



esprit *de corps*



IONA PRESENTATION COLLEGE MAGAZINE
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Iona Presentation College respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which this publication has been created and pay respect to Elders past, present and future.

Together, as a Catholic Presentation community, we acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and non-Aboriginal Australians to the education of all children and people in this country we all live in and share together.





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FROM THE Principal

As I reflect on the pages of this *esprit de corps* I feel truly honoured to act in the role of our College Principal, Ms Robyn Miller who is currently enjoying some well-earned long service leave.

The articles, the sentiments, the moments of sheer compassion are awe-inspiring.

When the Sisters established Iona Presentation College some 116 years ago, I imagine that this is exactly what they had envisioned. A community of go-getters, people that dig deep to make a difference for each other and, for the betterment of our world.

Undoubtedly, Iona provides an education that is second to none. Our staff are outstanding and committed professionals who go over and above in all that they do. Our students are hard-working and diligent and our parents are supportive and collegial, partnering with us every step of the way in this, a collective journey.

It is the assembly of stories of true social justice and compassion contained in this issue of *esprit de corps* however that brings me such joy. The stories from IPPA across generations who still, after many years well beyond the school gate, live life with a welcoming heart, a can-do-attitude, a commitment to service above self and who don't hesitate to take action for those in need. This is the real joy of an Iona education.

I have no doubt, that our Founding Sisters would be sitting back, reading the pages of this publication with a great sense of peace and satisfaction and perhaps a gentle smile. For Ionians, old and new, near and far, are truly humble servants of this wonderful world in which we live.

Ray Rose
Acting Principal





FROM THE Chair of IPPA

I will be always grateful for the efforts of the IPPA committee, an amazing collaboration of Past Pupils across the generations. With their hard work, positive spirit, imagination and determination, I am so happy to say that the bonds between the Past Pupils, with each other and to the school, continue to grow. Together we are stronger, and together we make positive and lasting change.

In this edition of the *esprit de corps*, we celebrate the 'Changemakers' among us - those who persist in doing their bit to make their lives, and the lives of those around them, better.

Considering the pandemic storm that humanity as a whole has weathered over the last couple of years, you would think that the world would have taken the COVID-induced forced time out from 'real life' to reconsider how we can make the world a better place. In many respects that is definitely happening. For example, in the work sphere, the tolerance for work/life balance and flexible work options has never been better, and this is wonderful especially for those who need to prioritise life commitments with their work commitments. Increasingly, the tolerance for non-sustainable options and consumables is being lowered. Consideration for the future impact of the actions of today is at the forefront of the minds of many. The Indigenous people of the lands that make up our amazing country are increasingly being recognised, admired and acknowledged as the traditional custodians, and respected as rightful owners.

But with two steps forward, in many cases there is also one step back. We still have a long way to go to ensure equality for all. War, famine, and inequality due to social status, gender, age, race and ethnicity are ongoing.

This edition of *esprit de corps* focuses on how those in our community are striving to make change, whether in the home, in the community or on a large scale. I salute and honour those of us able and willing to look at an issue important to them and have the strength of mind, courage and spirit to change it for the better. May you succeed in forging new paths and persuading others to reconsider the way things have always been done to make positive change for all.

Aymee Mastaglia *née Bartlett (Class of 1994)*
IPPA Chair



Changemakers

In a year focused on Social Justice and Compassion, the pages of this *esprit de corps* will showcase the many ways Ionians of all ages play their part in taking action for those in need in our community.

Whether it's a helpful gesture, a kind word, a social enterprise or a deliberate action to better our world - we acknowledge the 'Changemakers' in our community and showcase their journeys. In the small ways and the bigger ways, Ionians continue to make a difference and we couldn't be prouder.

“ It's the small moments of compassion which I have valued most. The dedication and kindness shown by staff, the support shown to students by their friends and classmates, the acknowledgement of who you are and who you wish to be. ”

“ When my classmate and beautiful friend was diagnosed with terminal cancer, my Iona girlfriends rallied around taking care of her as she died peacefully at home. Our collective children, were witnesses to the love, compassion and strength of friendships that have spanned decades. ”

“ Sister Mary took me out of class one day and gave me a picture she'd come across in the news that she said reminded her of me. It was someone leaping in the air dressed in medieval clothes and it was JOYFUL! I had that picture up at my desk finishing school, through uni and took it overseas with me — where I would later move — and that picture has been like a mission statement. To live, work, play, raise a family with that same ridiculous , lovely, sometimes unlikely joy. Sister Mary was a once in a lifetime teacher and has been such a big influence in my life. I feel so lucky she was my teacher. ”

“ I have always felt that Iona provided something for all of my girls. Each were encouraged to be the best versions of themselves. The people and the place, nurtured their passions, discovered their strengths and were there to pick them up and guide them on, as they were met with the inevitable bumps in the road. ”

“ As a passionate sportswoman in the making, my teacher saw my potential and encouraged me to work hard to develop my talent. I will always be grateful to her for her unwavering support and vision. ”

“ The Iona Leadership Team at the time, threw their arms around me and guided me through one of the toughest times in my life. I am now and will always be grateful for the compassion they showed. They bettered my world, at a time, when all felt lost. ”

“ When my world was handed an atom bomb, my Iona sisters (my girlfriends) were there for me every step of the way. And still are. ”

Role models of compassionate change

As an Iona community, we acknowledge that we stand on the shoulders of giants; our treasured Presentation Sisters. For over a century, these inspiring women have paved the path on which we walk, encouraging us to take up our lantern in this time and place. Since 1907, our Sisters have been the cornerstone of our community: role models of faith and character, emphasising the importance of making a Christian difference and demonstrating the importance of standing up to injustice, but always respectfully and diplomatically. Over a century later, it is timely to reflect on our Sisters in a different light: as visionary 'change-makers' who have inspired numerous students and staff members to take creative action to solve social problems in our world.

