



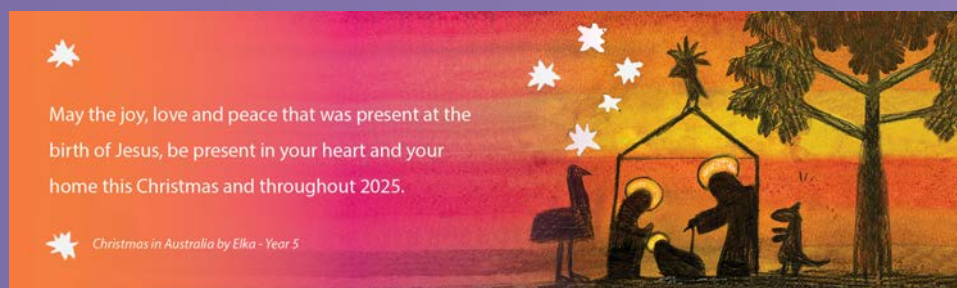
# spirit

ISSUE 96 December 2024

LORETO KIRRIBILLI



**FROM THE ARCHIVES:** A quick glance through the Spirit Magazine archives shows that the celebrations at this time of year have a long history, from the crowning of the Jubilarians, to the election and congratulations of the new Student Executive. Above: Jubilarians, December 1998; School Executive, November 1999; School Executive, November 2010; Jubilarians December 2016.



# LORETO KIRRIBILLI

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Kindy visit  
Archives



Year 12  
Ex-Students' Union Lunch



Junior School  
Studio Concert



Term 4  
First Day



Kindergarten 2025  
Rhyme Time & Storytime



Parents & Friends  
Gratitude Mass



Festival  
of Speech



Year 3 visit  
the Art Gallery



Year 11  
Senior Ribbons



Year 10  
Amazing Race



loretokirribilli



Loreto Kirribilli



LoretoKirribilliSchool

# A Message from the Principal

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



## A LORETO EDUCATION

It is that time of the year where we begin to welcome new students to Loreto Kirribilli as part of their orientation program before they commence the following year. At the same time, Year 12 girls are finishing their exams and coming to an end of their formal school journey. Regardless of which end of the journey our girls and their parents are on, the journey does not finish at the end of the Loreto Kirribilli schooling experience (which for a newly starting Kindergarten student is 2037!).

We are instead welcoming our new parents and their daughters into a life-long association with the school. Currently, in relation to all Loreto schools within Australia and abroad, there are over 1.5 million Loreto alumnae in the world. That is an incredible representation of strong, capable, faith-filled women contributing to a better society across every continent. The contribution and therefore impact that Loreto women are making to the world never ceases to amaze me.

This contribution was clearly on display at Loreto Federation which took place at Loreto Manderville Hall Toorak, in Melbourne in October this year. Loreto Federation is the biennial gathering of ex-students from Loreto schools across Australia with the purpose for exploring social issues through the work of Loreto alumnae. The theme of this year's Federation was 'Environmental Justice: People, Places and Our Shared

Future'. The speakers were outstanding, and it is through these events that you gain a full insight into the long-lasting impact of a Loreto education.

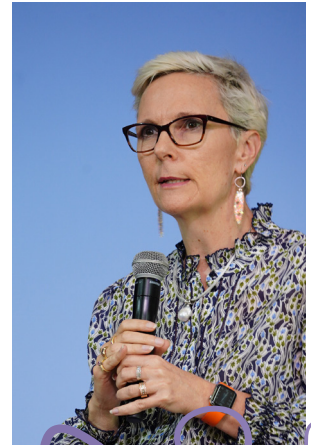
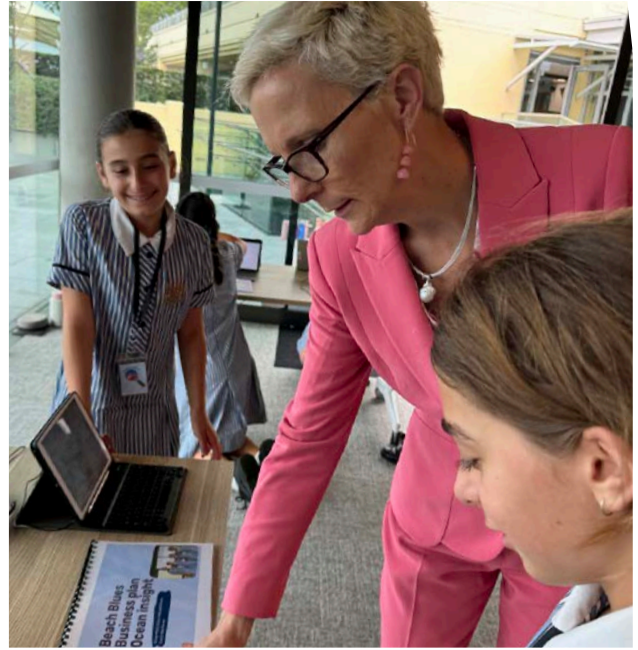
The idea to 'federate' came from the foundress of Loreto Schools in Australia, Mother Gonzaga Barry, who wrote the following in 1897 to her students:

*'Your dictionary will tell you that Federation means a league, a compact or the act of uniting in a league. Now would it not be a good thing for all Loreto Girls to Federate in a great league for a noble end, viz.: to work out patiently, steadily, faithfully, high and holy aims in the daily routine of life's duties. Federate Sydney with Perth, Melbourne with Ballarat, with Randwick near the blue waters of Botany Bay, with Portland facing the Great Southern Ocean.'*

**EUCALYPTUS BLOSSOMS, 8 DECEMBER 1897, P5**

It took some time for the idea to take hold, however, in 1955 the first Federation took place, and apart from the interruption caused by Covid, Federation has been regularly occurring across Australia ever since.

We are excited to announce that Loreto Kirribilli will host the next Federation in 2026. We hope to see as many Loreto ex-students and friends of Loreto (who are all welcome) as possible.



# 2024 Awards Ceremony Address

MS SHEILA MCGREGOR | CHAIR OF THE BOARD



In the seven years I've been Chair of the School Board, I've spoken to this and other School gatherings many times.

Often, a theme of my talks has been how we, as a School community, have been dealing with the great changes we're facing, some chosen by us, but many the result of forces beyond our control.

An obvious example of the latter is the continuing funding pressure we're under, as Governments reduce financial support for independent schools, and what that has meant for our parents and grandparents, as our Principal and staff strive for further improvements in what our school offers to our students. Another very topical issue is social media and its positive and negative impact on young lives.

However, today, instead of change, I want to briefly focus on its opposite, and that is: what must stay the same, if our School is to continue to engage in partnership with our families to nurture and work closely with our girls to prepare them for the many challenges and opportunities in life after leaving school.

Top of mind here are, of course, the values of Mary Ward and her companions, which, unaltered, have guided our staff and students for the more than 100 years we have been at Kirribilli.

As all of you here know, 2024 is the year of **Sincerity** and focuses on our personal honesty, and the way in which we hold ourselves in our communications and relationships.

The ideal of Mary Ward and her companions was that we examine our interior lives. Lots of work has been done this year to explore this theme with the girls, and how it applies in our day-to-day lives, and not just at school, but as an ongoing part of our lives.

The girls know these Mary Ward values off by heart, and so of course do many of you parents here today, but just to remind ourselves, the others are **Freedom, Justice, Verity and Felicity**.

I'm very confident that when today's students are parents, aunts, or even grandparents and are sitting in a room like this, listening to a person like me speaking

# 2024 Awards Ceremony Address

**MS SHEILA M<sup>C</sup>GREGOR | CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

to them, they are likely to hear a similar commitment to these values. After all, living these values, is what makes our School special and different, as other aspects of School life wax and wane and as education evolves.

I want to finish today by mentioning two long term supporters of our Mary Ward values who strongly exemplify Mother Gonzaga Barry's saying "*leave after you something on which others may build*".

Two of our Board members, Yvonne Le Bas and Louisa Geddes are retiring from our Board this year. Yvonne has been on the Board for nine years and the Finance Committee for 11 years. Yvonne's daughter, Niamh Hremiako, who graduated from Kirribilli in 2017, has just completed her medical degree at Sydney University. And today Niamh is being awarded a top Women's Health Award at her graduation ceremony at Sydney University. A great Loreto Kirribilli story.

