



esprit de corps

IONA PRESENTATION COLLEGE MAGAZINE
ISSUE 23 • 2021



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Iona Presentation College
acknowledges the Whadjuk Noongar
People as the Traditional Custodians of
the land and waterways upon which this
publication has been created.

We pay our respects to their Elders -
past, present and future, for they hold
the memories, culture and hopes of
Indigenous Australia.

Making a difference, together



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The Iona Past Pupils' Association, known as IPPA, is a dynamic network of thousands of Ionians.

Past Pupils of Iona are genuine and well-rounded. As individuals, they continually strive to uphold the values of our foundress, Nano Nagle, by living with honour, being lifelong learners with strong work ethics, showing kindness and compassion in their daily lives, and an approach to service in the wider community far beyond their own needs. As part of a wider network, Ionians prove repeatedly that they really can and do make a difference.

Once an Ionian, always an Ionian.

**MOVED HOUSE RECENTLY?
HAVE A FRIEND WHO IS NOT HEARING FROM US?**

Update your details by scanning the QR code,
visit www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au or call Georgia at Iona, 9384 0066



message from THE PRINCIPAL

2021 Excellence at Iona: To discover opportunities, set challenging goals, develop a strong work ethic and strive to do our best.

As I reflect upon my first year as Principal of Iona Presentation College, I feel so blessed to be part of such an exceptional school where all are welcomed and supported. At the very essence of our community is love and service. When pondering the first few lines of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's sonet, *How Do I Love Thee?* it is obvious that love permeates and filters through every dimension - the depth and breadth and height - of our Presentation community and it is this that makes Iona unique from other places of learning.

**"How do I love the? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach"**

This year our focus has been upon our College value of Excellence and it is the love and support that has been extended to all members that has enabled this value to flourish across all domains of our community life. Our students have been afforded an extraordinary range of opportunities and what has impressed me most is the way they have grasped every offering and worked conscientiously to achieve their best. I have quickly learned that Iona offers something for everyone! This does not only apply to current students but also extends to our families and Past Pupils.

Through IPPA, I have come to understand the true meaning of 'Once an Ionian, always an Ionian'. Whether it be at reunions, networking breakfasts, the new mentoring program initiative or the informal catchups; it is most evident that there is a strong bond between all Ionians no matter the year they may have graduated. This can be attributed to many



factors, but I am of the firm belief that our Presentation Sisters have been the 'glue' in keeping all Ionians grounded, and real. It has been their example of love and inclusion of all, together with their dedication and 'can do' attitude that has nurtured and fostered the Iona way. I give thanks for them each day.

In closing, I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas period and I can officially say in such a short space of time, I feel like an Ionian! I am not sure if there is a timeframe as to when one becomes a true Ionian, but I plan to keep working at it in the years to come.

Keep making a difference, together!

God bless,

Robyn Miller

B.Ed., MEd (RE), MEdL
Principal

message from THE CHAIR OF IPPA



It's been another wonderful year in the world of IPPA.

We have seen significant, positive growth in the support of our initiatives and events. The future looks bright for our Past Pupils' Association with a collective of thousands of enthusiastic and dedicated members who are striving to find more and more ways for our alumni to connect, support, engage and inspire.

This year, to tie in with the College focus on the value of Excellence, the IPPA committee have worked to bring events together that truly emulate the can-do-attitudes and 'never say never' approach of Ionians. We were blown away with the number of Past Pupils who are out there in the 'real world' developing their own businesses, innovating and inspiring, and doing their utmost to keep service above self at the heart of everything they do!

To help to support Ionians and grow the Iona network, IPPA has established a Business Directory. All listings are free for IPPA Members. With a database of over 8600 Ionians, the Directory provides a useful platform to promote your business whilst at the same time, supporting the Iona community. Register here: www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au

We hope, as Past Pupils, you have enjoyed the IPPA events of 2021, we can't wait to get started now on those for 2022.

Stay posted, remember to keep your details up to date, and importantly- tell a friend!

Warm regards

Jane-Mary Richardson (*née Ellis*)
Class of 1989
IPPA Chair



Entrepreneurs

In a year focused on the College value of Excellence we explore the journeys of Past Pupils. These innovators, change makers and entrepreneurs are committed to discovering opportunities, determined to give their best and ultimately, make a difference!



FOREVER LEARNING

After graduating in 1995, I studied Law and Japanese Studies at Murdoch University. Japanese was an odd choice to mix with Law, but I chose that as in Year 10 I was lucky enough to go to Japan on an exchange program and tour led by my teacher, Miss Wells.

Whilst I was at Uni, I received a placement as a clerk in a law firm which led me to being offered a part-time role in the firm. I worked there for the last three years of my studies. Yes, it was hard to juggle full time study and working part-time in a law firm, but I knew that the practical experience that I was gaining was invaluable. Working in the firm also led to being offered a full-time position upon graduation.

I was admitted to practice as a lawyer in July 2001.

By late 2010, I was approached by my 'then boss' now, Judge Stephen Lemonis, about whether I wanted to go into business with him as a partner. At the time, I was 32 years' old and it was quite a daunting prospect; and despite putting up many hurdles in my head, I followed the advice that my now husband gave me, which was, 'why don't you give it a go and if you don't like it, I'm sure you can just go back to being a lawyer.'

Lemonis Tantiprasut Lawyers started on 1 November 2010.

Fast forward to late 2019 and my business partner was appointed as a Judge of the District Court of Western Australia. This was a huge curveball, as it meant I would now become the Sole Director of the firm, and that the success of the firm now rested on my shoulders!

I was so proud of what the firm had achieved and become, I decided to continue and see what I could make of it on my own.