We have been so fortunate to have shared so much with our Sisters, both professionally and personally in our core business of education. At school, they were quick to encourage how mutual sharing and learning of life experiences can positively impact on appreciating the gifts and talents of each individual.

There is no shortage of examples of when our Sisters have demonstrated bravery in leading change over the years, particularly where they have journeyed to new frontiers or respectfully stood up for those furthest behind in our society. Working in both metropolitan and regional Western Australia and abroad with a focus on providing not only a 'hand out, but a hand up', the Sisters often established innovative models of change that have enabled their work to be continued by those who have followed.

Throughout the years, our Sisters have had to adapt to many situations to lead change compassionately, particularly given the geographical locations in which they ministered, the limited financial resourcing available to them, the changes to the Church and Catholic Education post the Second Vatican Council, together with welcoming migrants and refugees to Australia in the 1970s and 1980s. It was always, and remains to be, the Sisters' hope that Presentation People are called to respond to the signs of the time with dignity, respect and compassion.

As compassionate changemakers, our Sisters put love at the heart of their ministry and their approach to journeying with others is underpinned by genuine care and concern. The impact that the Sisters had on the boarding community cannot be underestimated; they provided a loving 'home away from home' for so many young women. The greatest gift that they have shared with so many of us is their 'ministry of presence' and we are so fortunate to be the beneficiaries of their patience, listening ear and generous hearts.

Whether it was from Ireland or locations close by within our country, it is undeniable that our Sisters have made a positive difference to God's mission in Australia. Pragmatic in their approach to life and firmly cemented by their relationship with Jesus, their steadfast example reminds us of how we are required to be solutions-focused in our approach to social change, to refrain from judging others and to 'seek first to understand'.

The importance of treasuring each day as a gift, but also looking to the horizons that beckoned were exemplified in the Sisters as future-conscious changemakers. They had a clear vision for the future and the ability and faith to turn that vision into a reality.

It is undeniable that the hearts and minds of generations of Ionians have been impacted profoundly by the compassionate changemakers that are our Presentation Sisters; and it is our hope and prayer that their legacy lives on in each one of us as we carry out our lantern work wherever in the world we find ourselves.





Helen Adam Class of 1978

Making an impact

Becoming a researcher was not something I ever envisaged during my time at Iona. When I graduated in 1978, I had two goals I knew I wanted to achieve - to be a primary school teacher and to be a mum. I did both of those and, if my six children and many former students are to be believed, I have done these very successfully. Interestingly, an important practice in both was the continuation of my love for books, especially children's books – I know many of my old Ionian and St Brigid's Collie peers remember me as the girl always with her nose in a book!

In 2007, with some major life challenges on the horizon, I applied for and began casual tutoring in the School of Education at ECU. From day one I knew this would be the direction for the rest of my life. I was fortunate to be offered a role of teaching a unit on children's literature and shortly afterwards asked to write a book chapter for which I was asked to link the newly released Early Years Learning Framework with the role of books in young children's lives. This work transformed my life.

I began to read the works of many diverse scholars from around the world and realised that for many children, their own lives, cultures and ways of being are frequently absent in the books to which they are exposed. This affects children's sense of identity, belonging, academic achievement and much more. For majority culture children, a proliferation of monocultural books promotes ideologies of normality and even superiority. The impacts for society are both wide and deep.

I completed my Master of Education in 2011 and PhD in 2019, both looking at how educators select and use books to support principles of diversity. My work highlights culturally responsive use of authentically diverse and inclusive literature as one vehicle to break down barriers of prejudice and misunderstanding, and contribute to equitable outcomes.

My work has been published in international journals and has garnered extensive international print and digital media coverage including appearances on Channel 7's Sunrise and national news bulletins in Australia and New Zealand. I am currently a Senior Lecturer and the Coordinator of the Master of Teaching (Primary) in the School of Education at ECU.

In 2022, I was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to spend eight weeks in the US and UK engaging in knowledge exchange with world thought leaders who envision and work toward a future where all children experience equity, inclusion, belonging, and social justice. I undertook this Fellowship between March and May this year and hope to bring back to Australia many ideas and support networks to bring even greater impact to the field of social justice through education.

My hope is for all children to find the joy of seeing themselves in books as well as developing deeper appreciation and respect for those different to themselves!

Realising Dreams

You can only connect the dots of your life when you look back, so whilst I didn't realise it at the time, at the end of Year 12 I found my greatest fulfilment in performing and helping others. I just had to figure out how to mesh the two together.

