinderella Musical* sparked memories among some of our ex-student staff members.



1976



"Our musical director was Miss Anne Power, an incredible teacher and musician who also taught me Music at school. The musicals were a highlight for me every year and provide so many happy memories!"

SALLY CASHMAN (O'KEEFE '85)

Song of Norway



1978



1979

Pink Champagne (based on Die Fledermaus)

Hello Dolly

"I was a very excited young fan of my older cousins and their friends during the 70s and start of the 80s who were in some of the spectacular productions at Loreto Kirribilli - full length, two act shows with interval, presented with live orchestra or band, as well as sets, costumes, dancing and all!" **JOSIE RYAN ('88)**



1977

1980

Viva Mexico!

First Impressions (Pride & Prejudice)



Parents & Friends

JACQUIE MURRAY & JORDAN KENNEDY | JOINT P&F PRESIDENTS

As we move further into the year, we would like to take a moment to thank our wonderful Loreto Kirribilli parent community for the incredible support shown so far. It has been a pleasure stepping into the role of Joint P&F Presidents and working alongside such a committed and generous group of parents, teachers and volunteers.



The term has already been filled with opportunities to connect, and it has been heartening to see so many families coming together across a range of P&F events. From the P&F Welcome Cocktail Party and Morning Coffees with Parents, to our Night of Connection and regular BBQs, these moments of connection are at the heart of what the P&F aims to foster a welcoming, inclusive and supportive community for our girls and their families.

We are also deeply grateful to our class parents and volunteers who continue to give their time so generously. Whether helping behind the scenes, supporting events, or contributing to fundraising initiatives, your efforts make a meaningful difference and are truly appreciated.

A key focus for the P&F this year is fundraising towards the resurfacing of the school's multi-purpose courts. This important project will make these facilities safer, more functional and more accessible for our students. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we have already made encouraging progress towards our fundraising target. We look forward to building on this momentum and

encourage families to continue supporting P&F events and initiatives throughout the remainder of the year.

Looking ahead, the coming months promise a full calendar of events that offer something for everyone from social gatherings to key fundraising occasions that directly support the school and our students. As activities ramp up, we warmly encourage parents to consider getting involved. Volunteering with the P&F is a wonderful way to meet other families, contribute to the life of the school and support initiatives that benefit our girls. Whether you can offer a little time, specific skills, or help at an event, every contribution is valued and welcomed.

As always, we value your feedback and ideas. The P&F is here to represent and support our community, and we welcome your suggestions as we continue to build on the strong foundations laid by those before us.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events and continuing to strengthen the wonderful Loreto Kirribilli community together.



WELCOME COCKTAIL PARTY



NEW PARENT DINNER



SAUSAGE SIZZLES

LK Connect

DEBBIE HENRY | DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



Recently we held another insightful and inspirational evening for our community of students, ex-students and parents - LK Connect, Women in Health & Life Sciences. This was generously hosted by FB Rice and Loreto parent, Connie Merlino, Partner at FB Rice. These successful networking industries could not be possible without the generosity of our corporate connections - thank you.

Georgie Drury ('94) entrepreneur, ex-student and Loreto parent, spearheaded the panel with aplomb, setting the tone for an engaging panel discussion. Our panel of ex-students, Dr. Carla Gillespie ('05), Emily King ('16) and Evelyn O'Carroll ('19) reinforced key messages around critical thinking, interpersonal skills, language articulation, and most importantly to 'back yourself'. The evening also revealed the array of fascinating career opportunities in the world of health and life sciences, from pharmaceuticals to gene therapy to medical devices.

These events provide inspiration and valuable insight into career possibilities for our current students and continue to open doors for mentoring and networking, especially for our young alumni. Please contact me if you wish to host future corporate events: development@loreto.nsw.edu.au

SAVE THE DATE | WOMEN IN FINANCE | Hosted by PwC on Wednesday 26 August

LK Connect - IWD Breakfast

DEBBIE HENRY | DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



It was an inspiring morning of networking, storytelling and friendship at our inaugural 2026 International Women's Day Breakfast. More than 300 students, staff, parents, past parents and ex-students joined us in Centenary Hall to hear from a panel of talented Loreto Kirribilli alumni. (See next page)

The panellists discussed their varied career paths, the theme of IWD, 'Balancing the Scales', what leadership looks like for women, and the enduring legacy of their Loreto education, characterised by courage, risk-taking and social justice.