I'm proud to say that even after COVID-19 hit, our firm, Lemonis Tantiprasut Lawyers, is still going strong.

As I reflect on my Iona days, besides Ms Wells, I would have to say Mrs Easton's Year 8 Social Studies class, also inspired my love of learning, which happens to be the key to Law, as you are always learning on the job.

Mintie Tantiprasut
(Class of 1995)
www.ltlawyers.com.au

Lemonis / Tantiprasut
Lawyers





A PATH OF DISCOVERY

After graduating Iona in 1999, I attended Notre Dame University to study a Bachelor of Education. I then went on to become a teacher at a local Catholic Primary School and at the same time, purchased my first house at 22 years of age! Back then, early career teachers were on a very low wage, around \$38,000 a year. This meant that I couldn't afford to pay trades to renovate my entry level property and so I began getting to work as a DIY renovator, teaching by day and renovating by night and in the school holidays.

Eventually, I was asked by a subdivision company to renovate the existing houses left on blocks once they had been subdivided. This is where I began to establish the business that I now run - **Perth Renovation Projex**. I had no business knowledge, no idea of how to run a renovation professionally or even, how to manage a team. All I knew was how to renovate properties myself, how to listen to people, how to care and how to be organised.

Turns out, when you are following your purpose and passion, the path unfolds and you really only need what you have right here, right now to simply get started. The business I now have; minor projects of \$10 - \$30k, and extensive extensions ranging from \$150 - \$650k, is in fact, still based on my initial skill set.

The skill of really listening to people and caring about them, I believe is at the core of my business. My team and clients can all relate to the way I work and what I stand for, which ensures we all work together to create my clients' visions.

On this journey of ups and downs, I had two babies, continued renovations, featured in magazines and took my business online. Being a new mum is hard enough, but facing the internet to show up for your business, is next level! This is where my next project, the **Woman BEHIND the Business** kicked in.

I established this mentoring business to work with women from all different businesses and backgrounds, helping them to overcome fears, frustrations and work life balance.

What I learned about mentoring other women who were on the same journey, is that when we become our best self, everything

we stand for also benefits. This was so much more than just me or business. This was about my daughters, my team, my clients and the bigger picture. To give the best to everyone else, it first starts and ends with what we give to ourselves. Who we choose to be, what we choose to stand for and what we need in order to be the one who 'can'.

To me, the magic of following your purpose and passion in the entrepreneur world, is discovering your path as it continues to unfold. From my days of teaching by day and renovating by night, I am proud to say that I now mentor, and run a renovation team, whilst being able to love, nurture and provide for my girls.

Shannon Jansen *née Burke*

(Class of 1999)

www.perthrenovationprojex.com.au



STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

After graduating Iona in 2010, I went on to study a double degree in Fashion and Textile Design at Curtin University. I was hopeful to start my own business after finishing the degree, however I decided to take some priceless advice and get some industry experience first. This advice largely came from my parents; both have been able to successfully run respective small businesses. They have been an instrumental part in my journey.

The first step was becoming an intern at an innovative fashion retail and styling start-up. I was lucky enough to work my way up and gain the opportunity to relocate to Melbourne to setup a new store. This experience was incredibly challenging but ultimately a success. It helped me gain confidence and I remember thinking, 'if I can do this for someone else, then why not for myself?'

Ever since I was a little girl, I always wanted to be a clothing designer. My great grandmother, grandmother, and mum were all designers and made their own clothes. In hindsight, it was always more a question of 'when' and 'how' I was going to get started, rather than 'if'. I have always dreamt big!

In 2016, aged 23, I decided to start my own business - **SOFIA The Label**. We have been fortunate to steadily build a reputation around the world as a women's clothing label dedicated to, occasion wear with head turning appeal. Currently, I am focused on the creative side of the business (which I love) - leading the design, marketing, and creative direction of the business.

Starting a business so young has had its challenges- there were certainly a lot of mistakes and growing up over a short period of time! Those, along with the personal sacrifices that come with running a small business were challenging, but ultimately, extremely rewarding. It has forced both the business and I, to evolve into the position that we are in today.

My 13 years at Iona created a strong foundation for me both professionally and personally. The College's philosophy and ethos to, strive for excellence, has guided me to become the person I am. Self-confidence, courage, and a strong work ethic are qualities that developed throughout my time at Iona. With taking risks and making high pressure decisions part in parcel of going out on your own, the qualities I developed at Iona have helped me to face challenges with the knowledge that I WILL make it out the other side. I have always felt a sense of community at Iona too, the friendships I have created I know will be lifelong.

I am constantly striving to do better, even if it's only in the smallest way. I have learnt to ensure my efforts to improve are holistic. To excel at anything, I think it's important to make sure all areas of your life are being looked after including your body, mind, and spirit- which are all so critical to be able to deliver sustained excellence.

I often remind myself that nothing wonderful comes easy. It takes enormous effort over a long period of time before you really start seeing results - short term pain for long term gain! To help with this, I try to focus on living in the moment and enjoying the process.

Sophia Lenzo
(Class of 2010)
www.sofiathelabel.com.au



SOFIA

JOURNEY OF SELF-BELIEF

My biggest challenge in my entrepreneurial journey was self-belief. The belief that I could actually make it happen and be successful, and that I was worthy of success.



I came up with the idea for **MELIS** because of my own personal journey away from synthetic fragrances and chemicals. Whilst pregnant, and due to health concerns, I sought alternative remedies for sleep and anxiety which included essential oils and meditation. I eventually started blending simple natural blends of fragrance for myself and friends. After birthing my children, I tried synthetic perfume again and developed migraines. I then found it difficult to purchase sophisticated luxury natural perfumes, as traditional perfumery uses synthetic ingredients in an alcohol base. A gap existed in the market, and so I started researching the natural perfume competitive landscape in 2015. Three years later, a sea change to Margaret River, a close friend's death, and the increase in new entrants to the natural perfume category, provided me with the motivation and 'now or never' mentality to launch, MELIS.

