



spirit

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LORETO KIRRIBILLI



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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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Secret Garden



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Good Weekend
Feature



Senior School
Mother Daughter Mass



loretokirribilli



Loreto Kirribilli



LoretoKirribilliSchool

A Message from the Principal

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



This year we celebrate 150 years of Loreto education in Australia and the life of Mother Gonzaga Barry, and her nine companions, who brought Loreto education from Ireland to Australia in 1875.

The theme to celebrate this milestone, *Being faithful to grace*, is a phrase used by Mother Gonzaga Barry in response to being told she was to leave her home and family in Ireland and travel by ship to Australia, a treacherous journey taking several months. By being faithful to grace, Mother Gonzaga Barry meant being trusting of God and God's plan, especially in times of uncertainty.

In May, Loreto Kirribilli celebrated *150 Years of Being faithful to grace* by holding a special evening event where we were joined by more than 300 members (past or present) of our school community. This event comprised many exciting components including a travelling exhibition, a play and an archival display. The travelling exhibition showcased all Loreto schools in Australia through imposing three-metre-tall mannequins

dressed as religious women in a traditional habit, the skirts of the mannequins had been designed by each school to reflect the school's rich history and heritage. The play *Serious Business* was also performed. This play brought to life an imaginary conversation, set in the current context, between Gonzaga Barry and a Loreto student, the dialogue was cleverly crafted using the writings of Mother Gonzaga Barry in her letters to students as published annually in the school magazine *Eucalyptus Blossoms*. Finally, an archival display, which showcased the history of Loreto Kirribilli, allowed visitors to learn more about our school and to view its development over time.

On the next page is an extract from Mother Gonzaga Barry's diary. This extract describes her experience of leaving Ireland for Australia, for what she thought would be the last time. The sacrifice made by Mother Gonzaga Barry and her nine companions is clearly conveyed through her words. We are forever grateful that Mother Gonzaga Barry chose to be '*faithful to grace*'.



THURSDAY 20 MAY, 1875

Wakened from our last rest in dear Loretto, Rathfarnham half past three am, as Mass was to be said at 4am for the Missioners, by our good friend Father Hanly, who wished to give us Holy Communion before Mass that our departure might be hastened.

The last Mass in the Abbey was, it is said, the saddest and most lonely scene in the whole journey, the nine poor Emigrants in the large Church. The community had been desired not to rise at so early an hour and all affectionate adieux had to be said the evening before. Mothers M. Angela, Xaveria, Conception and a few of the sisters who had permission to rise, were with us, and although some tears were shed at the moment of parting with such dear loving hearts as they had always been to us, the courage and calm joy of the Missioners surprised even the men from the Convent, who drove the cabs. They said they could not understand the Sisters being so cheerful, seeing how they often seemed so sorry to leave for other Missions near home.

Many a tearful eye looked after the cabs as they drove down the avenue. The children were in the dormitory windows waving handkerchiefs. Whilst saying the Litany of our Blessed Mother, we lost sight of Loretto, probably for ever.

The skies and trees were weeping plentiful rain-drops. At Westland Row station, we were met by several friends and relatives of the sisters. Fathers Dalton and Kelly SJ and my brother John travelled down in the train with us to Kingstown and saw us on board the steamer. There we met S. M. Aloysius' sisters and brother, they had secured a nice little cabin for us and their kindness and attention during the passage shall ever merit a grateful remembrance.

The bell rang for departure, a hasty farewell at the cabin door, a blessing from the priests, and we went on deck to see the last glimpse of Erin, except S. M. Xaveria and myself.

FROM THE DIARIES OF MOTHER GONZAGA BARRY



Celebrating 150 Years of the Loreto Sisters in Australia



As part of the 150 years of Loreto in Australia exhibition, each Loreto school was invited to design a skirt to adorn the three-metre-tall mannequins dressed as religious sisters. The Loreto Kirribilli skirt was designed in collaboration with Visual Arts students and our graphic designer, Shelley Dixon (Wales '87). Seen as a whole, the skirt tells a layered story of our school, its history, and the wonderful legacy of our founder, Mother Gonzaga Barry.



1 In 1908, Reverend Mother Mary Gonzaga Barry ibvm was responsible for the establishment of a fledgling school for girls on Carabella Street in Kirribilli – and Loreto Kirribilli was born.

2 Kirribilli is so named for the First Nations word, 'kiarabilli', meaning 'good fishing spot.' This early colonial watercolour shows Eora women fishing from their bark 'nowie' canoes.

3 Rising up behind this harbour scene is the Wandana painting, created by Loreto Kirribilli students.

4 The copper-domed lantern tower of Loreto Kirribilli Chapel was completed in 1930 and was for many years the highest point on the Kirribilli peninsula, helpful to sailors as a landmark.

5 Stained-glass image of Mary our Mother, from the Chapel.

6 Mary Ward, surrounded by the purple foliage of the distinctive jacaranda trees that adorn our campus and the surrounding neighbourhood in Spring.

7 Recent aerial photograph of the Loreto Kirribilli campus, showing its glorious location on the shores of Sydney Harbour.

8 The name 'Loreto Convent', stamped on the school gates, is a reminder of the earliest days of the Loreto nuns in Sydney.

9 The red Mary Gonzaga Barry Rose, created in 2000 to mark the 125th anniversary of Loreto education in Australia.

10 The white Mary Ward Rose, cultivated to coincide with 2024 Federation.

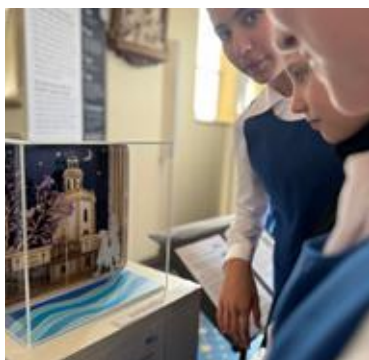
11 A selection of images of the life of the school, chosen by the students.



We kicked off our 150 Years of Loreto in Australia Celebration with a sunset gathering on Centenary Lawn of our wide and far-flung community, including our fabulous Sisters, Board members, ex-students, past teachers, parents, staff, and students.



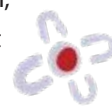
Serious Business was a multi-media theatrical production created by poet and violinist Brigid Coleridge, and starring four of our students, Genevieve, Adelaide, Mali and Sophie. The title refers to a quote from Mother Gonzaga Barry's letters, when she says that '..life is a serious business'.



The 'Being faithful to grace' exhibition was conceived and brought to life by Sr Sandra Perrett ibvm, who worked tirelessly on this project for more than two years to bring the sisters' story to life.



The Elamang Parlour hosted an exhibit of Loreto Kirribilli memorabilia from our own Archives collection, curated by our archivist Tabatha Paterson.