Apart from her focus on our finances, Yvonne has brought a very important strategic mind-set to Board discussions about the sort of School we are and want to be, and our educational offerings. She leaves us with a strong platform to continue to enhance and evolve our educational offerings.

Louisa, a Kirribilli ex- student and aunt of one of our ex- students, is retiring from the School Board after six years, (but I think for her, it feels like many more than those six years! Maybe 12?). Louisa led the Board involvement in the Spiritus planning and building and has continued with parent and new Board member Anthony Elias to position us very well, literally, to continue to develop our School to respond to our evolving educational and pastoral needs.

Thanks so very much to Yvonne and Louisa for their massive contribution. Thanks to our community here today for all that you do for our School. I wish you all the very best for a happy and safe Christmas and holiday season.



## WE SALUTE RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS



**YVONNE LE BAS**



**LOUISA GEDDES**

# Mary Ward Justice Forum

**HELEN THOMAS | DIRECTOR OF MISSION**

Inspired by Mary Ward to be 'seekers of truth and doers of justice', we seek the truth by enriching our knowledge and understanding around social justice issues and galvanizing those around us to take action. Pope Francis reminds us to set aside time for dialogue with God, and with each other, to make a difference and advocate for the marginalised in our world.

The Mary Ward Justice Forum is an event held annually and hosted alternately between Loreto Kirribilli and Loreto Normanhurst. The forum has been running for the past 13 years and is a significant opportunity to bring the Kirribilli and Normanhurst communities together and share in Mary Ward's vision of continuing God's work.

This year, at Loreto Kirribilli, the conversation focused on truth-telling, embracing the opportunity to be open and honest about a way forward, and committing to ongoing dialogue, respect, and collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Our panellists included Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO; Roslyn Thomas, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Consultant for the Association of Independent Schools of NSW; and Lucy Howard-Shibuya ('85), a teacher at Goodooga Central School. Our Director of Teaching and Learning, Mathew Clausen, moderated the panel discussion, posing questions such as *Are Australians generally de-sensitised to uncomfortable truths? What are the hard lessons after the referendum? What do we take forward from the outcome of the referendum? and What is the role of education in moving forward?*

The forum was an opportunity to engage in meaningful and deep discussions around truth-telling and hope as we move forward 12 months on from the Voice referendum. Attendees, especially students, asked profound questions and expressed their thoughts on reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The speakers concurred that to move forward and for reconciliation to be effective, it must involve truth-telling which actively addresses issues of inequality, systemic racism and situations where the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are ignored, denied or reduced.



*I came away last night, not only enriched by all of you, but also encouraged that the many nations that encompass this land have a generation of strong, informed, and courageous allies on the way. The young people in the room were amazing and deeply reflective of where our nation is heading.*

**ROSLYN THOMAS, PANELLIST**

# Sharing our Faith

HELEN THOMAS | DIRECTOR OF MISSION



## FIRST EUCHARIST

In a special and sacred occasion, students received the sacrament of First Eucharist in the School Chapel. It was a moment of great significance for both our students and their families, as they came together to celebrate this beautiful ceremony. We are immensely proud of our students. Thank you to Father Peter Hendricks MSC for presiding over the Mass.

*The Eucharist we receive allows us to see things as God does. It inspires us to give ourselves to others.* **POPE FRANCIS**



## MASS OF THANKSGIVING

All Saints' Day Mass, celebrated by Fr Sacha Bermudez-Goldman SJ, was also a Mass of Thanksgiving in appreciation of our Loreto Kirribilli community, who so generously support the school's Building Fund, Green Fund, and Bursary Fund, providing the 'gift of education for others'. We also thanked the Philomena Heaton Bequest Society members for their ongoing support.



## ARCHBISHOP'S AWARD

Congratulations to Saoirse Trainor (Year 12) who was recognised for her contribution to the faith life of her parish and school communities with the 2024 Archbishop of Sydney Award for Student Excellence. Saoirse received this honour at a special ceremony with His Grace, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP at St Mary's Cathedral. Her citation was read by Emma Turner (Year 12).



## FATHERS' DAY LITURGY

Our thanks to Stephanus Natawardaja (father of Erica, Year 5, and Emma, Year 2) for his heartfelt words about his role as a Dad, and for sharing his story at the Junior School Fathers' Day Liturgy. This was a special occasion where we celebrated our fathers, grandfathers, and father figures who play such a vital role in our lives.

# Social Justice



## YARN CLUB

Now in its second year, Junior School's Yarn Club is a knitting/crocheting craft activity for Years 3-6 students. Students meet every Thursday morning for a 'yarn' and a knitting session. The students learn to knit squares in colourful wools to make patchwork throws. We also asked our Junior School community to donate knitted squares.

We have made a super-special connection with a seniors' knitting club, who kindly sewed the squares together for us. These special blankets were then donated to the women living at Nagle House, a safe house part of Cana Communities.

It was heart-warming to witness our students channel their creativity and kindness into spreading warmth and comfort to those in need. Their commitment to giving back embodies the spirit of community and empathy that we hold dear at our school.

*"The delivery of these warm, handcrafted gifts to our dear ladies marked a moment of joy and heartfelt connection,"* said the Nagle House Manager at Cana Community

Year 6 representatives from our Yarn Club hosted a stall at the IPSHA (Independent Primary School Heads of Australia) Social Action Expo held at The Kings School, Parramatta. Congratulations to Angeline Becherand, Josephine Foo, Elle Killen and Madeleine McNamara who prepared the display and spoke confidently about the Yarn Club.

## LINDA WALBURN

Assistant Head of Junior School



## BARRY HOUSE FUNDRAISERS

Barry House student leaders held a series of fundraising activities to raise funds and awareness of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF).

Zoe Cassim, Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) Head of Programs, was our guest speaker at a Social Awareness Live@Lunch talk. Zoe is a proud Widjabul/Wia-bul woman from Bundjalung Country in northern New South Wales. She manages the Indigenous Literacy Foundation Programs team, supporting communities and young people across Australia, helping to instil a love of reading from an early age.



## LIVE@LUNCH



## BAKE SALE



## BUSKING FOR CHANGE



## SPELLING BEE

# Social Justice

COOKIES FOR ST CANICE'S KITCHEN



## STAFF SPIRITUALITY DAY

At the end of Term 3, Loreto Kirribilli staff gathered for a Spirituality Day, beginning with Mass in the Chapel, followed by spirituality sessions moderated by Sr Sandra Perrett ibvm. Sr Sandra is leading the celebrations for next year's 150th anniversary of the arrival in Australia of the IBVM Sisters under the leadership of Mother Gonzaga Barry. The day concluded with staff partaking in various community service activities at locations across Sydney.

CLEANING UP OUR FORESHORES



GARDENING AT ST PAUL'S BURWOOD



HELPING OUT AT VINNIES



COOKING FOR ST PAUL'S BURWOOD



DONATING BLOOD



# Wellbeing

MARNIE BUTLER | HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

## PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

During Term 3 we invited parents to hear from expert speakers about some of the issues facing our young people: social media and body image; consent; and transitioning to high school.



Associate Professor Griffiths leads a team at the University of Melbourne that is undertaking significant research with the TikTok 'algorithm'. He spoke with students and parents about *The Online World of TikTok and Social Media*, revealing the power of TikTok and other social media algorithms that direct content to users of these platforms.

Dr Griffiths highlighted that TikTok is the dominant media vehicle for youth culture, and more time is spent on this form of social media than any other streaming platform.

Dr Griffiths' harm-minimisation approach provided practical ways for our students to take control of their own social media to ensure they can make active decisions on what is being delivered to them.



### DR GRIFFITHS' ACTIVE STRATEGIES TO MAKE TIKTOK MORE POSITIVE

Use the 'refresh' setting - it temporarily relaxes the algorithm to bring you a wider variety of content.

Actively search for content you know makes you happy or interests you.

Use the 'Not interested' button - this will force the algorithm to listen.

Do not use TikTok to find out if something is wrong with you.

Set a daily screen time limit - try 1 hour to start with!



Jane McGowen ('86) is a consent education specialist who has been working in partnership with the school since 2019. Together we have developed an emotional literacy program tailored to meet the needs of our students in Years 7-12.

Jane began her presentation to parents with the latest statistics from the *Growing Up in Australia* report. She shared what her own experience with young men and women has taught her, and then outlined the approach she takes with her age-appropriate consent education sessions. She also shared her tips for parents in navigating this sometimes-difficult topic of discussion.