After leaving my corporate, luxury wine marketing career and having children, my whole way of life and outlook changed. Instead of being 'in my head' and intellectualising my pursuits, I started 'feeling' more and trusting my instincts. As a result, my goals have been less of a challenge and more of a passionate pursuit. I do make sure I'm very clear about what it is I want to achieve and that the goal is commercially sound, and then work very hard at visualising and attracting the right people to help me achieve it. Attracting the right people to help me achieve the MELIS vision has been critical.

My Iona experience, along with my mother's spiritual influence, provided a support and belief in something far greater than myself that I have always leant on for support and guidance. The lifelong friendships garnered at Iona have also been invaluable.

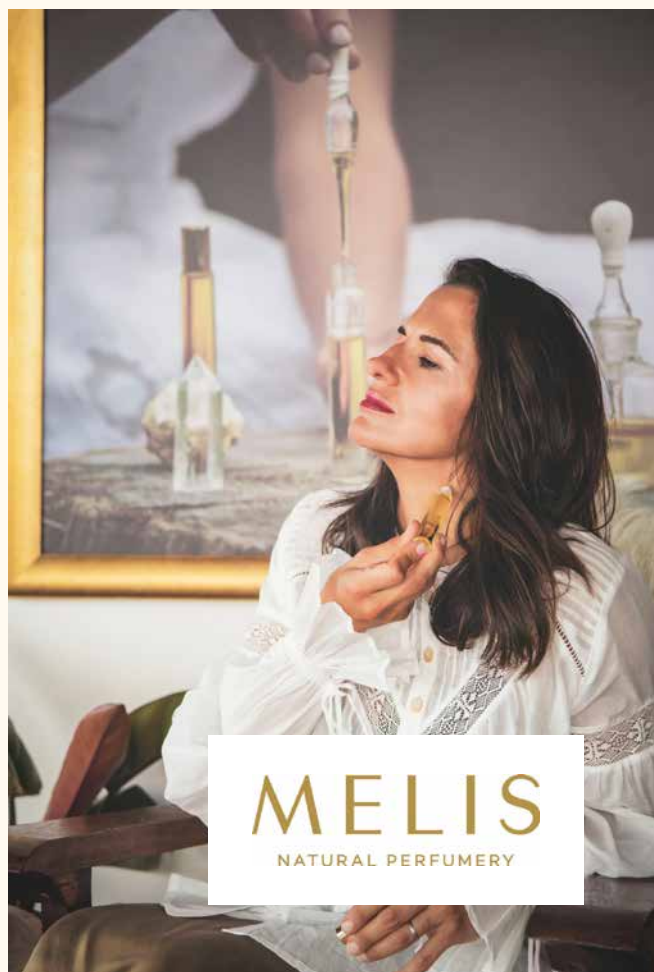
I think personal excellence is highly individual. For me, it means being the best version of myself possible which also means being as authentic to my personal truth as possible. Listening, tapping into and honouring what drives us, provides meaning and joy, and for me, is what it means to truly strive for personal excellence.

When we're able to feel into our own values and beliefs, we can confidently and authentically choose our path and influence. When it comes from a place of authenticity and truth, success (however, you choose to measure this) will likely follow. If you find a collective with similar values and drive, then it's even more powerful.

Melissa Italiano

(Class of 1991)

www.melisperfumery.com



MELIS
NATURAL PERFUMERY

TREE CHANGE

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I began my career in Commercial Property after completing a Bachelor of Commerce and Associate Diploma in Property at age 20. For the most part of my 17-year career in the industry, I managed A Grade and Premium Office towers including; QV.1, Central Park, Woodside Plaza and Exchange Plaza for large private and institutional property owners. I was responsible for the strategy and performance of the WA Office portfolios for both Stockland and Dexu Property Group valued at \$600M and \$800M respectively, and sat on several Property Council of Australia Committees, the Curtin Property Advisory Committee and the Property Education Foundation to encourage education in the Property Industry.

At age 29 I was a finalist in the Business News, 40 under 40 Awards, and then later aged 31, was a finalist in the Telstra Business Women Awards. At age 38, I made the big decision to retire to travel around Australia and settle somewhere in the country.

I now live in the Ferguson Valley where my husband and I run a small amount of cattle and sheep on a large lifestyle property.

To keep my love of business and strategy alive, I purchased two run-down skincare/beauty salons – **Skin and Beauty Bunbury** and **Skin and Beauty Woodlands**, and over the last five to six years have developed them into thriving businesses. I manage these remotely from the farm, as my husband and I travel several months each year.

To me, the highest form of wealth is happiness, and the ability to wake up every morning and say, 'I can do whatever I want today.'

Trish Bridge née de Souza

(Class of 1991)

www.skinandbeautybunbury.com.au

www.skinandbeautywoodlands.com.au

Skin and Beauty
WOODLANDS



Left to right: Sophie Blackett, Katie Price

BACKING YOURSELF

It is ingrained in us as Ionians that we can and should, *make a difference*.

When pregnant with my first child I was always keen to use modern, cloth nappies to help reduce my environmental footprint. Did you know that it takes up to 500 years for a disposable nappy to decompose? This means that the first disposable nappy is still in landfill today!

Once my baby was born and I was officially on maternity leave, I had this crazy idea to create my own modern cloth nappy as I was yet to find what I thought was the perfect nappy. **CrackaDaks** Modern Cloth Nappies was born in the early months of 2019 when my sister-in-law, Katie Price and I joined forces as new mothers to take on the world of modern cloth nappies. We both wanted to give mothers a small opportunity to do something helpful to impact the environment whilst working from home and spending more time with our children.