To discover more about this treasure trove of information about our pioneering sisters, visit loreto150.org.au

May Day

HELEN THOMAS | DIRECTOR OF MISSION K-12

We welcomed special guests, Board members, and ex-students to the school for May Day, a long-held Loreto Kirribilli tradition, where we honour Mary, Mother of God with a Procession of Flowers and whole school Liturgy. Students heard from Mrs Kim Nass about the work Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA) does in the poorest countries of the world, while Sr Sandra Perrett ibvm encouraged the girls to be open to possibilities. After the crowning of the statue of Mary by our youngest student, the Principal, Dr Nicole Archard, planted a eucalyptus tree in honour of Mother Gonzaga Barry.

Celebrations continued with student stalls and activities to raise much-needed funds for Mary Ward International. Thank you to our P&F, who wielded the tongs for a delicious May Day sausage sizzle. School spirit was well and truly on display as the day concluded with fun-filled concerts for Senior and Junior School students, featuring a special appearance from our home-grown pop group, Sweet Baby Darlings!



"At the end of the Liturgy, we all sang the song 'Send Us Out' and it was almost like a party. People clapped their hands, and all year levels showed so much energy and enthusiasm. Everyone was so happy." **ARABELLA AVERY, YEAR 5 GOLD**





Sharing our Faith



"As we honour our mothers, we also honour Mary, mother of God, our spiritual mother."

SHARON PORTLOCK
Head of Junior School

MOTHERS' DAY IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Mothers, grandmothers and mother figures filled the Hall for the Junior School Mothers' Day Liturgy, a celebration with songs, readings, and a moving reflection from ex-student Emma Grimes ('88) and daughter Anastasia. We also heard from Sr Sandra Perrett ibvm about the different meanings of 'mother' as she spoke of Mother Gonzaga Barry's letters to her 'dear children'. Afterwards, there was an informal visit to the Junior School classrooms where portraits of the mums were on display.

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION

Our K-12 community gathered to honour Anzac Day, a time to remember the service and sacrifice of Australian and New Zealand men and women in war and peacekeeping efforts. We were privileged to welcome two guest speakers: Captain Anne Bortolussi, mother of Madeleine (Year 12) and Charlotte (Year 9), and a Captain in the Australian Army Reserve; and Commander Ryan Post, father of Charlotte (Year 8) and a Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving Officer in the Royal Australian Navy.

Both speakers shared personal reflections and moving tributes, helping our students understand the significance of ANZAC Day. We were also honoured by a special musical performance from Leonardo, a Year 10 student at St Aloysius' College, who played *The Last Post*.



Sharing our Faith

HELEN THOMAS | DIRECTOR OF MISSION K-12

This year's Verity Immersion took place in the first week of the school holidays. Immersion is a learning experience where Indigenous knowledge is shared firsthand, by being invited into the cultural life of the Yolŋu, the traditional custodians of north-eastern Arnhem Land. The experience had a deep impact on the 47 Year 11 participants.



".. sitting around the fire in Bukudal with the Yolŋu Elders, listening as they shared stories about their land, ancestry and spirituality ... it made me realise how much we can learn from Indigenous ways of knowing, especially about sustainability, community and care for creation."

EMMA NICOLS

"My understanding of First Nations people grew as well, helping me realise how colonisation impacted them and how it's still evident today. It has made me a more empathetic and grateful person."

MADISON NGAN-VU

"Experiencing firsthand the culture and livelihood of Aboriginal people, and particularly the Yolŋu people, opened my eyes to a side of Australia that I had never before experienced."

HAILEY JORSTAD



Reconciliation Action Plan

HELEN THOMAS | DIRECTOR OF MISSION K-12

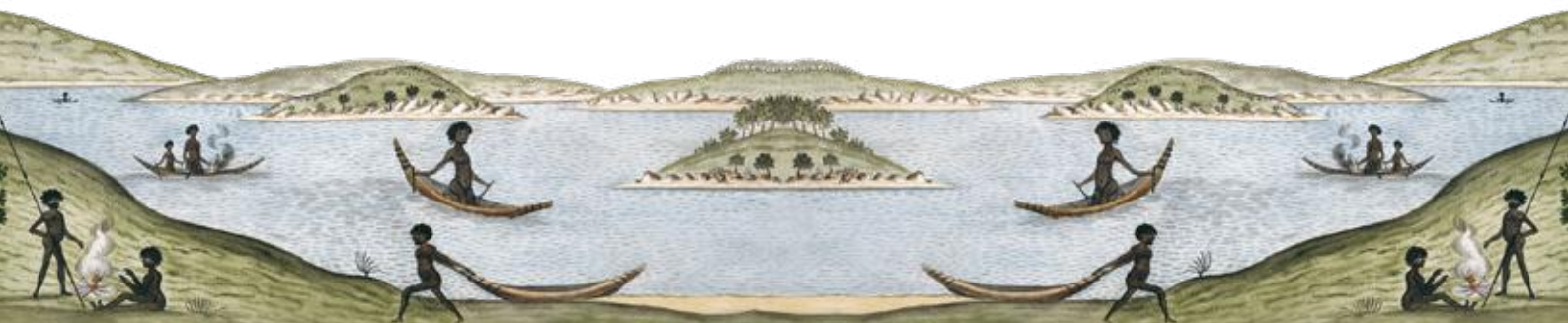
In the lead up to 2025 National Reconciliation Week, we celebrated and launched our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), our formal commitment to reconciliation. Our RAP documents show how we at Loreto Kirribilli will strengthen relationships, respect, and opportunities in the classroom, around the school, and with the community.

"Our vision for reconciliation is a continuous commitment to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the process of truth-telling and healing. We endeavour to model behaviours and attitudes founded on the teachings of Christ, as a Catholic school of integrity, inclusivity, and equity. We acknowledge past injustices, deeply listen, show empathy, and collaboratively work to restore and strengthen relationships between First Nations peoples and the wider Australian community."

From the *Loreto Kirribilli Reconciliation Action Plan*

The school gathered to hear from indigenous educator Rosalyn Thomas, who spoke to the girls about her shared ancestry and the importance of building bridges. We were enthralled by an indigenous dance performance by the Buuja Buuja-Butterfly dance group, led by Wiradjuri woman Rayma Johnson. Dr Archard unveiled a new reconciliation plaque, which spells out the school's acknowledgment of country.

The Loreto Kirribilli Reconciliation Action Plan is published on our website: <https://www.loreto.nsw.edu.au/discover/campus-and-location/traditional-owners-and-custodians/>



Social Justice K-12



THE BIG WATER WALK

To raise funds for Caritas Project Compassion, and support the great work Caritas does in developing countries where access to fresh drinking water is often an arduous journey, students organised a lunchtime Big Water Walk.