Our Principal, Dr Nicole Archard, thanked the panellists and summed up the message of the morning for our young women: the importance of self-belief, and to lead with courage and confidence.

Thank you to all involved in organising and participating in this wonderful event - a real highlight of our school calendar!



International Women's Day Panel

At our inaugural 2026 International Women's Day Breakfast, we heard from an impressive panel of women who have taken their Loreto education and forged careers in fields as varied as gastrointestinal medicine and navy engineering. Thank you to these inspiring ex-students for sharing their stories!



**LCDR
CAROLINE
SKINNER**
(’09)

Lieutenant Commander Caroline Skinner is in charge of the Marine Engineering Department on HMAS Supply. She joined the Royal Australian Navy while studying a combined Engineering and Arts degree at ANU. Caroline has been deployed to the Indo-Pacific, including South-East Asia, the South West Pacific, and Hawaii.

"I lead a team of 50 - and yes, they have seen me cry!"



**BRIGITTE
HOWE**
(’00)

Second Officer B787 Brigitte Howe is a commercial pilot flying the Boeing 787 with Qantas on long-haul operations. Throughout her career, Brigitte has worked across multiple sectors of the industry, including as a flight instructor, charter pilot, and airline pilot.

"I was lying on the grass looking at the planes flying overhead, and I thought, 'What am I doing?'"



**SARAH
RENNIE**
(’88)

CEO Sarah Rennie leads the Capital Markets team for Jarden Australia and is one of the founding partners of Jarden's Australian business. In a career spanning more than 20 years, she has experience across the full spectrum of large and complex equity capital markets transactions.

"I started as a lawyer, but the strategy of the deal seemed much more exciting."



**PROFESSOR
JANE
ANDREWS**
(’81)

Professor Jane M. Andrews is a distinguished Australian healthcare leader with more than 25 years' experience transforming gastroenterology care. She co-developed the Crohn's Colitis Care digital platform, now supporting more than 16,000 patients across Australia and New Zealand.

"You can have it all, but you can't have it all at once."



**GRACE
BRENNAN**
(’01)

Grace Brennan lives on a sheep and cropping farm in Warren, NSW, with her husband Jack and their four children. In 2019 she founded #buyfromthebush, a groundbreaking social media campaign created to support rural communities facing drought.

"We were motivated at school by the good that we could do."



**HELEN
DALLEY**
(’74)

Our facilitator, Helen Dalley, is one of Australia's most accomplished television journalists, with more than three decades reporting and anchoring across the Nine Network and Sky News Australia. In 2019 she launched the podcast *Build It. They'll Come.*



Ex-Students' Union

CELIA SHELDON (ROBERTS '88) | PRESIDENT



The annual gatherings of Loreto alumni in Canberra took place in March, with the Young Loreto Drinks at The RUC, and the Canberra Chapter Reunion Lunch. Young ex-students and past pupils from Kirribilli, Normanhurst and Mandeville got together over barefoot bowls and pizza to make new friends, while generations of ex-students from all Loreto Schools across Australia and as far as Kenya, came together the next day for a wonderful reunion. Celebrating Mass and lunch, catching up with old friends and new, they also raised an amazing \$2000 for Mary Ward International. Thank you to Cynthia Kimlin (Kirribilli) and Merran Hunter (Normanhurst), who have run this event for the past three years and who now hand over the reins to a team from Mandeville Hall. To attend this event next year, contact loreto.canberra@gmail.com



IT'S OFFICIAL - LORETO ALUMNI TASMANIA HAS BEEN LAUNCHED!

