

A group of students in school uniforms are cheering with their arms raised in the air. They are wearing brown blazers over white shirts and blue plaid skirts. The background is dark, and the lighting is warm, highlighting the students' faces and uniforms.

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

It is fitting that this edition of *esprit de corps* focuses on the story of boarding over the many years at Iona Presentation College, marked by the recent unveiling of the tribute for those students who formed a special group fondly referred to as 'The Boarders'.

As a former boarder myself, having attended another independent school, I am keenly aware of the challenges experienced by boarders. The time away from family in pursuit of educational opportunities, which my parents had never experienced, was a driving force in arriving at this decision. I remember imploring my parents not to send me to boarding school however, their commitment to this decision remained steadfast. Whilst I did not agree with them at the time, today I give thanks for their strength in wanting the best for me.

Despite my initial feelings, what became evident to me was that when you study, learn together, sleep in the same space, participate in the same Co-curricular offerings and eat the same food, special bonds are formed. At the recent Iona Boarders' Reunion, this belief shone through with the strong connection between students. It was an absolute privilege to witness the warmth and celebration when former boarders reunited to share stories from past times, as well as all that has occurred in the meantime.

The tribute to our boarders is central to the Sister Albeus Fahey Building where the Boarding House once stood. It is a place where stories will continue to be shared, reminding others of the significant role boarders fulfilled at Iona.

In closing, I share a story of a current student who recently visited the tribute. We were discussing the 'red phone' located on the chest of drawers and how there were so many wonderful stories recorded on the phone. She then proceeded to explain how she had learned to use the phone by putting her finger in the appropriate number and spinning it around. It was like nothing she had ever experienced, and when a voice spoke to her, she was even more impressed!

Oh, how the world has changed!

Robyn Miller *B.Ed., Med(RE)., MEdL*
Principal





FROM THE Chair of IPPA

Inspiring. I think that's the word I would use to describe the year that was for the IPPA community. Our goals for this year were to focus on building the bridge between the current and past students and bringing the entire community together, which we certainly achieved.

We saw the launch of the Former Iona Boarders' tribute in the foyer of the Sister Albeus Fahey Building, the site of the old Boarding House. Thanks to the contributions of generations of boarders, both in visuals and in storytelling, this tribute is a fitting salute to the girls who called Iona home. Its placement at the heart of the campus will ensure it remains a constant reminder of a very important part of Iona's history.

We also sought to put together a fitting welcome for our newest IPPA members, by being a presence in the Year 12 students' last day. We continued the tradition, which we commenced in 2023, of having IPPA women present at the Year 12 final breakfast. Students were charged in a moving ceremony to uphold the values of an Iona education, as they prepared to take their next steps into the world. They also received individualised wellness and mindfulness packs, hand-written notes - all prepared by members of the IPPA community, as a welcome to the most special alumni association going around. We would like to wish them well in their future endeavours and can't wait to see what lies in store for them all!

Into its second year was the symposium, *Empower Me, Inspire Her* – an amazing day of reflection and inspiration for all women across the Iona community. Guests included current and past pupils, staff, parents, relatives and representatives from our beloved Presentation Sisters. The event enabled everyone present to take time from their lives to reflect, connect and feel inspired. It was a hugely successful day thanks to our wonderful organising committee.

**Please Save the Date for 27 July 2024 -
*Empower Me, Inspire Her***

We also continued our Mentoring Program for IPPA women in 2023, were involved in the Year 13 Breakfast, had IPPA representatives come in to talk to Year 10 students at the career's day, *Workshopping* the Future, and were involved in the selection process for the Head and Deputy Head Girl for 2024.

As this year draws to a close, I look back and can't help but feel amazed by what we have achieved as a collective group. Thanks so much to College Principal, Ms Robyn Miller and to Ms Georgia Allen, as well as the whole CRD team for their support and for their considerable heavy lifting efforts required to keep us going.

I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Aymee Mastaglia née Bartlett (Class of 1994)
IPPA Chair



Honouring the legacy of Iona Boarding

Over the next few pages of this issue of the *esprit de corps*, read various stories that have been showcased in the tribute.

With a display designed to be dynamic and interchangeable, we look forward to telling further historical stories. If you have any suggestions for our Community Relations Team, please email: communityrelations@iona.wa.edu.au

"Five years boarding at Iona was sometimes hard. You missed home and the farm life. But we had so much fun and we met a lot of people from all walks of life and different countries".
 — Joanne Lancaster (Class of 1978)

The Iona Boarding House, established 2 February 1908, was home to girls aged 4 to 17. Lucy (aged 9) and Ellen (aged 4) Mulcahy were the first two Iona boarders.

Students mostly attended from Western Australian country towns, however some also attended from local areas such as Fremantle and Cottesloe. From the mid-1920s, in response to Group Settlement and Displaced Persons' Schemes, International students were also welcomed from as far as East Timor and Poland.

The tribute, recently installed in the Sister Albeus Fahey Building on the Senior School campus, honours the many families over more than 100 years, that entrusted Iona Presentation College and the Presentation Sisters with the care and education of their beloved daughters.