Dr Judith Locke is a clinical psychologist specialising in modern parenting, family wellbeing, and academic environments. She is also a former teacher and school counsellor. Dr Locke gave parents some practical and proven strategies to support students as they enter their teenage years and transition to high school. Navigating friendships and growing up can be difficult, and her advice and suggestions were warmly welcomed by all.

We will continue to work in partnership with parents to address common issues that arise for our teenagers, and provide strategies they may like to explore with their daughters.

## Wellbeing K-12



PEGGY THE THERAPY DOG



BATYR WORKSHOP



OLYMPIC FEVER



R U OK? DAY



### WELLBEING WEEK

During Wellbeing Week students enjoyed activities such as games of chess and Uno, mindful meditation, making friendship bracelets, DJ sessions, singalongs and Let's Dance. In the Junior School, our Year 5 Wellbeing Warriors led the way in lunchtime activities. Much fun and frivolity was had by all.



# Sustainability in the Curriculum

The fourth pillar of the Loreto Kirribilli Environmental Sustainability Framework is Environmental Literacy. With sustainable-themed project work and excursions woven into the curriculum, students learn about sustainable practices, conserving our natural environment, reducing waste, and enhancing biodiversity.

YEAR 5 SUSTAINABLE GAMES



YEAR 10 LIVABLE CITIES



YEAR 11 WEAVING



YEAR 4 ZOO ENCLOSURE



SCIENCE WEEK

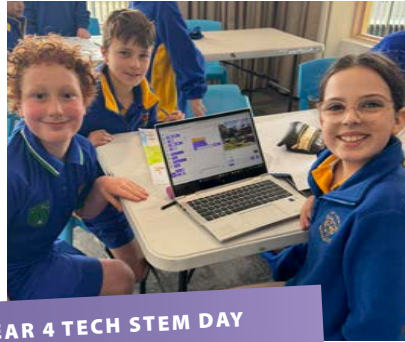


YEAR 5 REVERSE GARBAGE EXCURSION



# Companions in Learning K-12

We are thrilled that our Companions in Learning program with St Aloysius' College continues to go from strength to strength, with events across the Junior School and Senior School under the program's the four pillars of Social Justice, Community Engagement, Respectful Relationships and Partners in Learning. We love the way the students connect through these opportunities, collaborating and enjoying working together.



YEAR 4 TECH STEM DAY



YEAR 7 PUBLIC SPEAKING

## MANDARIN STORY TIME

Kindergarten and Year 1 students welcomed Year 3 students from St. Aloysius' College for a special Mandarin Story Time. Together, the students read stories about Chinese culture, legends, food, festivals, and many more subjects.

**JENNIFER YEH**

*Mandarin Teacher*



## COMPANIONS IN PERFORMING

Our talented Petite Voices and Junior Strings Ensemble students came together with the St Aloysius' College Junior School Choir and Strings Ensemble to perform onstage at the Sydney Town Hall for the IPSHA Performing Arts Festival.



## GALACTIC GROOVE DISCO

St Aloysius' College's Dalton Hall was transformed into a space-age disco for Years 3-6! Raising funds for Jesuit Refugee Services, students enjoyed pizza and popcorn and danced the afternoon away with our Companions in Learning.



## CAREERS BREAKFAST

Years 10 and 11 students were invited to a Careers Breakfast hosted by St Aloysius' College. Joining on the morning was an alumni panel who shared their career journey and discussed market trends and post-school opportunities.

# The Future of Learning

## YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS CHANGING THE WORLD



The young students of Year 6 at Loreto Kirribilli stood proudly in front of their digital displays, talking excitedly to parents, friends, staff and fellow students about their mobile phone app designs.

The event was the Changemakers@LK Showcase, the finale of a new transdisciplinary project with an innovative framework that was woven into the Year 6 curriculum.

Using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a starting point, students devised a mobile phone app to solve a real-world problem. From researching consumer behaviour, to writing business plans, designing logos, developing wireframes, and coding their apps, the students were assisted along the way by expert mentors from the fields of business, product development, marketing and IT.

Working in teams, the young changemakers dreamed up ideas for apps to solve all sorts of local



issues and help people in areas such as environment, education, health, and equality. There were apps to improve disabled access, to protect our oceans, to assist teachers share resources, identify fish species, and even prevent bullying.

During her speech to welcome parents to the Changemakers@LK event, student Eva told the crowd, "In less than ten years we will be available for employment, and you won't be disappointed!" As parents took in the impressive displays and listened to the students' confident presentations, many were inclined to agree.



## MENTORS MAKING CHANGE

Throughout the Changemakers@LK project, students met with female professionals from the fields of business, product development, marketing and IT. These interactions provided invaluable real-world insights, enhancing the students' understanding of entrepreneurship and the steps involved in bringing their ideas to life. We are grateful to these mentors for their enthusiasm, patience and commitment to supporting us.

**MARIA EMMI** E-Learning Teacher Educator



### TERESA TAM

Managing Partner and Director of an asset management company (Parent, Years 3 & 9)  
*"I have been incredibly impressed by the students' dedication to studying the UN Sustainable Development Goals..."*



### LISA DE VERE WHITE

Director of Planning and Governance, Optus (Parent, Years 2 & 6)  
*"Changemakers is an exceptional program for the girls."*



### KIM BECHERAND

Not-for-profit Inclusion Advocate & Consultant (Parent, Years 6 & 7)  
*"I loved seeing the girls' grit and creativity when challenging them to think outside their own experiences or in areas they may not have thought about."*



### TIANA DOUROUDÍS ('18)

Technology Consultant, EY  
*"The program not only equips the girls with valuable technical and problem-solving skills but also instills a sense of empowerment and allows them to showcase their immense potential and creativity."*



### EMMA PAUL

Teacher & Founder of Shining Little Souls (Parent, Years 5 & 7)  
*"I have really enjoyed being a mentor in the program, watching students grow in confidence with their ideas and engage deeply with real-world issues."*



### AMY CADWALLADER ('96)

Brand Strategist & Founder of Brand Therapy (Parent, Years 6, 9 & 10)  
*"The holistic nature of the program was impressive, and gives a thorough view of all the elements and steps involved in creating a successful business that will create change."*



### SOPHIA ATTRILL ('17)

CRM & Loyalty Manager at Milkrun



### DANIELLA DI SANTO

National STEM Lead at ABCN, a not-for-profit mentoring program volunteer



### SHAMISTHA FERNANDO

Agility Coach - UTS



### GEORGIA LENEHAN ('15)

Senior Brand Manager - Sanofi

# The Future of Learning

## ENTREPRENEURS' DAY

Now in its fourth year, **Entrepreneurs' Day at Loreto Kirribilli introduces Year 9 students to the concepts of enterprise and entrepreneurship, gaining inspiration from real and relatable professionals who have started their own small business ventures.**

We were delighted to welcome a stellar cast of keynote speakers (and ex-students) for a day of presentations, workshops and collaborative creativity, allowing students to be inspired by smart, enterprising women, hear practical advice about starting a business, and collaborate on a mini-marketing project. Students also learnt important skills in presenting themselves to prospective employers, with the day styled along the lines of a 'corporate style' conference/ professional forum.

Social Sciences Subject Coordinator Keith Hopkins summed up the objectives of the day.

"Entrepreneurs' Day is designed to create opportunities, establish networks, and develop enterprise skills which we hope will be nurtured by all key learning areas at the school, and through strategic partnerships within and beyond the Loreto network."



*"We learnt about the importance of resilience when building a business and how there will always be ups and downs on the journey. We learnt valuable lessons such as how to write a resume, the positives and drawbacks of being an entrepreneur and how we as Loreto Kirribilli students have many opportunities for networking such as LK Connect and LK Birdlings. We are very grateful to all the guest speakers who took time out of their day to help us learn all about entrepreneurship."*

**ARABELLA WRIGHT, ELIZA DAMIAN, HARRIET DUNCAN & BONITA GLASS**  
Year 9

# The Future of Learning

## SPECIAL GUESTS SHARE THEIR BUSINESS KNOW-HOW



*Thank you to our range of guest speakers with impressive careers who inspired our students to be 'Entrepreneurs for a Day'.*



### EDITH CLARK ('97)

Edith Clark BIA, MArtTher is the Founder and Director of Archebiosis Architects, an architecture practice based in Sydney. She believes in the potential of architecture to uplift the human spirit and the power of art to improve wellbeing.