My first 18 months of 'life after school' featured countless sleepless nights, sharing classrooms with over 300 students, regretting one of my university majors, and changing another. I thought I was destined for a life of mediocrity; a life that I would endure rather than be excited for. Volunteering with a student-run education not-for-profit helped me to find my feet a little more, but I still felt like I hadn't found my place in this ever-changing world.

My heart was yearning for my life that once was. The endless opportunities that were afforded to me at Iona from College Productions, to IGSSA Dances, to Interhouse Dances taught me some of the most valuable life lessons that undoubtedly shaped me into the person I am today. When I wasn't rehearsing in Nagle Hall, I was across the other side of the school mentoring the younger students through their academic pursuits and was even fortunate enough to travel to India for three weeks for Iona's inaugural service immersion.

When my friend asked me in June of 2021 if I wanted to write a book with him that would help youth navigate life after school, it was terrifying. This was my chance to make a change for the next generation, to help them go through life beyond school rather than navigating it blindly as so many of us had before. As much as I was terrified of the risk I was about to take, I was even more excited by the potential it would have for helping so many in my community.

After rounding out 2021 with a rough draft of a 100-page book, divided into 12 steps for how anyone can conceive and pursue their authentic dreams, we made the completely logical decision to produce a one-hour documentary based on the book with no prior film experience.

Producing a documentary in six months was a tremendous learning curve to scale, managing interviews from over 50 people, editing over 2000 minutes of raw footage down to a mere 60, and planning on hosting the premiere in my friend's living room to securing a local cinema. After welcoming over 300 guests and raising over \$9000 for two local charities, we made the decision to do the book justice, and spend the next six months rewriting it to incorporate everything the documentary had taught us.

Today, the *Realising Dreams* documentary is now freely available on Youtube, and the follow-up *Realising Dreams* book is being sold on Amazon and in bookstores across WA. My love of performing has been reignited with opportunities to speak in multiple schools, on panels, appear as a guest speaker, and give keynote speeches to spread the philosophies of *Realising Dreams* as far as I possibly can.

I know this is just the beginning, I know I still have so much to learn, but there is one thing I know for sure. Those 18 months at the beginning of university rattled me to my core, but they changed everything for me. They taught me that your age does not determine your ability to do extraordinary things, and this is the message I am determined to spread to as many youth as possible.

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When I tell stories in
books, and in classrooms,
I do so to entertain, to
educate and to empower.

A Storyteller tells her own story

Books were my first love. Well before I could read independently, I found joy in the stories read to me, and, as soon as I could read would have a book on me at all times. Before I started school, I was determined that one day my name would be on a book cover.

My mum encouraged this dream by keeping me well supplied with good books and treasuring my early attempts at writing. During my schooling, in Collie and at Iona, teachers including Sister Flora, Sister Aquinas and Sister Mary (formerly Sister Anthony) also encouraged that writing, and recognised that my propensity to talk A LOT made me an excellent public speaker.

Fast forward fifty or so years and I am now an award-winning children's author with 54 trade and educational titles to my name. I have a Doctorate in creative writing, a career as a university academic, a gorgeous family and, in 2022, was awarded an OAM for my services to children's literature and education.

So why, I found myself wondering as I clutched my shiny medal, did I not feel worthy? Why did I hesitate to tell people about this success, and why could I not accept that people genuinely thought I was good at what I did?

The answer was one I'd been avoiding for years. I needed a diagnosis. Because while I had been finding solace in books and in being able to sneak off to write, all through my schooling life, and my adult life too, I had been crippled with a feeling of being just far too different from other people. I knew my head didn't work like other people's. I was socially awkward, which I tended to hide with being loud, tried to mask my real self and mirror what I thought people wanted me to be and, in the process, often found myself mentally and physically exhausted.

So, in late 2022 I finally found the courage to start the diagnosis journey and recently confirmed what I had long suspected: I am neurodivergent. Receiving an official diagnosis was one of the most affirming experiences I have ever had. I have ADHD, and that label not only helps me understand how I navigate the world – but it also helps me to finally be able to say I am okay just as I am.

I wish I knew this when I was a child, when I was a teenager and, as an adult, long before now. But now I am looking at myself, and other neurodivergent people, with a lot more compassion. And, whilst sharing their diagnosis isn't everyone's choice – it is certainly mine. When I tell stories in books, and in classrooms, I do so to entertain, to educate and to empower. This story — my story — is told in the same spirit. I want to empower other people — especially girls and women — to embrace themselves, just as they are.

I am okay — and you are too.

Supporting families to grow

Growing up on a farm in the Wheatbelt, it was only natural that after graduation I would choose to pursue agriculture at university. However, I took a year off between school and starting university and by chance landed a job as a receptionist in a naturopath clinic. It was during this time I was introduced to natural medicine and after reading a book on women's hormones and the menstrual cycle I was shocked – how had I not been taught this before? This was the catalyst and from that moment on I made it my mission to educate and empower women about their hormones and menstrual cycles.

After completing an Advanced Diploma in Naturopathy and a Bachelor in Complementary Medicine I started working as a naturopath at Perth's longest standing natural medicine clinic.

