

LORETO KIRRIBILLI | *celebrating 115 YEARS*

spirit

ISSUE 93 December 2023





Front cover: Our last Spirit cover for 2023 farewells Mrs Dickinson after ten years of leading the School with faith, hope and love. Following the Final Assembly on the last day of term, the students from Kindergarten to Year 12 gathered for a surprise Guard of Honour for Mrs Dickinson, which traversed the School from Spiritus, to the Junior School, up and down the driveway and finally the Mary Ward Rose Garden.

Looking back: As we celebrate our 115th anniversary, we look back over 30 years of Spirit magazine. The cover of April 2014 edition showed Year 9 students Lily Couper and Jasmine Collins looking for sunspots with Science department's new telescope. The issue also featured Mrs Anna Dickinson's first article as our new Principal, when she reiterated the importance of 'honouring the past, celebrating the present and inspiring the future'.



A SCHOOL WITH Spirit

Scan here to view video highlights of Term 4



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Loreto Kirribilli's 2022 Environmental Sustainability Framework calls for us all to work towards a cleaner and more responsible future. As a result, we have purchased the required carbon credits to make this publication carbon neutral. This Spirit magazine is also printed on Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC)® certified paper stock.

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



Debating Lunch



Junior School
Fathers' Day Liturgy



Grandparents'
Afternoon Tea



100 Days of
Kindergarten



P&F Sports
Lunch



Ex-Students' Union
Afternoon Tea



Year 11 Family
Mass



Junior School
Knitting Club



Heaton Fundraising
Bake Sale



Years 7 & 8
Art Show



loretokirribilli



Loreto Kirribilli



@Loreto_LK

A Message from the Principal

MRS ANNA DICKINSON

After ten wonderful years as Principal of Loreto Kirribilli, it is with joy mingled with sadness that I welcome you to the last edition of Spirit Magazine for 2023. Over the last few weeks I have experienced a wonderful array of celebrations. During these events I had the opportunity to address our community, and I include these addresses on the following pages, where I express my love and gratitude for this wonderful, clever and caring community.



Address at the Thanksgiving Mass

I would like to begin by saying what a privilege it has been to serve society as an educator within our Catholic schools. Teaching is such an honourable profession. Yes, it has its challenges, but it has also given me such joy and purpose.

All educators play a significant part in shaping the future as they work in partnership with parents in forming and enriching the lives of the young people in our care. Young people are the decision makers of the future, determining the type of world we will live in. I don't know of another profession that influences the future to such an extent.

As Catholic school educators, my colleagues and I continually reinforce the importance of our young people going out into the world and making a positive difference in the lives of others. It is a privilege to promote this message, but it is also a significant challenge as this message is quite counter-cultural today. We live in a world where individual needs and wants attempt to trump community needs. In contrast, our Catholic schools are places that continually reinforce the importance of community built on the Gospel imperatives of faith, hope and love.

I have been blessed to have served Catholic education for 42 years, for the majority of that time in leadership roles. Throughout my career, I have been so fortunate to be surrounded by the most extraordinary educators

in the schools and Catholic education offices in which I have worked.

I am also blessed to have a family who love, support and encourage me and I look forward to this special time ahead when I can spend more of my precious time with them. I particularly acknowledge my husband Murray who has worked in total partnership with me, always putting my professional desires ahead of his own. He is a man with strong feminist attitudes, a wonderful life partner well ahead of his time. Thank you Murray, and I also thank my wonderful daughter Kimberley for her support, encouragement and love.

I have learnt so much from the staff I have worked with, and from the many colleagues who contributed to my formation as a leader. These colleagues, and the mentors who have influenced my leadership, have gifted me with their wisdom, expertise, collegiality and care.

Each charism I immersed myself in has given me a new insight into the beauty of the Gospel story and contributed to deepening my faith, and I hope, the faith of those I led. I particularly acknowledge the Patrician Brothers, the Poor Clares, the Sisters of Charity, The Daughters of our Lady of the Sacred Heart and of course the Loreto Sisters - each providing an expression of God's deep and enduring love for us all.

I also acknowledge with deepest gratitude those personal influencers who have had a significant impact on my leadership journey: earlier in my career, Br Kelvin Cavanagh, Ms Natalie McNamara, Mr Jim Doyle; and most recently, Sr Margaret Mary and the Chairs of the Loreto Kirribilli Board, Ms Kathryn Greiner and Ms Sheila McGregor. All of these outstanding capacity builders supported and challenged me along my career journey.

I also thank the Principals, Assistant Principals, Deputies and Executive teams I have worked for and with, and thank them for shaping my Principalship. It is often said that being a Principal is a lonely experience. I am very fortunate that I haven't felt lonely, and I attribute that to the trusting relationships I have enjoyed. I have learnt so much from these wonderful colleagues. We have done good work together for the children in our care.

Throughout my years of service, I have always been inspired by our young people. I have had the benefit of working in all manner of schools, in an all-boys' school early in my career, followed by co-educational schools and then three all-girls' schools. I have come to understand from these experiences the importance of providing parents with the choice of a model of schooling that will suit their child. I believe this choice should never be taken for granted, and that we all need to advocate strongly to maintain choice.

At this point, I must acknowledge our Loreto Kirribilli parents and thank them for the trust they have had in me and our wonderful School. Parents are our students first educators, and it has been an honour to partner with them.

I am so grateful that my career as a Principal included the privilege of leading Loreto Kirribilli, a School where the spirit to give your very best is part of the culture. This culture creates confident young women willing and able to use their gifts to follow in the footsteps of the Loreto Sisters, as 'seekers of truth and doers of justice' - and I am so grateful that I was given the blessed responsibility of being a custodian of this culture.

Girls, you have the School spirit infused within you and I am so very proud of you. You are kind, caring, determined, strong and courageous. You achieve so much in your young lives, and I know you will graduate as 'women for others'.

It has been my privilege and honour to work alongside your extraordinary teachers and support staff in developing your individual gifts. Each one of you has a gift, some realised

already, others ready to be discovered. So, continue to grow each day, girls, with a growth mindset, knowing that your faith will sustain you so that you become the positive change makers of the future, leading with and for others.

Loreto Kirribilli's energy and enthusiasm is infectious. I will miss it so very much but, in saying that, I am also delighted that Dr Nicole Archard will be returning to Sydney as Principal of our School. I know she will lead the School into the future with distinction and I look forward to our grandniece Clementine and granddaughter Daisy becoming part of this wonderful learning community from 2029.

In closing, I look forward to hearing about how all schools are engaging with the challenges of the future. This includes the amazing opportunities AI will bring and hearing about how schools will continue to model environmental stewardship and inspire local communities with the purpose of working towards a carbon neutral outcome.

But most importantly, I look forward to hearing about how your wonderful teachers will continue to respond critically and creatively to your learning needs, publishing and presenting their educational research across all the sectors of education. I also look forward to hearing about your wonderful achievements, and the difference you are making.

For my part, I will continue to advocate for our amazing teaching profession and for the gift of Catholic education and for that I am truly grateful.





THANKSGIVING FAREWELL MASS



Address at the End of Year Awards Ceremony

As you all know, my addresses and newsletter articles are primarily focused on you, the students. It brings me great joy to celebrate what you have achieved, or to predict the amazing things you will do in the future. I also enjoy thanking your parents for partnering with us as well.

However, I have decided that my final words should be dedicated to your outstanding teachers. Girls, you are so fortunate to have such inspirational educators as your teachers, and I know that you appreciate all that they do for you.

I have been drawing on the wisdom of Helen Keller who said: 'Don't cry because it is over, smile because it happened'.

The researchers who have been tracking school improvement for the last 20 years report that the single most influential factor is teachers.

At Loreto Kirribilli, we are blessed to have teachers who are fully committed to:

Your faith formation, so that you grow and develop into young women who know that you are truly loved by God and as a result you respond by loving others. Your teachers do this by modelling our school values of sincerity, justice, verity, freedom of spirit and felicity each and every day.

Your teachers care so much about you, they go above and beyond to respond to **your wellbeing needs**. A good example was during the COVID pandemic. Your teachers ensured your learning experiences were second to none and that you were being cared for throughout that very stressful time.

Your teachers are relentless in their efforts to help you **embrace a growth mindset**. The coaching conversations, the excellent feedback you receive, the support and challenges they offer you, ensure that you grow in confidence and become life-long learners.

At the height of the pandemic, your teachers all enrolled voluntarily in an online post graduate course at the UNSW in gifted education, so that they could **support you in discovering and realising your gifts**, as you all have gifts, and it is important that you discover and realise them. Your teachers did this, even though it was such a complex

time, because they are exceptional educators committed to bringing out the best in you.

As such, they are highly sought after to influence the educational landscape not only at a state level but also nationally and internationally. They are qualified at the highest levels, continually upskilling to Masters, PhDs, attaining Experienced Teacher and Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher accreditation, with one of our teachers recognised with an Order of Australia medal for her extraordinary contributions in the extra-curricular domain. Many of our teachers have received awards and trophies for their contributions to education.

Your teachers:

- Are writers of textbooks
- Have been published in multiple journals
- Are keynote presenters at conferences nationally and internationally
- Are selected onto committees to develop curriculum and design HSC examinations
- Are Senior and Judge HSC markers
- and the list goes on

I am in awe of your teachers. The skills they utilise in their profession are so broad they could transfer in a heartbeat to so many alternative professions, and yet they are called to the teaching profession as their vocation.

I have asked a small group of teachers, representing the collective efforts of all your teachers, to speak about why they are so committed to this honourable profession. A vocation that I have loved for 42 years!

On a final note, I thank all members of the Loreto community for your support, generosity and

Loreto spirit - something I will hold very close to my heart as I embark on my new adventure.

God bless you all.