All Loreto ex-students, past pupils and old scholars living in Tasmania are invited to lunch at the Queen Mary Club in Hobart, in August, for the inaugural meeting and to celebrate the 90th birthday of patroness Sr Deirdre Browne CJ. It will be a special occasion. Contact Jody Halmarick (Loreto Claremont) for further details: loretoalumni.tas@gmail.com

LORETO FEDERATION 2026 REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

The countdown is on! Loreto Federation is now only six months away. Our biennial opportunity for all Loreto alumni, family, friends and staff to come together - to share ideas, share stories, be inspired, and in 2026... to UNITE with open minds. See details overleaf. See you in October!

EX-STUDENTS' UNION KEY DATES

MOTHER DAUGHTER MASS

Sunday 3 May

EX-STUDENTS' CARD DAY

Wednesday 1 July

SPRING FAIR

Sunday 30 August

YEAR 12 EX-STUDENTS' UNION LUNCH

Wednesday 16 September

FEDERATION 2026

Friday 9 - Sunday 11 October

ANNUAL MASS & AGM

Sunday 22 November (TBC)



loretokirribilli_exstudents



Loreto Kirribilli Ex-Students Union

Federation 2026

CELIA SHELDON & EMMA SEWARD | CO-PRESIDENTS, LORETO FEDERATION COMMITTEE

Loreto Federation is the union of all six Loreto alumni associations across Australia. Federation weekend is our biennial opportunity to come together in person - to connect our ideas, share our stories, be inspired, and in 2026... to UNITE with open minds. We hope you can join us - Loreto ex-students, students, staff, parents, family and friends all welcome. Our event will include a range of activities and opportunities for connection for Loreto alumni of all ages and stages.



tickets

We have tried hard to keep costs to a minimum so that as many of you as possible can join us.

- The full program is \$400 and includes the cocktail party, two days of conference and the conference dinner.
- Equivalent ticket for Students/ Youth 25yrs & Under is \$200.
- Tickets may be purchased for the full program or for each item separately - i.e. single days, the cocktail party, the conference dinner.

Early bird discount for the first 50 full registrations. Cost \$360. Available until 30 June or until sold out.

program

Running from Friday 9 October to Sunday 11 October, the Federation program will include:

- Welcome cocktail party on Friday evening
- Friday night pub dinner for the younger ones
- A full day of sessions on Saturday
- A three-quarter day of sessions on Sunday
- Mass in the Chapel on Sunday morning
- High tea on Friday afternoon for interstate friends and family to reconnect
- Spirituality walks at the Art Gallery of NSW
- Formal dinner on Saturday evening
- A Loreto Federation choir - all invited to join! Revisit the joy of Music Festivals past!
- A collaborative artwork created over the weekend will then be offered for sale

For full program details, please visit loretofederation.com.au

PLATINUM SPONSORS

BRASV Group® | **MostynCopper**



Federation 2026

CELIA SHELDON & EMMA SEWARD | CO-PRESIDENTS, LORETO FEDERATION COMMITTEE

sponsor a student

Thank you to our generous sponsors who are helping to make this event possible. If you would like to, please consider sponsoring a student or young person to attend Federation. For \$200 you will enable a young person aged 25 years and under to attend the full conference. We will acknowledge your donation or your company's donation in the program.

Student/youth sponsorship places will be allocated in order of application, dependent on the number of sponsorships available. To provide or apply for a sponsorship to attend Federation, please visit loretofederation.com.au



accommodation

We are pleased to include Mary MacKillop Place as our primary and recommended accommodation venue for visitors, with a special rate available until 1st September. Visit <https://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/stay/> and quote 'Loreto Federation'.



speakers

We are proud to welcome an outstanding selection of over 30 speakers whose contributions span business, media, sport, the arts, advocacy and community leadership.



out and about in sydney

There is so much to see and do in Sydney. Suggested activities, dining options and interesting things to do will be emailed to you following your registration. All conference activities, apart from the Spirituality Walks at the Art Gallery NSW on Friday, are located in Kirribilli.