Funds raised will help young people living in poverty, like Toefuata'iga, (Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah), by providing the resources and support they need to build a better future.

Toefuata'iga, a 13-year-old primary school student in Samoa, faced severe challenges and disruptions to her learning due to water scarcity. After Caritas Samoa installed a 10,000-litre water tank at her school, Toefuata'iga and her classmates saw improved health, consistent attendance, and more opportunities to prioritise education.



RECONCILIATION WEEK

As part of Reconciliation Week, our Year 9 students participated in a Charism Day which included Mass, and the solidarity walk across the Harbour Bridge to historic St Patrick's Church Hill. Students also learnt some traditional basket-weaving techniques at an Aboriginal Weaving Workshop led by Indigenous group Malima, from Dharawal country in southern Sydney.

Innovation and Creativity

One focus of the *Women in Time – Deepening Hearts and Minds Strategic Vision 2025-2028* is Innovation and Creativity, fostering a culture of innovation through design and artistic expression, and supporting new technology in the classroom. With an emphasis on transdisciplinary learning (combining several subjects into the one project), our teachers are building the students' technical skills while encouraging collaboration and artistic expression.



YEAR 4 MAKEY MAKEY HISTORY

Learning about Australia's early explorers, Year 4 students were tasked with researching an explorer, drawing a map of their journey, and then creating an interactive explanation using Makey Makey circuits. In teams, the students documented their process using Padlet and learnt how to use another information program, ThingLink, to create virtual exhibitions of Australian landforms. "Projects like these help the students to become confident in using multiple forms of media in class, while building metacognition skills, creative and critical thinking, and collaboration skills," explains Loreto Kirribilli's e-Learning Educator, Maria Emmi.

On the completion of the project, parents were invited to the Year 4 classroom where the students could practise their presentation skills to showcase their work.



YEAR 12 TAS WINTER WORKSHOP

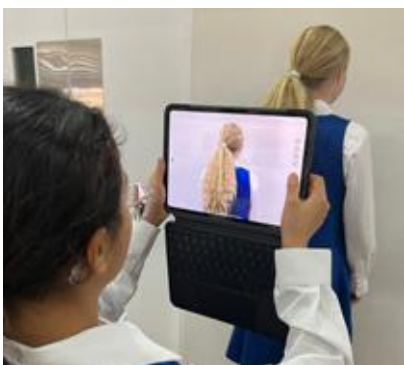
During the holidays, Year 12 participated in some Winter Workshops, with Design and Technology students using their time well in the Spiritus design spaces, finalising their Major Design Projects. From innovative concepts to hands-on making, it's all about problem-solving, creativity, and craftsmanship.

Innovation and Creativity



YEAR 8 METRO MINDS

Year 8 students embarked on an exciting new STEAM (incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) project, the Metro Minds Challenge, beginning with a presentation from the planners and engineers behind the Barangaroo Metro station, who spoke to the girls before they embarked on a tour of the station and its environs. The project will see the students working together to come up with an innovative solution to an authentic Sydney Metro challenge or opportunity.



DAY OF AI

In a collaborative, fun Day of AI, students in Years 5, 6, and 8 developed crucial AI literacy skills, learning about machine learning, the interpretation of data sets, and how different AI tools work. The students successfully created an AI tool to assess whether certain hairstyles complied with the school rules. The students had to teach the machine to recognise different hairstyles, and then devise an AI tool to analyse whether the hairstyle was acceptable.



Day of AI is a day when students across Australia participate in highly interactive lessons on artificial intelligence. The goal is to help young people better understand the role of artificial intelligence in their lives and in their futures.

Careers

LISA ROYALL & SALLY CASHMAN | CAREERS ADVISORS



WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

Multiplex, the prominent construction company known for delivering major infrastructure and commercial projects across Australia and globally, hosted an informative Women in Construction event, designed to educate and inspire young women to consider a career in the built environment. During the event, two Class of 2024 ex-students, Annabelle Bruce and Abigail Porter, were awarded scholarships by Multiplex to support their studies in Construction Management at UTS.

Multiplex also invited a group of Loreto Kirribilli students on a fascinating site visit to the Next Data Centre facility currently under construction in Artarmon. This site provided the group with an invaluable opportunity to learn more about the construction industry first-hand and explore a range of potential career paths for women in STEM.

"From project management and architecture to engineering, safety, and on-site trades, the experience highlighted just how many diverse roles contribute to a single development project." **KATE WHITSON & ANNIE PEEL** Year 12

We look forward to continuing our journey with Multiplex, building relationships and widening the pool of female talent in the construction industry.



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY WOMEN IN ENGINEERING TALKS

University of Sydney Engineering students Charlotte Greatrex ('23), Lucy Powell ('23), with their fellow Engineering students Zoe McKenzie, Filipija Stojanova, Eloise Halloran, Kaitlan Ko, and Lara Schuettrumpf, visited our Year 8 and Year 10 students on Thursday to speak about their studies. They explained what Engineering is about (problem-solving), some of the challenges of being in a male-dominated faculty, and the triumphs they've experienced as part of their student-run society, SUWIE - the Sydney University Women In Engineering.

Ex-students Lucy and Charlotte are keen to encourage more girls to study STEM, saying, "We have a passion for STEM and 'stemism', (instilled in us from our Physics teacher Mr Clark!), and we're here to bridge the gap between high school and starting university."

Our thanks to the panel for their inspiring and informative talk!

Careers

LISA ROYALL & SALLY CASHMAN | CAREERS ADVISORS



HEALTH PROFESSIONALS CAREERS NIGHT

Thank you to the inspiring panel of healthcare professionals who came to the school to talk to the girls about careers in the medical industry. The panel, made up almost entirely of parents or ex-students, spoke to an audience of students from Years 10-12, and their parents, showcasing the careers of women working in the health industry across various fields, from radiology to emergency medicine, to management.

"It was wonderful to hear of the diverse opportunities available in the health sector, including leadership roles, working abroad, caring for those in different settings, from hospital to prison, and caring for people of all ages. The overwhelming message was that these women love their jobs, despite the challenges they face, and that they are all extraordinarily passionate about helping others."

"It was an amazing forum, and we hope it was the first of many. We also hope that one day we will be up there on the stage ourselves, sharing our journey and passion with students just like us!"