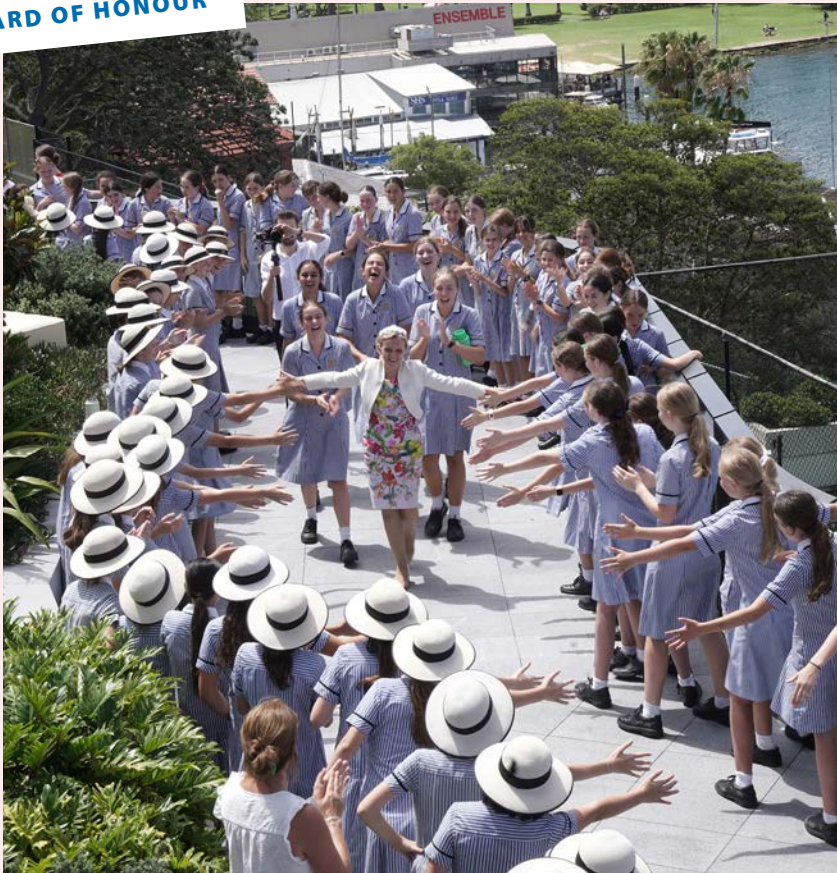
Scan here to watch some of our Loreto Kirribilli teachers talk about the profession they love.

Farewell Mrs Anna Dickinson



Farewell Mrs Anna Dickinson

GUARD OF HONOUR



115TH ANNIVERSARY COCKTAIL PARTY



Farewell Mass

MS SHEILA MCGREGOR | CHAIR OF THE BOARD



At a joy-filled Mass in Centenary Hall we joined old friends and new from Mrs Dickinson's 42 years in the teaching profession, and ten years at Loreto Kirribilli.

We welcomed our Loreto sisters, current and former staff, parents, grandparents, ex-Principals, Ex-Students' Union presidents, current and past Board members, Parents and Friends, our former Principal, and current Loreto Principals from around Australia. We gave a special welcome to Mrs Dickinson's husband Murray and daughter Kimberley.

This was the second of four farewells for Mrs Dickinson that I had the honour of participating in, and I was taking special care not to repeat myself as Mrs Dickinson had to sit through them all, and I didn't want her to be bored at her own farewell!

Luckily for me, there was no shortage of good things to say about Mrs Dickinson's time at our School.

To the 1,165 students of Loreto Kirribilli, and especially those in the Senior School, who have known Mrs Dickinson for at least six years, you may not realise it now, but one day you will, what a privilege and a blessing it is to go to a school like Loreto Kirribilli.

And in years to come, when you think back to your school days, you will have fond memories of many people. And I am sure that one of those will be Mrs Dickinson.

And why will that be I wonder? I suppose the simple answer is that Mrs Dickinson has been an outstanding leader of our School for the past ten years.

What qualities does it take to be an outstanding leader or even just a good leader? To think this through, I went to one of the best sources, former Westpac CEO Gail Kelly's book, *Live, Lead, Learn, My Stories of Life and Leadership*.

How has Mrs Dickinson shown us leadership qualities day after day? Well, I think it's a few things. And I will mention five of them.

The first one is about being positive. Leaders, well all of us, have a choice about how we view the world. All of us can choose how we react to a particular situation. Mrs Dickinson chooses to be positive. She looks at the world from a glass-half-full, not a glass-half-empty perspective. We can all see that around the School. Mrs Dickinson always has a smile on her face, but it is not just her smile. She always looks for the best in people and situations. You might have noticed yourselves that people respond well to positivity. It makes them feel better about themselves. And people who feel better about themselves are usually kinder. They're usually more successful too!

The second thing is about backing yourself.

Mrs Dickinson didn't come from a wealthy family. Her parents came to Australia after the Second World War as refugees from Eastern Europe. They didn't have much money, but what they did have was a willingness to work very hard, and a great passion for education. Mrs Dickinson was the beneficiary of their passion. While Mrs Dickinson has worked hard all of her life, she always had confidence in herself. She backed herself to succeed. And here she is today. One of the most prominent educators in NSW. What an

Farewell Mass

MS SHEILA M^CGREGOR | CHAIR OF THE BOARD

amazing achievement. What an inspiration for us all here today. So girls, each of you, back yourself.

A third characteristic of leaders is that they take risks.

By risk-taking, I don't mean bungee jumping off the Harbour Bridge! Let me explain what I do mean by giving an example: when we were planning our new Spiritus building a few years ago, COVID-19 came along and the world changed. Lots of big building projects were cancelled. People were frightened and certainly didn't want to take the risk of building. But Mrs Dickinson said no, we have to keep moving forward with our new building, it's going to be a wonderful thing for our students and future students. The easy thing to do was to put the building on hold, and not build it. The hard and brave thing to do was to persevere with it, and we did, even though it wasn't always easy. If we hadn't, we might still be here today looking at a hole in the ground! Thanks to Mrs Dickinson, we just marked Spiritus' first birthday this month!

Fourthly, resilience. Mrs Dickinson talks to you all a lot about resilience. Things don't always go the way we want. Even if you are in a big important job like the Principal's, there are disappointments. There are setbacks. So, for example, you might not get the mark you want in a test or an assignment. In Rowing, you might not get into the 1st Eight. The important thing is that you do your best

and you learn from the experience. If you are running in a race and you fall over, what would you do? What would Mrs Dickinson do? She would pick herself up, dust herself off, and keep going! That's a great lesson for life, isn't it?

Lastly, leaders appreciate people. Schools are all about people. They are about you, the students, your teachers and other staff, your parents, the ex-students, the Board, the Sisters, and so on. Mrs Dickinson loves people. You only have to glance at her to see this. Because of this, she has taken the time to get to know you. She sees you at the gate

every morning. She likes hearing about your family and friends. She sees every single Senior School report. She sees the individual growth in each student and she sees if some are struggling, and then with their teachers, puts an action plan in place. When you realise your potential and become as good as you can be, no one is more pleased than Mrs Dickinson.

If you are running in a race and you fall over, what would you do? What would Mrs Dickinson do? She would pick herself up, dust herself off, and keep going!

I am very confident that if everyone works on their leadership skills and thinks about those five leadership qualities, Mrs Dickinson will be very pleased that she has been able to make a difference in your lives.

So, to conclude, thank you Mrs Dickinson, from all of us involved in the School, for what you have given us and what we have learned from you. And thank you to Mr Dickinson and Kimberley for being her biggest support.



CONGRATULATIONS BR DAVID HALL FMS

Congratulations to Loreto Kirribilli School Board member and Dean of ACU's La Salle Academy, Professor Br David Hall fms, who was recently awarded the prestigious Dr Paul Brock Memorial Medal by the NSW Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL). Awarded annually to a prominent educational leader who has significantly impacted education policies and achievements, the Dr Paul Brock Memorial Medal honours the life of passionate educator, Dr Paul Brock. Professor Hall, a Marist Brother who has been a leader and teacher in the Catholic education sector for 40 years, said he was "completely humbled" to receive the award from ACEL.

Sharing our Faith

HELEN THOMAS | DIRECTOR OF MISSION



FIRST EUCHARIST

Year 3 students received the sacrament of First Eucharist in the School Chapel, with Father Ramesh Richards SJ presiding over the Mass. It was a very special and sacred occasion, and a moment of great significance for both our students and their families as they came together to celebrate this beautiful ceremony.



First Communion is, above all, a celebration. We celebrate Jesus, who wants to remain always by our side. **POPE FRANCIS**

CELEBRATING OUR FATHERS

Fathers' Day is a welcome opportunity for us to celebrate and honour the fathers and father-figures in our lives. Senior School students welcomed their fathers, grandfathers and father figures on campus to share in a special Friday Morning Mass and Morning Tea. Junior School also hosted a Fathers' Day Breakfast and Liturgy, with a heartfelt speech by father of three girls, Tim Doolan, and musical performances including the Magical Minis singing *Count on Me*.



WELCOME LORETO MINISTRIES NEW PROVINCE LEADER

The Loreto Sisters have announced the appointment of Sister Mary Wright ibvm as the new Leader of the Province of Australia and South East Asia for a 3-year term. She will be based in Melbourne at the Loreto Centre in Hawthorn East.



Sharing our Faith

HELEN THOMAS | DIRECTOR OF MISSION



YEAR 11 MASS AND RIBBONS

Parents and families joined their Year 11 daughters for a Friday Morning Mass, celebrated by Fr Ross Jones SJ, to mark the students' transition to Year 12. During the Mass, 40 senior students were blessed and commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Fr Ross also blessed the traditional Senior Ribbons, and afterwards Year 11 students gathered to receive the Senior Ribbon, celebrating another step in their journey into the final Senior School year.



ARCHBISHOP'S AWARD

Congratulations to Year 12 student Dominique Elias who was awarded the 2023 Archbishop of Sydney Award for Student Excellence at St Mary's Cathedral, in recognition of the positive contributions she has made to her parish community and the faith life of our school.

Dominique is an inspiring member of our school community demonstrating selfless service as a 'seeker of truth and doer of justice'.



THANK YOU AFTERNOON TEA

We were delighted to invite the priests and IBVM sisters who make such a significant contribution to our community of faith, for a convivial afternoon tea on the Elamang verandah. We welcomed Bishop Terry Brady, Fr Richard Leonard SJ, Fr Ramesh Richards SJ, Fr Sacha Bermudez-Goldman SJ, Rev Fr Colin Blayney, Fr Andy Nguyen SJ, Fr Joseph Sobb SJ, as well as Sr Libby Rogerson ibvm, Sr Helen Maguire ibvm and Sr Jwan Kada ibvm. Mrs Dickinson particularly thanked the Bishop and Parish Priests for the many references they provide to support enrolment applications to Loreto Kirribilli.