We did face many challenges along the way, only launching our business six months before the COVID-19 pandemic. With manufacturers in China, we faced multiple delays in supplies and shipping, as well as people in Australia losing jobs which amounted in a reduced amount of expendable cash. Although you save money over time by choosing cloth nappies over disposables, there is a higher original outlay and therefore we did see a decrease in demand throughout 2021.

Neither Katie or I have had any background in running a business, so this in itself was a challenge. I am a qualified nurse/midwife and Katie has a Bachelor of Psychology. Our collective approach has always been to, 'learn as you go', going all in and backing ourselves all the way!

Our goals started small - help reduce the use of single-use plastic, encourage more mums to use modern cloth nappies by having super cute designs, and create an online cloth community of like-minded mums and dads.

We achieved all of these goals relatively quickly and were blown away to be nominated and receive multiple awards in the 2020 and 2021 *AusMumpreneur Awards* in Sustainability, Emerging and Customer Service.

We are now stocked and selling our products internationally with stockists in England, Ireland, New Zealand and the Netherlands.

Iona girls truly do *make a difference*. So, if you have a crazy idea, back yourself, give 100% and you too can achieve your goals.

Sophie Blackett née Alexander
(Class of 2009)
www.crackadaks.com.au



RISE TO THE CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME



My sister, Alison, and I created Wonderchums to help parents raise kids who embrace diversity, so that together they can rise to the challenges of our time. Creatively, and inclusively.

Growing up on our farm in Wheatbelt WA, myself, Alison and our siblings loved making things. We also grew up with disability in our family and so we all developed habits of inclusion and a knack for working together to make the most of our varied abilities.

At Iona, I loved Art, Maths and Physics and was part of the Young Achievers Entrepreneurship Program, which was my first attempt at making a business. I became a digital media artist and university academic, specialising in Innovation. I discovered how the capacity to work with others was essential to creating meaningful change. Studies were showing that the more diverse a team, the better the team's performance and the greater the innovation in a company.

When Alison and I both started having children of our own, we realised we wanted them to grow up experiencing creativity alongside diversity. We created the Wonderchums characters with a mix of shapes, sizes, and strengths, so that kids aged four to six could learn that superpowers come in all forms. At first, we created Wonderchums inclusive holiday camps, which were a hit! Pretty soon COVID-19 came along and we changed the focus to storybooks, puppets and an app.

This coming February 2022, we are launching a five-book pack of Superpower Conversations. We have developed an exciting new learning format where the Wonderchums characters come alive in digital conversations that springboard from the QR code at the back of every Wonderchums storybook. Our characters take children on a monthly journey to discover

their unique superpowers through dialogue, fun challenges and conversations with parents. Kids can use the Wonderchums app to have more digital conversations with the characters, as well as watch their own unique Wonder World grow - a 3D interactive visualisation of their completed conversations that showcases their strengths.

Imagine your favourite childhood toy coming to life from the page of a book and talking to you about growing who you are. That is Wonderchums!

Being at Iona gave me a strong sense of leading a purpose-driven life. Parents have told us that Wonderchums is helping them discover ways to talk with their child on tricky topics such as: who am I, how do I include others, why does our planet need my help, and how do I become more curious?

Wonderchums was a side-gig for a number of years while we were raising teeny people and winding up other careers. We have successfully transitioned to working on Wonderchums full-time with a lot of persistence and big vision, landing a substantial grant in 2021 to hire our team, who are now 12 diverse creators and academics in nine cities around the world.

And true to our upbringing, we are working deeply with others to evolve our characters and tools through the Wonderchums Collective - a vibrant community of parents, experts, researchers and technologists who are helping us build Wonderchums for children of all abilities. Get in touch if you'd like to be involved or want to know more!

Joanne Jakovich
(Class of 1994)
www.wonderchums.com
[@wonderchums.official](https://twitter.com/wonderchums.official)



CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Schools of Early Learning (SOEL) is a family run business established in 1974 by our mother, Bernadette Giambazi. My sisters, Louise Thomson née Giambazi (Class of 1981), Genevieve Giambazi (Class of 1994) and I (Class of 1986) have grown the philosophy and practice, and expanded the operation across five additional sites; Como, North Fremantle, North Perth, West Leederville and Subiaco.

A mother to five girls, a former Deputy Principal and a background of growing up in the country in a large family and close-knit community, all contributed to Bernadette seeing the need for high quality education and care for our children and community.

She was a trail blazer in the early childhood realm. Responsible for educational programs being offered in early learning settings, she worked with government to establish workable regulations for the industry and was one of the architects of what we now know as the assessment and ratings process.

As young children, we spent many hours on weekends and school holidays honing our work ethic. Working with our parents to maintain gardens, reset rooms and clean toys at our original site in Williams Road, Nedlands. As we grew, we worked in the business looking after the children and learning the ropes. Mum always held us to a high standard, and we learnt very quickly that we needed to set a good example for the other educators and no matter how sick we were, to still turn up for work!

The landscape in the industry has changed dramatically over the past 30 years since we gravitated back to Perth from our overseas travel adventures and made a commitment to grow our business. Our goal of creating centres of excellence for the children in our communities has not waived, but as our own children have grown, we have become acutely aware of our responsibility to continue researching and looking at best practice. We have seen parenting styles evolve and seen a shift in our community social structure. Now, more than ever, young parents need the support of community.

Louise and I are now working with educators we looked after in our babies' rooms and have parents who have gone through our schools! For us, this is definitely a career highlight, albeit a stark reminder that we are now 'OLD'.