I lectured on herbal and nutritional medicine at a prestigious Perth college and was the youngest lecturer in the faculty. In 2016, my husband suggested we give up the FIFO life and move to Karratha to start our own family and I jumped at the move. Having grown up in the bush, the big city of Perth never felt like home. It's here in Karratha I started my own self-titled business, Jacqui Lamplugh Naturopath, and having just finished my Masters in Reproductive Medicine I began specialising in fertility.

Infertility affects one in six couples and one in four couples will experience a pregnancy loss. The numbers around infertility are staggering and it's a painful and heartbreaking journey which many couples struggle with in silence.

I'm here to change the way we approach infertility.

There is very limited education around hormones and fertility so when a female chooses to start a family and it doesn't happen, it can be very difficult to know what to do and where to turn.

I work with couples Australia wide and internationally and feel truly blessed to work with the most beautiful women. Their fertility journeys are as individual as they are. From the couple who had eight pregnancy losses and were told by fertility specialists that adoption was their only option, to help them conceive naturally and to now be the proud parents of a healthy little boy, to the couple who after two months of trying are yet to fall pregnant and want help.

Being at Iona instilled in me the belief that, as a female there are no limitations to your achievements. There was always a strong sense of female empowerment and encouragement for us to be the next generation of leaders. We were also taught compassion and about caring for one another and the greater community.

These qualities have helped me break the mould of traditional fertility treatments and change the way we view infertility. Providing a compassionate, nurturing space where women can feel supported and empowered is the first step in achieving the successful pregnancy they desire.

The future of fertility is to educate and empower women about their hormones, so they have the knowledge of what to do and where to turn when conception doesn't happen. I strive for a future where diet, lifestyle and natural medicine will work alongside medical interventions to improve the success rates and outcomes of couples struggling with infertility.

I feel very honoured to support my clients on this very personal journey and there is no better feeling than helping a couple achieve their ultimate goal of becoming parents. This is more than just a business I'm creating; it's about creating families.



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I have learned that the ability to tell a story can help bridge the gap between the complexities of anatomy and physiology, and to really learn how someone is being affected by injury or illness.

The art of a good yarn

When asked what I loved most about attending Iona, it is the way we were guided to reflect on our privileged education. We were taught to cherish being young women whose families valued our education, the growth of our minds and our future input into the world. I graduated with the belief that a love of learning couldn't steer you far wrong, even if the path wasn't exactly linear.

After graduation, I majored in French and moved to France, soaking in as much of the language as I could. This stood me in good stead later to better understand, communicate and work with people from all corners of the world.

On my return from France, I experienced the reward of being part of someone's rehabilitation journey. It was such a sense of calling and, to be perfectly honest, fulfillment, that I slid from the Arts to the Sciences, stepping into Biomedical Science with the aim to study Physiotherapy.

Whilst at Iona, I remember writing letters to Amnesty International about social justice issues for people across the world and reflecting on families within our own school who were also in hardship. This formed a strong sense of responsibility in me to serve the broader community and share the education I had been so lucky to receive.

After becoming a physiotherapist, and over many years as a clinician, I have gathered not just the clinical tools, but also a myriad of ways of telling stories. I have learned that the ability to tell a story can help bridge the gap between the complexities of anatomy and physiology, and to really learn how someone is being affected by injury or illness.

I think my love of story-telling started in the desert.

I was driving to the Northern Territory with my now husband, to start what I had hoped would be my dream job — visiting physiotherapy services in remote communities. We stopped into Alice Springs to stay with a friend who was completing ICU training and he was, to say the very least, considerably fatigued due to a serious lack of sleep. Despite this, he recounted the awe inspiring 'story telling prowess' of one of the senior doctors at the local hospital. It was from that very moment that I committed to the art of telling a good yarn.

Soon after, I began flying into communities in my physio role, and whilst I had learnt that the ability to tell a good story was important, I discovered that it was listening that made all the difference. I learned to pay particular attention to rhythm and emphasis as this was where you could truly get to the core of their story.

Educating someone about their body, or a loved one's needs is a potent instrument for change. Whilst working in the far north of Australia, it was this exchange of knowledge that I found most useful. This is what kept therapy going in the weeks between remote visits. I had the distinct privilege of traveling to some of the most remote and most beautiful places in Australia, working alongside other clinic staff and community leaders to support those living with chronic illness.

After my time in the 'Top End' I went further north to Timor-Leste. Here I supported fellow physiotherapists and taught classes for nursing students at the National Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre.

Once again, it was the exchange of knowledge that I most enjoyed. It was what motivated me to take on post graduate studies in health professional education, and to accept an AVI position with a rehabilitation facility in Tonga which I do remotely while my family is based here in Toronto.

During my time I have been able to learn so much, from languages to customs and history. I have also learned to be adaptable, creative and to not take myself too seriously.

Championing women's empowerment

I founded Fusion Biz Co, WA's largest business networking community for female entrepreneurs, in 2016 to bring more authentic connection into an increasingly disconnected world.

After graduating from Iona in 2004 with an incredible education but no idea what I actually wanted to do with my life, I spent time living on the Gold Coast, and then in London.

With a tonne of personal development and deep soul searching under my belt, I came home a new confident woman, determined to find a way to be my own boss and live a life on my terms.