YEAR 8 CHARISM DAY

Year 8 gathered for Charism Day, a day of creativity, felicity and fun, bringing to life the Loreto values and deepening our understanding of Mary Ward's story and spirituality.

World Youth Day

HELEN THOMAS | DIRECTOR OF MISSION



Mary arose and went with haste. LUKE 1:39

"As we journeyed through Spain and Portugal together, we developed a great sense of belonging to our bus group. Together, we embraced the heat, heaving crowds and fast-moving days, creating a strong bond between us all. At the end of the day, we joined back together in a quiet moment of reflection, grateful for our shared experience that day."

EVA EALES Year 10



Year 10 students Maisie Bodey, Coco Butcher, Grace Butler, Eva Eales, Madeleine Hockey, Pippi Hess, and Maxi Watson embarked upon an adventure of a lifetime to World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal with the Holy Father and the youth of the world!

Maths teacher Margaret Riquelme and I accompanied the students on their pilgrimage, which began with a few days in the medieval walled city of Avila, Spain, where the atmosphere has changed little since the days of St Teresa, to whom the city is dedicated. We then travelled to Lisbon for the 16th International World Youth Day (WYD), a week of prayer, worship, and celebration in the company of our Holy Father. Following the excitement of the WYD Week, we departed for the tranquillity and relaxation of our post-WYD Retreat in the Fatima region. We spent the days entering a time of rest and retreat, as we unwound and processed the amazing past days of pilgrimage and our WYD encounter.

"World Youth Day gave me the once-in-a-lifetime experience to explore my faith in a new way. I learnt about how my relationship with God interacts and intertwines in my daily life and how my relationship with God should be meaningful and friendly. This chance to grow and reflect on my faith journey has changed the way I feel about my life and relationships."

PIPPY HESS Year 10

Companions in Learning



TIP FOOTBALL



HAUNTED HOUSE STEM DAY



NEW YEAR 12 MASS



CAREERS BREAKFAST



DEBATING



90s NEON DISCO



BOOK CLUB



Social Justice



BUSKING FOR CHANGE

Justine Clarke, Indigenous Literacy Foundation Ambassador, visited the Junior School for a Busking for Change fundraising event with singing and storytelling. The students sang, *Words Make the World Go Round*, and learnt the words and chords to next year's song, *Shordi Krik*.



CHARITY FUNDRAISERS

Our Barry House Leaders organised a successful week of fundraising activities in support of their chosen House charity, the Sydney Breast Cancer Foundation, selling pink cupcakes, badges and ribbons, and the chance to play a game with two members of the Waratahs Women's team.

We welcomed Annie Zukerman from the Foundation, and specialist breast surgeon Dr Kylie Snook, to our Social Awareness Live@Lunch session. The talk covered the importance of breast cancer awareness, the purpose of mammograms and the significant medical advancements that have been made in this area. Over 70 students attended, asking thoughtful questions and ready to raise funds for the Sydney Breast Cancer Foundation.

HELEN THOMAS *Director of Mission*



ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

We are so proud of Year 12 student Isabelle Jaffrey, who was presented with the 2023 Order of Australia Youth Community Service Award by The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of NSW. Isabelle was recognised for her outstanding volunteer work with the St Vincent de Paul Society as a committed member of the Vinnies Night Patrol team.



VINNIES NIGHT PATROL

Thank you to families for kindly preparing fresh food items for the St Vincent de Paul Night Patrol van service. The 'Vinnies Vans' are a familiar sight around Sydney, helping the homeless in our community with a meal, a hot drink and additional wrap-around support.

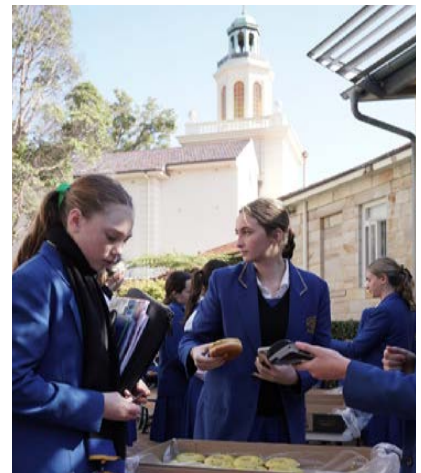
Social Justice



JUSTICE WINTER SLEEPOUT

Fifty students from Years 11 and 12 participated in the Justice Winter Sleepout. The evening began at 6pm with a simple dinner, which participants brought with them, followed by dialogue with clients of Cana Communities, Jake and Jo. Both had been homeless and incarcerated for a significant time. We also heard from Bec, an art therapist working with trauma victims at Cana. Students shared their reflections and thoughts on what they heard. This was followed by the Examen and our sleepover in the Gymnasium.

COCO GRACIE Year 12



IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

The ongoing war in Ukraine has led to the displacement of a significant number of Ukrainians. We decided to run a campaign WOMEN for WOMEN in support of female Ukrainian refugees. What began as our acknowledgement of a war taking place, and feeling sympathy for the displaced women, grew into a campaign that we felt passionate about. We decided to run an initiative around sanitary products, because access to sanitary products is imperative to ensure human dignity for refugees, and their overall health and wellbeing.

ARABELLA GRAY, ROSIE COLLA, EMILIE TANG & ISABEL CRAIG Year 9 Thinking & Advocacy

DONUTS FOR MARY'S HOUSE

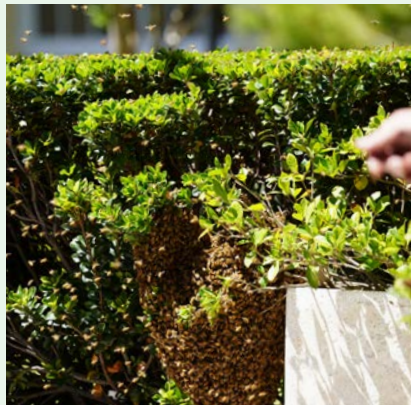
Year 9 Thinking & Advocacy students organised a donut sale to raise funds in support of Mary's House and raise awareness to support domestic violence prevention. Mary's House offers housing and expert wrap-around services for women and their children fleeing domestic violence.

Sustainability



5-STAR AWARD

Loreto Kirribilli has been named one of Australia's most sustainable schools in *The Educator Magazine's* 2023 awards. Our Environmental Sustainability Framework is inspiring our community to 'care for our common home', and includes the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.



BEEODIVERSITY!

There was great excitement in the first week of Term 4 when 15,000 small visitors took up temporary residence in a bush just in front of Junior School reception. A swarm of bees had split from their colony and, with their queen, were looking for a new nest. Luckily a local apiarist (beekeeper), Henry, was able to come and transfer the bees into a temporary hive, before taking them to a new home in nearby bushland. Who said a 'city' school such as Loreto Kirribilli doesn't have biodiversity?!



QR CODES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

At our recent Orientation mornings, families were presented with a fridge magnet instead of printed brochures. The magnet featured QR codes to all the information for new families – the Student Handbook, Term Dates, Staff Directory and link to CH@LK Plus, all in one handy place for the start of next year. All programs for Music and Performing Arts events are also provided digitally via a QR code.



SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Loreto Kirribilli is blessed to be close to public transport such as buses, trains and ferries and our students are encouraged to use these means to travel to and from school whenever possible. We are committed to sustainability and care for our environment. This begins with action, and we strongly encourage the use of more sustainable means of getting to and from school.

STUDENT ENVIRONMENT LEADERS



Wellbeing



MATILDAS MADNESS

The entire School was behind the Matildas during the memorable 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in September. Students and staff showed their support by donning green and gold, and draping themselves with flags, scarves, wigs, beanies and pompoms. It was lovely to see the great energy, passion and enthusiasm in wishing our Matildas well.



OUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

A familiar sight around the campus this year were our therapy dogs, the sweet-tempered Groodle, Peggy, and Yara, the gentle jet-black ex-guide dog. Therapy dogs have been shown to improve physical and social wellbeing and enhance staff and student relationships. Students love the interaction and our friends enjoy a multitude of pats!



WELLBEING WEEK

Kicking off with a Super Silly Sock Day, our K-12 Wellbeing Week featured fun-filled activities, including double-dutch skipping lessons, lunchtime sing-alongs, spinning hula hoops, chess games, mindful colouring and singing favourite songs by karaoke. Years 3 to 6 even went surfing! Our Student Leaders highlighted the need for us all to consider our wellbeing, and stay connected to each other and to our broader community.



THE HOPEFULL INSTITUTE

Year 12 enjoyed a seminar with motivational speaker Glen Gerreyn from The HopeFull Institute. Glen shared some of the extreme personal challenges he overcame as a young man, and drew on other inspirational figures in history, to clearly explain how to master the lost arts of grit, optimism, courage and hope.



STOP FOR A YARN

The inaugural Junior School Yarn Club has created some special blankets for women living at Nagle House, a Cana Communities safe and supportive space for women. The students met each week for a yarn and some knitting with their colourful wool.



RUOK? DAY

Our School community celebrated RUOK? Day, a significant National Day of Action to remind Australians that every day is the day to ask, 'are you OK?' and start a meaningful conversation whenever they spot the signs that someone they care about might be struggling.

Congratulations Class of 2023



Congratulations Class of 2023

Our School community farewelled our Year 12 Class of 2023 by celebrating their achievements and acknowledging the special contributions they have made to Loreto Kirribilli. Following the Graduation Ceremony and crowning as Jubilarians, we gathered in prayer for their Graduation Mass, to thank God for these wonderful Mary Ward women, who we know will continue to use their individual gifts with confidence, creativity and generosity, in loving and responsible service. The final stage of the Graduation Day was a Thanksgiving Dinner, a fitting conclusion to a very special day.



All around you are possibilities for doing good and making the world richer for your having lived in it.

MOTHER GONZAGA BARRY

from one of her famous letters to Loreto students, published in 1897



BUCKET GIVING

There was much laughter and felicity as Year 12 offered words of wisdom, encouragement and some witty survival tips for the year ahead to their Year 11 counterparts during the 'Bucket Giving' Ceremony.

