

# SIONIANS

Our Lady of Sion College Past Students' Association

## From the Principal

Dear Sionians

One of the highlights of the year so far has been the recent reunion afternoon held at the College for students from the Classes of 2007, 1997, 1987, 1977, 1967 and 1957. Just over 70 Past Students joined us to celebrate, catch up and marvel at how much Our Lady of Sion has changed since they attended as students. What made it even more special was the chance to hear how life had unfolded for our past students since leaving the College and the many and varied opportunities they have enjoyed along the way. I would like to thank all who attended the reunion and who so willingly shared their memories and experiences.

Student voice and empowerment are important qualities in our schools today. We often read and hear of the widening gap in pay and leadership opportunities in the workplace and while many women in society have forged wonderful pathways and pursued their leadership aspirations, the reality is that there is a growing disparity in these areas and an ongoing gendered view of careers within our society. We aim to support our students with authentic opportunities to contribute to College life and to take on leadership roles whether in a formal capacity or not. These experiences develop important life skills, resilience and confidence. Often, the support of an older role model can also help our younger Sionians to look to the future with a sense of optimism and purpose.

At our recent reunion, I invited those who attended to sign up to be part of our new Mentors Breakfast initiative. Over the course of the next few months, our current Year 12 students will not only be completing their VCE studies but will also be making decisions about the tertiary courses they hope to pursue. These decisions are not always easy to make, especially when there is so much variety and they hear that the jobs of today may not be the same in 5, 10 or more years. Our Mentors Breakfast will be one way we hope to link our current students with our past students who will be invited to share their experiences, answer questions and perhaps offer some advice as a means of support. We are very grateful to the number of past students at our recent reunion who told us they would love to be involved and we are now in the process of organising the breakfast which will be held in August. If there are other past students from different years who would like to be involved,

may I ask that you contact Brooke O'Hara, our Careers and Pathways Co-ordinator to register your interest:

[bohara@sion.catholic.edu.au](mailto:bohara@sion.catholic.edu.au). If you are unable to attend the breakfast, we would like to extend an invitation to you to address our students at future year level or whole school assemblies.

Earlier this year, Madeline Slattery, a past student from the Class of 2008 who went on to study journalism and now works for Channel 9, shared her experiences since leaving Our Lady of Sion at our Top Achievers' Assembly. Her story was well received by our students and we look forward to many more past students joining us in the future.

As a Sionian school, our College mission statement calls us to actively transform the world through our compassion, and our pursuit of justice, truth, reconciliation and peace. We do this through dialogue and genuine

respect, openness and acceptance of others - qualities which are so sorely needed today. When we truly live out these values, we reflect the love and grace of God and are empowered to bring hope and joy to our world. Our 2017 College theme - **Called to be a light for the world** - has provided staff and students with many opportunities to bring hope and guidance to others. Which leads to a just and harmonious society? As past students, I know you will join me in acknowledging the many opportunities and the support that the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion, our teachers, families and peers have provided each student,

past and present - to live a life worthy of our calling. With God's blessing, may we all continue to support each other in this endeavour in the years ahead.

Tina Apostolopoulos  
Principal



## President's Report

The year rolled on in a wonderful way for the committee in 2016. We held a successful movie fundraiser event on September 18 to support the Daughter of Sion Award. The film Bridget Jones's Baby was enjoyed by all who attended the event at the Palace Theatre in Balwyn. We also held an inaugural Year of the 6's reunion that was a resounding success and will continue in the years to come.

It is always with great pleasure that the committee chooses the recipient of the Daughter of Sion Award. The 2016 recipient was Caitlin Wans, who interestingly, is the younger sister of the 2015 Emily Wans. When our committee makes the decision on the award recipient we have no idea who the girls are. We are given the nomination statement with no names. Congratulations to Caitlin on the award. Social justice and compassion obviously runs in the Wans family!

We said goodbye to Leanne Whiteroad and thanked her for all her work with the committee over the past two years. At the end of year dinner we met new Deputy Principal John McInerney who will be our new staff link on the committee. We are continuously trying to grow the committee and though we are still small, we are a committed and enthusiastic bunch!

Emily Webb  
President

### 2016 Daughter of Sion Award

Year 7 Blue student Caitlin Wans is the recipient of the 2016 "Daughter of Sion Award". Caitlin is an exceptionally compassionate student who puts the needs of others before her own. From the beginning of the year she has been actively supporting two of her classmates, both of whom have particular difficulties in relation to their learning and social development. Caitlin exemplifies our College Vision and her commitment to social justice is evident in her care and concern for all her classmates, but especially those who need it most. Caitlin is a capable and organised student and demonstrates her capacity as a leader in how she approaches all that she does.

Caitlin has donated her \$500 prize to the Make-a-Wish foundation.



## 2017 Annual Reunion

This might sound strange but I've never been to a school reunion before!

I'm not sure why. Perhaps it's because I did my secondary schooling at two boys schools in the city - both of which have now closed down. Even as a staff member, I've never attended a reunion of past students - they either haven't occurred, or I haven't been invited!