### JESS WOODWARD ('12)

Jess Woodward B Bus, MCouns travelled from Queensland to share her insights into the recruitment process. After time working with Dyson and Daydream Island Resorts, Jess is now Head of People and Culture at Couriers Please.



### MADISON WHITE

Madison White is the founder of Ecom Media, an e-commerce company designed to help small businesses grow their brands on social media. She spoke to the students about some of the challenges in starting a business: having goals, growing at a sustainable rate, maintaining quality control and managing to sustain yourself.



### OLIVIA KWAN ('93)

Olivia Kwan BEc, grew up in Sydney within a thriving family jewellery business. Continuing in the family footsteps, she became a qualified Gemmologist and Diamond Grader with the Gemmological Institute of Australia (GIA). She worked for Tiffany & Co both in Sydney and London, before establishing Errai Sydney in 2016.



### FRANCESCA HUNG ('11)

Francesca Hung BA, MPub is an actor, presenter, writer, host and media personality. She is the co-founder and designer of Australian womenswear label Frankie Lane. From 2019 - 2022 Francesca was the face and host of E! Australia, reporting from red carpets and events, interviewing some of the biggest stars in the world.



### NATALIE BAMBER

Natalie Bamber LLB, MMkt is an internationally experienced events and marketing professional, with a background in advertising, corporate communications, events and brand transformation. Natalie currently heads up an in-house marketing team at Legalwise Seminars. (Natalie is the sister of Social Sciences teacher Jake Bamber.)

# Farewell Class of 2024

**ROMALINA ROCCA | DEPUTY PRINCIPAL**

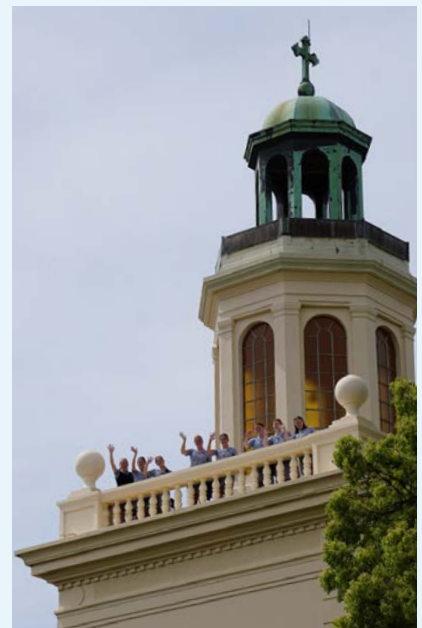


At the close of Term 3, we bade a heartfelt farewell to our remarkable Year 12 Class of 2024. There was the Thank You Morning Tea, hosted by the Year 12 parents to thank the staff; the final Year meeting, with the 'Ringing of the Bell' and a trip to the top of the Chapel Tower; and then the Graduation Ceremony, a moment to acknowledge these students as they close one chapter and step into a new and exciting future. Students, family, friends, staff, Board members, and Sisters packed Centenary Hall (with the rest of the school in the Auditorium watching the livestream) for the traditional crowning of the Jubilarians and prizegiving, a formal recognition of the many achievements and contributions this cohort has made to the school community. At a beautiful Graduation Mass, we offered prayers of gratitude for these inspiring young women. The day concluded with a joyful Graduation Dinner, a fitting close to this significant milestone. We are confident the Class of 2024 will continue to use their talents with creativity, compassion, and a sense of responsibility as they embark on their next journey.



## Farewell Class of 2024

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### BUCKET GIVING

In what is now a leave-taking tradition, our Year 12 students presented their Year 11 counterparts with their 'study survival' buckets. Favourites, fluffy throws, feather pens and furry slippers were accompanied by words of wisdom, study notes, and plenty of laughter and hugs. Some of the buckets are now on their sixth year of recycling!



# Senior School

## NEW STUDENT LEADERS

To rousing applause, we welcomed our new 2024/2025 Student Leaders and saluted the outgoing team for their hard work and grace in leading the student community. Principal Dr Nicole Archard spoke about the importance of our leaders representing their peers, providing an avenue for student voice, and setting the tone and culture of the school through their actions and words.



First Councillors Marcrisse De Vera, Vice-Captain Eva Eales, School Captain Isabelle Bannan, First Councillors Clementine Wills and Romy Elliot.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL CAPTAIN 2024/2025

*Loreto Kirribilli is a school that goes far beyond academic pursuits and focuses on the education of the holistic self, which facilitates growth in every aspect of student life.*

*Each day we step into a vibrant environment, shaped by a long line of predecessors, where the empowerment of young women is integral in developing students' self-efficacy. It is a vision that has existed for over 400 years, since the time of our foundress, Mary Ward.*

*Our school values are the manifestation of Mary Ward's ideals: Freedom of Spirit, Justice, Sincerity, Verity, and Felicity. These Loreto values are embedded in everything that we do as a community - including our dedication to social justice, and our commitment to service.*

*As we enter the year of Verity, we question: What is our truth as Loreto Kirribilli? Our truth is something that is integrated within our community of staff, students and ex-students, and the vibrant spirit that we all hold that stems from our rich ethos.*



*Our leadership team aspires to connect truth to student authenticity and individuality this year, to deepen inclusivity and encourage student voice. To be the School Captain for this year is the highest honour; it is a role that I take on with pride, and a knowledge of the responsibility to continue the legacy of our foundress Mary Ward, to be 'seekers of truth and doers of justice'.*

### ISABELLE BANNAN, SCHOOL CAPTAIN 2024/2025

This is an edited extract of Isabelle's message. Read the entire piece here: [loreto.nsw.edu.au/discover/welcome/our-student-leaders/](https://loreto.nsw.edu.au/discover/welcome/our-student-leaders/)

# Senior School Learning

## SHOWCASING STUDENT LEARNING



### TAS EXPO: INNOVATION ISLAND

Technology, Design and Technology, along with Food Technology, are subjects that teach problem-solving, critical thinking, and project management skills, encourage creativity and innovation, and prepare our students for a wide range of future careers.

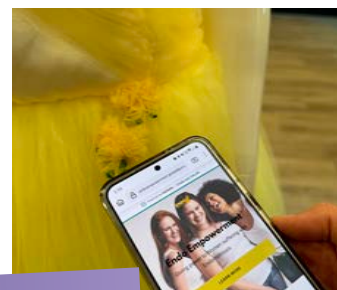
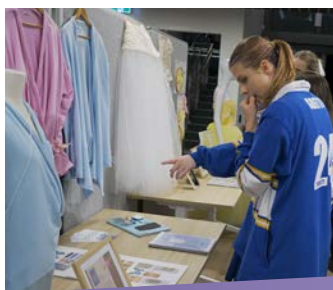
This year, we have expanded access to state-of-the-art tools and equipment such as laser cutters, 3D printers, and vinyl cutters across all year levels. These advanced technologies enable students to bring their imaginative ideas to life, develop technical skills, and gain experience with industry-standard equipment. This was evident in all the works on display from Year 7 through to Year 11 at our Term 3 TAS Expo, a vibrant celebration of student talent.

**RACHEL NOONAN**

*TAS Subject Coordinator*

### VISUAL ARTS SHOWCASE

The 2024 HSC Visual Art Show was a truly impressive showcase of the journey our talented Year 12 Visual Arts students have embarked upon during their final year in the Senior School. In addition to our special guest, Artist Rachel Carroll, the show was attended by students across the Senior School, parents, extended family members, and friends.



### DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION



# Senior School Learning



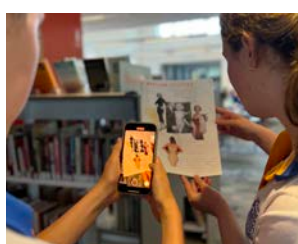
## PLAYGROUND TO PODIUM

For the Year 8 STEM day, *Playground to Podium*, students explored how scientific advancements, technological innovations, and shifting societal norms have influenced women's sport over time. Students examined the biomechanics of athletes, analysed sports data, and discovered innovative technologies empowering female athletes.

A highlight of the day was a visit from former Olympians Zali Steggall, OAM, MP, and Leonie Arnebank ('96), who shared their journeys and emphasised the importance of determination, resilience, and continuous learning, inspiring our students with their stories of perseverance and achievement.

### RICK DUFOURQ

STEM Subject Coordinator



## UNDERSTANDING EXTINCTION

As part of a school initiative to continually develop and refine student's capacity for critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration, Year 10 students took part in a three-day transdisciplinary learning experience. Under the topic of 'Understanding Extinction', students investigated the concept of extinction through the lenses of technology, language and culture, anthropology, biology, literature, and industry.