Junior School Learning



YEAR 6 GOES TO GOOGLE

Year 6 students visited Google's Sydney headquarters to hear from some inspiring women working in the technology industry. The day coincided with the company's 25th anniversary. Managing Director Melanie Silva spoke about her career progression, and career opportunities in STEM. Melanie emphasised the character strengths of curiosity and collaboration. Thank you to Junior School parent Emma McCormack, Head of Marketing, ANZ and India at Google, for organising this exciting event.



FUTURISTIC STEM DAY

Year 2 students participated in an Interschool STEM Challenge Day with students from Shore and Redlands. Teams worked collaboratively in mixed groups to plan, design, and engineer a wind powered vehicle they could envisage for a Smart Future city. We read the book *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires to reflect on the learning dispositions they would need for the task. Students then watched an excerpt of the 1960s cartoon *The Jetsons* to see the technological advancements they dreamed of then. Construction tools Makedo and cardboard were used to realise their designs. Each design was tested to see its effectiveness to be wind powered. Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to apply their creative and critical thinking skills, and to meet students from other schools.

MARIA EMMI E-Learning Teacher Educator



THANK YOU TO OUR TEACHERS

On World Teachers' Day we celebrate all the amazing teachers in our School and thank them for their love and passion for learning as it inspires us and helps us to grow and flourish. Each of the teachers go out of their way to lend a helping hand and nurture each student. The love and care you provide is truly appreciated. So we say a huge thank you!

FRANKIE KONG & MOLLY MATTOCK

School Captain and Vice Captain, Year 6

Junior School Learning



LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

As they prepare for their leadership roles in the Junior School next year, Year 5 students enjoyed inspiring sessions with our Year 12 Student Leaders. The students also connected with Loreto Schools across Australia in an online leadership forum.

"Being a leader means you have to be humble and kind rather than bossing everyone around."

LUCIA VU Year 5



STAR STRUCK

Year 1 have been learning about our Solar System, looking at night and day, space travel, and the phases of the Moon. As part of Science Week, students enjoyed exploring the night sky on the interactive website Stellarium. Students found mathematical shapes and patterns and discovered the shapes of the constellations.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

We welcomed Sydney artist, Helen Morgan, for a wonderful week of art making. Helen is an emerging artist working in the fields of printmaking, photography and installation. Setting up in the Maker Space in Spiritus, Helen worked with Kindy to Year 2 students focusing on collage and texture in a house scene; Years 3 and 4 students worked with interior painting and design; Years 5 and 6 worked with paint, collage and gradients. Even the teachers had a fun session learning with Helen too.



OUT IN THE SECRET GARDEN



Years 1 and 2 students enjoyed learning through play in our very own secret garden, exploring the world and building friendships through unstructured time in a natural outdoor environment.

Junior School Learning



SCIENCE WEEK

Have you ever wondered how your fingers type a text? How do they know what to do when you pick up your phone and simply think of the words? Well, ask Christina! Christina Maher is a Biomedical Engineer from Sydney University, whose work is exploring how electrical signals traverse the brain's information highways. Christina visited our Years 3 to 6 students for Science Week, giving a fascinating presentation about how the brain functions, machine learning, sustainability and being a scientist!



DESIGNING TECHGIRLS

Designed to encourage more girls to develop an interest in STEM careers, the Techgirls program is an interdisciplinary project woven into the Year 6 curriculum, and includes report writing, presenting, designing apps, and solving real-world problems. Congratulations to the five teams who were selected as NSW finalists, and in particular the Tech Queens (Phoebe King, Matilda Day, Lily Daisley, and Marie-Lou Becherand) who won the NSW State Award with their App *Wellness Worx*.



HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL FOR THE DAY

"I really enjoyed my day as Head of Junior School. I enjoyed presenting awards and certificates at assembly and going around the School with Mrs Portlock and giving out the Science prizes. I made announcements on the microphone and helped prepare birthday cards." **WYNONA DINH** Year 3



KINDY DIGS THE ROCKS

Kindergarten visited The Rocks for their integrated unit of study, *People and Places Tell Stories*. They had a great time as they experienced an archaeologist's dig, handled artefacts, and explored the foundations of an old house, learning about the experiences of families who lived there 200 years ago.



BOOK PARADE

The gym was filled with excitement as we celebrated Book Week with our annual Book Parade. The theme *Read, Grow, Inspire* was the catalyst for many costumes and book characters! Sheer joy filled the air as classes paraded around the gym with their incredible props and costumes.

JOANNA STAIKOS K-6 Teacher Librarian



Junior School Learning



LEGACY EXCELLENCE

During an *Afternoon of Legacy Excellence*, our Year 6 students showcased their inquiry-based projects to parents and fellow-students, displaying their learning in multi-media projects which revealed the '4Cs' in action - collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity.

Mindful of the School's commitment to sustainability, the students presented their work in a fully-digital format, uploaded and displayed on individual CH@LK Plus pages.

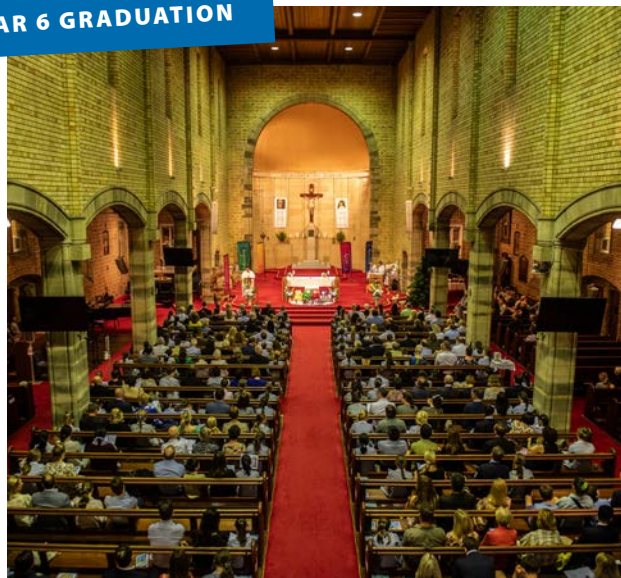


"As we delved into the meaning of legacy, we were challenged to investigate fields of study that interested us and ignited a passion in our thinking."

FRANKIE KONG & MOLLY MATTOCK

School Captain and Vice Captain, Year 6

YEAR 6 GRADUATION



With some sadness but also plenty of celebration, our Year 6 students marked the end of their Junior School journey with a Mass of Thanksgiving and Graduation at St Mary's, North Sydney, presided over by Fr Nico Lariosa SJ. Students also enjoyed a Thanksgiving Lunch, and the entire Junior School formed a guard of honour to farewell this much-loved cohort.

Senior School Learning



YEAR 9 DIVE INTO MARINE HABITATS

The marine creatures of Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve saw some unaccustomed activity when Year 9 Elective Geography students donned wetsuits and goggles to snorkel and conduct field testing activities. Students observed and studied marine habitats, ecology and biodiversity, as part of their unit of work on Oceanography. By immersing themselves in coastal ecosystems, students were able to witness firsthand the interdependence of marine species and human impact, reinforcing concepts they learn in the classroom. This excursion not only aligned with the curriculum, but also nurtured in the students a sense of environmental responsibility and the critical skills needed to address pressing ecological issues in today's world.

FERGUS STEWART *Social Science Teacher*



ENTREPRENEURS IN THE MAKING

Year 9 students learnt about enterprise, innovation and developing a business idea at the *Entrepreneur for a Day* incursion. This was an opportunity for the whole Year 9 cohort to undertake a planned series of activities, workshops, guest speaker appearances and collaborative work focused on entrepreneurship. This day was designed to create opportunities, establish networks and develop capabilities and enterprise skills which we hope will be nurtured beyond the Loreto network.

KEITH HOPKINS
Social Science Coordinator



Senior School Learning



SCIENCE WEEK GOES OFF LIKE A ROCKET



FIRST AID AND CPR

Year 11 PDHPE students spent a day learning about first aid assessment and management, interacting with a variety of first aid scenarios, from unconscious patients to soft tissue injuries. Students were assessed on the skills required in providing CPR, managing bleeding, and the methods needed to address burns, snake bites and fractures. This course enables the students to achieve an accredited First Aid Certificate. It certainly got everyone's hearts pumping!

MEREDITH O'DONELL
PDHPE Coordinator

Held during 2023 National Science Week, the Loreto Kirribilli Science Fair was a chance for Years 8 and 10 students to display their skills in scientific research, comprehension, creativity, innovation, and critical analysis. Students were tasked with presenting their Science projects to judges and students with varying levels of scientific understanding. Many students and staff (all dressed up in Matildas gear) came along to see the exciting array of projects on display. We welcomed guest judge Dr Jim Scott, and guest speaker Dr Chelsea Mayoh, from the Children's Cancer Institute, who shared her cutting-edge research and initiatives with the students.

School-wide activities throughout Science Week included launching water rockets on the front drive, demonstrating Newton's Laws in action. Years 7 to 10 classes completed the Science Week Escape Room Challenge and Junior School visited the Science Labs for a Science Show!