DAISY CHALKLEY

Year 12

Thank you to our inspirational panel

- Dr Sarah-Jane Spencer, Forensic Psychiatrist
- Katharine Cook, Family and Child Psychologist
- Bronwyn Nolan, Director Operations Northern Sydney Local Health District
- Dr Juliette Scott, Specialist Paediatric Dentist
- Dr Sarah McGlone, Radiologist
- Mona Li ('13), Radiographer and Sonographer
- Dr Amanda Stephen, Emergency Physician Sydney Children's Hospital
- Felicity Hsu, Chief Executive Officer Neurophysiology Services Australia

Music Festival



Music Festival

ISABELLE BANNAN | SCHOOL CAPTAIN

At the 2025 Music Festival, School Captain Isabelle Bannan addressed Town Hall's audience about why "Music Fest" is her favourite day on the school calendar.

Tonight, ladies and gentlemen, I have something to confess. I have a bit of an obsession with our Music Festival. I've had it on my big day countdown since last year. One year, I think I may have pulled a muscle from head-bopping too much in House choir. But I'm not actually that embarrassed to confess this because I think that Music Festival is an obsession that our whole school community shares. It is absolutely, undoubtedly one of the best days on our school calendar.

Some say that the anticipation is better than the real thing. I don't know if I can say that about Music Fest, given how good the real thing is, but the anticipation is pretty sensational too. People have been talking about this year's Music Fest since last year's Music Fest. You listen to people walking around school singing their House choir parts, you see everyone proudly wearing their House ribbons in anticipation of the event, and you hear it taking shape as you walk past the Music blocks. Whether you are in ten items or just the Finale, everyone feels a sense of pride and excitement about this event.

Music Fest is home to some of my best memories of life at Loreto Kirribilli - from conducting House choir last year as Music Captain with Sophie Hamer, to watching Mr Sewell jamming out to his guitar solo every year in the Finale, I have had the most wonderful experience of Music at



Loreto Kirribilli. One that has taught me the importance of joy and fun, but also the importance of putting yourself out there - even when you are uncomfortable, such as when you have a diabolical voice crack in the middle of telling the year above you to "please be quiet" during a House choir rehearsal.

And there's another thing about Music at Loreto Kirribilli. It isn't just the Music Festival itself - the highly professional and impressive concert you are watching today. It is about a spirit of participation, and the empowerment of women to participate, that is deeply rooted in our ethos. This year, over 300 girls performed a Music Fest adjudication. 300! That's about a third of our Senior School community. It just goes to show that so much of Music Festival is what is behind the scenes - the hours of practice and dedication of our talented musicians, Music Captains, and Music teachers, and the items that we don't get to see tonight,



that contribute to the wonderful display of talent before us today.

But above all I think the thing that I love about the Music Festival is that it's about everybody in our school community. You don't have to possess the vocal range of Adele to join House Choir, and you don't have to have perfect pitch to rock out in the Finale. Of course, our musicians are extremely talented, but that is not the purpose of the Music Festival, first and foremost. It is all about celebrating art, celebrating our collective togetherness and individual diversity, and celebrating what it means to be a Loreto girl of spirit and passion.

Winnie the Pooh famously said: "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." So in saying goodbye to the Music Festival, I remind myself that I am so lucky to have something that has provided me with so much.

Thank you.

Educating Girls

ICGS EDUCATING GIRLS SYMPOSIUM

Principal Dr Nicole Archard is not alone in her belief that a girls' school is the best place to educate girls and young women. The International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS) is a world-wide advocate for girls' schools, connecting and collaborating globally with individuals, schools, and mission-aligned entities dedicated to educating and empowering girls.



The 2025 International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS) Educating Girls Symposium was an inspiring forum for educators from around Australia and the world to share evidence, ideas, insights, and strategies focused on girls' education.

Loreto Kirribilli Principal, Dr Nicole Archard, held an engaging interview session with Zali Steggall OAM MP, discussing role models, women in sport, leadership, and the world of politics.

Keynote speakers throughout the day included Dr Jennifer Buckingham OAM, Executive Director, Centre for Education and Statistics and Evaluation, NSW Department of Education; Dr Danielle Einstein, clinical psychologist and Adjunct Fellow of Macquarie University; and Principals and educators from schools around Australia and New Zealand.



Congratulations also to three of our outstanding Loreto Kirribilli educators, Maria Emmi, Jacqui Browne and Kate Archer, who presented a breakout session on transdisciplinary learning, showcasing their innovative Changemakers@LK project, which empowers girls to develop their voice and become advocates for change.

Read more about Loreto Kirribilli's approach to educating girls at <https://www.loreto.nsw.edu.au/discover/welcome/educating-girls/>



GIRLS AND DEVICES

Keynote speaker at the Educating Girls Symposium was esteemed clinical psychologist and author Dr Danielle Einstein, Adjunct Fellow of the School of Psychological Sciences at Macquarie University.

Dr Einstein is an expert on the impact of social media and how it is undermining the mental health of our teens. Her latest research examines the connection between social media use, body image, self-esteem, FoMO, and teen anxiety, and what we can do to help 13- to 16-year-olds avoid device over-dependence. "We need to develop the ability to be pleasantly bored," Einstein says. "As parents, we can model device-free time, and device-free locations in the home."

Dr Einstein's website [theDip.com](https://thedip.com) is a resource designed for families to manage device use at home.

Future of Learning

EMMA BRANDON | LITERACY COORDINATOR

FROM SKIMMING TO THINKING: REBUILDING THE READING BRAIN

One of the most common questions I'm asked during Student Learning Conferences is from exasperated parents: "How do I get her to read more?" This is swiftly followed by a lament on how she used to read all the time in primary school, as a sheepish daughter avoids eye contact. Sound familiar? You're not alone.

Many of you may have read the brilliant yet devastating *Good Weekend* article on "how Australia's reading slump is making us stupid," and paused to reflect on your reading habits, especially when "only about 15 per cent of the population read at level 4 to 5 (the highest)." We want our girls to read more, but how often do they see us model this ourselves? Research tells us that reading for pleasure, just 30 minutes a day, is linked to increased empathy and self-esteem - something we could all benefit from in today's frantic world.

At Loreto Kirribilli, our school-wide focus on literacy has prompted us to re-examine how we create space for 'active reading' in classrooms and across subject areas. When we surveyed students last year, we discovered that most preferred print over digital reading, citing screen fatigue and the joy of physically holding a book. Their reflections echo global research: print reading supports deeper comprehension, while digital reading can encourage skimming and shallow engagement (Woolf, 2018; Green, 2022). Many teachers also observed students flicking and scanning rather than slowing down to process meaning

- an understandable habit in the age of TikTok and text alerts.

This highlights the urgent need to foster what researcher Maryanne Woolf calls the 'bi-literate brain': one capable of both deep, sustained reading in print and critical, selective reading online. Over the past year, we have been teaching students explicit strategies to recognise when they're skimming, and tools to re-engage with complexity. It's not about banning screens, but teaching students to be conscious, reflective readers in every medium.