Working in teams, the students communicated their knowledge in a variety of media, such as art, drama, music, the written word, presentations, podcasts and posters. Thank you to special guests who brought their perspectives: transport guru Melvyn Bolus, nutritionist Simone Launt-Peters, biological scientist Marian Traynor, communication expert Melanie Philippou, educationalist Anne Gripton, AI consultant Matthew Esterman and cyber security whizz Greg Colla.

## Senior School Learning



### MULTIPLEX JUMP-STARTS CAREERS

Multiplex Jump Start is an initiative designed to educate and inspire young women to consider a career in the built environment. Students from Years 10-12 have attended a series of workshops, career events and site visits showcasing the many varied opportunities that exist in the industry. The participating Loreto Kirribilli students have been wonderful ambassadors for our school, getting involved, connecting with women working in the built environment, and approaching every task with enthusiasm. We look forward to continuing our journey with Multiplex, building relationships and widening the pool of female talent in the construction industry.



### CHAI TIME AT LORETO KIRRIBILLI

We were delighted to welcome 2023 Miles Franklin Award-winning author of Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens, Shankari Chandran, who came to speak to Year 12 students about the writing process and how she balances this with her career in law. Shankari's advice to her audience? Keep writing, and read!

### SCIENCE FAIR

Our Years 8 and 10 Science students had their research, creativity, and innovation skills on display at this year's Science Fair.

We welcomed esteemed guest judge, Dr Jim Scott and heard fascinating talks from guest speakers Dr Helen Maynard-Casely, Physicist from ANSTO, and our very own ecologist Dr Raelene Giffney.

Our guests, as well as current and past Senior School students, enjoyed the wide variety of projects on offer and were very impressed with the hard work and dedication demonstrated by all students to complete such fantastic research projects.

### JOSH CLARK

*Science Subject Coordinator*



## Junior School Learning



### 100 DAYS OF KINDY

Our Kindergarten class of 2024 celebrated turning 100 days old by dressing up as 100-year-olds and enjoyed an action-packed day of activities, including a special classroom visit from Principal Dr Archard, who was also celebrating her 100th day.



### YEAR 2 GOES TO VAUCLUSE HOUSE

Year 2 students experienced what life was like for the Wentworth family and their servants at Vacluse House in the 1860s. Working as history detectives, the students were able to investigate the bedrooms, kitchen, drawing room, scullery, and kitchen garden for clues to help them understand how a grand mansion functioned in the 1860s. The girls even helped with servants' tasks in the kitchen, such as doing the washing by hand, polishing cutlery, grinding spices, and churning butter.

### ARTIST IN RESIDENCE – LARA SCOLARI

Talented artist Lara Scolari joined the Junior School to be our Artist in Residence with every class enjoying two sessions with Lara. Students learnt about her artistic process and techniques, such as how to build a composition, blend colour, layer textures, and infuse emotion into the work.

*"Lara helped me to work outside the box - to think creatively and feel and move with the artwork."*

## Junior School Learning



### YEAR 1 TAKE OFF FOR SPACE

In a transdisciplinary unit combining Geography, Science & Technology, Visual Arts and Mathematics, Year 1 students explored patterns of the moon, sun and constellations linked to the Indigenous story of the Emu in the Sky.

In Mathematics, using concepts such as 2D shapes, position and coordinates, students designed a gridded space travel map for their Blue-Bot robot to travel along, with adventures such as visiting the Milky Way, refuelling a spaceship, stopping to meet an astronaut, or bumping into a satellite.

**MARIA EMMI & JANE HARRISON**

eLearning Teacher Educator & Year 1 Teacher

*"We programmed our Blue-Bot to travel on the mat we designed. We coded the robot to visit many spots in space. When it arrived at the black hole, we coded it to turn round and round."*

Mel & Alexandra, Year 1



### INTERHOUSE JAZZ COMPETITION



# Junior School Book Week

JOANNA STAIKOS | LIBRARIAN



What a whirlwind of magic and excitement we had at this year's Book Week! From our captivating author talk by Katrina Nannestad, including an exclusive book signing, to spectacular costumes at our Book Parade, our shared passion for books was evident. The Parade was a visual feast with so many creative costumes inspired by this year's theme Reading is Magic. We were bedazzled by witches, wizards, animals with special powers, and characters from our beloved classics, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Dr Seuss*.

New authors were discovered, and old favourites shared, at the Great Book Swap, with students bringing a book to swap, and donating a gold coin to raise funds for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.



# Junior School Concert

SHARON PORTLOCK | HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL



Congratulations to every student who performed with such joy and confidence at our Magical Moments concerts. The sparkles, the magical wands, and colour, all added to the possibilities that our girls can conjure up! It was truly MAGIC!



## Performing Arts



### LK PRODUCTION

LK Production's performance of Twelfth Night was an adaptation of Shakespeare's infamous play by Cheryl Capshaw. It was a delightful comedy of mistaken identities, tangled love affairs, and the witty wisdom of a fool...



### HSC SHOWCASES

Congratulations to our talented Year 12 Music and Drama students who performed their HSC pieces at showcases for an audience of family and friends. After months of practice, it was wonderful for the students to share their efforts. *Photos: Grant Leslie*



# Performing Arts

## DANCE TROUPES



Our Junior School Dance Troupes competed in The Sydney Eisteddfod at the Sydney Opera House. This year, two troupes entered the competition, Years 3-4 and Years 5-6. The girls were outstanding, with both troupes winning 2nd Place.



Congratulations to all our Loreto Dance Company Senior School Dance Troupes for their outstanding performances at the CGSSSA Dance competition. The results were amazing and reflected our dancers' hard work and dedication.



## INTERHOUSE DRAMA

Now in its third year, the Years 7-9 Interhouse Drama Competition sets our students the exciting and challenging task of devising an original 10-15 minute drama performance. Students work collaboratively with their Drama Captains and Councillors to generate ideas and produce theatre performances that are performed in front of a panel of judges and a live audience.



## STUDIO CONCERTS

Over 70 students performed solo at our annual Studio Concerts, showcasing an amazing range of instruments, including violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, piano, drums, and guitar. The Studio Concerts are an excellent opportunity to build confidence through performance practice.

# Sport

2021



2024



## FROM YEAR 9 PILOT FOOTBALL TEAM TO GRADUATES

This season marked a significant milestone for Football (Soccer) at Loreto Kirribilli. As the season's final whistle blew, we bid farewell to a remarkable group of students who have been pivotal in shaping the Football program over the past four years.

These dedicated players - Alex, Eve, Billie, Abi, Sage, and Phoebe - were among the first to join the pilot Football team when we introduced the sport as part of the Saturday program in 2021. This single pilot team of Year 9 students has grown into a Football community of over 150 girls. The achievements and trophies won along the way are a testament to their dedication.

As these players move on to new adventures, and some return as coaches, their legacy continues to inspire. The growth of women's Football, and women's sports more broadly, was at a turning point, and our program stands as a proud part of this transformative era. We look forward to the continued success and development of our program in the years to come.

## ELE WINSTON

Football (Soccer) Convenor

## IRISH DANCING

Talented Irish Dancer Annie Keller (Year 7) participated in the Australian International Oireachtas in Tweed Heads. Annie placed 10th in her age group against 40 dancers from across Australia and NZ, a wonderful achievement. Annie went on to compete at the NSW State Championships at the end of August and, following that, the Australian National Championships in Bendigo in October.



## CRICKET

Annabelle Croll (Year 9) recently competed at the School Sport Australia Cricket Championships as part of the NSW team.



*"I was lucky enough to fly to Mackay, Queensland to compete for NSW All Schools in the U15 School Sport Australia Cricket Championship. We finished the week in third place. It was an amazing experience ... I made so many new friends from across the state, and have memories that will last a lifetime,"* recalled Annabelle.

Congratulations also to Rose Edmonds (Year 5) on being selected for the NSW CIS Primary Girls Cricket team.

# Sport



## DRESSAGE CHAMPION

Year 11 student Tia McKenzie has won the Equestrian National Championship and also received the prestigious Dietmar Sprent Trophy, awarded to the competitor under 30 years old who achieves the highest combined scores over the championship.



## NATIONAL SNOWSPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to Olivia Kiely (Year 12) who competed in the National Snowsports Championships, qualifying for the Alpine event and racing very well in soft snow conditions. Olivia has been a part of the Loreto Kirribilli Snowsports team since she was in Year 2!



## TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONS

Our Taekwondo team competed in the NSW All Schools Taekwondo Championships Female Division, placing equal first with Queenwood to win the new Ward Cup. The team was led by the Taekwondo Captain, Millie Lowden (Year 12), who coached the girls to victory.



## IGSA ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to all our athletes who competed at the IGSA Athletics Championships. Overall, we secured 17th place, keeping Loreto Kirribilli in Division 2, a fantastic achievement for our small team. A special mention to our 2024 Athletics Captain, Jessica Johnston (Year 11), who finished the championship equal First in the Senior Points Score.



**CHRIS FRYAR**  
Athletics Convenor



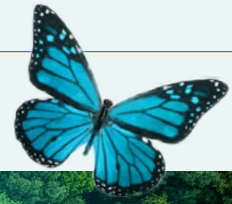
## SAILING

Year 11 champion sailor Lauren Tandy recently competed in the Harken Australia International Youth Match Racing Championship regatta at the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club in Pittwater.

*"This regatta was an incredible opportunity for my team and me to test our skills, strengthen our teamwork, and proudly represent the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron once again."*

# Extra-Curricular

RACHEL NOONAN | TAS SUBJECT COORDINATOR



This year we launched SEED, a collaborative learning project, in partnership with the Taronga Conservation Society and Future Anything. Years 8 and 9 students from Loreto Kirribilli, Redlands School, and Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta, have conducted research, applied critical thinking, and used creative problem-solving to develop innovative solutions to critical sustainability and conservation issues.

We are thrilled to share that this exciting journey has been a remarkable success, filled with unique learning experiences, industry engagement, and inspiring student progress.

Over the past months, students from Loreto Kirribilli, Redlands, and OLMC have immersed themselves in a dynamic, hands-on program focused on sustainability, entrepreneurship, and environmental science. From an energetic launch day at Taronga to mentorship sessions with industry experts, scientists, and zoo keepers, SEED has provided students with unparalleled insights and practical skills essential for tackling real-world conservation challenges. The journey was supported by a collaborative infrastructure led by Nicole Dyson and the team at Future Anything, fostering mentorship, idea exchange, and the amplification of endeavours.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Engaging Launch Event:

The students kicked off the program with a memorable day at Taronga, where they explored key conservation issues and met leaders in environmental science.

### Fortnightly Online Workshops:

These sessions have enabled students to deepen their knowledge in sustainability, social entrepreneurship, data analytics, and project management while working collaboratively across schools.

### One-on-One Mentoring:

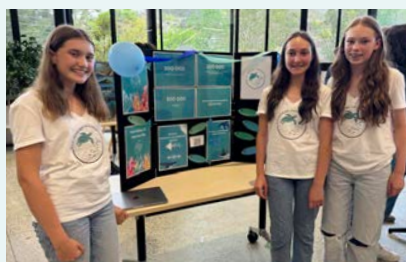
Mentors from business, science, and conservation have guided students in refining their ideas, making their projects both innovative and feasible.

At the SEED program's Twilight Finale Event at Taronga in November, the students showcased their



inspiring projects and celebrated their hard work and dedication to environmental problem-solving. The evening was a showcase of youth-led innovation and commitment to sustainability.

From Apps designed to rate everyday shopping trolley products for their carbon footprint, to the bio tagging and satellite monitoring of Bilbies to soft toys made from upcycled fast fashion, the students researched, prototyped, developed business plans and reached out to commercial partners to make their innovative solutions come to life.



In today's rapidly changing world, traditional educational paradigms must adapt to ensure students are prepared for the future. Enterprising skills, including creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and entrepreneurial acumen are crucial not only for academic excellence, but also for personal and professional success.

*Mentors included: Georgie Drury, Angie Corbo, Jenni Dill, Brent Clarke, Brian Menzies, Annie Agnew, Luke Wood, Christie Gazal, Belinda Fairbrother (and a range of Zoo Keepers, Scientists and Educational Experts from Taronga)*

## Extra-Curricular



### HOUSE DEBATING

On such varied topics as calculators, Disney role models, scientists' obligations, and the possibilities of altruism, our House Debating Competition brought out the orators among the Senior students for some thought-provoking, amusing and persuasive debates.



### VEX ROBOTICS

Our Robotics students represented the school with enthusiasm during the VEX Robotics tournament season, applying their technical knowledge, teamwork and problem-solving abilities under the expert guidance of our university undergraduate Loreto Robotics coaches.

### MARIA EMMI

*E-Learning Teacher Educator*

# Development

DEBBIE HENRY | DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Philanthropy in our Loreto Kirribilli community continues to thrive, with generous gifting to support the ongoing development and education pioneered by our Loreto Sisters. The new online giving platform makes it easier to make a tax-deductible donation to the Building Fund, Green Fund, or Bursary Fund. Or, if you are thinking of making a Bequest, we invite you to join the Philomena Heaton Society to acknowledge your generosity during your lifetime.

In celebration of our supportive Loreto community, who shape our 'school of spirit', we recently held our Mass of Gratitude and Mass of Thanksgiving to acknowledge the outstanding work of our volunteers and the generosity of our donors.

We are blessed with the continued generosity of our donors who not only support the development of our site but provide the 'gift of education' for others, embracing our Loreto values of Freedom of Spirit, Justice, Sincerity, Verity and Felicity. Thank you.

For more information on our 'educational giving' programs, please contact Debbie Henry at [development@loreto.nsw.edu.au](mailto:development@loreto.nsw.edu.au)

## TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

All donations, small or large, are valued and appreciated and will have an ongoing impact. You will receive a tax-deductible receipt via email.



## LKconnect

*LK Connect, Women in the Legal Profession* was generously hosted by Herbert Smith Freehills and provided by Loreto Board member and parent, Tony Damian.

Our facilitator, Anna Sutherland ('80), spearheaded the panel with flair, leading an engaging panel discussion outlining the variety of roles available within the legal profession.

Our ex-student panel of Sarah Kenny ('81), Kate Lloyd ('14), Amy Tesoriero ('15), and Madeline Gelagin ('18) shared their expertise and insight into the legal profession. These inspirational women spoke passionately about their educational foundation at Loreto Kirribilli and emphasised how the strength, resilience and values they were taught at Loreto continue to shape their career paths.



# LK Connect

DEBBIE HENRY | DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



LKconnect  
22 Mentor/Mentee  
relationships  
this year!



## LK CONNECT JOINS THE DOTS

*In November, I had the pleasure of facilitating the LK Connect Women in Tech event at Amazon. It was an inspiring evening for the Loreto community. One of the key takeaways was the understanding that tech roles extend far beyond purely software engineering, and that the skills required to succeed in the industry are transferable from a wide range of degrees and backgrounds.*

*I am deeply grateful to Debbie Henry and her team for establishing the LK Connect program. My first introduction to the tech world was at the 2023 LK Women in Tech event at a time when I was uncertain about my career direction in finance. I was encouraged to apply for a role at Amazon following the event, receiving an offer within four weeks and beginning five weeks later in August 2023.*

*I encourage both current Loreto students and alumni to embrace this wonderful network. By connecting with women who are forging impressive careers, you'll expand your network and unlock exciting opportunities for the future.*

**LARA BARTOLOTTA ('18)**  
Brand Analyst, Amazon

In November, **LK Connect, Women in Tech at Amazon Australia** was another night of inspiration. Ex-students of Lara Bartolotta ('18), Dominique Powis ('98), Imogen Passas ('16), Giorgia Rossi ('05), and Liz Ross ('06) spoke about their successful and diverse career journeys in the tech industry. Thank you to past parent, Janet Menzies Director, Amazon Retail APAC for hosting this event again this year. Janet continues to provide a platform for our community to explore the world of tech, and is a woman trailblazer in the industry.

*"The four Loreto Kirribilli ex-student panellists were absolutely inspiring with regard to what they had achieved in the field of technology."*

## DR NICOLE ARCHARD, PRINCIPAL

Our ex-student panellists at our corporate-hosted networking evenings continue to reiterate the value of mentor/mentee connections. Our ex-students impart wise words of wisdom to our current students and younger graduates: to invest in themselves through ongoing education and embrace 'sliding door' opportunities.