I now know how Sister Mary (Anthony) can remember each and every student she encountered years down the track. She saw our potential and authentically engaged with us all. This is a lesson

that has stayed with us and is highlighted in our philosophy and practice.

Working with your own sisters is not for the faint hearted. We each bring our individual strengths and interests to the table; we have robust, loud, frustrating and occasionally tearful discussions. Somehow, we make it work.

Our time at Iona cemented for us how important it is for us to participate in creating proactive, caring communities around ourselves, and our families. We all have special ongoing relationships with the life-long friends we made during our school years at Iona.

Sarah Lovegrove née Giambazi
(Class of 1986)
www.soel.wa.edu.au



Genevieve Giambazi



Left to right: Louise Thomson and Sarah Lovegrove



Schools of Early Learning[®]
children breaking new ground





MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Making a difference, the motto that has underpinned my career decisions since graduating Iona in 1993, is not only what has driven me to establish my current business, Horizon Gymnastics Club, but what I attribute to being the reason for its success.

Sport has always played a big role in my life. No matter what sport was on offer, I was keen to participate. Playing sport ignited my competitive spirit and gave me the drive to continue working hard to improve. A sense of personal success, as well as mateship and belonging, are just some of the many benefits that sport offered me during my transition to Iona in Year 6, and more so during my Senior School years.

Following school, I commenced a degree in teaching at Notre Dame University. Shortly after this, I was offered a job in banking and finance and at the age of 18, the lure of a full-time salary was too good to refuse. I deferred my teaching only to go on to complete a Bachelor of Business and continue working in the finance industry for the next 20 years.

During this time, I always seemed to find myself working with organisations that made a difference to people, or where I could personally contribute and be heard. In the evenings, I would continue to play sport where I could until my body started to cause me pain. After two shoulder reconstructions and several slipped discs in my lower back, my life of active physical team sports was over. In 2014, I experienced a tragic work event which resulted in my world as I knew it, being taken away for good.

After many months of support and soul searching, I had the opportunity to start fresh. This time, the motivation to make a difference was stronger than ever. As a mum of three daughters and living in regional WA, it was evident that there was a need for a solid fundamental movement program. With my

daughters having inherited hypermobility, I had already been exposed to the physical benefits gymnastics offers, and after further research into the emotional and personal benefits of the sport as well as some initial discussions with educators and families across the region; the decision to open Horizon Gymnastics Club was made.

Since establishing the club in 2017, I have never looked back. I am so proud to be the owner of such a club. With a positive culture supported by our values of flexibility, adaptability, inclusivity and transparency, we are having a positive impact on many young lives in the South-West region. A regular membership base now pushing in excess of 400 students per term, plus an extensive waitlist, it would be easy to sit back and celebrate the successes to date. The constant drive to continue to seek other opportunities and look for ways to support those that are not privileged to experience what we offer, continues to present more and more opportunities. It is the drive to make a difference that continues to light up the path of opportunities for me and to what I owe my successes.

I am proud to be an Ionian and now having my three daughters commencing their Iona journey, I am even prouder to be a parent of an Ionian.

Together, we are all *making a difference!*

Joanne Hill *née French*
(Class of 1993)

www.horizongymnasticsclub.com.au



TRUSTING IN THE ANSWERS

'Life is about love and relationships. Without them, the magnificence of human experience and emotion has no meaning.'

It was my favourite Principal, Sister Maureen, at the then Iona Primary School, who told me whenever I felt lost or uncertain in life, to ask for the answers and trust when the time is right, they would be given to me.

Since 2006, I have been passionate about learning about human behaviour-relationships, dating and personal development and so, in 2012 I established my own Life & Relationship Coaching business. I soon became disillusioned with matchmaking after working with another matchmaker, that I changed course and began working in events.

After then losing my job as an Events and Marketing Manager when COVID-19 hit at the beginning of 2020, I took Sr Maureen's advice, did a lot of asking and tried to figure out what my next move would be.



Not really knowing what to do, I finally made the decision to recommence coaching when I received an out of the blue call from another colleague I had not spoken to for years. He wanted to introduce me to someone!

There is no way to explain it than within minutes of meeting Linda, I just knew we were meant to work together. We connected at a deep level, spoke about our love for helping people to find meaningful and long-lasting connections, and brainstormed what we thought the Perth dating scene needed. It was at this meeting a seed was planted and the next time we met, **HYTCH** was conceived.

Upon reflection, I truly believe Linda and I were brought together as business partners for a real purpose, to create HYTCH, help people forge meaningful, lasting connections and find love.

I remember the famous quote by Napoleon Hill, "every adversity, every failure, every heartache carries with it the seed of an equal or greater benefit." Had I not lost my job, been searching for purpose in my own life,

and failing at initially starting my own matchmaking business, I never would've followed my intuition about working with Linda, nor known in my heart that I had been given another opportunity to have the courage to try again.

Of course, launching a business never goes off without a HYTCH! We have faced a number of challenges, such as going into lockdown on the week of launch, and for our first big 270 people event, our co-host suffered a stroke and was hospitalised. Luckily, I had all my events experience to fall back on!

The most important thing I have learnt along the way is to trust in my 'why' and know whatever challenges I am given, if I stay true to my purpose and remain authentic, then I will be given whatever I need to get through the challenges - learn and eventually, grow.

In setting out to achieve my goals, I always start with my vision for HYTCH which is to be Perth's premier exclusive matchmaking agency and give people more opportunities to meet like-minded people in friendly, relaxed settings.

Looking back to my time at Iona, I have always known the strength that comes from having an open heart and the reward that comes from serving people. I also believe that what Sister Maureen told me all those years ago has shaped me into the driven, courageous person I am today.