The display was designed beautifully and collaboratively by the Former Boarders' Sub-Committee, Iona's Community Relations and Development Team and Creative Spaces.

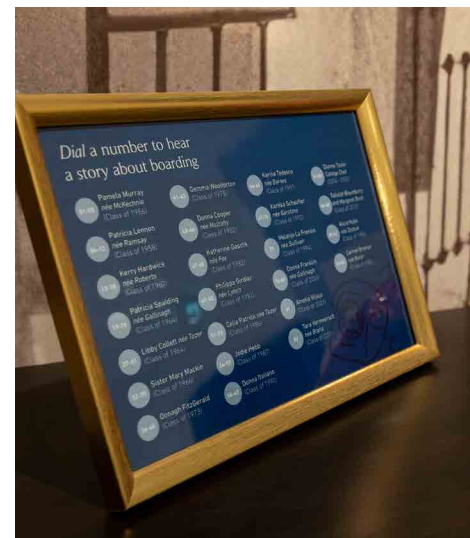
The brief for the display was that it should be dynamic and located in the heart of the old Boarding House which is now the entry of the Sister Albeus Fahey Building.

The display incorporates mediums that allow opportunities for viewers to interact and be involved. Viewers can hear stories through the generations via an old telephone, live the memories of boarding students by way of a touch screen housed in an old suitcase, and as much as possible be truly immersed in what was Iona boarding school life.

From the myriad of opportunities to grow and discover, to an education steeped in Presentation values, a home away from home and the nurturing of lifelong friendships, boarding will forever remain part of the fabric of Iona Presentation College and will always be treasured.

The College would like to thank the many members of the extended Iona community who contributed to this display in honour of the legacy of Iona boarding.

Once an Ionian, always an Ionian.



The school uniform, the pinny

Mother Angela Treacey introduced certain codes of dress in 1914. Navy blue dresses with white collars - in many different styles and often homemade or hand-me-downs - formed the basis of the school uniform for many years. For many an Iona-boarder, the school uniform was worn seven days a week, with little or no other changes of clothes available.

The pinafore ('pinny'), worn in various styles from 1914 through to the early 1990s defined a boarder as they wore it every day to school, only removing it if they went on an excursion or had a special visitor to class.

Between 1930 and 1960, boarders were also required to wear a tan beret which became a highly coveted item if ever lost or misplaced.

In the 2000s students were encouraged to add a touch of individuality to their wardrobes, wearing their own clothes during non-school hours.

"Boarders wore pinnies like a badge of honour. It was certainly easy to distinguish day-bugs from boarders by the pinnie."

Carmel Breman *née Buller* (Class of 1982)





Boarding life at Iona has always revolved around the dining room and in particular, food! In the 1930s -1960s the Sisters cooked most meals. Lunch was the main event, a hearty affair of meat, veggies and a sweet treat to wrap things up. Evenings were more laid-back, with fruits and veggies from the garden, plus fresh milk straight from the cow kept in a paddock on the grounds.

During the Depression years, a Past Pupil recalls, "... boarders were never left to go hungry, but, by golly, I know the Sisters sometimes were." Despite the many challenges of the times, the Sisters always managed to provide for the students in their care.



"Being a boarder at Iona in the 1980s meant being obsessed with food. Lockers stuffed with food after long weekends and holidays, along with tins of Milo and powdered milk which we mixed together and ate dry."

Donna Cooper *née Mulcahy* (Class of 1982)

Throughout the generations, Boarding House food has been a topic of regular discussion. From the 1970s to the 1990s when a Sunday breakfast, following Mass, of sausage rolls and jam donuts was a huge treat, to ham steaks and green mousse served on St Patrick's Day!

The 2000s saw the Dining Room become the place for secret midnight feasts, tubs of ice-cream and 'Boris' the vending machine!

Whilst the meals and dining room certainly changed over time – the importance of food and coming together for a shared meal did not!

It's all about the food



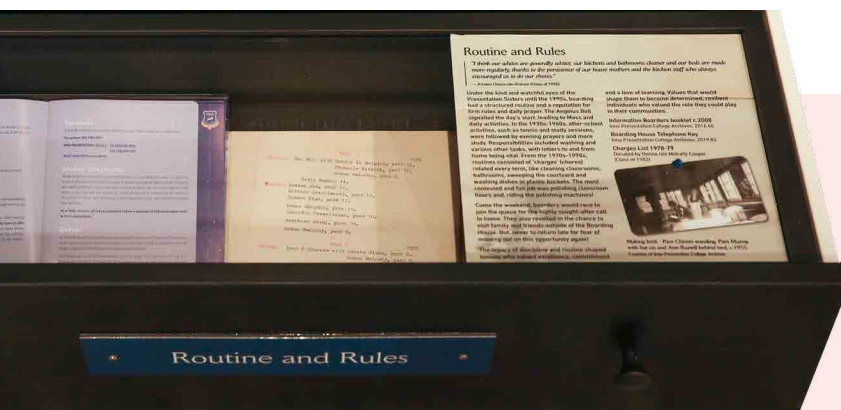
Routine and rules

Under the kind and watchful eyes of the Presentation Sisters until the 1990s, boarding had a structured routine and a reputation for firm rules and daily prayer. The Angelus Bell signalled the day's start, leading to Mass and daily activities. In the 1930s - 1960s, after-school activities, such as tennis and study sessions, were followed by evening prayers and more study. Responsibilities included washing and various other tasks, with letters to and from home being vital. From the 1970s - 1990s, routines consisted of 'charges' (chores) rotated every term, like cleaning classrooms, bathrooms, sweeping the courtyard and washing dishes in plastic buckets. The most contested and fun job was polishing classroom floors and riding the polishing machines!

