

SIONIANS

Our Lady of Sion College Past Students' Association

From the Principal

Dear Sionians

As we approach the concluding days of 2016 there is much to celebrate at Our Lady of Sion College. At this time of year, it is important that we reflect on our achievements and give thanks for all we have been provided and achieved. My first year as Principal at Sion has certainly been a journey of welcome and discovery; a year where I have enjoyed the opportunity to develop strong relationships with staff, students and parents so that together we can continue to foster a community centered on seeking truth, justice, peace and love.

Our school is a faith filled community focused on providing students with rich opportunities that assist them to develop discernment and a strong sense of justice. We continue to work on extending our students as learners so that they acquire the knowledge, skills and personal attributes that help them achieve their goals and equip them to make positive and important contributions to our world.

This year, our theme "Speaking the Truth in Love" permeated our liturgical celebrations, retreat and social justice programs. Young people can readily recognise a need and are motivated to make a difference to their world. Our responsibility this year has been to place before them opportunities to witness and learn of the injustices that exist in our community. Students have supported the Ozanam House community, and the work of Caritas and Project Compassion. On Sion Day, they raised \$21,789.43 which will fulfil our commitment to the San Miguel school in Brazil – a school supported by the Sisters and which has struggled to remain open in recent times. Students have learned of the challenges of asylum seekers and the marginalised in our country and they have participated in the St Vinnie's Winter Sleep Out. Our Day of Dialogue created an opportunity for our students to strengthen their relationships and appreciate the importance of inter-faith dialogue. More than one hundred students from Ilim College, Minaret College, Sirius College, Mt Scopus College, Catholic College Sale, Marist Sion College and Our Lady of Sion College came together to learn, share and enjoy each other's faith journey. Our Indigenous Immersion continued to attract many students who seek to learn how they can support reconciliation in our country.

I am very pleased to report that the construction of the final element of our Masterplan, our new Notre Dame Centre is now complete. The centre comprises 16 learning areas, private study and flexible learning spaces that will provide distinct learning advantages for our VCE, VET and VCAL students as they complete their final years at the College and prepare to embrace the world of tertiary studies and career opportunities.

President's Report

I can't believe it's that time again – approaching the end of the year. Where did the time go? It has been another great year for our small, but engaged, committee.

We were able to hold a fun and successful movie fundraiser in September. This year's movie was Bridget Jones's Baby and thanks to those who attended we raised approximately \$300 towards the Daughter of Sion Award.

This year's recipient of the award is Year 7 student Caitlin Wans. Now interestingly, Caitlin is the younger sister of last year's Daughter of Sion recipient Emily. When our committee makes the decision on the award recipient we have no idea who the girls are. We are given the

Our Open Day in October is traditionally a time for prospective families to visit our school and learn what a Sionian education can provide. This year, we were very pleased to welcome many past pupils some of whom were students in the 1950s! They had a wonderful time reminiscing about their days at the College and were keen to kept abreast of future developments.

I would like to thank those past students who supported the Past Students' Association Film afternoon held on 18 September. The afternoon was a great opportunity to reconnect with past students, some of whom represented different generations, and to catch up on their news. I am also most grateful for your ongoing support through your sponsorship of the Daughter of Sion award. The Babylonian Talmud tells us: "The world is held together by the breath of children who study". Your legacy through this award is a tangible example of how as past students you are committed to the College and the development of our students, and in turn you remain co-workers in our quest to become positive agents of change within our world.

Finally, I would like to thank our Past Students' President: Emily Webb, Vice President: Maureen Eldridge and Secretary: Danielle Grehan for their ongoing work this year. I look forward to what the future holds as we continue to explore greater opportunities for our Sionian family to work in partnership.

Tina Apostolopoulos, Principal



nomination statement and no names. Congratulations to Caitlin on the award. Social justice and compassion obviously runs in the Wans family!

We'd like to thank Leanne Whiteroad for all her work with the committee over the past two years and wish her all the best for her new role at Loyola College.

At the committee's dinner in early November we met Deputy Principal, Faith and Mission, Mr John McInerney who will be working with us on some great new ideas for the group and how we can maintain our support for the Sion Community.

Emily Webb, President



Reunions

Class of 1969

On Sunday 9 October a group of past Sionians from the "Class of 1969" celebrated their 64th birthdays by spending a delightful afternoon at the Pope Joan Café in Brunswick. Going by all the chatter, laughs and smiles on the day it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was a wonderful opportunity to reminisce plus talk about what is happening right now in peoples' lives and/or their plans for the future. Talk was also focused on vacations, children and grandchildren, where lives have taken us ... or not ... careers and study, politics, food and allergies, books being read, sports, music preferences, projects, and much more!



It did not really matter what the topic was as this group of women are still the same in many ways and the conversations just continued on from a time more than five decades ago! Sue Nicholson, nee Dillon, expressed that she was "... proud to be a part of this group of strong, resilient, good women."

Compiled by Linda De Cieri



Class of 1976

On Saturday 15 October a group of ladies from the 1976 alumni gathered at the Shanghai 1930 Restaurant in Box Hill. After some of the 'Class of 1976' met up at the Our Lady of Sion inaugural yearly reunion in May, they decided to try and gather together a few more of their cohort to celebrate their time at Our Lady of Sion College. A fantastic time was had by all and there was plenty of reminiscing to be had by those who attended.