Amanda Harrigan
(Class of 1994)
www.hytch.com.au



A young girl with dark, curly hair is smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a light blue short-sleeved school uniform shirt with yellow piping on the collar and cuffs, and a blue apron with dark straps. She is sitting at a desk in a classroom. In the background, other students in similar uniforms are visible, and there is an orange wall with some posters. The text "Your gift," is overlaid in white serif font on the lower right side of the image.

Your gift,



her future

For the Iona stories yet to be told...
GIVE YOUR GIFT RIGHT NOW

For more information and to give online please go to
www.iona.wa.edu.au/payments

To give by phone call Georgia Allen at 9384 0066

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 Ionian education and opportunities, which may otherwise be unattainable.

Create your long-lasting connection to Iona today.





CLASS OF 1981 - 40 YEAR REUNION

How could it possibly be 40 years since we left Iona? We may have had to look twice, but the friendships were still strong and the joy at being together very real.

Reality did hit home when we had the privilege to tour the amazing new learning centre, The Albeus Fahey Building. The distinctive architectural light and space, along with the high-tech equipment available made us acknowledge how truly lucky current students are. There was also lots of discussions about how the boarding school, library and courtyard areas fitted into this space – some managed to declare that, “this is where my bedroom was!”

Around 25 women attended the Class of 1981's 40 Year Reunion, and as it is in the new COVID-19 world of ours, we also had four women attend via ZOOM from across Australia and Singapore.

College Principal Robyn Miller, together with Sisters Mary, Kathleen, and Nora then shared a wonderful afternoon of drinks and canapés, memories, and laughter. What was so apparent was that the spirit of Nano Nagle lived on in all of us.

Many thanks to the Iona Community Relations & Development Team who organised the event and the catering staff who assisted with beautiful culinary treats on the day.

Melissa Evans *née Isabel*
(Class of 1982)



CLASS OF 1991 - 30 YEAR REUNION

It doesn't feel like 30 years.

In June, the Class of '91 gathered at the top of the amazing new Albeus Fahey Building at Iona to reminisce, laugh and reconnect.

It was a double celebration as Sister Mary chose to spend her birthday with us. As always, Sister Mary tried to deflect the attention, but it was fitting that the lady who has played such an instrumental part in our formative years took centre stage.

In so many ways, it seems we haven't changed. The haircuts may be better but the ways we speak and laugh remain the same. It was a little surreal to realise how much has changed since 1991. It was also a little sad. We remembered our two classmates, Olivia Mansfield née Grida and Catherine Guidera. We thought of our classmates who couldn't make it back to Perth in COVID-19 restricted times. But there was also a strong sense of joy, gratitude and fun. In times of uncertainty, there was something grounding about gathering together again as the group that forged through our teenage years.

We enjoyed meeting College Principal Robyn Miller who, during a particularly busy work weekend, still found the time and energy to share her sense of humour and pride in Iona with us. Thank you to Fiona Anthony and Sister Mary for sharing your time and stories with us. It wouldn't have been the same without you.

A very special thank you to Georgia Allen and the Iona Community Relations and Development Team for organising an excellent event and ensuring all ran smoothly.

Vicki Butler
(Class of 1991)







GOLDEN GIRLS' REUNION

The College recently welcomed back more than 100 Iona Golden Girls to their annual Mass, Luncheon and Reunion. These treasured Past Pupils graduated from Iona at least 50 years ago and are much-loved members of our vibrant IPPA community. This year, we were thrilled to welcome back and inaugurate the Classes of 1970 and 1971.

There were many star attractions on the day, in particular, Eunice Darby (née Andrews) from the Class of 1944! What a treat it was to see her back at Iona. At 91 years of age, Eunice is still a can-do-woman!

Following a beautiful Mass led by Monsignor Long, our Golden Girls were toured through the Albeus Fahey Building by our remarkable Year 9 student guides.

The Golden Girls, of whom many were taught by Mother Albeus herself, were simply amazed by the new learning centre and humbled by the Presentation Values, still very much at the heart of an Iona education.

A sumptuous lunch in the stunning Staff Community Room, overlooking the Swan River and Moreton Bay Figs, completed what was a truly special and heart-warming day!





CLASS OF 2001 - 20 YEAR REUNION

What a privilege it was to reunite with friends and staff at our 20 Year Reunion. Some of the Class of 2001 joined together in the new Albeus Fahey Building with many gasps of astonishment and delight at the incredible new facilities. After a tour of the new building, we settled in the staff room courtyard to soak up the river views. It was a surreal moment to feel so instantly comfortable and familiar with these beautiful women, some of whom we haven't seen for nearly two decades.

We were welcomed by the amazing Sister Mary who somehow seemed to remember everyone and College Principal, Robyn Miller. Robyn reminded us that in 2001 we were probably all dancing to the hit, 'Lady Marmalade' and that the median house price in Perth was \$175,000. This was greeted by the predictable groans of middle-aged women wishing our younger selves had the foresight to buy into the market in our early 20s. We were then thrilled to see

Ms Herley (or Margaret as she now insisted we call her) walk through the doors. Margaret spoke to us about continuing to challenge ourselves and to seek out leadership opportunities. We were instantly transported back to her Principal addresses during assemblies at Nagle Hall. It was wonderful. We finished with a group photo and spirited rendition of, 'Iona Girls Make A Difference!'

Thanks so much to the College staff for looking after us so well and even sending us home with individually wrapped brownies topped with Iona logos. Our hearts were full as we left Iona and continued the celebrations at the Cottesloe Beach Club. We look forward to seeing everyone again at our next reunion.