We invite our senior alumni to join this valuable program through career mentoring by emailing Antoinette Darin at [lkconnect@loreto.nsw.edu.au](mailto:lkconnect@loreto.nsw.edu.au). In addition, we welcome corporates to open doors for future hosting of events.

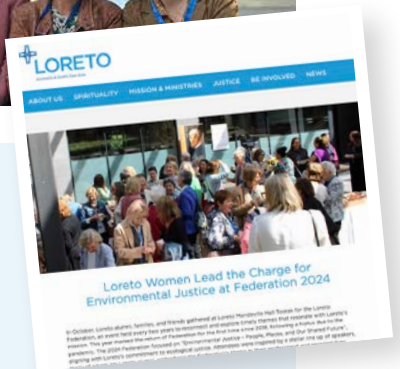
# Loreto Federation

**CELIA SHELDON (ROBERTS '88)**

What a fabulous weekend we had at Loreto Toorak in October, re-connecting with our Loreto friends and meeting past pupils from other schools. Loreto Federation 2024 – People, Places and Our Shared Future was a terrific success – exciting, inspiring and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.



Scan the QR code for Loreto Ministries full review of Federation 2024.



## CONNECTION, CURIOSITY, EMPOWERMENT

*There are three things that stand out for me about Loreto Federation.*

*Firstly, the connection. I remember being equally terrified and inspired by Principal Sr Jeanne Cover when I was a young teenager at Loreto Kirribilli. She would say at morning prayer that our school community is the largest community that we will ever be responsible for. Once we put on that blue uniform we must care for each person, their health and well-being. It really struck me. I was reminded of that at Federation, because you feel an instant bond with every woman there. It meant that you could approach a group of women you'd never met before and have a connection. At Friday night cocktails I had a belly laugh with some wonderful 80-plus-year-olds from Loreto Adelaide and we'd catch up over the course of the weekend. And with so many women of authority around I reverted to being a bit giggly at times too.*

*The second thing about Federation is the intellectual curiosity. The theme of the weekend was caring for the environment, and we heard from a diverse group of speakers including an ex-Loreto Melbourne documentary filmmaker Liz Courtney. From Toorak's auditorium we were enthralled by her film about melting ice in Antarctica which was beautifully shot and crafted. My commitment, curiosity and cerebral cup were filled.*

*Finally, we've come away with a sense of female empowerment. We may not be fist-pumping, but there is feminism in the air at Federation. It's such a privilege to be with a group of women, the Sisters, women of all ages including those in their teens and 20s, and sensing that we are the future of Catholicism and the future of society. We want to leave the planet in a better shape than it is now by using our gifts to create a better future. Period.*

*If you have an opportunity to attend when Kirribilli hosts Federation in 2026, I encourage you to do so.*

**EMMA ROSSI ('84)**



# Ex-Students' Union

**CELIA SHELDON (ROBERTS '88) | PRESIDENT**

Planning has begun for OUR Federation in 2026... Dates and details will be shared next year but we invite you now to get involved, by sharing your ideas at a special planning session to be held next March. Contact us now if you are interested or keep an eye on our social media for details.



## MOZART'S SISTER AT THE ORPHEUM

What a terrific evening watching this fabulous film and meeting the Director and Producer, Madeleine Hetherington-Miau ('90) and Rebecca Barry ('91). We also enjoyed a spirited and thought-provoking Q&A with Madeleine and Rebecca, moderator Emma Rossi (84), ex-student composer Emma Scolaro ('15), and Jessica Wells, the film's composer.



## MOTHER GONZAGA BARRY 150 YEARS CELEBRATIONS

2025 marks 150 years since the arrival of the Loreto sisters in Australia, and what an immense contribution they have made in that time! Celebrations commence at Loreto Ballarat on 28 February with a gala event to which all are invited. There will also be a wonderful travelling exhibition including interactive experiences and merchandise. See dates below!

### 2025 KEY DATES

Gala Opening of Mother Gonzaga Barry 150 years Celebration at Loreto Ballarat	28 February
'Being Faithful to Grace' Travelling Exhibition at Loreto Ballarat	28 February - 14 March
Young Loreto Gathering Canberra, ACT	14 March
Ex-Students' Cocktail Party	21 March
Mother Daughter Mass	4 May
Mother Gonzaga Barry 150 years Celebration and Exhibition at Loreto Kirribilli	5-16 May
Card Day	2 July
Year 12 'Welcome to the Ex-Students' Union' Lunch	17 September
Annual Mass & AGM	16 November

We love to recognise the significant events in your life by sharing them in the Spirit, but we can only do this if you tell us about them. Births, deaths and marriages can be advised by emailing: [ex-students@loreto.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ex-students@loreto.nsw.edu.au)



loretokirribilli\_exstudents



Loreto Kirribilli Ex-Students Union

## Sharing our Community



### TOUCH FOOTBALL STAR

Congratulations to ex-student Zara Nicholas ('14) whose team won gold in the Federation of International Touch World Cup, held in July in Nottingham, England. Zara was the Vice Captain of the Open Mixed team that defeated New Zealand in a close match (8 tries to 7) to secure their Gold Medal win.

Zara's career as a touch football star began when she was 12 years old, when she went to tryouts at the local park. She honed her skills at Loreto Kirribilli. "I have clear memories of the mighty Loreto Year 7 Touch Football 1sts, led by Mr Fryar, which is where I met and made lifelong friends who are still some of my best friends to this day."

For the last ten years, Zara has represented Australia in Touch Football, including at two World Cups. This year was her 39th cap for Australia at an Opens level!

When Zara is not playing footy, she is a Senior Speech Pathologist working in critical care, respiratory and ICU wards in southwest Sydney.



### LUCIA INTERNS AT THE UN

After finishing school last year, Lucia Mascarella ('23) joined the IBVM/CJ NGO at the UN as a virtual intern, working on digital advocacy, social media presence, and being a general support of the team during events. One such event was the UN's High-Level Political Forum in July, where she was invited to visit the NGO's office and the UN Headquarters in New York City. There, she reviewed and summarised Zimbabwe's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals focusing on girls. She also attended International Day of the Girl as a virtual Moderator, ensuring the safeguarding of the girls who were present online and that the chat room remained a place of safe, enriching discussion.

"I would like to share my experience with our community, to demonstrate to the current students the capacity for them to be present in global spaces," explained Lucia. "This internship has been an incredible experience thus far, and I want to inspire the girls to see the strengths in this community to help them reach their dreams."



# Staff Farewells

## ROMALINA ROCCA | DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

### LIANA TREVISAN

*Arrivederci, Au revoir, Sayonara!*

With a remarkable career spanning 30 years, Liana Trevisan has inspired countless students with her passion for languages. She joined Loreto Kirribilli in 1999, bringing an impressive breadth of expertise to the teaching of Italian, French, and Japanese. In 2011, Liana took on the role of Acting LOTE Coordinator, and in 2013, she was appointed permanently to the role - a position she has held with grace, vision, and steadfast dedication. Liana is known as a true expert in her field, sharing her talents as an active member of many committees and associations. She contributed to creating textbooks and was an influential writer for the Modern Languages Prescriptors for NESA. Liana's influence will be felt for years to come in the halls of Loreto, where the love for languages and learning will carry on, thanks to her remarkable contributions. Liana, we wish you every joy and blessing as you step into this new chapter of life.



### JENNIE RAMSEY

We bid farewell to Jennie, our beloved receptionist, who has been the first smile, the first voice, and the warm heart that has greeted us all for nearly three decades. Since May 1997, Jennie has been the "face of Loreto," adapting to new systems, processes, and innovations with a willingness that has always been admirable. Those who know Jennie will tell you she has a knack for lightening any moment with her wit and warmth, making our community feel like a family. Jennie has also shown an incredible commitment to the well-being of our rural youth through her involvement in the Sydney Royal Agricultural Showgirl Competition. Jennie, we will miss your laughter at front reception, your kindness to everyone who crosses your path, and the unshakable commitment you have shown to our school's values.



### MARISA VIRTICH

After teaching around the world, Marisa Virtich joined Loreto Kirribilli in 2018 as the Gifted and Talented Teacher. Here she pioneered courses in Thinking and Advocacy and Philosophy in Action, led creative writing courses, encouraged ethical reasoning and future problem-solving. As Debating Convenor she inspired students to excel in the art of argument. What truly defines Marisa, however, is her humility, wit, and unwavering dedication to her students. At the heart of her work has always been her students. She brings out the best in everyone, and her impact will be felt in the hearts and minds of all those she has taught and mentored. We wish you well in your next chapter.