Photo supplied by Janine Hazelwood nee Opie

On Sunday July 31 the Cellar Bar at the Grace Darling Hotel was the venue for the Class of 1996 20 year lunch time gathering. The event went well and those in attendance celebrated wholeheartedly. If you would like to attend our annual 2017 alumni gathering at Our Lady of Sion College on Saturday 20 May 2017, please update your details at: paststudents@sion.catholic.edu.au

From the Archives



Donations of past uniforms, books, photographs, documents, production programs, costumes, awards, trophies and any other memorabilia of significance to the College are always welcome.



Do you know the year any of these wonderful photos were taken? Can you name the year level, or can you name any students? Please email Sandy with any information.

Sandy Nicholson - College Archivist
snicholson@sion.catholic.edu.au

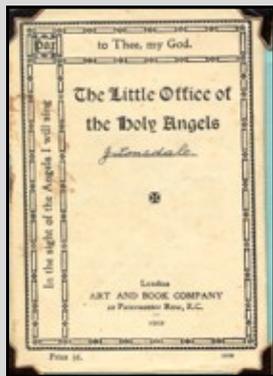
1928 Heritage Room Visitors



1931 Jean McEntee nee Lonsdale



1954 - Anne Tecklenburg nee McEntee



Jean McEntee nee Lonsdale 1930-1936 Past Pupil # 50

Our Lady of Sion College recently welcomed back past students' Jean McEntee nee Lonsdale, past pupil # 50, and her daughter Anne Tecklenburg nee McEntee, past pupil # 532. Jean was 9 years old when she came to school at Notre Dame de Sion.

Jean's daughter also Anne attended the College from 1950 - 1961. Jean brought along some precious items she wished to place into the College Archives. I had the privilege of spending time with Jean and Anne and taking notes on Jean's memories from her time at the College. An interesting anecdote I would like to share is: Father Clack gave the students a half day holiday when College enrolments reached a total of 60 pupils!

After Jean and Anne's tour of the College, they marveled at how much the College had grown and changed over the years.

Sandy Nicholson, College Archivist



2016 Jean McEntee nee Lonsdale and her daughter Anne Tecklenburg nee McEntee

Angela O'Connor 1948 - 1958 Past Pupil # 467

Angela visited the College in early November. Angela was a journalist, then a solicitor and is the aunt of current teacher Anna Gionfriddo. Angela and Anna are pictured in our 1928 Heritage Room

Earliest memories are of rain and mud, the special gluey kind of a building site. The new two-storey, brick and concrete building running east-west across the school property was underway. Mr. O'Donnell (father of Sr Stella) was the builder. My very large Uncle Pat (O'Connor) was the architect.

Most if not all of the primary grades were corralled in a long, narrow building that had once been stables. Three Sisters fronted us in our class groups. They had blackboards, chalk and their dedication. They conducted a full curriculum for seven levels of children at the same time in that one place.



An excerpt, taken from memories written by Past Student # 467 Angela O'Connor

Past Students' Association Movie Day

On Sunday 18th September approximately 30 people attended Balwyn Cinemas to see the movie 'Bridget Jones's Baby'.

This was our annual fundraiser for our Daughter of Sion Award and was a great way to spend a rainy afternoon.

Our new Principal Tina Apostolopoulos attended along with our President, committee members, many past students and also staff.

It was fantastic to see all attendees enjoy a lovely afternoon at the movies. Please keep a look out for information for the next Past Students' Movie Day for 2017.



Privacy Notice

Alumni Association Collection Notice

1. From time to time, the Our Lady of Sion College Past Students' Association may collect personal information about you. The primary purpose of collecting this information is to enable us to inform you about our activities and the activities of Our Lady of Sion College, and to keep alumni members informed about other members.

2. We must have the information referred to above to enable us to continue your membership of the Past Students' Association.

3. As you know, from time to time we engage in fundraising activities. The information received from you may be used to make an appeal to you. It may also be used by Our Lady of Sion College to assist in its fundraising activities. If you do not agree to this, please advise us now.

4. The Our Lady of Sion College Past Students' Association may publish details and/or photographs about you in The Sionian, the College newsletter, College Social Media and on the College website. If you do not agree to this you must advise us now.

5. The School's Privacy Policy contains details of how you may seek access to personal information collected about you or how you may complain about a breach of the APPs.

6. If you provide personal information to us about other people, we encourage you to inform them of the above matters.

Past Students Association Annual Dinner

Would you like to be a part of this vibrant committee?

Would you like to have a say in how to celebrate your time at Sion?

We meet just four times a year and one of those times is this dinner where we choose the 'Daughter of Sion' recipient. Please email paststudents@sion.catholic.edu.au



SAVE THE DATE!

Did you finish in any of the following years?
1957, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1997 or 2007?

Our 2017 Reunion will be held on

SATURDAY MAY 20 2017

Please keep this date free.

Come along and take a guided tour

See our 1928 Heritage Room

Catch up with old classmates and enjoy a lovely afternoon tea.

Please update your details to enable us to forward you the invitation for this event at

paststudents@sion.catholic.edu.au

COMMUNICATIONS

The Annual General Meeting for the Past Students' Association will be held on
Thursday 2 March 2017
in the Ratisbonne Board Room @ 7.00pm
ALL WELCOME

Please like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/SionPSA>

or follow us on twitter @SionTweets

Providing or updating your contact details

We encourage all Our Lady of Sion alumnae to provide the College with their current details to ensure the College database is up to date.
Email address is preferable.

You can do this via email to
paststudents@sion.catholic.edu.au