Prioritising and nurturing reading at home is another powerful influence on kids' reading habits. Reading aloud to your child doesn't need to stop when they can read independently - older children still benefit deeply from the shared experience of being read to. Try a device-free family read-aloud night with something like *Runt* by Craig Silvey or *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. Talk about books together. I love hearing girls say, "My mum read that too!" during Library sessions.

Lastly, do not despair. Our world is filled with podcasts about books, BookTok, celebrity book clubs, writers' festivals, and many more



ways to connect with reading. The challenge, as always, is time. Look for little windows - listen to a book together in the car, read an important article as a family, and enjoy the conversation it brings - in a world of fast content, that's a powerful gift.

Companions in Learning

CAREERS EXPO

Loreto Kirribilli hosted a Careers Expo for Years 11 and 12 students and their Companions in Learning from St Aloysius' College. Representatives from local and interstate universities, TAFE, NSW Police, and private colleges shared valuable information and insights, allowing students to explore institutions and investigate a range of course offerings.



LE DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS

We welcomed Years 11 and 12 Languages students from St Aloysius' College for an informal lunchtime chat - in French! Students held conversations based on a series of questions about family, birthdays and family histories, while sharing some classic French croissants and baguettes. C'était une excellente façon de pratiquer nos compétences orales en français!

Companions in Learning

SORRY DAY

On National Sorry Day our Junior School leaders attended the St Aloysius' Reconciliation Assembly with our Companions in Learning friends and students from Riverview and Jarjum College Redfern. After a smoking ceremony by Uncle Elvis, students prayed for reconciliation, we heard reflections from Jarjum students, and enjoyed a performance of two dances by members of Bandu and students from Jarjum and Newington.



LAUDATO SI' WEEK DEBATES

Our Junior School IPSHA Debating team argued persuasively during a spirited Companions in Learning lunchtime debate as part of Laudato Si' Week. The topic, 'That tourists should be banned from visiting important ecological sites', had both teams exploring themes around the evils and benefits of eco-tourism. Year 12 debaters from Loreto Kirribilli and St Aloysius' College had an enthusiastic audience for their lunchtime debate on the complex topic of whether developing countries should adapt to the effects of climate change or mitigate its process.



Junior School Athletics Carnival



OPEN 100M CHAMPIONSHIP	
1st	Victoria Jacob
2nd	Imogen Newey
3rd	Isabella Sanz-Chafardet
TRACK CHAMPION	
1st	Victoria Jacob
FIELD CHAMPION	
1st	Eloise Steele
JUNIOR CHAMPION	
1st	Claire Chan
2nd	Nellie Duggan
3rd	Eva Cordaro
SENIOR CHAMPION	
1st	Victoria Jacob
2nd	Imogen Newey
3rd	Isabella Sanz-Chafardet
OVERALL POINTSCORE	
1st	Milson
SPIRIT AWARD	
1st	Heaton



Heaton
Spirit Cup
winner

Senior School Athletics Carnival



OPEN 100M CHAMPIONSHIP

1st	Gemma Ronan
2nd	Ava Jacob
3rd	Zara Lee

JUNIOR POINTSCORE

1st	Winter Wawn
2nd	Eva Webb
3rd	Annabel Mostyn

IMMEDIATE POINTSCORE

1st	Belinda Matthews
2nd	Ava Jacob
3rd	Alessia Eerenstein

SENIOR POINTSCORE

1st	Jessica Johnston
2nd	Olivia Curry
3rd	Gemma Ronan

TRACK CHAMPION

1st	Ava Jacob
2nd	Belinda Matthews
3rd	Olivia Curry

FIELD CHAMPION

1st	Jessica Johnston
2nd	Winter Wawn
3rd	Alessia Eerenstein

OVERALL POINTSCORE

1st	Barry
2nd	Milson
3rd	Heaton
4th	Ward

SPIRIT AWARD

1st	Ward
2nd	Barry
3rd	Heaton
4th	Milson

Sport & Extra-Curricular



AFL TEAM DEBUT

What a fantastic day out for Loreto Kirribilli's very first AFL team at the CGSSSA Championships! Made up of 20 students from Years 8 to 12, the squad – all club players but never having played together as a team – came together brilliantly on the day. In a tight competition, we finished second overall. Every game was packed with energy, determination, and plenty of mud!



DANCE TROUPES

It was an exciting term of high-octane performance for our Senior and Junior Dance Troupes, as they rehearsed for and competed in the 2025 IRBD, Sydney Eisteddfod and Extreme Dance Competitions. Congratulations on some great results at the Extreme Dance Competition, including our Seniors winning 1st Place in the High School Open Age Contemporary Troupe and the Junior Dance Troupe winning First place in Years 5-6 Jazz. The Senior troupe performed their stunning routine for the school at our end-of-term Assembly.



CGSSSA FUTSAL

Congratulations to our Junior and Senior Futsal players who participated in the inaugural CGSSSA Futsal Competition. Our Juniors came fifth and our Seniors narrowly lost their Semis to place equal third. For many of our girls, it was their first time playing Futsal, a great addition to their outdoor Football experience.

Sport & Extra-Curricular



DA VINCI DECATHLON 2025

Congratulations to all students who represented Loreto Kirribilli at the 2025 Da Vinci Decathlon. This prestigious academic competition mirrors the Olympic Decathlon, challenging students to work collaboratively and think creatively across ten diverse disciplines, including Science, Engineering, Code Breaking, Creative Producers, and Cartography.

Our Year 5 team achieved outstanding results, placing third in both the Creative Producers and Engineering categories, a testament to their innovative thinking and collaborative spirit. Years 7-11 secured eight top-three prizes across categories, including Engineering, Legacy, English, Creative Producers, and Art & Poetry.



ISDA DEBATING

The Independent Schools Debating Association (ISDA) competition is one of Australia's most difficult and prestigious school Debating competitions. Comprised of 32 independent schools from across Sydney, the road to the finals is never easy, with a seven-round debate pool stage, followed by four weeks of finals.

We congratulate our Year 9 ISDA team and their coach, Allanah Davies ('24), on reaching the semi-finals of the competition and our Year 8 team, who made it through to the Octo-finals.

Year 9 ISDA Debating Team: Amelie Elias, Georgiana Holford, Evelyn Li, Channelle Rose Wilson, Abigail Tam, Zara Oh (absent).

Year 8 ISDA Debating Team: Juliet Khoury, Annie Keller, Eva Singhi, Philipa Chan, Eloise Chambers.

WILL LOVATT

Coordinator of Extra-Curricular 7-12



YEARS 7-10 DRAMA SHOWCASE

The inaugural Years 7-10 Drama Showcase was a valuable performance opportunity for students to share the work they have developed over the semester. The performances included imaginative, self-devised pieces, lively melodrama, scenes from *The Crucible*, and several Absurdist theatre scenes. Students also took on backstage roles, managing the lighting and sound for the evening.