Tara Vermeerch *née Brand*
(Class of 2001)







TEN TALKS allowed students in Year 10 to explore a range of careers and alternative pathways beyond the conventional. Melissa Haskett (Class of 1984 and Head of Year 10)

ENGAGE / CONNECT / SUPPORT / INSPIRE

A look back at the IPPA events of 2021

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ESPRIT DE CORPS
ISSUE 23 2021



IPPA BREAKFASTS bring like-minded people together! Donna Italiano (Class of 1990)



WORKSHOPPING THE FUTURE The workshops helped me to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of the career paths I am considering pursuing in the future. I was lucky enough to be able to ask questions to a variety of people from different occupations. Kate Nolan, 10 O'Dowling



IPPA NETWORKING BREAKFASTS facilitate connections and create opportunities. Jane-Mary Richardson née Ellis (Class of 1989)



IPPA NETWORKING EVENTS are so motivating and if you haven't been to one it is a must as you will never forget how they make you feel. Kelly Gostt née Leeson (Class of 1992)





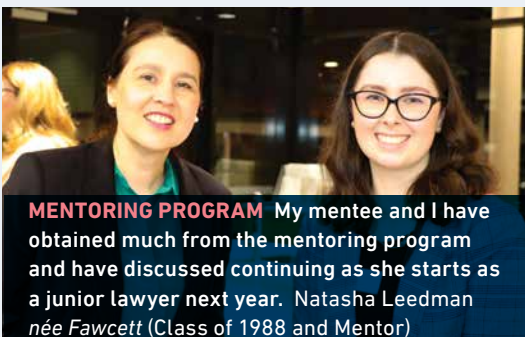
The **IPPA MENTORING PROGRAM** has provided me with opportunities to better my professional understanding in my chosen career. Ali Nielsen (Class of 2016 and Mentee)



IPPA GUEST SPEAKERS provided insight on how to work effectively in groups and helped me to understand that these are important skills for the real world. Hayley Bosustow 9 Moynihan



IPPA NETWORKING EVENT Learning more about everyone's amazing adventures and life paths after leaving Iona, is truly inspiring! Aymee Mastaglia née Bartlett (Class of 1994)



MENTORING PROGRAM My mentee and I have obtained much from the mentoring program and have discussed continuing as she starts as a junior lawyer next year. Natasha Leedman née Fawcett (Class of 1988 and Mentor)



2022 IPPA REUNIONS AND EVENTS



ENGAGE

CONNECT

SUPPORT

INSPIRE

Networking Breakfast

Thursday 26 May 2022

Networking Breakfast

Thursday 27 October 2022

Year 13 Breakfast

Class of 2021

Thursday 10 February 2022

Combined Reunion

**Classes 2017, 2012,
1992, 1982 and 2002**

Saturday 7 May 2022

Golden Girls

50 Year + Reunion

Friday 17 September 2022

Reunion

All Borders'

Saturday 15 October 2022

Mentoring 2022

Friday 25 March 2022

Workshopping The Future

Tuesday 26 July 2022

Mentoring 2022

Sundowner

Friday 16 September 2022

Community Event

Saturday 11 June 2022

WE DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS OUT!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and Connect on LinkedIn

Keep your information up to date here <https://ippa.iona.wa.edu.au> or scan the QR code



A TRIBUTE TO IONA BOARDERS

Whilst the Boarding House no longer stands at the heart of the College grounds, the boarding legacy and sisterhood still beats through the memories of all the Boarders that called Iona home. To acknowledge this special place and the multiple generations of Boarders that came through its doors, the College has earmarked an area as a tribute in the main entrance foyer of the newly opened Albeus Fahey building, part of which stands in place of the Boarding House.

The Iona Past Pupils' Association (IPPA) Committee and the Boarders' Sub-Committee have collaborated with the College about a range of big ideas and themes that could be incorporated into the tribute. Some ideas to date have been to include;

- A map of Boarders' home towns
- A timeline of significant events
- The influence and dedication of the Presentation Sisters
- Visual representations of the iterations of the Boarding House
- How Iona enabled education for remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and,
- How we can share personal stories that reflect life as an Iona Boarder

With the biennial Boarders Reunion scheduled for the latter half of 2022, we're hoping to get the Boarders Tribute completed by then.

So that we can reflect the diversity of our boarding sisters and our experiences, The IPPA Boarders' Sub-Committee are keen for even more ideas.

Please submit your ideas in this online form:
<https://bit.ly/BoardersTribute>

Share your ideas for the Boarders' Tribute here: <https://bit.ly/BoardersTribute>

BACK TO BACK AT IGSSA ATHLETICS

**Iona has done it again,
back-to-back wins in Athletics!**

Congratulations to our IGSSA Athletics Team – winning the Dunklings Perpetual Trophy for Overall Champion School for the second year in a row!

Our dedicated team also won the *Laurie Packham Trophy* for Champion Track School, the *Elizabeth Davenport Trophy* for Champion Field School, and the *Kylie Wheeler Trophy* for Year 7.

Superbly led by our Captains Vivienne Le Tessier (12 Columba) and Jasmin Naish (12 Columba) – our girls certainly gave their best efforts.

A special mention to our Year 7 students – who won their pennant and broke a six-year-old relay record in the 4 x 100m Division One Team.

Overall Champion
Athletics School Results:

- *Iona* 1272
- *Presentation College* 1272
- *St Mary's Anglican School for Girls* 1138.5
- *Perth College* 1032.5
- *St Hildas' Anglican School for Girls* 1013.5
- *Methodist Ladies' College* 967
- *Santa Maria College* 967
- *Perth Ladies' College* 874
- *Penrhos College* 699.5

Thank you to the dedicated athletes, staff and coaches who trained tirelessly during the year to produce this magnificent result.