We look forward to a wonderful weekend with our Loreto friends from far and wide.

For any enquiries, please contact exstudentspresident@loreto.nsw.edu.au

Reunions

HELEN GRANT ('76)

PREP - GRADE 2, 1964-66

Who could have predicted that 17 people, kids who have not seen each other for 60 years would get on famously at a school reunion after such a long time. The Loreto Kindergarten Class of 1964 to 1966 reunion proved that some of the Loreto Kirribilli girls and Aloysius' boys have formed life-long friendships, and those who haven't seen each other in decades easily slipped into common conversation and shared memories.

Leonie Harle, from the Development Office at Loreto Kirribilli, was instrumental in getting the Loreto Gals and Guys together for the reunion, harnessing Brian Churchill's and Helen Grant's support. Leonie coordinated the event superbly and treated us like we were very special people. She took us on a tour of the Junior School and a visit to the Chapel where we made our First Holy Communion and also confessed our sins.

When we went to our old classroom in Grade 2, we recalled learning "reading in colour" (this was something the Government thought was a good idea so a slow letter A was pronounced as an 'aaayyy' and was a different colour to a quick letter A as in 'uh') until they realised that words in books were printed in black and white not in rainbow colours! We live and learn! Our other group recollection was that the government's Health Department insisted that every child drink a small bottle of milk each day to build strong bones. So, milk was delivered early morning to every school in Australia. The milk was left out in the hot sun in summer and by mid-morning, when we were forced to drink it, it was hot and sour! The smart kids ate butter menthols or a red frog to try and cover the taste, others spat it out or made-up excuses and one person licked the aluminium lid (not sure why). At our reunion, another confessed, "I was disobedient in not drinking it." I'm sure God was forgiving!

After our wonderful tour of Loreto, we wandered down the hill to the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron where we had a lovely lunch outside in their casual dining area and enjoyed reminiscing over old school days together whilst overlooking Sydney Harbour. What a fun day!



REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1976

Saturday 7 November 2026

Barbara Taylor bwtaylor600@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1986

Saturday 12 September 2026

Brigid Wright brigid.wright@bigpond.com

CLASS OF 1996

Saturday 16 May 2026

Jackie Kennard jackie@makinex.com.au

CLASS OF 2006

Saturday 10 October 2026

Liz Ross lizross@outlook.com

50 Year Reunion



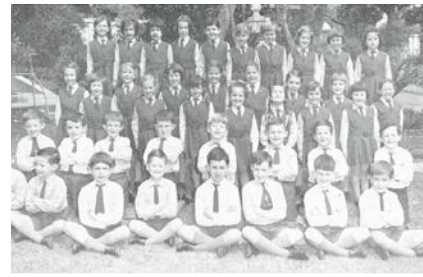
Preparatory

Back Row (L. to R.): M. Taylor, M. Lloyd, P. Dyer, P. Parmentier, N. Rydge, B. Churchill, J. Faassen, C. Grant.
 Third Row: A. M. Lind, B. Langley, M. Arkins, P. Bagot, G. Callachor, A. Fitzgerald, C. Harvey, P. Tartora, J. Powell.
 Second Row: M. Sinder, A. M. Quarrell, K. Dewar, G. Stevens, E. Collins, J. Morton, P. Vasey, A. Scoble.
 Front Row: K. McGuinness, N. Golden, A. Granger, A. Gunson, L. Arthur, M. Whelan, H. Grant, C. O'Halloran, C. Easy.
 Absent: J. McCann, B. O'Brien, L. Glynn, B. and S. Taillard, B. Reynolds.