Development

DEBBIE HENRY | DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Principals of Loreto Schools Australia are pleased to invite ex-students to a Loreto networking and connection event in London, featuring a panel of ex-students working in the United Kingdom, and hosted by Westpac at their City of London headquarters.

The event will explore the stories of talented Loreto women who have pursued careers in the UK and Europe. It will be an informal evening of engagement, an opportunity to hear about the experiences of our alumni living and working abroad and establish connections amongst our far-flung ex-student community.

RSVP Friday 26 September

Book here <https://events.humanitix.com/2025-loreto-global-voices-london>

SAVE THE DATE

LKconnect

Women in the Legal Profession

Wednesday 20 August 2025 at 5.30pm

More and more young women are choosing a career in Law, with the Law Society's Annual Profile revealing that in 2025 more than half of all solicitors in Australia are women. Join us to hear from some Loreto Kirribilli ex-students who have carved careers in law at the latest LK Connect event, kindly hosted by Allens in their head office in Sydney's CBD.

For more information please contact Debbie Henry, Development Manager, at lkconnect@loreto.nsw.edu.au



LORETO GLOBAL VOICES London

The Principals of Loreto Schools Australia invite you to a Loreto networking and connection event in London, featuring a panel of ex-students working in the UK and Europe.

HOSTED BY ANDREW MARTIN
Regional Head UK, Head of FM E&A, Westpac
Level 2, 2 Gresham Street, City of London

**FRIDAY
10 OCTOBER 2025
6PM - 8PM**

FACILITATOR

JOANNE SAWICKI
Kirribilli '78
Managing Partner, Non-Exec.
Board Director, Strategic Advisor

PANELLISTS

ELIZABETH AMES
Toorak '02
CEO, Atakaitia

KATE TANCRED
Kirribilli '04
CEO, Unraid Fabric

LOUISE YOUNG
Coorparoo '05
Chief Race Promotion Officer, Formula 1

JANE MOFFAT
Normanhurst '91
Doctor of Medicine,
Manchester Royal Infirmary

REBEKAH LEVISTON
Ballarat '12
Legal Advisor, Europe,
International Rescue Committee

SARAH M'FARLANE
Marryatville '97
Chief Energy Transition Correspondent,
Thomson Reuters

BALLARAT • COORPAROO • KIRRIBILLI • MARRYATVILLE • NORMANHURST • TOORAK

THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL IS EDUCATION

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we are able to offer a means-tested Loreto Kirribilli Bursary to at least two students for their education from Years 10-12. The bursary allows girls to complete their Senior School education in the tradition of the Loreto Sisters.

All donations, small or large, are valued and appreciated, and will have an ongoing impact. Donations are tax-deductible. Visit our giving page loreto.nsw.edu.au/giving/

THE LORETO KIRRIBILLI BURSARY FUND

Proudly supported by the Ex-Students' Union
and our parents and friends.

LK Connect - Women Shaping the Future of Media

DEBBIE HENRY | DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Our ex-students continue to inspire our current students, as showcased at our recent LK Connect event, hosted by Foxtel Group at their new premises at Broadcast Way in Artarmon.

After a fascinating tour behind the scenes, where we saw Foxtel's multiple channels going to air simultaneously, we settled down to hear Fox League presenter Yvonne Sampson lead an impressive panel of women: Stacey Brown, CFO Foxtel Group; Cate Hefe, Executive Director at Kayo; Erin Ferreira, Executive Producer at Fox Sports; and two of our ex-students, Sophie Shepherd ('17) Producer at Sunrise and Boh Clancy (Dickson '93) Vice President of Sales & Digital Distribution at Paramount Pictures.

Our panellists highlighted the importance of evolving, adapting and accepting new initiatives. The media landscape is constantly changing, with new technologies and trends emerging all the time; one of the newest trends is how many women are watching sports now, and the rise in popularity of women's sports on TV. Each panellist provided overarching key takeaways necessary in the industry: confidence, resilience, engagement, networking and valued mentorship. Cate's advice? 'Say yes, and figure it out later.' The clear messaging from Boh was 'to listen, learn and absorb'. Yvonne reiterated the valuable quality of resilience, 'to turn rejection into redirection'. Our youngest ex-student, Sophie, encouraged our audience to have confidence in your ability and 'make yourself heard'.



WHERE THEY STARTED

Yvonne: Riding horses and driving tractors at a horse stud

Stacey: Junior accountant doing data entry at NewsCorp

Cate: Running junior football games for the NFL

Erin: Writing time codes on the cricket channel

Sophie: As the Cash Cow on Sunrise – 'dressed in a sweaty cow suit!'

Boh: Putting up album posters at Universal Music

Our Principal, Dr Nicole Archard, appreciated hearing the stories of confidence and resilience. 'These women show a willingness to get down and get dirty, the ability to bounce back and learn. It shows the importance of belief in yourself and putting yourself forward.'



Finally, our appreciation to past parent and CEO Foxtel Group, Patrick Delany, for hosting LK Connect event for a second time. Patrick is a strong advocate of a Loreto education, witnessing first-hand the incredible impact Loreto Kirribilli has on shaping strong, capable women - an education founded on our Loreto values. Patrick is committed to opening doors for women in the media industry, and in his words, 'there are no glass ceilings at the Foxtel Group for women', which was clear in the calibre of panellists who shared their expertise with our Loreto community.

These events are golden opportunities for our students to gain first-hand insights from women in senior roles within various industries, and I encourage you to attend future industry evenings. We welcome our Loreto community to host corporate events to 'open doors' for more engagement and networking opportunities.

Sharing our Community



VOLUNTEERING IN THAILAND

Three students from the Class of 2024, Libby Maas, Rosie Coleman and Alyssa Horan, have spent part of this year living in Northern Thailand, around the village of Huay Tong in Chiang Mai province, as part of the Cardoner Network's The Two Wolves Abroad program. They join seven other ex-students from St Aloysius' College, St Ignatius' College, Riverview and a partner school in Melbourne.

The volunteers are working in both secondary and primary schools, teaching English and Maths skills to children, tutoring adults, working in the community on the farm, and generally just 'chipping in to do whatever they are needed to do'.

The Cardoner Network is a not-for-profit, young adult-focused hub for volunteering, founded in 2010. Students looking for volunteering opportunities can visit the Cardoner website for further information. <https://www.thecardonernetwork.org/>



GRANDPARENTS' HIGH TEAS

It was heartwarming to welcome grandparents and grandfriends to several High Teas in Centenary Hall. At the Junior School event, Kathryn Summerhayes, past parent and current grandparent, spoke from the heart about her daughters' education at Loreto Kirribilli, and the time she spent working at the school, attending Friday morning masses, and the Ignatian spirituality she gained.