Walking down St Georges Terrace, it struck me how disconnected we have become in the Western world. And so, my business idea dropped.

My first event was a social networking event, where I invited two of my good friends from Iona to be the guest speakers! (One also features in this edition — Jacqui Lamplugh, read story on page 14.)

My events quickly transitioned into business networking events because I knew that the catalyst to success was to surround myself with change making women who were going after their dreams too.

From small coffee catch ups, to launching a membership in 2017 (allowing me to quit my day job and realise my dream of freedom), to connecting thousands of women and facilitating hundreds of events, to flying my biz idol Lorna Jane over to interview her in front of 200 of my community, to hosting Perth's largest annual International Women's Day event championing gender equality with 300 women each year.

Why do I do it? Because growing up I never felt like I really fit in, and I wanted to create a space where women could come and be their true authentic selves. To be seen, heard, understood, and accepted no matter what. A space where we could open our hearts and have true honest conversations that help us feel less alone.

Now with two daughters of my own, I am championing women's empowerment and real human connection, to pave a future for the next generation and show them that with a bucket load of authenticity, a dash of grit, and a strong supportive community, you really can do anything you want with this one precious life.

<https://fusionbizco.com.au/>

<https://www.instagram.com/fusionbizco/>

<https://www.instagram.com/ashmatkovic/>



...I wanted to create a space where women could come and be their true authentic selves. To be seen, heard, understood, and accepted no matter what.



Your gift, her

future

For the Iona stories yet to be told...

This year marks the 116th anniversary of Iona Presentation College.

Compassionate educators, the Presentation Sisters have devoted their lives to education. Their generous gifts over more than 100 years have had an enduring impact and have been the life-changing difference to so many.

In honour of this spirit of giving, we now invite you to help continue the mission of Nano Nagle.

Give back to our Scholarship Fund and your donation will assist future Ionians to unlock their full potential.

Your thoughtful gift will assist in providing an Iona education and opportunities, which may otherwise be unattainable.

Create your long-lasting connection to Iona today.

Give your gift in one of the following three ways, and be part of the Iona stories yet to be told...



1. Scan the QR code
2. Visit www.iona.wa.edu.au/yourgift
3. Call Georgia Allen 9384 0066

Vale Sister Maureen Moynihan pbvm

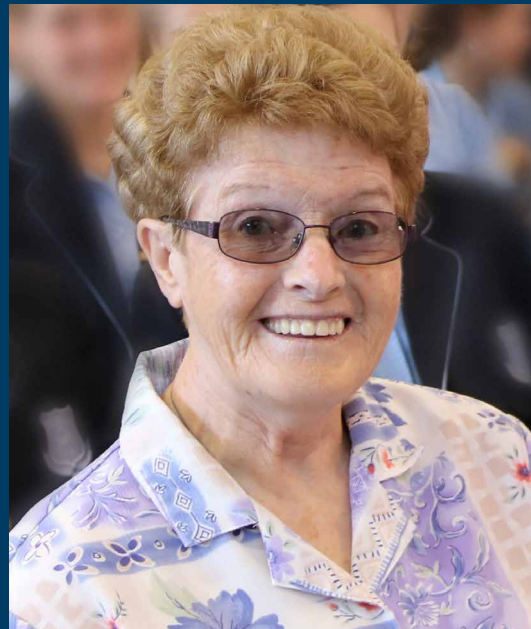
On Sunday 19 February 2023, Sister Maureen Moynihan pbvm (formerly Sister Kevin) peacefully returned home to her loving God.

Born in Cullen, County Cork, Sister Maureen came to Perth from Ireland and dedicated her life to serving God and the people of Western Australia.

Sister Maureen was a special light in the lives of so many. A woman of strong character, faith, and Christian witness, she was deeply committed to her religious vocation and being of service to God and others.

Having made a significant contribution to Catholic Education in regional and metropolitan Western Australia over her years, Sister Maureen is especially remembered for her tenure as Principal of St Thomas Catholic Primary School in Claremont (1974 – 1976, 1982 – 1984) and Iona Presentation Junior School (1985 – 2008).

As Principal of St Thomas' Catholic Primary School, Sister Maureen wholeheartedly modelled the inclusion and compassion of Jesus as she welcomed and advocated for the East Timorese refugees and migrants arriving in Perth at that time. When Sister Maureen received a call to assist in providing a Catholic education for these students, firstly at St Thomas, before guiding their future pathways into Iona Presentation College and John XXIII College, she did so without hesitation — clothing, feeding, transporting, and educating. In speaking with Sister Maureen, she recalled these acts as some of her greatest achievements.



Sister Maureen was a special light in the lives of so many. A woman of strong character, faith, and Christian witness, she was deeply committed to her religious vocation and being of service to God and others.



During her twenty-four years as Principal of Iona Presentation College Junior School, Sister Maureen was the cornerstone of the community. She knew every student and family, made a special effort to learn about the intricacies of one's life and excelled in building a welcoming and positive school community.

She saw the positive in all people, encouraged growth and an open mind and always sought first to understand.

Sister Maureen's approach to leadership had an immeasurable influence on her staff; some of whom are still working at the College today and whom she regarded as dear friends.