ALL OUT AT SEA

Concert for St Patrick's Community Support Centre Christmas Hamper Appeal

Clancy's Fish Pub in Fremantle was jumping recently to the sounds of our seven Iona Rock Bands, two soloists and the College Choir. Their very professional performances delighted the crowd and even had the bar staff singing along- a true indication of quality!

The event was sold out prior to the show, and it was shoulder to shoulder in the venue with family and friends supporting the appeal. Many thanks go to families for their generous donations to the sold-out raffle.

Grateful thanks also to our band directors; Mr Scott Kay, Mr Robbie Corvaia, Mr Leigh Miller and most especially Mr Adrian Kingwell, our Rock Band Co-ordinator.



MATHS TALENT QUEST

Pythagoras was from the Greek Ionian Island of Samos. Since the students conducting this mathematical investigation are from Iona Presentation College the group thought it would be interesting to investigate what a fellow Ionian had to share with the world.

This mathematical investigation was a collaborative effort by a group of Year 7 students into exploring the Pythagoras theorem and its real-world applications in everyday life. The students used the Mathematical Thinking Process to explore the history of Pythagoras, gain an understanding of Pythagorean triples and how to apply them to various right triangles.



CELEBRATING PRESENTATION DAY

Our Presentation Day celebrations in 2021 were poignant, joy-filled and spiritual, as our Pre-Primary to Year 10 students, staff and Sisters gathered together as a Presentation faith community.

It is hard to believe that one year has passed since the opening of the Albeus Fahey building on our Senior School campus.

A Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country by Dr Simon Forrest, Noongar Elder, accompanied by Mr Andrew Beck playing the didgeridoo, officially welcomed our whole school community to Whadjuk Noongar Boodja (Noongar Country). Local Peppermint and Eucalyptus were used to produce a cleansing smoke that all staff and students were invited to walk through. The important cultural practice of a Smoking Ceremony cleanses, protects and lays the pathway for a brighter future.

Many of our dear Presentation Sisters were able to join us for the day's events and the following words were shared with the community at this time:

"The symbol of light is synonymous with Catholics and Presentation people around the world. Often, we associate light with the symbol of the lantern, inspired by Venerable Nano Nagle, however when we think of you, our treasured Presentation Sisters, we can see the light of Christ in each of you."

"At Iona, we are so fortunate to learn from so many determined, inspiring and compassionate Presentation Sisters with a true passion for helping the least, the last and the lost. You are all truly admirable Presentation women, who have a strong faith, a conviction for justice, a genuine kindness and concern for those living on the margins, are infinitely hospitable, and are our constant prayerful support. Like Mary, you said 'yes' to a religious vocation and we often speak of the great privilege to take up the lantern as we seek to keep the example of Jesus, Mary, and Nano's legacy at the forefront of all that we do. Sisters, we love having you as a much-valued part of our Iona family. Happy Presentation Day."

Being part of a Catholic, Presentation community is a gift to past, present and future members of Iona and may we always treasure the gift of a Presentation education that has occurred at the College for 114 years.



GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Grandparents' Day 2021, held at the Junior School, was by far the biggest one yet!

Attended by more than 400 grandparents, the event was a lovely display of the strength and connection of our wider Iona community and the vital role grandparents play in the lives of their grandchildren.

Our VIGs (Very Important Grandparents) spent time in classrooms, being put to the test on shared activities, and were also treated to a College tour and the most wonderful morning tea.

We were so thrilled to have such wonderful attendance and look forward to our treasured grandparents continuing to be an integral part of our special community long into the future.





ROCKWIZ



After months of organizing, the long awaited RockWiz, an initiative of the Parent Council, went off with a bang!

More than 500 parents rocked into the Sports Centre dressed and ready for an awesome night of rock and music trivia. Parents went all out dressing up for the occasion, from KISS to Elton John, Freddie Mercury, Tina Turner, the Spice Girls and a heap of old and not-so-old rockers!

Bamboozled were terrific quiz masters and the band, The Wesleys certainly had all guests dancing in their seats and then later carving up the dance floor!

Over the last few years the goal of the Parent Council has been to organise fun, social events for all of our Parent community; the *Iona Ball* (2018), *Jazz and Shiraz* (2019) and *Iona Parents Let's Catch-up* (2020). This year's event, *RockWiz*, was a wonderful opportunity for parents to again socialize and this time to fundraise.

Fundraising efforts were targeted at heating the College Swimming Pool all year round and installing an electric pool blanket. This has now been achieved! (Read more in Issue 22 *esprit de corps*).



The Iona Parent Council would like to acknowledge the major sponsors and additionally all donors, for their contributions both big and small. Their unbelievable generosity enabled the Parent Council's fundraising sub-committee to amass some of the most impressive raffles ever seen, with values of up to \$3800. It was no doubt hundreds of tickets were sold on the night and that the Parent Council were able to raise a whopping \$51,000 in total for the College.

The event could not have been such a success without the support of the following; Teresa Leone (Parent Council Chair) who brought a huge amount of enthusiasm and hard work to the event, the fundraising sub-committee consisting of parents and Past Pupils; Jane Sutherland (Class of 1987), Bridie Lestone, Robyn Steinkrug and Kylie Waterstrom, all Parent Council members and parent volunteers- some of whom, turned up just to volunteer.

Finally, to College Principal, Ms Robyn Miller, the College Leadership Team and the Iona Community Relations and Development Team - who collectively designed, organised and worked tirelessly to build such an amazing community event.

Open Mornings 2022



Prospective families and Past Pupils with an interest in an Iona education, are warmly invited to attend an Open Morning in 2022.

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

Junior Campus Thursday 7 March 2022

Senior Campus Thursday 31 March 2022
Friday 1 April 2022

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



Bookings are essential
Scan the QR code or visit:
www.iona.wa.edu.au/openmornings



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