Come the weekend, boarders would race to join the queue for the highly sought-after call to home. They also revelled in the chance to visit family and friends outside of the Boarding House. But, never to return late for fear of missing out on this opportunity again!

"I think our whites are generally whiter, our kitchens and bathrooms cleaner and our beds are made more regularly, thanks to the persistence of our house mothers and the kitchen staff who always encouraged us to do our chores."

Kristen Chiera *née* Graham (Class of 1996)



The legacy of discipline and routine shaped Ionians who valued excellence, commitment and a love of learning. Values that would shape them to become determined, resilient individuals who valued the role they could play in their communities.

Since 1908, the Iona Boarding Houses have witnessed the ebb and flow of communal living. In its early years, Chateau Perseverance housed junior and senior dorms, fostering connections amidst limited privacy. By the 1930s, separate dorms emerged, veiled in curtains for a touch of intimacy and discretion. The evolution into personalised cubicles designed for the new Boarding House completed in 1974, provided the opportunity for boarders to decorate with memories and hints of home. In the 2000s, the Boarding House echoed with lively exchanges from girls from all over the world.

Regardless of the era, living in the Iona dormitory required humility and tolerance, as each girl patiently waited her turn; kindness and compassion, through the easy and more challenging times, and an enduring commitment to supporting each other. A true testament of the can-do spirit for which Ionians are so well-known.



Living in the dorm

“Sharing a washroom and two bathrooms with about 40 boarders required patience! We were rostered to have just two baths per week.” Kerry Hardwick *née Roberts* (Class of 1961)



Recreation and leisure



Over the years, the landscape of recreation and leisure at Iona Boarding underwent remarkable changes. In its early days, boarders filled their spare time with activities like playing in the paddocks, reading, swimming by the river, chores and prayer.

By the time the Iona Boarding House closed its doors in 2018, the students' leisure pursuits had transformed dramatically. They engaged in a diverse range of recreational activities, fostering bonds among fellow boarders and students from other schools, making their boarding experience more enjoyable.

1908-1920s:

Summer days were spent swimming in the river, supervised by two Sisters. The boarders would change into their neck-to-knee bathers at White's boatshed and then relish a cup of tea and buttered bread afterward.

1930s-1950s:

In this era, recreation in the Boarding House was scarce, but boarders cherished swims at the river and beach. Sunday outings to Cottesloe, accompanied by the nuns, were a memorable tradition, albeit despite the occasional bout of sunburn!

1950s-1970s:

Some fortunate boarders had transistor radios for entertainment, even sneaking them under their pillows at night. Interschool netball matches, trips to Collie and New Norcia and visits to Mosman Park for shopping were popular outings. Many girls stayed at the Boarding House during holidays, only returning home for Christmas.

Saturday evenings featured 'story time' in the dorm with Sister Raymund reading, followed by bedtime. The Common Room became a hub for music, with live performances by Sister Beverley and fellow students, alongside the pool table.





1980s-1990s:

Leisure in this era revolved around music, sports and movie nights. Some boarders played sports almost every day. Friday movie nights with a makeshift theatre in the Common Room became a beloved tradition. Crowding around the TV to watch Saturday night movies or 'Friends' on Sundays was a race for the best seats.

Other quirky ways to have fun emerged, from toast-eating competitions to painting faces in various patterns. Outings were rare but occasionally included trips to the beach and shopping at The Grove. Social events with students from neighbouring schools added excitement.

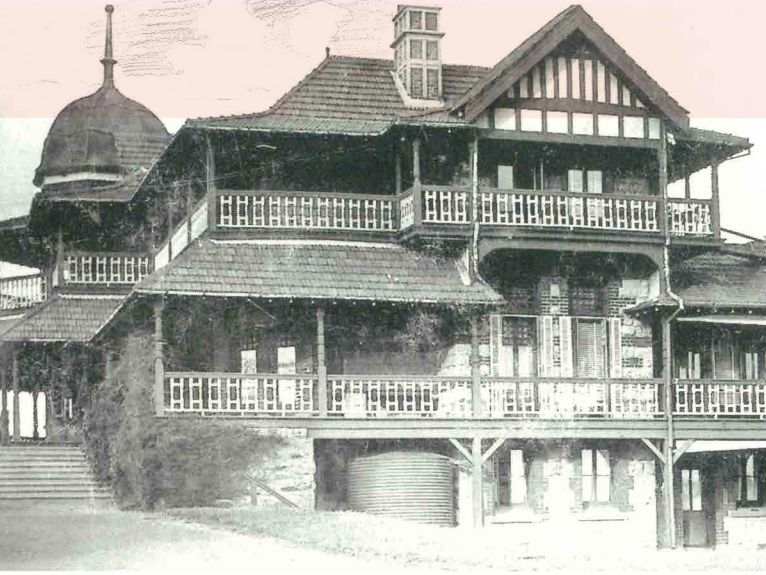
2000s:

Weekend phone calls and late-night bus runs to McDonald's were eagerly anticipated. Boarders also found unique ways to make their own fun, like attempting to naturally bleach their hair with lemon juice and chamomile tea!

Themed dinners, picnics, rock climbing, ice-skating, Christmas parties and sleepovers enriched the boarding experience. The adventurous even hosted a bathroom sleepover in Year 9. Recreational activities and outings became more frequent towards Iona's later boarding days, including camping trips, visits to Rottneest and social events with other schools.

The changing landscape of recreation at Iona Boarding reflects not only the evolution of leisure activities, but also the enduring camaraderie amongst generations of boarders who called it their "home away from home."

The buildings



1908:

The original Boarding House was situated in Chateau Perseverance, a combined school, convent and Boarding House with boarders occupying two rooms on the top floor, providing views of the river and ocean. The entire property included 18 rooms, outhouses, a stable, laundry, coach house, fowl runs, beautifully landscaped gardens, vegetable gardens, a vinery and an orchard.

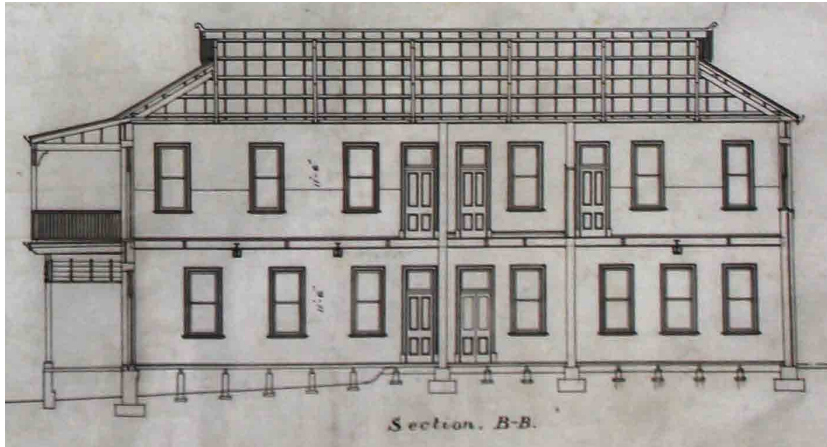
1913:

In 1913, the boarders presented Mother Treacey with an Angelus Bell, a practice of devotion in honour of the Incarnation. The Angelus was recited three times a day, accompanied by the tolling of the Angelus Bell, symbolizing a call to prayer and goodwill. This tradition continued for over 90 years, with the bell also serving as a sombre reminder of mortality.

2011:

The Angelus Bell was restored by Iona Presentation College in anticipation of its centenary. It now resides in a belfry between the Convent and the College. The Angelus is still prayed in the College during May and on various feast days.





1936:

A new Boarding House was built, designed by architect Edgar Le Blond Henderson. The two-story brick and tile building featured a large dormitory and facilities for boarders on the upper floor, whilst the lower floor had rooms for novices, dining facilities and a common kitchen. It was opened and blessed by Archbishop Redmond Prendiville in April 1937.

"In our Boarding House, the older girls were allocated the walls. So, we had a cubicle with a white curtain around, skinny bed with a bedside table. That was it! All our clothes were put into a long wardrobe at the end and that's how we lived! We didn't have much space – we didn't need much space – as we had nothing other than our uniforms, which we wore every day!"

Patricia Spalding *née Gallinagh* (Class of 1964)



1974:

A new Boarding House capable of accommodating 110 students was officially opened by Sir Charles Court and blessed by Archbishop Launcelot Goody. Each student had her own room with shower and change room facilities, and a new dining room was also constructed which could comfortably serve up to 150 people, including the Sisters.

1974:

Chateau Perseverance was demolished to make room for a new convent.

1994:

The Boarding House continued to provide accommodation for 104 girls from country areas and overseas, with preference given to Australian residents and those with Catholic or other Christian affiliations.

2018:

The Boarding House was closed and subsequently demolished.





Polish refugees

Displaced persons post World War II

The Former Iona Boarders' Tribute tells a range of stories, one of which is the story of how Polish refugees came to be in Australia and at Iona Presentation College.

Read a snippet below . . .

Polish refugees – Displaced persons post World War II

Following World War II, when many people in eastern and central Europe were displaced, the Australian Government introduced the Displaced Persons' Resettlement Scheme.