*"Almost forty years of teaching, and everything has changed, but the constant has been the love of seeing the spark being lit in a student who then moves into life to burn brightly."* **MARISA VIRTICH**

### JOHN KOHL

John has been an integral part of this community since June 1984, and his time here has been nothing short of legendary. Over the years, he's held many roles, including serving as the acting property manager for a time. But regardless of his title, his unwavering commitment to the school has never changed. If you needed to know anything about this site - its history, its quirks, where the pipes run, or why we do things a certain way - you would always go to John. He knows literally every inch of this school, and in that way, he has truly been its heart and soul. While we will all remember John for his incredible knowledge and dedication, it's his wicked, cheeky sense of humour that will stick with us. Thank you, John, for everything you have done. You will always be a part of this school.



# Parents & Friends

**KATRINA DAMIAN & JOHN LEON | JOINT P&F PRESIDENTS**



Each year, the new P&F Executive team begins in Term 4, and we are excited to take on this role for the coming 12 months. We are very conscious that we have big shoes to fill, and we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the previous P&F committee (led by joint Presidents Mel Yard-Smith and Dom Lo Surdo) for their tireless efforts and dedication over the last year. Their hard work was evident at the 2024 Spring Fair, where the vibrant Loreto Kirribilli community spirit shone brightly.

At the beginning of Term 4 we were able to extend to our valued Loreto Kirribilli teachers a small thank you on World Teachers' Day, 25 October 2024. A coffee cart service was provided to teachers for the morning so they could enjoy their morning coffee on us.

This term has also seen our Orientation Days where new 2025 students and their parents are welcomed. Thanks to our generous class parents, we have continued the P&F tradition of providing morning tea at these orientations. We have also been able to run the Secondhand Uniform Stall at these events thanks to the wonderful uniform donations by our parents and the hard work of our Secondhand Uniform coordinators, Emma Wood and Georgina Ahrens, and their team of helpers.

Looking forward, the year ahead promises a rich array of events. We value your support and also welcome your feedback. Be sure to mark these key dates on your calendars, and we look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events.

**KATRINA, JOHN, JACQUIE, JORDAN, MARK, SHAUNA, LISA, JO, LIZ & LOUISA**

*2024/2025 P&F Executive Committee*

## 2025 KEY DATES

Night of Connection	6 February
Welcome Cocktail Party	21 February
P&F BBQ Harmony Day	21 March
P&F Luncheon	28 March
P&F BBQ May Day	7 May
P&F Meeting	2 June
P&F Meeting	28 July
P&F BBQ Friendship Day	30 July
Sports Lunch	8 August
Spring Fair	31 August
P&F Meeting	3 November



# Ex-Students' News

## ENGAGEMENTS

Jessica Sharratt ('04) to Nicholas Baulderstone

Jessica Sutanto ('09) to Nicholas Temple

Sarah Gardiner ('12) to David Walshe

Isabella Colla ('12) to Victor Salman

Laura Bleasdale ('13) to James Evans

Xanthe Bennett ('13) to Scott Burrell

Emma May ('13) to Peter Jenkins

Kendel Young ('13) to Darren Gray

Eloise Woodward ('15) to Dong Young (Tom) Lim

Eva Campbell ('16) to Harry Walker

Samantha Rogers ('17) to James Gomersall

## DEATHS | EX-STUDENTS

Dr Monica Bullen ('38) sister of Margaret Chapman (Bullen '37) (dec), aunt of Anne Chapman ('71) and Monica Chapman ('73)

Cynthia Wells Smith ('42)

Nadine Higgins (Crowley '46), sister of Michelle McCall (Crowley '62) (dec)

Anne Maree Nevill ('53) sister of Kay Crawford (Nevill '56) and William Nevill (LK '49) (dec), aunt of Anna Wyke (Crawford '93), Kristin Crawford ('95), Margot Crawford ('98), Jacqueline Nevill ('94), Kathryn Nevill ('98) and Alexandra Nevill ('03)

Gillian Melloy (Lowe '54)

Mary Ward (Sullivan '56), sister of Kathleen Pardey (Sullivan '54) and Elizabeth Daly (Sullivan '60), mother of Karen Ward ('90)

Dr Antony Breslin AM (LK '47), brother of Doreen Cannon (Breslin '46) (dec), father of Phillipa Dougall (Breslin '81) and Josephine Marshall (Breslin '94), grandfather of Emily Dougall ('14) and Amelia Marshall (Year 5)

William Nevill (LK '49), husband of Louise Nevill (Lamerand '68), father of Jacqueline Nevill ('94), Kathryn Nevill ('98) and Alexandra Nevill ('03), brother of Kay Crawford (Neville '56) and Anne Maree Nevill ('53) (dec), brother-in-law of Sr Yvonne Lamerand, uncle of Anna Wyke (Crawford '93), Kristin Crawford ('95) and Margot Crawford ('98)

Deirdre Crichton-Browne (Burke '60) sister of Sue O'Donoghue (Burke '58) and Mary Wales (Burke '64) (dec), mother of Nicole Noye (Crichton-Browne '84), Sean Crichton-Browne (LK '75) Michelle Thornton (Crichton-Browne '87), Darren Crichton-Browne (LK '79), grandmother of Emma Noye ('22)

Erin Halligan ('00) sister of Jessie Halligan ('04)

## DEATHS | FORMER STAFF

Joan Harle, former Loreto Kirribilli Librarian, grandmother of Lauren Harle ('11) and mother-in-law of Leonie Harle

## WEDDINGS

Phoebe Reede ('17) to Will O'Shannessy

Emily Dougall ('14) to Lachlan Birt

Lucy Nicholas ('11) to Samuel Thomson

Amelia Lee ('15) to Jack Thorburn

## BIRTHS | GIRLS

Lucie Frances to Natalie Watson (Cox '08)

Saskia to Lucy Thomson (Nicholas '11)

## BIRTHS | BOYS

Edward William (Teddy) to Sophie May ('09)

## DEATHS | RELATIVES OF EX-STUDENTS

Helen Gesterkamp, mother of Justine Gesterkamp ('90) and grandmother of Nina Bartelme (Year 10)

Angela Kenny, mother of Amanda Kenny ('80), Sarah Kenny ('81) and Fiona Kenny ('84), grandmother of Zoe Fitzpatrick ('11) and Eliza Fitzpatrick ('13), Ella Semken ('21) and Tayla Semken ('21), sister-in-law of Helen Kenny ('55)

Dr William and Giovanna Molloy, parents of Isabella Birchall (Molloy '90) and Francesca Molloy ('95)

Tom Silk, husband of Helen (Ryan '54), father of Maria Silk-Young (Silk '81), Delia Russell (Silk '84), Kathryn Condon (Silk '86), Christina Silk ('88) and Lucy Riding (Silk '90), grandfather of Sophia Silk-Wright ('02), Eimear Silk ('14), Elizabeth Silk ('17) and Ellen Russell ('20), uncle of Geraldene Saba (Capel '71), Mary-Ann Capel ('74), Megan Rowlands (Capel '78) and Dianne Randall (Hanna '80)

Betty Gillespie, mother of Karen Debenham (Gillespie '67), Susan O'Keefe (Gillespie '74), grandmother of Jennifer Wright (Benjafield '91), Tara Auchterlonie (Debenham '91), Carla Nicholls (Gillespie '05) and great-grandmother of Georgia Auchterlonie ('23) and Maeve Auchterlonie (Year 7)

Joseph Massa, son of Elouise Hahn ('05), nephew of Sophie Hahn ('02)

Joe Brown, husband of Jacinta McCann ('76) and brother-in-law of Fiona Stephinson (McCann '71) and Colleen Coolican (McCann '74)

Alan Hickey, husband of Amanda Hickey (Hellmrich '57), father of Jane Foster (Hickey '85), father-in-law of Michele Hickey (Harding '81), grandfather of Clare Hickey ('12), Ella Hickey ('18), Hannah Foster ('19), Caitlin Hickey ('19), and Lily Foster ('21)

Dominica O'Reilly, mother of Frances Scroope (O'Reilly '79), Mary Knapman (O'Reilly '80), Sarah Codsí (O'Reilly '82), Josephine O'Reilly ('83) and Caitlin Studdert ('89), grandmother of Sophie Scroope ('16), Lucy Scroope ('18) and Emma Scroope ('19)

Ann Ryan, mother of Josie Ryan ('88)