Our Years 7 and 8 students enjoyed the company of their grandparents and grandfriends for an afternoon that included some musical performances, and a trivia quiz organised by our Year 7 Student Council Leaders. Memories were also shared from Peter and Jan McGovern, grandparents of Tilly Farrell (Year 7).

Sharing our Community



EX-STUDENTS BACKSTAGE

It was great to see some familiar faces from Class of 2024 working backstage hands for the 2025 Music Festival!



FRONT ROW SEATS FOR MAY DAY



We were delighted to welcome our Philomena Heaton Bequest Society members, Loreto Sisters and Kim Nass, Mary Ward Ambassador, to participate in our traditional May Day celebrations.

REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1965 - 60 YEAR REUNION

Friday 19 September
Four Hundred Bar and Kitchen, The
Greenwood, North Sydney
Contact Julia Haege
juleshaege@hotmail.com

CLASS OF 1975 - 50 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 8 November
Greenwich
Contact Sally Rossi
sallyrossiford@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1985 - 40 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 1 November
Greenwich
Contact Antoinette Darin
adarin@loreto.nsw.edu.au

CLASS OF 1995 - 30 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 23 August
The Rawson Hotel, The Rocks
Contact Emilie Allen
emilieallen@hotmail.com

CLASS OF 2000 - 25 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 18 October
Foys Kirribilli
Contact Lucinda Rowlands
rowlands.lucinda@gmail.com

CLASS OF 2005 - 20 YEAR REUNION

Saturday 20 September
Foys Kirribilli
Contact Danni Hudson
danni.hudson1@gmail.com

Parents & Friends

KATRINA DAMIAN & JOHN LEON | JOINT P&F PRESIDENTS



As we move into Term 3, we are looking forward to welcoming members of our LK community for two of the biggest P&F events of the year, both taking place in August: the highly anticipated Sports Lunch, and our wonderful Spring Fair. We are all very much looking forward to these significant events where we know the wonderful LK spirit will be showcased. We are immensely grateful for the tremendous support we have received at all our events in 2025. We witnessed fantastic attendance at the Cocktail Party and an extraordinary sell-out in just 24 hours at the P&F Luncheon. The enthusiasm and engagement from our community has been remarkable.

SPORTS LUNCH

With nearly 400 tickets sold, an impressive sporting panel, and some great prizes secured, there is a palpable sense of excitement as the community gathers for the 2025 Sport Lunch at Doltone House. Thank you everyone who has supported this event.



FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

At our Term 2 P&F meeting, we were pleased to announce that in the year to April we had been able to fundraise almost \$100,000 thanks to the generosity of our community. This includes the incredible success of the P&F Luncheon, which brought in \$50,553, thanks to our raffles and auction items. Additionally, the Secondhand Uniform initiative, led by the tireless Emma and Georgina, has raised an astounding \$40,622 to date! With the Sports Lunch and Spring Fair as our major fundraisers yet to come, we are well-positioned to hopefully achieve our target of \$200,000 set earlier this year. These funds will be directed towards the refurbishment of classrooms, a worthy cause that the P&F is proud to support.

2025 KEY DATES

SECONDHAND UNIFORM DROP-OFF DAYS

Friday 15, 22, 29 August

SPRING FAIR & MASS

Sunday 31 August

P&F/CLASS PARENT MEETING

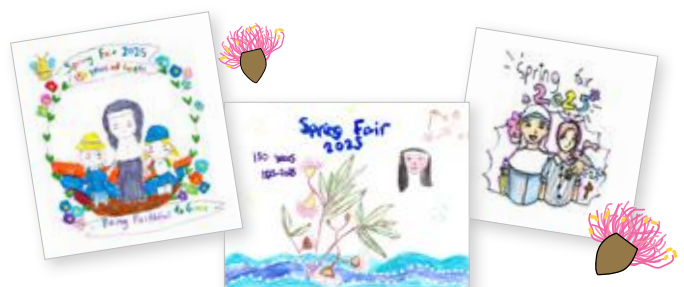
Monday 8 September



Preparations are well under way for this significant event on our School calendar. It is wonderful to see our parents and friends coming together, investing time and effort to create a spectacular event for our School community to enjoy. We have listened to your feedback and this year we are including some exciting new food offerings. Our fabulous Italian Mamas are back by popular demand as is our traditional Chicken and Champagne stall. But look out for the new food stall run by our Dads who will be cooking some slow-cooked brisket and souvlaki, and a new Salad Bar for those wanting a lighter option. And this year we have the return of an old favourite with Year 9 parents taking over the GBC to create an Indian Restaurant. Combine that with the gozleme and hot chips in the canteen, egg and bacon rolls and snags at the Year 11 BBQ, the ever popular Kindy cake stall and Year 12 Devonshire tea stall- we really do have your food options covered!

And a further exciting addition to this year's Spring Fair is LKGT (Loreto Kirribilli's Got Talent) taking over the Hall for the afternoon. We will be having the best and brightest acts from our school performing for our community, to win cash prizes and most importantly entertain the crowds. Word on the street is there will be a LK staff item and we cannot wait to see that!!

Our Spring Fair logo this year pays a special homage to our Irish heritage of 150 years of Loreto in Australia, and our Junior School contestants were behind the celebrations with so many great logo artworks handed in. Thank you to all of our contestants and congratulations to our combined winners! Looking forward to our Spring Fair 2025!



Ex-Students' Union

CELIA SHELDON (ROBERTS '88) | PRESIDENT

MOTHER DAUGHTER MASS



CARD DAY



In early Term 2, our community was indeed blessed, and many connections were firmly re-established, with the 150 years of Loreto in Australia celebrations and the Mother Daughter Mass taking place the same week. Thank you to all in the community who assisted with and supported both of these events.

July saw another successful Card Day, back at Kirribilli after a few years off-site. We are indebted to Ruth and Sue for organising this beloved event so incredibly well each year, as well as to the Committee and other helpers for their invaluable assistance on the day. This event raises money for the Bursary Fund and is always a huge success, but it is only possible through the generosity of so many behind the scenes. Thank you sincerely to all involved.

KEY DATES

SPRING FAIR & MASS Sunday 31 August
We will be there, selling jams, relishes, Mary Ward Roses and other items. Find us on the Front Drive!

GLOBAL VOICES LONDON Friday 10 October

SPIRITUALITY DAY Saturday 25 October
At the Art Gallery of NSW - keep an eye out for details

ANNUAL MASS & AGM Sunday 16 November

LORETO FEDERATION 2026 9 - 11 October 2026
Unite With Open Minds at Loreto Kirribilli



loretokirribilli_exstudents



Loreto Kirribilli Ex-Students Union

Loreto Federation 2026 is coming to Kirribilli

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER – SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2026

Federation weekend is a coming together of Loreto alumnae from all the schools across Australia, to UNITE: east with west, north with south, young with old... to share stories, inspire and encourage each other, and to connect - with open minds.