Throughout her time as Principal in both communities, she was a strong advocate for inclusion, caring for children with special needs and adopted an integrated approach to education. A woman who trusted the professionalism and experience of her team, she held her staff to the highest regard and did her utmost to support them personally and professionally. Fostering a nurturing, positive Catholic community in which every child's dignity was respected, Sister Maureen created school cultures rich in compassion. Sister Maureen's own family in Ireland were so important to her, and hence, the school cultures emulated a strong sense of family — giving, receiving, loving, and forgiving.

In her later years, she dedicated a significant amount of time to Prayer ministry. She continued to be a great source of spiritual comfort for generations of Past Pupils, colleagues, and friends.

Her ability to be able to share a story or offer some wise words of wisdom when facing the challenges of life will be sorely missed.

Sister Maureen imparted so many valuable life lessons to her students over the years; many of which are still practiced today.

Her impact was profound, and she was dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus with all whom she encountered. She had an enormous pastoral heart, especially in caring for those with the least options.

We celebrate Sister Maureen for her strong Christian witness and leadership, her firm belief in the power of a Catholic education, her genuine care for those in need, and her devotion to the loving pastoral care of members of the Catholic communities to whom she ministered.

In our Catholic educational communities, we are increasingly mindful that we stand on the shoulders of the giants who have come before us; Sister Maureen was one of those giants. With her significant legacy, she has paved a foundation for educators to continue promoting outstanding pastoral care, nourishing advocates of justice and inclusion and being a gift of 'presence' to all whom we encounter, all inspired by the compassion and love of Jesus.

Farewell loving and kind-hearted, Sister Maureen; you fought the good fight, you ran the race, you kept the faith.

May God continue to hold you in the palm of His hand.

Gemma Thomson (Class of 2006)

Iona Hosts AGSA Leadership Breakfast

On Thursday 4 May, Iona hosted the Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia (AGSA) leadership breakfast for all Perth IGSSA schools. Year 9 and 10 students from each school gathered to hear inspiring stories from Iona Past Pupil, Dr Kelly Jones (Class of 2005) and Iona Head Girl, Ruby Smith.

The speakers were engaging and wonderful ambassadors for Iona and for an all-girls education. Ruby spoke of her wonderful relationship with her sisters, and how her family have shaped her into the person and leader she is today.

Kelly's journey of discovering her life's passions was a great message for us all to never give up on our dreams, and that it's never too late to change direction! We are so grateful for her generosity in sharing her story with us. Her journey from Iona to her current profession as a doctor, was inspiring and showed such great grit and determination that our audience members were simply enthralled.

Following the speeches, Acting Principal of Iona Presentation College, Mr Ryan Shelton, addressed all of the young leaders in the room, before inviting everyone to share in a delicious breakfast together.

It was a fantastic celebration set to inspire the next generation of young female leaders.



Tennis Update



A great day of tennis was held earlier in the year with a team of IPPA competitors participating in the IGSAA Old Girls Tennis Competition. Readers will be pleased to know that Iona had a vast improvement on seventh last year to finishing in third place this year. Congratulations to PLC who were overall victors on this day.

Members of the team represented in the photo above are as follows:

(Front L-R) Jacqui Wood (*née Brooksbank*), Class of 1985, Emma Hann (*née Churack*), Class of 1988, Karen Bailey, Class of 1987, Louise Carson (*née Giangostino*), Class of 1990, Simonne Ventouras (*née Churack*), Class of 1983, Robyn Hegney (*née Sadler*), Class of 1984

(Back L-R) Vanya Kelleher, Class of 1986 and Alinta Sullivan (*née Sadler*), Class of 1986

Interested in playing in 2024?
Please contact Iona's CRD Team,

communityrelations@iona.wa.edu.au

2023 IPPA Reunions and Events

We can't wait to see you! Remaining 2023 IPPA Reunions and Events

Empower Me, Inspire Her	Saturday 24 June	9.30am – 6.30pm
Golden Girls' Reunion	Friday 15 September	10.00am – 2.00pm
IPPA Mentoring Sundowner	Thursday 21 September	5.30pm – 7.00pm
IPPA Networking Breakfast	Thursday 19 October	7.00am – 8.30am
IPPA All Boarders' Reunion + Tribute Launch	Saturday 4 November	3.00pm – 6.00pm

The information contained in this schedule is current as of the date of publishing, however may be subject to change.

To ensure you keep up to date with all IPPA events and initiatives, please keep your contact details current here: www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au.

Please also follow us on Facebook at IPPA – Iona Past Pupils' Association and LinkedIn.



/ Engage / Connect / Support / Inspire

To view IPPA photo galleries and to keep up to date with events please follow us online

www.facebook.com/www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au



www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au



All Boarders' Tribute update

In November this year, after much community consultation with Iona's former boarding community, we hope to unveil an Iona Boarders' Tribute in the new Sister Albeus Fahey Building. We are so excited to showcase such an important part of our history.

Before we can unveil the finished product, we are seeking support from our Boarders in the following ways . . .

- Donation of photos, videos
- Donations of old uniforms, memorabilia
- Your audio recording – please tell us a story from your Iona Boarding days. Your voice will be recorded and included in our display.