Congratulations to our students who won Years 7-8 awards at the NSW Science Teachers Association Young Scientist Competition

Elisabeth Fuller **Communication Award Major Prize**

Elisabeth Fuller **First Physics Scientific Investigations**

Isabelle Cheung **First Earth and Environmental Science Scientific Investigations**

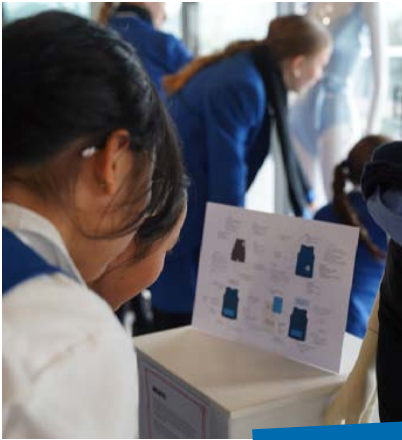
Lisa Foo **Second Chemistry Scientific Investigations**

Celia Nixon **Third Chemistry Scientific Investigations**

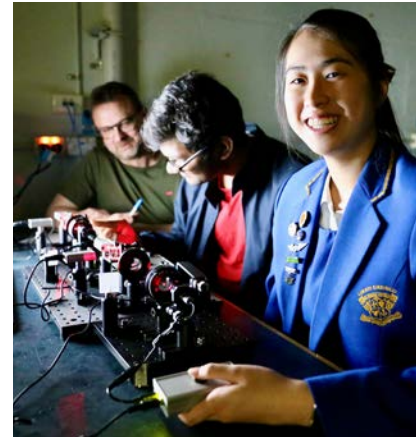
Amanda Matthews **Encouragement Award Secondary Science Investigations**

JOSH CLARK Science Coordinator

Senior School Learning



TAS EXPO INPSIRES



PASSION FOR PHYSICS

Congratulations to Year 12 student Emma Ko, whose HSC Science Extension major project was featured in a recent issue of the Sydney Morning Herald. Emma's research into quantum cryptography involved working at Macquarie University with two physicists as mentors: Thomas Volz, Professor in the School of Science and Mathematics, and Dr Harish Vallabhapurapu, Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Emma has applied to study a double degree at Macquarie University in actuarial studies and science.

"Whatever happens in the future, physics will always be my passion."



In TAS we strive to empower our students to explore their creativity and problem-solving skills. The TAS EXPO showcased the exciting journey of student work from Years 7 to 11, as they embarked on transforming their ideas into tangible projects. From initial inspiration to the meticulous planning, design, and execution, we saw the ingenuity of our young female innovators as they solved some of the most wicked problems in their world and navigated the process of bringing their concepts to creation.

RACHEL NOONAN TAS Coordinator

YEAR 8 PLAY PINBALL



Year 8 TAS students incorporated engineering principles with woodworking skills in the design and creation of a timber pinball machine with working flippers. Students enjoyed using drills, the scroll saw and disc sander in the new wood technology classroom in Spiritus.

New Student Leaders

Congratulations to our newly-elected 2023/2024 Student Leaders who were announced to the Senior School to rousing applause. We offer these inspiring Mary Ward women our blessing as they embark on their leadership roles serving the Loreto Kirribilli community.



School Captain Emily D'Souza (centre), Vice Captain Sybilla Delaney (second from left), First Councillors (from left) Emma Turner, Alice Austin, Annabelle Ross

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL CAPTAIN 2023/2024

Ever since I was in Kindergarten, all I've ever known is Loreto Kirribilli. Since I was 5 years old, I have grown up steeped in the vibrant spirit that Loreto Kirribilli students are renowned for, and have always believed wholeheartedly in the power of educated young women to go out and make genuine change in the world. What I know to be especially true is the great blessing that a Loreto education is - not just for its intellectual merits, but for its extension into each and every part of the lives of students. Loreto Kirribilli students are Loreto girls with every inch of their being.

As we head into the year of Sincerity, our leadership team is choosing to focus on sincerity of intention; nurturing an environment in which students are encouraged to participate because they want to, not because they feel like they have to. It was Mary Ward who said that we should "be such as we appear, and appear such as we are" and, collectively, this year we will be making a conscious effort to match our outward appearances with our inner intentions.

I feel very blessed to have been entrusted with the opportunity to lead as Loreto Kirribilli's Senior School Captain for 2023/2024, and I am so excited to see what the year ahead has in store for our School. I can only hope to lead with the generosity and empathy of those who have come before me, and I look forward to making 2024 a year to remember.

EMILY D'SOUZA



Camille Perrignon
BARRY CAPTAIN



Piper Anderson
BARRY VICE CAPTAIN



Samantha O'Farrell
HEATON CAPTAIN



Phoebe O'Connor
HEATON VICE CAPTAIN



Olivia Callanan
MILSON CAPTAIN



Amelia Reichel
MILSON VICE CAPTAIN



Monica Dunstan
WARD CAPTAIN



Elsie Brooks
WARD VICE CAPTAIN

Performing Arts

MATHEW CLAUSEN | DIRECTOR OF TEACHING & LEARNING

DRAMA

Congratulations to our talented Year 11 Drama students who shared works from across their studies in Drama this year. The audience enjoyed expressionist scenes from early 20th Century plays, presentations of Director's Folios, Individual Performances and a highly entertaining and satirical original group devised performance. It will be exciting to see how these students continue to develop their skills in their Higher School Certificate year.



YEARS 7-9 HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION



The Years 7-9 House Drama Competition is a wonderful creative leadership opportunity for our Drama Leaders. Using the Book Week theme, *Read Grow Inspire*, the Drama Leaders began workshops towards the end of Term 2 using an ideation process to generate play ideas. From original scripting, to direction, costumes and performance, it was a night of thought-provoking entertainment to an appreciative audience of parents, students and families, with Barry winning Best Play and Heaton the Spirit Award.

Performing Arts

THE HYPOCHONDRIAC



Our annual LK Production provides a wonderful opportunity for our passionate students of drama and theatre to be extended and challenged in the complex craft of acting.

LK Production this year brought the house down with *The Hypochondriac*, a classic comedy that follows the misadventures of the lovable hypochondriac, Argan, as he obsesses over his health and falls victim to quacks, schemers, and an ensemble of unforgettable characters. Molière's witty dialogue and sharp social commentary, with an adaptation by Timothy Mooney, make this play a comedic gem that has stood the test of time.

Those who attended the performances remarked on the professionalism of the actors, their wonderful wit and their skill in delivering complex text.



Sport



KICKING GOALS IN FOOTBALL

Loreto Kirribilli's Football teams enjoyed another successful season, with our Junior and Senior 1sts winning the J01 and S01 divisions in the IGSA competition for Term 3, while our open team came equal 3rd at the NSWCCC Schools Knockout competition.

Midfielder Madeleine (Maddie) Caspers and goalkeeper Annabelle Croll were selected to represent NSW Metro at the National Youth Championships in Wollongong. Maddie Caspers also made her Australian debut with the Junior Matildas, playing in the qualifying tournament in Vietnam for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-17 Women's Asian Cup Indonesia 2024. Maddie has now been invited to the Junior Matildas domestic training camp in Canberra, and has also been signed to Sydney FC, playing a full 90 minutes in her debut game against the Newcastle Jets. Congratulations Maddie!

ELE WINSTON
Sports Administrator



CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING CHAMP

Congratulations to Ella Mackett (Year 7) who came first in her race at the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges (CCC) Cross

Country, and subsequently placed 5th Place at NSW All Schools. Also to Jessica Gocher (Year 12) who gained 10th Place at the NSWCCC, and subsequently 14th Place at NSW All Schools.



GOLD MEDAL THROWER

Congratulations to Jessica Johnston (Year 10) who absolutely dominated her 16 years throwing events at the IGSA

Athletics Championships at SOPA Homebush. Jessica won Gold in Javelin, Discus and Shot Put, culminating in being a joint winner of the IGSA Intermediate Points Score.



RUNNING CHAMPION

Ava Jacob (Year 6) has had an amazing year of running, going from strength to strength, representing NSW in the National Cross

Country Championships, finishing strongly in 3rd Place, with her NSW team placing overall 2nd on points. Ava went on to represent the state at the National Athletics Championships meet at the end of November, placing 2nd in the 12 years 1500m, and 5th in the 12 years 800m. Well done Ava!

Sport



WATER POLO

Our Senior Water Polo team retained their championship title with a thrilling 8-6 victory over Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College in the NSWCCC Grand Final. We also congratulate our Junior Water Polo teams who have achieved a Silver Medal in the CGSSSA competition and a Silver Medal in the NSWCCC. Water Polo stars Gabrielle (Gabi) Perkins and Indiana (Indie) Smith represented Combined Catholic Colleges at the Australian Schools Invitational Water Polo Championships. Their team finished with a Bronze Medal and Indie was voted Most Valuable Player. Recently Indie's exceptional performance earned her a prestigious NSWCCC Blue for Water Polo.



NATIONAL SWIMMER

Well done to Lucy Matthews (Year 6) on her outstanding performance at the National

Swimming Championships. Lucy competed in the 11 years 200m Mixed Medley relay team which placed a phenomenal 2nd Place. Lucy also competed in the 11 years 50m Freestyle, placing 11th, and was part of the 200m Freestyle relay team, which placed 2nd. Outstanding results for Lucy swimming at a national level.



BLESSING THE BOATS

It was a perfect day at SIRC for the Loreto Kirribilli Regatta!

Congratulations to the Rowing squad who brought home the Overall Points Score Trophy. Our community celebrated with the blessing of eight new boats, seven named after, and launched by, past Rowing Captains Anna Mateffy ('16), Mim Dixon ('19), Eliza Dunlop ('20), Olivia Loadsman ('21), Alex McMillan ('21), Lauren Moran ('22) and Lucy Howard ('22).

Extra-Curricular



VEX ROBOTICS

VEX Robotics is an international competition with a new game challenge each year. The students work in teams supported by coaches to engineer and build a robot to compete. Students are also interviewed by the judges about their design and team work, and need to provide an engineering notebook to demonstrate their research and design process.

Congratulations to our three Senior and three Junior Robotics teams who competed brilliantly in the 2023 VEX State Championships. Year 9 team 'Tan-garine', Zara White, Sophie Hirschhorn, Ellie Ko and Estelle O'Regan won the Amaze Award for overall quality build and scoring ability.



JUNIOR SCHOOL DANCE TROUPES

Dance Troupes competed in The Sydney Eisteddfod at the Sydney Opera House. It was wonderful seeing our students perform in the Concert Hall. This year we had two Dance Troupe teams enter the Eisteddfod: the Year 3/4 Division and the Year 5/6 Division. The girls were outstanding, with both Dance Troupe teams taking out First Place in their division!



DA VINCI DECATHLON

In the State round of the Da Vinci Decathlon, students from Years 5 -11 were challenged with mathematical, poetical, artistic and engineering problems around the theme of unity. Congratulations to our Year 6 team for achieving 3rd Place in Code Breaking. The Da Vinci Decathlon encourages higher-order thinking skills, problem-solving and creativity, which were all on display in abundance from our students. Well done!



FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING

This year's Global Issue Problem Solving challenge focused on the 'Robotic Workforce'. This topic, both pressing and timely, propelled our students into a deep exploration of the implications, challenges and potential opportunities of a world increasingly influenced by robotics and automation.

Extra-Curricular



MOCK TRIAL

Congratulations to our Year 11 legal eagles who won the 2023 Grand Final of the New South Wales Law Society's Mock Trial Competition. Emily D'Souza was also awarded the student advocacy prize.

This is the third time in the last five years that Loreto Kirribilli has won this prestigious competition.

BARRISTER 1	Emily D'Souza
BARRISTER 2	Amelia Reichel
SOLICITOR	Olivia (Liv) Neufeld
1ST WITNESS	Zara Matthews
2ND WITNESS	Allanah Davies
MAGISTRATE'S CLERK	Emma Turner
RESERVES	Georgia Aman & Josie Leete
COACHES	Justice Julia Lonergan & Mr John Berry
TEACHER	Mr Phillip Bain

LK SPEAKS INTERHOUSE DEBATING



In Term 4, the Houses engaged in intellectual discussions in the LK Speaks Interhouse Debating Competition!

The theme for this year's competition has been centred on AI. There are varied perspectives on a range of aspects of this newly developing field of technology and it was pleasing to see Year 7 tackle *Whether Humanoids Are Necessary for the Future*. It is always interesting to hear the thoughts of young debaters, as the world they live in is changing more rapidly than ever before. Our Year 8 teams discussed the topic *That Personal Assistants like Siri and Alexa Help Teenagers Develop Social Skills* and a particularly interesting point raised was whether AI can simulate social situations like job interviews. Year 9 convincingly dealt with a topic around the use of AI in schools for personal learning and Year 10 tackled a debate on *Whether ChatGPT will see the demise of creativity*. Finally, Milson and Heaton Houses battled it out in the Grand Final in front of the Senior School on the topic, *AI is the new Renaissance*.

ALLANAH DAVIES, ZOE GELAGIN, SYLVIE RATHBUN

Debating & Public Speaking Council Leaders, Year 11

Future of Learning

TEACHERS RECOGNISED BY AWARDS



Congratulations to our outstanding educators who continue to be acknowledged for their achievements. In the 2023 NSW Teachers' Guild Awards, our Director of Innovation, Dr Jonathon Mascarella, was awarded an Honorary Fellowship; and Science Coordinator, Mr Josh Clark, received the World Teachers' Recognition Award. At the recent NSWCCC Blues Awards ceremony our Head of Sport, Mrs Donna Baker OAM, was recognised with a Staff Service Award for her Services to School Sport.



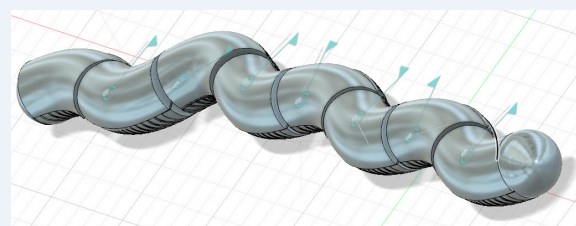
NATURE AS A MODEL

Throughout Term 3, Year 9 STEM students visited the Taronga Zoo Institute of Science and Learning, investigating the forms, functions, processes and ecosystems used by different species. Students have been applying biomimicry, or 'nature as a model' as inspiration for their design solutions. For example, in the desert classroom educational learning space, we learnt about the strategies and functions of invertebrates. Students investigated the mechanics of how spiders and insects move, hang and hatch while expending minimal energy, as well as the visual communication methods scorpions use under UV light.

Students have produced a folio which was the culmination of this biomimicry unit, solving a problem to do with space exploration or space travel, explaining the organism and strategy they used as inspiration for the design of a solution.

LISA NOWOSAD

STEM Teacher



Future of Learning

JONATHON MASCORELLA | DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION

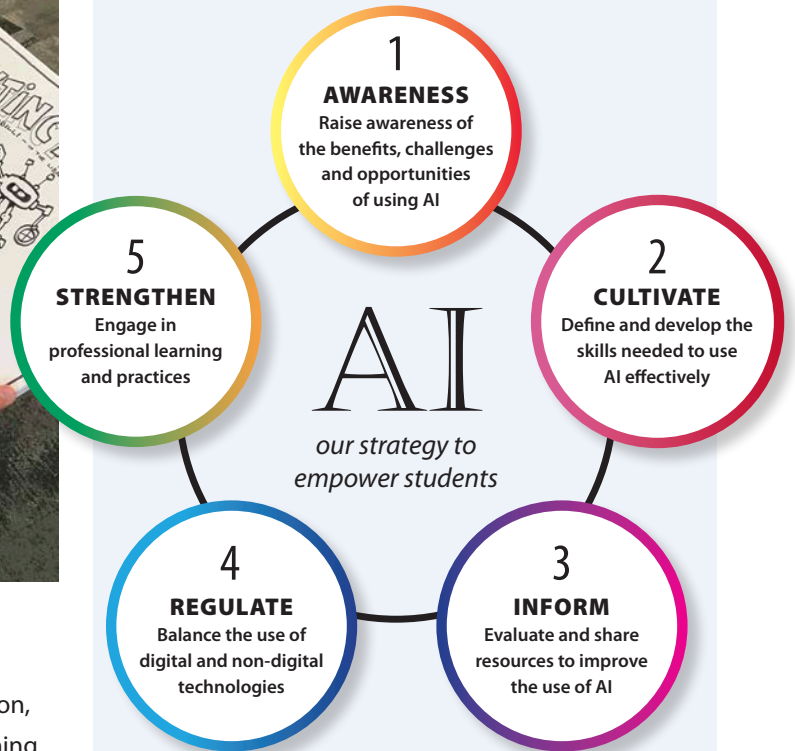


YEAR 10 TACKLE A WICKED PROBLEM

Over two exciting days, Year 10 students tackled a 'wicked problem' in a transdisciplinary learning session, *Understanding Extinction!* This transdisciplinary learning experience was unique as it relied on the core teaching of every discipline across the school, without delivering new content.

The students peered through the lenses of anthropology, literature, language, culture, technology, medicine, sociology, environment and many more to explore extinction beyond the immediate biological connotations to understand that extinction can be for good, for worse, and it may implicate much more than animals or plants. Their task was to remain in the problem - no solutions! - to create a piece of work that communicated what they knew and what they could distil from their exploration of the topic as a group.

The students were joined by a team of experts, online and in person, and given the tools to think critically, such as post-it-note exercises, method cards from UTS, empathy mapping, and iteration over prototypes of their communication artifact. And the results were outstanding. This is a testament to the quality of teaching that goes on in classrooms every day.



RESPONSE TO AI

Since Generative AI landed in early January, we have been busy exploring the impacts this will have on education broadly, and within our local context. At Loreto Kirribilli, we made the early decision to approach the introduction of Generative AI with an open mind and consult carefully with our community, including parents, students and staff. Since then, we have provided professional learning to our staff and collaboratively developed a set of guidelines to support the use of Generative AI as a school, in line with our existing policies and procedures.



This QR code is linked to a video which outlines our journey and the development of these guidelines. It also explores the impact Generative AI will have on the teaching and learning experience at Loreto Kirribilli.

Engagement

DEBBIE HENRY | HEAD OF ENGAGEMENT

For 115 years, philanthropy has been an important aspect of Loreto Kirribilli, and continues to be so. It allows us to carry on the work of the Loreto Sisters, maintaining the development of our School through the Building Fund and the new sustainability initiative, our Green Fund. This year we also launched the new tax-deductible Bursary Fund.

LK Connect, our Mentoring & Networking Program continues to provide that *something more* of a Loreto education, profiling our ex-students and the career opportunities that await our current students. Our next event is on Tuesday 26 March 2024, generously hosted by Landor, a specialist brand and design group.

Our sincere gratitude to our 2023 P&F Executive committee, led by Anneke Senden and Daniel Rose. Once again, our parents continue to foster relationships with the school as *parents in partnership*.

We are renowned as a school of spirit, and supportive parents remain the backbone of this engagement.

Thank you to our Loreto Kirribilli community who look beyond their world for the greater good and continue to support all the initiatives of the Engagement Office.



MARY WARD ROSE GOES TO ROME

The Mary Ward Rose, cultivated in celebration of our 115th year, has captured the heart of the School this year with its prolific blooms and beautiful fragrance. In August, Leonie Harle from our Engagement team delivered a rose bush to Sr Natalie Houlihan at Casa Loreto, the residence of the Loreto Sisters in Rome. The Mary Ward Rose will be available for purchase through the Engagement Office from June 2024.



EX-STUDENTS' UNION JOINS THE BURSARY FUND

We are blessed to have the support of our Ex-Students' Union, led by Celia Sheldon ('88), who generously donated their 100 year-old Bursary Fund to the new Loreto Kirribilli Bursary. Moving forward, the ex-students will be working as one to support the fund along with the School and parent community.

LKconnect

save the date | Tuesday 26 March 2024

EMPOWERING YOUNG
FEMALE CREATORS

hosted by LANDOR

Engagement

DEBBIE HENRY | HEAD OF ENGAGEMENT

This year, we were delighted to launch the tax-deductible Loreto Kirribilli Bursary Fund. Whilst our girls are privileged to receive a Loreto Kirribilli education, this is an opportunity for us to give back to others, reflecting the core value of social justice we teach our students.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the means-tested Bursary allows students to complete their Senior School education in the tradition of the Loreto Sisters. The Bursary will be awarded annually to students for their education from Years 10 to 12.