The brandmark for Federation 2026, created by designer Shelley Dixon (Wales '87), features overlapping shapes to symbolise unity and connection. It represents a thread that weaves together minds, ideas, conversations, and women. Inspired by modern stained glass and sections of Loreto icons, it evokes the values of faith, hope, love, and the heart of Mary.

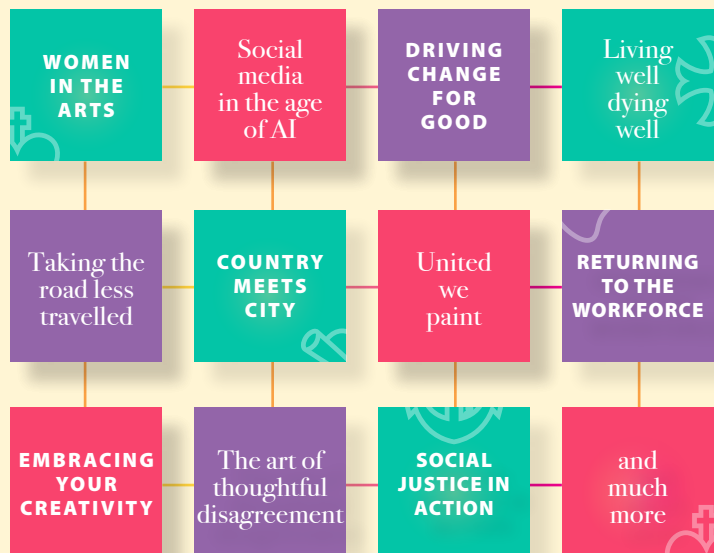
WHAT IS FEDERATION?

The word 'federate' means 'to come together'... hence Federation is a coming together of Loreto alumnae from across Australia. First proposed by Mother Gonzaga Barry in back in 1897, biennial gatherings have been held since 1955, with each school taking turns to host. All Loreto ex-students, past parents, family and friends from around Australia are invited to join what will be a fabulous weekend of connection and inspiration.

WHAT DOES LORETO FEDERATION LOOK LIKE?

'Federation' is a full weekend of socialising and re-connecting, interspersed with engaging workshops, panel discussions, information sessions and creative activities. It commences with a cocktail party on the Friday evening and runs through the weekend with sessions throughout Saturday and Sunday, official dinner on Saturday night and Mass on Sunday. There will be opportunities to create and socialise, and time to rest and learn.

SOME TOPICS OF CONVERSATION



Join us for the whole weekend or just for a part - whatever works for you. We want you to share your thoughts, your hopes, your ideas for solving problems and helping to create a stronger future for our world. We want you to go away inspired and invigorated, with new and exciting connections and ideas.

Come and hear from a wide range of inspiring Loreto Kirribilli ex-students, including: Grace Brennan (Clark '01), Associate Professor Elisabeth Murphy ('73), Sophie Greiner ('20), Lulu Ghattas ('21) and many more!

Ex-Students' News

ENGAGEMENTS

Eliza Hawthorne ('14) to Jake Dal Santo

Sheridan Wood ('16) to Sam Lucas

MARRIAGES

Sophie Boffa ('09) to Scott Taylor

Hannah Ireland ('04) to Ben Reidy

BIRTHS | GIRLS

Chloe to Lucy Case ('09)

Daisy to Eliza Hawthorne ('14)

Lucy Elizabeth to Amy Payten ('02 Robertson)

Carmela Rose to Jessica-Rose Brunetti ('07 Tait)

August Ripley to Alix Thoeming ('07)

Evelyn Kiandra to Louise Thoeming ('09)

BIRTHS | BOYS

Alfred to Stephanie Silva ('13)

Leo to Lucy Case ('09)

Barnaby to Ellouise Hardgrave ('09 Tait)

Atticus to Harriette Edwards (Churchill '14)

DEATHS | EX-STUDENTS

Kathleen Patricia Churcher (Kidd '48), mother of Gina-Maree Young (Churcher '79), grandmother of Kendel Young ('13), Savanna Young ('15) and Channing Young ('19)

Pat MacDougall (Porter '47)

Valerie O'Connor ('48)

Marian Flynn ('73), daughter of Margaret Flynn (Curtis '34) (dec) and Dr Gregory Flynn (dec), sister of Catherine Flynn (dec), John Flynn (LK '54), Margaret Mary Flynn ('65) and Justine Flynn ('78)

Helen Deane (Ball '55), daughter of Kath Ball (Crothers '30) (dec), sister of Susan Knight (Ball '59)

Geraldine Perriman (Shelton '59), sister of Penny Wagstaff (Shelton '61), Colleen Abbott, (Shelton '63), cousin of Celia Hayes (Todd '59)

DEATHS | RELATIVES OF EX-STUDENTS

Barclay Ross, husband of Stephanie Ross (Lanigan-O'Keeffe, '69), father of Catherine Haigh (Ross, '96) and Clair Starr (Ross, '01)

Patricia Lee, grandmother of Rebecca Amer (Lee '09) and Eliza Benecke ('16)

Kevin Murphy, father of Elisabeth Murphy ('73) and grandmother of Annabel Murphy ('16)

VALE MARIAN FLYNN ('73)

Marian Flynn had a strong connection to Loreto Kirribilli. Her mother Margaret Curtis ('34), her sisters Margaret Mary Flynn ibvm ('65), and Justine ('78), all attended the school and have so many fond and cherished memories of their time spent there.



Marian was gentle, thoughtful, wise, kind, generous, strong, and sincere. She was a connector, and embraced her gift of friendship and honoured and nurtured the connections made by her mother and sisters, which continued to the generations that followed.

Marian pursued her love of learning throughout her life. She built on her French skills at Alliance Française de Sydney. She continued to explore music through her love of the harp, and of late, was learning Arabic - what an adventurous soul she had! These are just a few of her accomplishments.

Marian was the epitome of a loyal ex-student. She had a beautiful generosity of spirit and was a great supporter of the Bursary. She was a much-loved and valued committee member.

Marian is very much portrayed in the following Mary Ward Maxim:

"Have a cheerful mind, a good understanding, and a great desire for virtue. Of these, a cheerful mind is most essential."

Marian was a joy. She delighted in her friendships old and new, especially her connections with Loreto friends of all ages.

Beautiful, lovable Marian will be greatly missed and will be forever in our hearts.

RUTH TIGHE ('68)