For a country whose immigration policies had always prioritised people of Anglo-Celtic heritage, it was a significant political shift which in turn effected a cultural shift. Between 1947 and 1953, the Australian Government assisted over 170,000 Displaced Persons to migrate to Australia, largely from Poland and the Baltic states.

Most of the Polish refugees who came to Western Australia were housed in camps in Africa before arriving in Australia. Children made up the vast majority of the refugees.

Iona's 'Polish Girls' came to Western Australia in 1950, with their stories often told by Past Pupils and teachers.

Girls arrived with their mothers after being removed from their homes. They travelled for months in cattle trucks with limited food, water and fresh air. They witnessed death and despair along their travels, and for many they didn't know if their fathers, families and friends at home had even survived.

Alicia Hube *née Osipiuk* (Class of 1956) recalls, "my mother, grandmother and I were taken in the dead of night by the Russian police without even telling us where we were going. We were not allowed to pack our things and we had to stand and look at what they were putting into a blanket. They decided what to give us and what not to give us. We were taken by a lorry to a railway station and put in a cattle train."

"Travelling on the cattle train was horrific. There was either standing or sitting. There was no fresh air. If you wanted to have fresh air you would have to breathe through the planks of wood and people used to take turns. If there was a mother and the child had died in her arms, she was not allowed to keep it, but when the train stopped at the siding, all the dead, including children, were put on the side of the railway station."

When the first Polish girls arrived at Iona, space in the Boarding House was at a premium and as such, they were housed on the enclosed verandah. Sister Joan (formerly Raymund) Evans, Boarding House Mistress for over 17 years, was kind, welcoming and supportive and cared for the Polish Girls in their time at Iona.

Alicia said, "we arrived in Australia on the 14th of February 1950. We disembarked and were placed in a train, and we travelled to Cunderdin. We stayed there for probably three months and went to a government school. The government were so kind, they dropped us at Iona, driven in a car by one of the Monsignors. There were five of us in the car and we arrived at Iona at dusk."



"We were treated beautifully (by the Sisters) and we always had something to eat. We used to jump over the fence and go to the shop and buy biscuits and occasionally ice-cream and then walk back. Of course, the Sisters didn't know anything about that!"

Alicia Hube *née Osipiuk* (Class of 1956)



Your gift, her

future

For the Iona stories yet to be told...

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For the Iona stories yet to be told . . .



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On the road with Sister Mary

Many former boarders will understand the longing to see the family farm once again. Your childhood memories are embedded in it and entwined with family, friends, work and community.

With this in mind, we asked Sister Mary, one of Iona's most beloved former-boarders, if she would like to take a 'road trip' to the Mackin family farm in Tammin.

For Sister Mary it had been a little while – 56 years to be exact, since she had been home to the farm. Hence, we wasted no further time in joining her for a day of adventure, reflection and laughter.

On Friday 8 September, Celia Patrick *née Tozer* (Class of 1986) – a boarder from Koorda, Ann-Margaret Frank *née Unger* (Class of 1986) and Jodie Hebb, a boarder from Collie (Class of 1987) collected Sister Mary from the convent for a road trip to her childhood home.

It was a special day for Sister Mary, as she had not set foot on the family farm since 1966. Upon arriving in Tammin, we visited the roadhouse and viewed a historical display of the district, featuring many of her family and friends. From there, we walked to the Catholic church and to her childhood friend's home nearby. After a tour of the small town, we set off to the Mackin family farm.

Sister Mary recalled that the farm was about 16 miles out of town, and for those who are aware of her impressive memory, you will not be surprised to know she was correct! As the farm is still in the wider

Mackin family, we were able to meet with her extended family, experience the old shearing shed in action and drive around the farm.

The visit ended with a picnic in the paddock under the Mackin family sign before we drove back to Iona where the Sisters were eagerly waiting to hear about her day.

Sister Mary has given so much to Iona as a mentor, teacher, public speaking coach and cherished figure in the Boarding House. Taking her to visit her childhood farm and sharing this experience with her was an absolute privilege.

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

Jodie Hebb (Class of 1987)



Golf day



Well done to the 2023 IONA/IPPA golf team for coming 4th on a count back at this year's annual IGSSA Golf Competition, held at Royal Perth Golf Club.

The Iona team pictured here (L to R) consisted of:

Kerry Robinson *née Peters* (Class of 1962)
Kerry Hardwick *née Roberts* (Class of 1962)
Carmel Bacon *née O'Callaghan* (Class of 1980)
Jill Dawson *née Noonan* (Class of 1983)
Bernadette Evans *née Hoyne* (Class of 1981)
Marie Louise Allen *née O'Mahony* (Class of 1976)
Jude Casey *née Buller* (Class of 1975)
Janine Kyle *née Maher* (Class of 1976)

Winners were Penrhos College, followed by MLC and St Mary's.

Please Save the Date for 2024, which at this stage is scheduled for Monday 14 October 2024.

To join the team, please contact Iona's Community Relations and Development Department: who will put you in contact with the organisers.
communityrelations@iona.wa.edu.au

2024 IPPA Reunions and Events

We can't wait to see you!