Please contact Georgia Allen in the Community Relations and Development office as soon as possible, if you are able to contribute.

communityrelations@iona.wa.edu.au





An Iona Life

AVIS LESLIE BROWN
17.5.1931 – 17.6.2022

Mum's childhood years at Iona with the Sisters, was the happiest time of her life.



"Avis Brown, stop running inside". This was a familiar saying to Mum as she was always getting into trouble for running through the corridors at Iona. It was her home for many years and the Sisters, especially Sister Carmel Ryan loved her spirit, her passion for speaking her mind and standing up for what she believed. Mum would always speak so fondly of Iona, her love for the friends she made there, and the special times she had with the Sisters, who would always play cricket with the girls. Mum would laugh how they would tuck their habit in so they could run fast to catch the ball. Mum was good at sport and many a time, there would be races outside. The Sisters would constantly be picking up her socks and shoes as Mum would leave them in haste to go running or climbing. Like the day she climbed over the wall into the Convent and got caught red-handed!

Mum was passionate about reading and always had a book under her pillow. She remembers often getting into trouble for reading under the bedsheets with a torch while the lights were out. Her love for writing and poetry was evident with the many poems she wrote over the years. Her good friend, Ruth Marchant (Class of 1947) who was her senior, also loved writing and went on to become a well-known author. Mum wrote for the Iona newsletter back then and later in life was asked to assist with the editing. Mum finally left Iona in 1948 and, although her passion was to be an archaeologist, she went straight into nursing training. Like her mother before her, and so too I would follow in their footsteps.

Mum was a compassionate nurse and years later ended up working at the RSL War Vet homes in Menora. She would talk to me about how she would always try to make elderly patients feel at peace in their last days – often defying strict rules to better the inevitable end of someone's life.

Years later, and many children on, it was my sister and I who held our mother's hand in her last day of life.

Avis Leslie Brown (Class of 1948) was a strong and courageous woman. She had her share of hardships throughout her years, but the many values instilled in her by Iona and in particular the Presentation Sisters always saw her through.

Thank you, Sister Carmel, you were her angel.

Judy Fetzer
(Daughter to Avis Leslie Brown)



2023 Combined Reunion

What an event – the Combined Reunion for the classes 2018, 2013, 2003, 1993 and 1983!

The energy was electric, the laughs hysterical and the reunions so heartfelt. It was lovely to reconnect with more than 150 Ionians across the decades at this great event.

The Sister Albeus Fahey building provided the most wonderful location to hold such a nostalgic occasion with everyone seeing first-hand how much Iona has grown in the years since they have left. “So much has changed, but so much has stayed the same”, seemed to be the general consensus of the night.

Acting Principal, Mr Ryan Shelton welcomed back guests with open hearts and Sister Mary Mackin, spokesperson for the Presentation Sisters, was simply gracious in her sentiments – *Once an Ionian, always an Ionian*.

A huge thank you to Melting Beats, the wonderful three-piece band who performed beautifully and kept everyone in the party vibe; to Iona’s Catering and Functions and Events team, who kept drinks topped up and bellies full; to the student helpers, who worked tirelessly supporting an event on their weekend, and to the IPPA Committee and Community Relations and Development Team who, with their can-do attitudes and tremendous support made the event such a success.

The event really was exceptional, and we cannot wait to do this all again in 2024!





Classes 2019, 2014, 2004, 1994 and 1984 –
please keep your details up to date with the College
as all invitations are sent via email.

Please also follow our social media accounts as
updates will also be posted there!



St Patrick's Day Celebrations



“We have a very deep root in Irish tradition...This is our heritage...These are fruits of what we have been building over all these years.”

Saint Patrick's Day is a moment in time where the entire Iona community comes together in celebration. It holds a very special place in the hearts of all the Sisters, the Staff and the students.

The Feast of Saint Patrick is a treasured Feast Day in Ireland and across the world and is especially enduring in Iona Presentation College's 116-year history. On Saint Patrick's Day, we acknowledge our Irish descendants and Presentation Sisters in the faith of Saint Patrick and the enormous contribution they, along with many Irish compatriots, have made to the Catholic Church in Australia and wider societal landscape. Venerable Nano Nagle, a female equivalent of the charismatic Saint Patrick, was a woman of faith, hope, zeal, and heroic virtue, whose vision and work as Foundress of the Presentation Sisters transformed the lives of so many. On St Patrick's Day, we as a College community celebrate the values that underpin the essence of Iona, our Catholic faith, and our Presentation charism.

It has been two years since we have been able to gather together as a community for St Patrick's Day, with Covid interfering with tradition last year.

This made it all the more special to have almost 2000 staff, students, Presentation Sisters, parents, Past Pupils and special guests come together on the green of Memorial Park to celebrate Mass, led by the wonderful Monsignor Kevin Long. Held annually on 17 March, this tradition was instigated by Iona's longest serving Principal, Sister Carmel Ryan PBVM in 1975. Hailing from County Tipperary Ireland, Sister Carmel was a woman of profound spirituality, of unwavering faith and her deep love for the Gospel was nothing short of inspiring.

This Feast, some 48 years later, continues to one of the College's most celebrated days. Today we remember that it is because of them, our beloved Presentation Sisters, that Iona - the people, the place, and the community - is what it is today.