Thank you to our Bursary donors to date, who have laid the foundations to provide *the gift of education*. We especially thank our departing Year 12 families who donated a gift to the Bursary Fund from the Class of 2023. With over \$720,000 raised, we still have plenty of work to do to ensure opportunities for future Bursary recipients. All donations, small or large, are valued and appreciated. If each family contributed, imagine the depth of funds we could invest to make an ongoing impact on others less fortunate. *The greatest gift of all is education.*

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BURSARY FUND

Bank Details for making a tax-deductible donation to the Loreto Kirribilli Bursary Fund are:

Account Name: Loreto Kirribilli Bursary Fund
BSB: 012 366 | Account Number: 838 271 963
Reference: Your Name

THANK YOU TO OUR BURSARY DONORS

Sarah and Peter Allsopp	Nell & Hamish Hutton
Anonymous donors	Elena Kalceff
Sheila McGregor & John Arthur	The Lenzner Family
Belalberi Foundation	John Leon & Denise Gularte
Georgina Brown	Jackie & Rory Kennard
Elizabeth Chase	Emma & Clyde Livingston
Sandy Chen	Randall Maas & Karen Oxley
Philippa & Adam Chittendon	John & Lois Malone
Edy & Rahoul Chowdry	The Morello Family
Class of 2023 (Year 12)	Fiamma & Rob Morton
Class of 2023 (Year 6)	Meg Morrison & Gates Moss
Dr Matthew Cleary & Leah Cleary	(in honour of Year 12 staff)
Nikki Robinson & Justin Coss	Elisabeth Murphy
The Damian Family	Aylie O'Hanlon
Sam & Katie Delaney	Maria Teresa Piccioli,
Stefano & Maria Di Giovanni	Cristina Piccioli & Matteo Piva
Cassie & Sam Dickerson	Catherine Playoust
Melissa & Carl D'Souza	Reunion Class of '73
Sarah Dunn	The Rossi Foundation
Michelle & Anthony El-Hazouri	Eloise Frawley & Nicholas Steiner
Anthony & Mary Elias	Philippa Turner
Ex-Students' Union	The Watkins Family
Amy & Matthew Fisk	John, Bianca & White family
Hugh & Kate Fitzsimons	
Andrew Francis	
Rachel & Paul Franklin	
Grandparent High Tea 2023	
Gai Hamer	
Amanda Hartigan	
Edwina Carroll & John Hawkins	
Shane Hogan & Catherine	
Hogan (nee Watkins)	
Thomas Hughes	



Scan here to watch the
Loreto Kirribilli Spirit of
Giving video



Parents & Friends

MEL YARD-SMITH & DOMENIC LO SURDO | JOINT P&F PRESIDENTS 2024



2023 was a remarkable year! We had the most amazing engagement with the parent body to celebrate our extraordinary Loreto Kirribilli community. The P&F was very active throughout the year with everything from lunches, to BBQs, secondhand uniform sales, morning teas, Year Class get-togethers and the extraordinary Spring Fair. We send our enormous gratitude to the outgoing P&F Committee, proudly led by Anneke Senden and Daniel Rose, for making these events possible, as well as the School Executive, our Class Parents and all our parent volunteers - it is the generosity of these people that make Loreto Kirribilli so special.

On behalf of the P&F and parent body, we would also like to thank Mrs Anna Dickinson for the extraordinary way she has led our School over the past ten years and wish her all the very best for her future.

As we look forward, we are excited to build on the past 12 months and continue to grow opportunities for the engagement we have with you. The P&F Executive is a great team and we are all excited for what 2024 will bring. In 2024, the Loreto Kirribilli value of Sincerity will be central to all our activities. Parent engagement will also be a key theme for the P&F next year, especially as we welcome Dr Nicole Archard as our new Principal. We look forward to bringing you the various events and initiatives and encourage you to participate to the fullest by volunteering to assist in their planning and delivery. If you'd like to be involved, please email parents@loreto.nsw.edu.au

Our first community event of the year is the Welcome Cocktail Party which will be held on Friday 23 February 2024. Other key events for the year include our Father Daughter and Mother Daughter Masses, the P&F Luncheon at Sergeants' Mess, the inaugural Parents' Party and our beloved Sports Lunch, and of course our amazing annual Spring Fair. Each term we will also be holding Sausage Sizzles for the girls and staff.



SPRING FAIR



Parents & Friends

MEL YARD-SMITH & DOMENIC LO SURDO | JOINT P&F PRESIDENTS 2024

SAUSAGE SIZZLE



2024 P&F EXECUTIVE

Presidents

Mel Yard-Smith &
Domenic Lo Surdo

Vice Presidents

Katrina Damian & John Leon

Secretaries

Shauna Anderson &
Lisa Rodrigues

Treasurers

Mark De Vera & Gerry Arthur

2024 KEY DATES

Secondhand Uniform Sale

Tuesday 30 January
Wednesday 31 January

Class Parent Evening

Thursday 8 February

Welcome Cocktail Party

Friday 23 February

P&F Sausage Sizzle

Friday 8 March

Father Daughter Mass

Sunday 10 March

P&F Luncheon

Friday 22 March



Mother Daughter Mass

Sunday 19 May

Parent Party

Friday 14 June

Sports Lunch

Friday 2 August



Mass & Spring Fair

Sunday 25 August

Volunteers' Thank You Lunch

Friday 15 November

VOLUNTEERS' LUNCH



SECONDHAND UNIFORMS



Ex-Students' Union

CELIA SHELDON (ROBERTS '88) | PRESIDENT

2023 has turned out to be a momentous year in the history of the Ex-Students' Union.

Following months of discernment and engagement with our community, a special resolution was passed in October with the decision to close our Bursary Fund and merge it with the new tax-deductible Loreto Kirribilli Bursary Fund.

After almost 100 years of the Ex-Students' Bursary Fund, this decision has not been made lightly. Supporting our community in this way is integral to being an ex-student. Our commitment to providing bursaries will not change, we will simply shift our efforts towards combining with the School and parent community, all working together to support the new tax-deductible Bursary - offering opportunities to students who would otherwise not have been able to consider a Loreto education.

We are immensely proud of this achievement and grateful to our Principal, Mrs Dickinson, and the School Executive; and to our Board Chair, Ms Sheila McGregor and the rest of the School Board, for their significant support and commitment to the ex-students and to our ongoing special relationship. A fabulous High Tea celebration was held after our AGM in recognition of this momentous decision, and a sign of the deep appreciation felt by all.



Loreto Kirribilli Bursary Fund
*proudly supported - past, present
and future - by the Ex-Students'
Union, parents and friends.*

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

If you are an ex-student who is not a member of the Union, we warmly encourage you to join! Now 107 years old, our Union is renowned for its vitality and commitment and we want all of our community to be a part of this. We also want to ensure that no one is excluded from important decisions in the future.



Scan the QR code to
[join now](#) and support
your Union.

SPECIAL RATES FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023 - 31 MARCH 2024

- Ex-students aged 70yrs plus: **free**
- Ex-students aged under 70yrs: \$75 (usually \$150)

LORETO FEDERATION 2024

11-13 October 2024, Loreto Toorak
Theme 'Climate Justice'

Federation is a 'coming together' of all the Loreto schools in Australia. First proposed by Mother Gonzaga Barry in 1897, biannual gatherings have been held since 1955 with each school taking turns to host. It is a wonderful experience, not to be missed! Accommodation packages and program details to follow.

2024 KEY DATES

Movie Night TBC

Spirituality Day

Saturday 16 March

Mother Daughter Mass

Sunday 19 May

Card Day

Thursday 13 June

Loreto Federation

11-13 October

Annual Mass & AGM

Sunday 10 November



loretokirribilli_exstudents



Loreto Kirribilli Ex-students Union

Sharing our Community

LCDR CAROLINE SKINNER, RAN ('09)



Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Caroline Skinner ('09) has forged an impressive career in Marine Engineering in the Royal Australian Navy.

LCDR Skinner began with a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanics and Materials) and a Bachelor of Arts (Spanish) at the Australian National University. Part way through her university studies, LCDR Skinner joined the navy as a Marine Engineering Officer, where she was honoured with the E.S. Cunningham Award for Outstanding Leadership and Officer-like Qualities, and the IMarEST Medallion for Most Outstanding Marine Engineering Officer.

LCDR Skinner is now the Platform Systems Manager for the RAN's newest class of ship, the Supply Class Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment (AOR) Ship.

LCDR Skinner visited the school recently to share her leadership experiences with Year 11 students, highlighting her passion for the work she has engaged in, as well as the challenges she has faced. LCDR Skinner shared with Year 11 her top three character strengths that all great leaders need: courage, teamwork and curiosity.



DR ANNA CODY ('84)



Photo Sally Tsoutas, Western Sydney University

Congratulations Dr Anna Cody ('84) who has been appointed to the Human Rights Commission as Australia's new Sex Discrimination Commissioner.

Dr Cody has had a distinguished career as an academic, as a lawyer specialising in discrimination and as a passionate advocate for human rights. She was previously the Dean of the School of Law and Professor at Western Sydney University. Before this she was the Director of the Kingsford Legal Centre at the University of New South Wales, where she worked for over 20 years, providing leadership in clinical legal education, discrimination law and human rights.

Dr Cody told reporters at the time of her appointment: *"I enjoy working collaboratively across sectors to achieve positive change and will bring this into the role of Sex Discrimination Commissioner. Together, we'll work to improve gender, sex and sexuality equality in Australia across the diversity of our communities. With the other Commissioners and the President, I look forward to working to make Australia fairer."*

*Right Excerpt from 1984 Year Book:
First Councillors Anna Cody, Tess Robinson,
Anne de Carvahlo, Luci Christie and Susie Perna.*



An Ex-Student Remembers

HONOURING OUR TEACHERS

Teachers, past and present, should be honoured in this celebratory 115th year of Loreto Kirribilli. While I recognise the great achievements of the thousands of students who have been fortunate to gain their education at Loreto Kirribilli, and the forward-thinking Boards and steering committees, of which there have been many, none of this would have happened, or been necessary without the teachers. They are what makes a school great. Within my years at Loreto Kirribilli, I can list off at least ten who personally had an impact on my life and who influenced my career as a teacher of 40 years.

Mrs Leonard, my Grade 2 Teacher, was one of the few lay women who taught in the Junior School in the 1950s. She was a good woman who taught us with firm kindness in the old Milson's building, in an upstairs room, overlooking the gardens and harbour beyond. She taught me that it was alright to be myself.

Mother de Lourdes (Peg Flynn ibvm) taught me in Grades 4 and 6 and was the Principal of the Junior School while I was there. She oversaw the transition from the old Milson's building to the new Junior School, through the difficult year in the old Tomm's house, later called St Mary's and used as the Boarding House. She was a great teacher. She was fun, firm, innovative and forward thinking. She was musical, artistic, keen on language. She had a whimsical sense of fun and could see the funny side of just about anything. Hers was the example I turned to in much of my teaching practices.