Year 13 Breakfast	Monday 12 February	7.30am – 8.45am
IPPA Mentoring Launch	Thursday 18 April	7.00am – 8.30am
Combined Reunion	Saturday 4 May	3.00pm – 6.00pm
Empower Me, Inspire Her	Saturday 27 July	9.30am – 5.00pm
Golden Girls' Reunion	Friday 13 September	10.00am – 2.00pm
IPPA Mentoring Sundowner	Thursday 19 September	5.30pm – 7.00pm
IPPA Networking Breakfast	Thursday 31 October	7.00am – 8.30am

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



Empower Me, Inspire Her



To date, one of IPPA's most successful initiatives has been Empower Me, Inspire Her, a one-day symposium for all Iona women. The IPPA community were thrilled that the gates opened wide for all women in the Iona community this year, and as such the audience not only included alumni, but staff, parents and friends too.

The amazing keynote and session speakers were coordinated by a passionate sub-committee to be in line with the College's 2023 value focus, 'Social Justice and Compassion' – *To inspire all to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and, informed by the Catholic Social Teaching, to take action for those in need in our communities.*

Speakers were engaged for their stories of service to others, their welcoming hearts, their kindness and their spirit. Guests were enthralled, moved, connected and provided with plenty of opportunities throughout the day to spare a thought for those in our community who might need a helping hand and to find ways that they too could make a difference. It was the most energising and inspiring day!





The line-up of speakers was simply outstanding:

Priya Cooper O.A.M

1999 Young Australian of the Year for Sport, World Champion Paralympic swimmer, Chair-WA Institute of Sport, Deputy Chair – Disability Services Commission WA, President WA Disabled Sporting Association.

Sally Murphy née Adam O.A.M (Class of 1985)
Author, Poet, Academic and Educator

Craig Hollywood
Founder Short Back and Sidewalks
(www.shortbackandsidewalks.com)

Ellen Hooper née Williams (Class of 2005)
Director of the Growth Collective
(www.growthcollective.com.au)

Catherine Kolomyjec
Founder Soul Gestures, The Periscope Crew and The Kindness Challenge

Nadia Duca née Vinciguerra (Class of 1994)
Professional Makeup Artist

PANEL DISCUSSION

Rebecca Tolstoy AM
Chair Path of Hope

Sarah Linton
Deputy State Coroner

Elisa Fear
Chair, Yourtoolkit.com

Simonetta Cavilli
(Class of 1991)
Solicitor and Member of Yourtoolkit.com

Please Save the Date for 2024 - Saturday 27 July
Be ready to be empowered and inspired!





Golden Girls' Reunion



Iona's most treasured alumni were invited back to the senior campus in September for the event of the year – the annual Golden Girls' Reunion.

How wonderful it was to see new and old friends and welcome back the Class of 1973 as our newest Golden Girls – you haven't changed a bit! Carmel Mackin's reflections during a brief Q & A with Principal Robyn Miller certainly was a wonderful inclusion to the event!

Thanks to the many contributors – Father Nelson Po who presided over Mass, Gemma Thomson (Dean of Mission and Catholic Identity) for her enormous contributions, Iona's catering team for the most delicious lunch, Karen Canalini (Functions and Events Coordinator) for her hard work, Year 9 students for their wonderful service, the College Leadership Team led by Robyn Miller and importantly, Iona's Community Relations and Development Team, whose attention to detail is exceptional – it was a wonderful day!

Class of 1974, it will be your turn next year and we cannot wait to see you!

Please save the date for Friday 13 September 2024.





Compassion Revolution



Iona Presentation College's Compassion Revolution began with a small seed, rooted in the Gospel value of Compassion. This community project grew as its members embraced the joy and support that compassion offers. It all started with a conversation between Gemma Thomson (Dean of Mission and Catholic Identity Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12) and Catherine Kolomyjec (The Kindness Challenge) who were hoping to further instil the value of compassion in every student and staff member's daily life.

Gemma and Catherine both recognised the importance of furthering compassion education in the context of increasing mental health challenges, as well as how it underpins an approach to justice. Together, as a first step, they introduced compassion to the Year 11 cohort on their annual Reflection Day in a unique way, emphasising a definition from Stanford University's Centre for Compassion and Altruistic Research: "Compassion is a deliberate decision to lean into another person's suffering and a commitment to do something to alleviate that suffering."

This definition became the foundation for Iona's Compassion Revolution, focusing on three key elements:

- **Deliberation:** Encouraging people to pause, notice one another and be aware.
- **Leaning In:** Emphasising the importance of human connection for happiness.
- **Action:** Creating opportunities to alleviate suffering and promote inclusive environments.

The Compassion Revolution then had a ripple effect, extending to further Reflection Days, professional learning workshops, further staff breakfasts, integrated Curriculum and IPPA events. It also inspired projects to build a kinder culture from the ground up, such as the "compassion is cool" initiative for Year 7 students. The focus encouraged students to embrace compassion, recognise their own imperfections and engage in compassionate dialogues with one another.