GRADE I

Back Row: (left to right) Alexandra Gunson, Sophie Taillard, Benédicte Taillard, Anne Marie Quarrell, Michelle Sandler, Yves Heggie, Anna Scoble, Sharon Callachor, Alexandra Granger, Catherine O'Halloran.
 4th Row: Helen Grant, Debra Freund, Margaret Whelan, Camille Anderson, Pamela Vasey, Louise Arthur, Jacinta McCann, Meredith Arkins.
 3rd Row: Prudence Bagot, Annalisa Robinson, Julie Lowell, Anne Marie Lind, Kylie McGuinness, Katherine Harvey, Nicole Golden.
 2nd Row: Mark Taylor, Peter Walsh, Simon May, Dominic Beange, Guy Stevens, Paul Dyer, Brian Churchill, Charles Grant.
 Front Row: Norman Rydge, Christopher Wilkinson, Paul Parmentier, Justin Curtin, Kenneth Dewar, Edward Collins, Michael Connors, John Morton.
 Absent: John Faassen, Michael Lloyd, Meredith Lill, Christine McGee.



Sharing our Community



SHEILA MCGREGOR ('74) WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Congratulations to our previous Loreto Kirribilli Board Chair and ex-student Sheila McGregor ('74), who was named North Shore Woman of the Year for 2026 at the NSW Government's Women of the Year Awards. These awards celebrate women and girls whose determination, leadership and advocacy are shaping a stronger, more inclusive New South Wales.

Felicity Wilson, Member for North Shore in the NSW Parliament, was on hand to congratulate Sheila on her achievement. "Sheila's dedication to our local community, her generosity of spirit, and her tireless work supporting others make her a truly deserving recipient".



GIDGET FOUNDATION RECOGNISED

The founders of Gidget Foundation Australia, including Stephanie Hughes (Hannan '87), were named NSW Community Hero 2026 at the NSW Women of the Year Awards, recognition of their 24 years of dedication to improving perinatal mental health support. Founded by a group of friends in response to the devastation of losing a friend to post-natal depression, what began as a small fundraising lunch has grown into a national lifeline, supporting over 12,000 families.



GOLD MEDALLIST LUCY STEWART ('23)

Congratulations to ex-student and star gymnast Lucy Stewart ('23), who recently represented Australia in the DTB Pokal team Challenge held in Stuttgart, Germany; one of the premier events on the international gymnastics calendar. The Australian team delivered an outstanding result, finishing 3rd overall against some of the world's best. Individually, Lucy was exceptional, winning Gold and Bronze medals for the Beam and Floor finals respectively. A fantastic achievement, well done Lucy!



DR SARAH HILL ('95) AM

Congratulations to ex-student Dr Sarah Hill ('95), who was named a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day 2026 Honours List for her significant service to public administration, urban planning, and urban policy. Martin Hill AM, Sarah's father, also received a Member of the Order of Australia for services to business, sailing and community in the Australia Day Honours List in 2022. As a Loreto Kirribilli old boy (LK '64), this is a unique father and daughter achievement for the school!

Sharing our Community



ANNE GRAY (DE CARVALHO '84) MEETS THE POPE

From January 27-31, Rome hosted the annual meeting of the International Council of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN). This network of prayer has been entrusted to the Jesuits, but representing Asia Pacific were Anne and John Gray, the first lay Coordinators of the PWPN. They met Pope Leo XIV during a special audience at the Vatican as part of the gathering. In his address to the gathering, Pope Leo XIV warmly thanked members for their service and encouraged deeper formation through the spirituality of the Heart of Jesus through 'The Way of the Heart'.

Anne and John, since being appointed in 2020 to do this voluntary ministry, have led many spirituality days for various groups in Sydney. Anne has led art retreats for our ex-students, aptly named the 'Way of the HeART'. She uses her expertise with art to design a meditative prayer walk at the Art Gallery of NSW. She hopes to offer more of these walks at this year's Loreto Federation with a special focus on the spirituality of Mary Ward. Anne is also a previous Ex-Students' Union President, and John and Anne are parents of Camille Gray ('11).



TOP 100 FUTURE LEADERS

Congratulations Imogen Wills ('22) who was named in February's Australian Financial Review Top 100 Future Leaders for 2026, in the category 'Sustainability and Social Impact'. Imogen is currently studying Electrical Engineering (Honours) at the University of New South Wales with a Co-op Scholarship program, where she has combined her studies with industry experience across consulting and renewable energy.