Following Mass, further celebrations by way of the much-loved House Fair for students, and a special function for guests topped off a fabulous day. Students enjoyed a silent disco, water fights, Zumba, food stalls and more, while our guests were treated to high tea and entertainment from our talented Music students.

It is our hope and prayer that all members of our Iona Community, near and far, past, present and future, are filled with the special spirit of Saint Patrick's Day and reflect with grace and immense gratitude to those who have come before us, enabling our beautiful Presentation Community to be what it is today.



This Feast, some 48 years later, continues to one of the College's most celebrated days. Today we remember that it is because of them, our beloved Presentation Sisters, that Iona - the people, the place, and the community - is what it is today.





Presentation Pilgrimage begins Journey to Graduation



Early in Term 1, our Graduating Class, the Class of 2023, participated in their Commissioning Pilgrimage on the grounds of the College campus. Inaugurated in 2022 as a response to Covid restrictions limiting past Commissioning traditions, the Pilgrimage has now become a staple College event that ensures every Year 12 student feels included, valued, and supported by the whole Iona community as they begin their journey towards the end of their school days.

The reflective pilgrimage saw students journey around the beautiful Senior School campus, listening to story and prayer, and reflecting on themes of belonging, journey, and Presentation values. They were partnered in their journey by their Homeroom — an extension of their Iona family — and were met along the way by Presentation Sisters, teachers and support staff who have nurtured their lives at the College.

Students collected special items along their journey, were blessed, participated in prayer, and wrote goals for themselves in their final year to place on the 'welcoming heart', all before signing their name and handprint on their Class of 2023 banner.

We wish them every success in their final year and beyond.

Honouring our wonderful mothers

In the lead up to Mother's Day this year, staff, students and the entire Iona community celebrated the wonderful women in our lives.

On the Senior campus, we were thrilled to have Iona mothers join us at our regular Tuesday Morning Mass in the Corpus Christi Church. This lovely occasion provided such a poignant acknowledgement of these important spiritual guides.

At the Junior School, Treacey Hall was packed for their Mother's Day Celebrations. There was such excitement in the room as our mums mingled and spent some special time with their children and with each other. For our younger students, this occasion provided the opportunity to stop and reflect on their amazing mothers and mother-figures and show appreciation for all that they do.

Year 7 students and their mums then enjoyed a delicious breakfast at Fraser's Restaurant in Kings Park. Wow, what a treat! Students spoke on what they love about their mums, what makes them so special and how important they are as role models in their lives.

The Iona community is such a special place, and these memorable occasions certainly provide an opportunity for us to celebrate just that. The roles of our mothers and mother-figures enable our students to truly feel empowered on their life's journey.





Naming of the Sister Carmel Ryan Centre



On Monday 21 November 2022, the College commemorated the Feast of the Presentation; a significant day for Presentation People around the world. We also remembered Sister Carmel Ryan PBVM. We acknowledged her significant contribution to Iona Presentation College by naming and blessing the original school building - known to many in recent times as the "Year 12 block" - the Sister Carmel Ryan Centre.

It is our prayer that by naming the building in her honour, current students and staff, together with generations to come, will be inspired by her steadfast example.

Sister Carmel Ryan 'put Iona on the map' and her legacy is enormous. Amidst her many achievements whilst Principal of Iona, a very noteworthy contribution was her diplomatic lobbying to allow Iona to be admitted as a member of the Independent Girls Schools Sporting Association (IGSSA). She also instigated the first Saint Patrick's Day Mass which continues to be one of our most celebrated days as a College (read more on page 30).



The Sister Carmel Ryan Prize for Christian Leadership was first awarded in 1977 and continues to be the most prestigious award that the College bestows unto a Year 12 student.

It was an honour to be joined by so many Presentation Sisters for the occasion; many of whom have personal connections with Sister Carmel. We are indeed fortunate to be able to learn more about her through their personal anecdotes and lived experiences.



It is our prayer that by naming the building in her honour, current students and staff, together with generations to come, will be inspired by her steadfast example.





Gardening with the Sisters



Finally — harvest time!

This year at the Junior School, the Environmental Committee — led by students passionate about the care of our earth, were instrumental in the establishment of a vegetable garden which they have planted on the Junior School College campus. There has been opportunities for students to watch seeds grow to seedlings and plants grow into edibles! Students have watered, cared for and watched out as their produce has grown into something magnificent!

And who better to donate the items to than our beloved Presentation Sisters living at the Iona Convent.

Presentation Sisters, Sister Mary and Sister Irene were simply delighted to receive such a delicious treat, and array of healthy and yummy herbs and vegetables.



Open Mornings 2023



IONA
PRESENTATION COLLEGE

Prospective families and Past Pupils with an interest in an Iona education, are warmly invited to attend an Open Morning in 2023.

Meet the College Principal, staff and students, take a tour of our vibrant campuses and enjoy a delicious morning tea.

For further information, please contact College Registrar Mrs Theresa Loughnan, theresa.loughnan@iona.wa.edu.au

Senior School Tour

Friday 8 September 2023

Early Learning Tour

Wednesday 13 September 2023



BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:
www.iona.wa.edu.au/openmornings

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