One powerful exercise introduced to the Iona community was "Mountain, River, Tribe," which promotes the importance of presence and appreciative listening. This exercise has helped form deeper connections, with students, colleagues and peers alike recognising and deeply hearing each other more readily.

The Compassion Revolution has embraced different foci of compassion, including both gentle and fierce compassion. It has encouraged students to stand up for justice and make a Christian difference in the world. Students have demonstrated compassionate leadership through various initiatives such as those that support women and children escaping violence and those that reach out to newly-arrived refugees. Our student leaders are trained through a lens of compassion.

Iona has integrated compassion into its daily life, fostering understanding of emotions and creating a culture of compassion and support. It has proven to be a transformative tool for our community, making everyone feel more welcomed and appreciated. The Compassion Revolution aims to fit seamlessly into students' routines, offering practical tools for daily use. Over the past few years, staff have also participated in voluntary activities such as Staff Compassion Breakfasts which are designed as wonderful opportunities to come together in support of each other and provide a positive start to their days.

Iona's Compassion Revolution is an exemplary model of creating a Christ-like community where everyone feels valued and nourished. It equips young people with the skills to thrive, transforms staff, parents and members of the wider community so that we can strive to live in a more kind, more compassionate world.





Rowing success

The Iona Rowing Program has been thriving since its inception in 2018, and it's been an incredible journey to see our athletes grow and excel. In 2023, we celebrated a remarkable season, topping the medal tally at the All-Schools Act Belong and Commit State Championship Regatta.

Congratulations to the following crews who achieved first place:

- **School Girls Year 10 Coxed Quad:**
Georgia Cammack (10 Kildare), Keira Vaskas (10 O'Dowling), Juliet Kelly (10 Kildare), Charlotte Hansen-Knarhoi (10 Treacey)
Cox: Grace Parry (11 Treacey).
- **Schools Girls Open Composite Eight:**
Juliet Kelly (10 Kildare - Iona), Charlotte Hansen-Knarhoi (10 Treacey - Iona), L. Connolly (FRC), M. Naylor (FRC), I Hubbard (FRC), S Cross (BRC), S Metzger (FRC), E. O'Neill (FRC). Cox: A. Ng (FPC).
- **School Girls Year 9 Coxed Quad:**
Emmanuelle McArdle (8 Treacey), Harriet Broad (8 Columba), Matilda Cobill (8 O'Halloran), Olivia Hansen-Knarhoi (8 Treacey).
Cox: Isabelle Duarte (8 Columba).
- **School Girls Year 10 Double Scull:**
Juliet Kelly (10 Kildare), Charlotte Hansen-Knarhoi (10 Treacey).
- **School Girls Year 10 Coxed Eight:**
Cara Pampacos (10 Kildare), Grace Coveney (10 Kildare), Georgia Cammack (10 Kildare), Lucy Froud (10 Moynihan), Annabelle Forrest (9 Treacey), Keira Vaskas (10 O'Dowling), Charlotte Hansen-Knarhoi (10 Treacey).
Cox: Hannah Blayney (11 Treacey).



Our rowers have also made their mark nationally and internationally.

In 2024, Iona Presentation College will participate in the IGSSA Regatta competition as we continue to enhance our Rowing Program. Our focus is on building team cohesiveness, depth, and providing our students with invaluable life skills, including responsibility, self-improvement, time management, fitness and teamwork.

We are thrilled to announce our continued partnership with the esteemed Fremantle Rowing Club, who provides rowing facilities, equipment and an experienced coaching team.

The rowing action also continued off the water this year with the Friends of Rowing parent group, now part of the Iona Parent Council. This group of volunteer parents worked tirelessly throughout the year, assisting with weekly rower's breakfasts, social events and the set-up of regattas throughout the season.



Shine *bright* little lanterns

Launch of Little Lanterns

In exciting news, Iona's very own Playgroup, Little Lanterns was launched recently with an outstanding response from Past Pupils, their families and those new to Iona.

Little Lanterns provides an opportunity for families to come together and participate in engaging sessions facilitated by dynamic members of Iona's Early Learning Centre Team.

Sessions are free and are tailored to children from 18 months to four years of age (younger siblings are also welcome).

Alongside teachers, parents and/or caregivers, children play, socialise, make real-world connections and develop confidence.

Parents too will be able to utilise the time each fortnight to build friendships and networks of their own.

The beautiful surrounds of Iona's Early Learning Centre provides the perfect backdrop for children to feel the warmth of the Iona community.



DETAILS:

Iona Presentation College, Early Learning Centre
Buckland Avenue, Mosman Park

Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 10.30am

Cost – FREE

New dates will open in February 2024:
iona.wa.edu.au/littlelanterns



Grandparents' Day

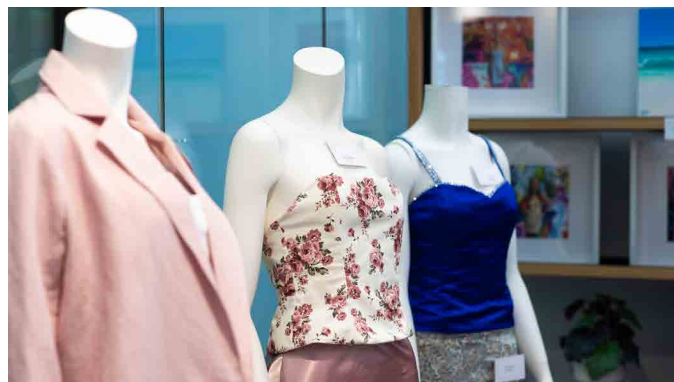
Each year we have the honour of hosting our Junior School grandparents for a fun-filled Grandparents' Morning, with this year welcoming over 400 grandparents, our most significant numbers to date.