Mother John Bosco (Noni Mitchell ibvm) So much has been written and said about this wonderful woman that to repeat it would not do her justice, but she taught me Religion, Maths and Science in the first years of the Wyndham Scheme. She and Vivian Greenfield (Truman) would teach all day then drive into Sydney University and learn the new syllabus for the Sciences, taking notes on foolscap paper, then come back to school and some weeks later teach us the new syllabus from these notes. Great dedication and amazing stamina! And, Noni was



MRS LEONARD



MOTHER DE LOURDES



MOTHER JOHN BOSCO



MISS GREENFIELD



MOTHER ASSUMPTA



doing this at Normanhurst two and a half days a week and Kirribilli the other two and a half days! Noni, in her role as RE Teacher of Form 3 girls, with her medical background and her innate humanity, was given the task of teaching us about human relationships, within marriage, sexual relationships, friendships, personal integrity and the importance of being a woman. Those lessons have never left me, and I venture to say most of the girls in that course will have lived with these lessons throughout their lives. Noni also got me through School Certificate Maths, with help from the Lord above!

Vivian Greenfield (Truman) was my Geography and Science Teacher. She became a dear friend in later years. She gave us a knowledge of the world we lived in through practical application and her lived experience. Her greatest influence on us was to encourage us to look at the world around us. She made wonder and awe a reality.

Mother Assumpta (Ruth Winship ibvm) was a dynamic leader of the School in the 1960s. She oversaw the construction of St Joseph's, a building fit for the new Wyndham Scheme syllabus for high school education. She saw the Wyndham syllabus implemented into the School and was responsible for the first, and now annual, Loreto Arts Festival (now Music Festival). She was the embodiment of Mary Ward's expression "*Be seekers of truth and doers of justice*".

I did not intend this note to be so long, but the subject is one that is dear to me. Without good teachers we would not be the people we are, and we need to acknowledge them and be for ever grateful for their dedication, knowledge, and ability to impart it, their humour and love for their students. Some of us have gone on to do extraordinary things very well; we have all gone on to do ordinary things extraordinarily well, thanks to our teachers.

I have no doubt that there are lists of great Loreto Kirribilli teachers, past and present, that would take up pages of *Spirit*, however one or two would suffice to say thank you. One hundred and fifteen years is a mighty achievement of excellence and should be honoured. Without the teachers, there would be no Loreto Kirribilli.

CLAIRE LONERAGAN (HAWKINS '68)

celebrating 115 YEARS

115 YEARS OF GREAT TEACHERS



Sharing our Community

RETIREMENTS



JANE DUNN

Jane joined us in 1997 and has become a much-loved staff member throughout her 26 years at Loreto Kirribilli. Jane's expertise and experience in Food Technology is exceptional

and she has a natural flair for

food preparation and presentation. Jane was also a valuable assistant in Design and Technology and she has supported many Years 11 and 12 students in the production of their Major Design Projects. Jane is also famous for her provision of staff gratitude morning teas, with her Mexican dip being a big hit! We thank Jane for her dedication to our Loreto Kirribilli community and wish her every happiness as she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.



MICHELE LANGDON

Michele joined Loreto Kirribilli in 2007 as Academic Support Coordinator, bringing with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in Special Education. Michele's passion

and dedication in support of

students with diverse educational needs has left a lasting legacy for students, families and the Academic Support department. Michele has an inherent desire to ensure that each and every student has the opportunity to experience success in their learning. She has been a strong support for countless Loreto students and their families. We will miss seeing Michele arrive at school wearing bright colours and bringing smiles to our faces whenever she walks into the room!

CLASS OF '73 REUNION



On Sunday 19 November, the Class of '73 got together for our 50-year reunion. First a beautiful Mass in the Chapel, then a tour of the School which has undergone much change over the years. The gathering continued at Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron where we shared a very memorable afternoon together.

We celebrated absent friends, shared great memories and much laughter, and best of all reconnected with each other. We won't wait another ten years for the next one!

THANK YOU AFTERNOON HIGH TEA



The Ex-Students' Union recently voted to merge their Bursary Fund with the new Loreto Kirribilli Bursary Fund. To celebrate this generous decision, the School welcomed our ex-students to an Afternoon High Tea in Spiritus to thank them for their support and generosity.

Make a difference by leaving a gift in your will.

For more information on leaving behind a legacy with a Bequest, and joining the Philomena Heaton Society, please contact development@loreto.nsw.edu.au

Vale Sr Toni Matha ibvm OA

26 NOVEMBER 1935 - 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

Much treasured member of the Loreto Swwisters (Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary) for 68 years, close friend to many, renowned for her compassion and outreach in both education and welfare, Sr Toni Matha died peacefully on Sunday 17 September at St Vincent's Care, Hawthorn East.



Sr Toni was well-known and loved across the Loreto network as a leader of great skill and charisma. She held positions of authority in three States and in Loreto Schools at Toorak, Kirribilli and Marryatville where her inspirational educational leadership included a strong commitment to those on the margins of society. Her presence on boards and committees in both welfare and education was transformational. She received many awards for her work and an AM for her service to the wider community.

Sr Toni was born in Sydney, grew up in West Wyalong and attended Loreto Normanhurst as a boarder before studying Physiotherapy at the University of Sydney. She joined the Loreto Sisters, bringing with her the rich Lebanese culture and the Melchite rite in which she had been baptised and confirmed.

Sr Toni was Sister Superior at Loreto Kirribilli from 1987-1992. Along with teachers Ann Dooley and Peggy

Sacco, and in close consultation with the Parent Advisory Committee (P.A.C.), she coordinated a new Community Service Program, where Year 10 students provided active service in the community, in childcare centres, hospitals and community centres.

Sr Toni worked closely with the Development Office during the Centenary building program of 1991-1992, a major project which included the Hall, Gymnasium, Science Block, computer rooms and rooftop Tennis courts.

In 2007 Sr Toni was appointed as a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia for service to the community, particularly the provision and development of services through St Vincent de Paul, to people suffering from mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction and to education. The award highlighted Sr Toni's extraordinary achievements in the social justice



and welfare sector. Sr Toni was an active force in social welfare in Australia and in particular in the collaboration between social welfare services, Church and State.

Beloved daughter of Callil and Ruby, sister of Marilyn, sister-in-law to Sam Bashir, aunt to Kristen, Gaby, Michaela, and in-laws Andy and Greg, great aunt to her precious nieces and nephews.

The Loreto Sisters mourn Sr Toni's death but celebrate the joy and love of life that exuded from her even in the midst of suffering. May our dear Toni rest in peace.

Source: Loreto Ministries. Thank you to our archivist Tabatha Paterson, who researched photographs and additional information about Sr Toni.

Ex-Students' News

ENGAGEMENTS

Sophie Haet ('12) to Dylan Rochon

Harriette Churchill ('14) to James Edwards

Emma Watson ('13) to Tom O'Connor

Amy Tesoriero ('15) to Colin Yuan

WEDDINGS

Lara Baker ('09) to Anthony Maughan-Wright

Natalie Cox ('08) to Andrew Watson

Charlotte Lewis ('12) to Dominik Breznik

BIRTHS | DAUGHTERS

Isabelle Margaret Patricia to Gabrielle Hartigan (Masson '06)

Bianca Georgina to Rebecca Cocco (Lewis '05)

Violet Abigail to Alice Hollier (Slaven '10)

Harley Hunter to Jessamine Hunter (Walker '99)

Cecilia Mary Perry to Lillian Martin ('09)

Matilda May to Susanna Jetson (Cahill '06)

Margot Iris to Wendy McKenzie (Rafferty '03)

Agnes Jean Finola Downing to Allegra Downing (Day '05)

Annabelle Mae to Caitlin Aitchison (Pribula '10)

BIRTHS | SONS

Willoughby Arthur Donn Blakeley to Ingrid-Grace Howe ('03)

Sidney William David Sturrock to Finola Sturrock (Day '02)

Harry Leo Francis to Antonia Francis ('08) and Jessica Francis (McNally '08)

DEATHS | SISTERS

Sr Toni Matha ibvm AM

DEATHS | EX-STUDENTS

Peg O'Flynn (Hay '30)

Maxim Larri (LK '43)

Julie Johnsson (Blair '59)

Nerrol Wendy Bethune Reading (Adams '47)

Beth Graham ('85) Jacki Sherwood (Dalton '83)

Maureen Campbell (O'Loughlin '52), sister of Nancy Michal (O'Loughlin '49) and great-aunt of Grace Roseby ('17) and Sidney Roseby ('23)

DEATHS | RELATIVES OF EX-STUDENTS

Frances Mary Fisher, mother of Sally Geaney (Fisher '95), Kate Fisher ('97), Emma Grange (Fisher '00), aunt of Georgina Mattick (Dwyer '99), Jane Harrison (Dwyer '97), Victoria Larkins ('09) and Lucy Larkins ('10)

Rene Vicencio, father of Robert (LK '84), Angelica Hannan (Vicencio '00) and Alaine de Gomez (Vicencio '07)

Mary Connors, mother of Jane Connors ('77), Sarah Connors ('80), Lucy Connors ('81), Emma Connors ('83), Kate Mercer (Connors '85), Nellie Connors ('93), Tim Connors (LK '68), Michael Connors (LK '66), grandmother to Lillian Martin ('09) and Kathryn Martin ('19)

Joan Grimes, mother of Rachel Grimes ('85), Rebecca Grimes ('86) and Emma Grimes ('88), grandmother to Anastasia Louridas (Year 4)

Robert Webb, father of Katie Webb ('23), Grace Webb ('19) and Ashleigh-Blaise Webb ('12)

Colin Kerr, father of Jackie Kerr ('23) and Isabel (Year 10)

Liam O'Loughlin brother of Nancy Michal (O'Loughlin '49) and Maureen Campbell (O'Loughlin '51) (dec)

Support Loreto Kirribilli's drive for a more sustainable future

P&F SECONDHAND UNIFORM SALE

Tuesday 30 January | 7.30am-11.30am | 5pm-7pm

Wednesday 31 January | 7.30am-11.30am | **Star of the Sea Church**