However, I was privileged to attend the recent Past Students of Our Lady of Sion College reunion held on Saturday, 20 May. Fancy that, a male, and my first school reunion is for an all-girls school! I loved it!

I met so many wonderful women - Daughters of Sion! Some had attended Sion 50 years ago and wanted to come back and reconnect. For others, they had been here anywhere between 10 and 40 years ago - and all laughed and shared story of "the good old days".

At one stage, I stood in the now new Miriam Theatre - a building not even built when any of these past students had attended Our Lady of Sion College.

A rolling collection of photos were presented largely on the screen and a group of young women reminisced as they laughed

out loud at images of themselves wandering the old yard or celebrating Sion day. Then they saw other friends that they journeyed with as students here and wondered what they might be up to now.

As they toured the College, seeing the new and refurbished facilities, their eyes lit up. As I say, it was a privilege to be with them.

Next year, Our Lady of Sion College celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary and as part our celebrations, we will be inviting all Daughters of Sion to return for a special anniversary reunion. I encourage you all to attend. I know I will!

John McInerney  
Deputy Principal Faith & Mission



## Past Student News

### Letter from Dr Mary Nash to Sr Patricia Watson nds.

Last Thursday (December 2016) I graduated as a Doctor of Philosophy from La Trobe University.

Thank you for being such a caring, supportive and inspirational Principal of Notre Dame de Sion Convent. Though it has been many years since I left Box Hill, my early education with the Sion Sisters at St Francis Xavier's and then the Convent helped me achieve this goal. Thank you for being an integral part of my education. I have really treasured the regular catch ups.

Regards  
Dr Mary Nash (nee McCluskey)  
Past Pupil 1961-1966  
Congratulations Mary!



Sadly in May we received notification of the passing into eternal life of one of our early students Elaine Heeneey (nee Harvey) Past Pupil no. 222 of Notre Dame de Sion (1941-1951)

Elaine was featured in our Sionian Edition 22 when visiting the College as a "Significant Person" in June 2016.

We send our condolences to Elaine's family.

### 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](mailto:paststudents@sion.catholic.edu.au)

## 2017 Annual Reunion



## From the Archives



Photos : 1959  
Courtesy of  
Coby Dove (nee  
Van der Velden)  
1957-1960



**Do you remember our  
old school song?**

*'We are the young Sionians  
Valiant and trusty, we,  
Striving to reach yet higher,  
Australia's leaders to be.'*

The old school song was written by a student named Susan in 1961/2. Do you have any more information on the words or the songwriter? Please email below.

Sandy Nicholson - College Archivist  
[snicholson@sion.catholic.edu.au](mailto:snicholson@sion.catholic.edu.au)

## College Visitors

### 1928 Heritage Room Visitors

Patricia Salmon (nee Diamond) past pupil #483, 1949 - 1950

Recently Patricia Salmon brought her daughters Bronwyn, Julie and Joanne to share a trip down memory lane with her as she toured the College.



There were stories aplenty from Patricia as she recalled her past school days. Pictured - Patricia as a student and Patricia and her daughters under the now enormous oak tree during their recent visit.



### Janis (Jan) Murphy (nee Coutts) past pupil #780, 1956 - 1960.

Jan and her two older sisters Loris & Valerie attended Our Lady of Sion College. In 1987 Jan returned as Mrs Murphy to work in the College library as Library Technician.

Jan first started the Archives in 1990 as part of her library work at the request of the Librarian, Junemarie Mason, who decided it would be a good idea if Jan sorted out all the boxes of history that were languishing in the Library office. Jan was the obvious choice for this task because of her long family connection with the Sion Sisters through St Francis Xavier's church, school and a past student too. Junemarie appointed Jan Archivist/Past Student coordinator with the approval of the Principal, Lucy Molony.

Formal reunions came about with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion in 2003. In 2005 the first *Sionian*, the past students magazine, was published. Over the years Jan was passionate and dedicated in her work in both the Archives and Past Students Association. Jan retired in 2007.

We are blessed by Past Students who contribute to our archives facilitating the preservation of their wonderful memories for future Daughters of Sion.

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



## 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.

## COMMUNICATIONS

**2018**  
**90TH ANNIVERSARY**  
**CELEBRATIONS**  
**BACK TO SION DAY!**  
**SATURDAY MAY 19 2018**

**THE COLLEGE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1928 BY**  
**THE SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF SION**

**ALL PAST STUDENTS ARE INVITED BACK**  
**TO THE COLLEGE TO CELEBRATE THIS**  
**WONDERFUL OCCASION.**

**PLEASE EMAIL**  
**PASTSTUDENTS@SION.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU**  
**TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST**

The next event for the  
Past Students Association will be our

**Annual Fundraiser Movie Day/Night!**

Details to be advised  
Please keep a look out in your inbox for  
particulars.

Please like us on Facebook

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

Follow us for Past Student updates and Invitations to  
upcoming Events!

or follow us on twitter @SionTweets