The morning of Tuesday 24 October was full of smiles, laughter and activities. Each student waited patiently in their classrooms, before bursting full of joy when their grandparents walked through the door. Chatter filled the air, with students proudly showing off their desks, classroom work and favourite creations.

It was such a treat seeing so much happy activity echoing around campus, particularly when grandparents and students joined on the lawn outside Treacey Hall at recess for a delicious morning tea. Footballs flew in the air and swing sets swung high, ending the gorgeous morning on a beautiful note before students bid their grandparents goodbye.

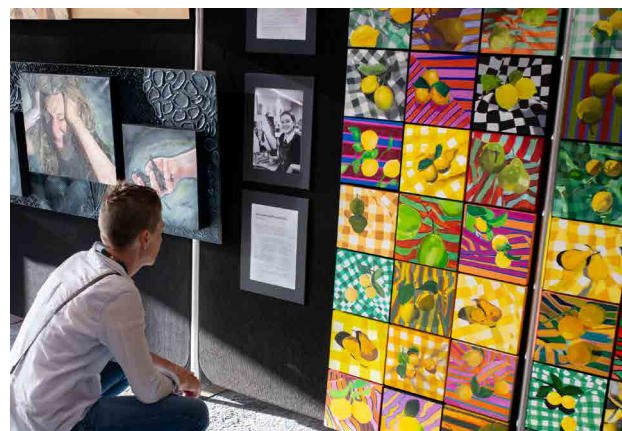
Thank you to the grandparents for attending, as well as to our students, staff and parent helpers who helped make this day so special.







CREATE



Oh what a night!

This year's annual Creative Arts Exhibition – 'Create', launched in the Sister Albeus Fahey Building on Friday 10 November was another unbelievable event. With the theme of 'illuminate' students' works certainly did shine!

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the event and for your diligence, imagination and expertise in the lead up – the Iona community were astounded by the quality and presentation of your work. It was a simply remarkable display of talent!

Congratulations also to our amazing staff who have facilitated wonderful diverse and engaging learning experiences for students throughout 2023, providing opportunities for skills to develop, creativity to burst and a sense of camaraderie to grow amongst fellow students of the Production Arts and Technology and Applied Studies learning areas.

Events like these provide such wonderful opportunities for students to enrich their Iona experience, pursue their gifts and talents and develop their passions in life.





Presentation Night – Iona's Night of Nights

Presentation Night 2023 was another quality celebration of a meaningful and fulfilling year at Iona Presentation College.

The event focused on the contribution and achievements of the graduating Class of 2023 who were bid farewell in the most poignant and thoughtful way. Who wasn't moved by Ruby Smith's (Head Girl 2023) valedictory speech as she reflected on her years at Iona, whilst also accepting the highest award to be bestowed an Ionian, the Sister Carmel Ryan Prize for Christian Leadership. Congratulations Ruby!

Centred around the 2023 College value focus, 'Social Justice and Compassion', College Principal, Ms Robyn Miller prepared a moving presentation alongside students, Heads of Years, parents and even Bonnie – one of Iona's wellbeing dogs.

Dance performances, massed choirs, stunning orchestral performances and thoughtfully prepared videos were dotted throughout the event, providing a moving and memorable occasion.

Award winners were also aptly rewarded for their wonderful determination and subsequent results. How lovely it was to see Sisters Marion, Lucy and Anna involved in these presentations.

Presentation Night is undoubtedly the pinnacle event in the Iona calendar and a great deal of work is put in by so many different members of the Iona community to bring it all to life! We thank everyone for their contributions, big and small.

Many words of thanks were also sent in by our community, such as this heartfelt one sent by the lovely Robinson family, all with Iona connections as alumni too.

"Your winning combination of old and new, as well as giving everyone an opportunity to shine did not go unnoticed and we applaud the hard work of you and your amazing staff. It was a cracker of a night and that of course was no accident!"

It was clear for all to see, that we all belong to a very special community, one that really does *make a difference, together*.



Open Mornings 2024



IONA
PRESENTATION COLLEGE

Prospective families and Past Pupils with an interest in an Iona education, are warmly invited to attend an Open Morning in 2024.

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



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

Senior School Tour

Thursday 21 March 2024
Friday 6 September 2024

Junior School Tour

Tuesday 26 March 2024
Wednesday 11 September 2024

Making a difference, together

Girls and Boys Pre K-6 | All Girls 7-12
www.iona.wa.edu.au

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