Recently, she spent six months living and studying in Copenhagen on scholarship at the Technical University of Denmark, Europe's top-ranked technical university.

Imogen was thrilled with the recognition, saying, *"It has been both humbling and motivating. Through the process and at the awards night, I had the chance to meet incredibly thoughtful and driven individuals who are all committed to creating meaningful change, and it left me feeling excited about the role our generation can play in building a more sustainable and equitable future."*



YOUNG ADVERTISING AWARDS

At this year's B&T 30 Under 30 Awards, Sarah Findlay ('17) won the Agency Account Management category, while Louisa Andrews ('15) won the Media Planner/Buyer category. The B&T 30 Under 30 Awards celebrate emerging leaders across Australia's media, marketing and advertising industry. *"It was a really special moment to see two alumni from the same school recognised on the night!"*, commented Louisa.

Ex-Students' News

ENGAGEMENTS

Rose Jenkins ('12) to James Angove

Frankie Ryan ('18) to Lachie O'Reilly

Emily Raper ('14) to Adam Shearer

BIRTHS | GIRLS

Gracia to Alaine Vicencio de Gomez (Vicencio '07)

Primrose Norma Grace to Ingrid-Grace Howe ('03)

Ella Daisy to Hannah Scalone (Nicholson '13)

Penelope Grace to Camille Gray ('11)

Ava Renee to Lexie Racine ('15)

Elizabeth 'Elsie' Catherine to Alley Speed (Storey '15)

BIRTHS | BOYS

Alfonse James to Clementine Von Plomgren ('11)

DEATHS | EX-STUDENTS

Ann-Marie Bakewell ('57)

Elizabeth Welsh (Sheil '57)

Helene Lander (Pfafflin '52), grandmother of Emily Day (Shaw '01) and Kate McRae ('08), Victoria McRae ('11) and Eliza McRae ('13)

Anna Tarrant ('01)

Sheila Woods (Ryan '51)

Margot Hallaran (Edstein '71), sister of Alex Edstein ('78)

DEATHS | RELATIVES OF EX-STUDENTS

Anne Jackson, mother of Margot Firth (Jackson '74), Cathy Crozier (Jackson '77), Marylou Jackson ('79)

Michael Shehadie, husband of Jane Shehadie (Burke '82)

Keith Bainbridge, father of Belinda McGhie (Bainbridge '96) and Angela Elder (Bainbridge '98), and member of the inaugural Loreto School Council

DEATHS | SISTERS

Sr Claire Gardiner CJ (M Borromeo), teacher, Principal (Loreto Portland), pastoral carer and archivist (Loreto Normanhurst)

In loving memory

SISTER CLAIRE GARDINER (M BORROMEO)

It is with sadness that the CJ Sisters (Loreto) of Australia and South-East Asia announce the peaceful death of Sr Claire Gardiner (M. Borromeo) on Thursday 16 January.



Past pupils remember Sr Claire's lessons as filled with fun and laughter, so engaging that students scarcely realised how much they were learning. She had a gift for making each person feel special. Chemistry and Physics classes became hands-on adventures, threaded with stories that educated for life.

Born in Sandringham, Victoria, the fifth of six children, Claire was first educated by the Presentation Sisters in Sandringham and then at Holy Redeemer Central School in Ripponlea, before attending Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak. She entered the Institute in 1947, giving 79 years of her life to education and pastoral care.

Her teaching career took her to a number of Loreto schools including Portland, Coorparoo, Kirribilli, Ballarat and Normanhurst. Her leadership roles included Principal at Portland, Vice Principal at Dawson Street, and Principal and Superior in Broome. In 1983, she was part of the Generalate community in Rome, where she continued her studies.

Claire's motto was *"Where are you going, Lord?"* and when asked to describe her life she responded, *"There have been touches of God all the way along, mainly through people."*

May Claire now rest in eternal peace.

LORETO MINISTRIES

LORETO KIRRIBILLI |

discover our spirit

OPENDAY

Sunday
31 MAY