“Strive for Higher Things”
At least one of us has landed on the moon
The adage - never too old to learn - is a great comfort to me.

Catherine McAuley
Welcome to the second issue of Always Aloysius, an edition I’m sure you will enjoy reading as the Christmas break approaches. The first edition was a great success and I would like to thank all of those people who contacted myself personally or the College in general with their thanks, their stories and their suggestions. As I stated in that first edition, Always Aloysius is a print for the entire community, both past and present.

Since the publication of the Winter edition of Always Aloysius, much has occurred, as one would hope. Schools are essentially places where each day hundreds of individual stories unfold – yet they are also places of stability and familiarity. Returning to your old school is a little like visiting the ocean – every time you see the seascape renewed, altered in mood and shape but ever so familiar and expected. These were certainly sentiments expressed to me when on Saturday 30th August, we welcomed over sixty past alumnae to the College. Stories were shared, friendships forged and re-kindled, and the future was anticipated.

St Aloysius has been, and continues to be re-shaped into a contemporary and expressive learning centre, where Mercy values are foundational and where young women grow in confidence, both socially and academically. As Principal, I was reminded by the life stories of the remarkable women who made up our alumnae that warm Saturday afternoon; that classrooms are not merely about lessons in History, Science or Art, but they are lessons of and for life - lessons in values and friendship, lessons in giving and sharing and lessons in belonging and caring. Those sixty alumnae were a true snapshot of the thousands of St Aloysius alumnae, and I thank them for their presence and look forward to meeting them again, and other alumni, in the years to come.

As the Yuletide is almost upon us, I am in a state of both reflection of the year thus far and with a focus on the year to come. The New Year, 2015, marks the mid-point of the second decade of the 21st Century which gives rise to questions regarding learning and teaching which are at the forefront of discussions - what should our learning spaces look like? What role does technology play? What is essential? Who ‘owns’ the learning? These are exciting times to be in education and responsibility for informed decision making has rarely been more prominent. The Season for family and prayer, reflection and thanks is upon us, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy, safe and fulfilling Christmas. May the New Year bring with it a time of contentment, peace and laughter.

Finally, please enjoy reading this second edition of Always Aloysius and let us know about your stories for future editions. I would also like to recommend an amazing read - a great Christmas gift too! It is When Tears Run Dry by Vivian Waring (a St Aloysius Alumnae – Class of 1962). Vivian’s recently published debut work is set in South-East Asia immediately after the Vietnam War. I can honestly say I loved it, a truly human story, and one I have recommended to staff and students.

In the footsteps of Catherine McAuley,

Mary Farah
Principal
Another memorable and wonderful Mercy Day (Friday 12th September) was recently celebrated at the College, where the spirit of Mercy was alive and well. Staff and students participated in a range of inspiring, thought provoking and reflective activities throughout the day.

In the morning we were blessed with the presence of a visitor from another world (literally). Charles Duke the youngest person to ever set foot on the moon provided an engaging, informative and humorous presentation in the College Hall. The girls then participated in various activities for each year level across the school. For example, the Year 7’s received an insight into the personal life and aspirations of Catherine McAuley (AKA Mrs. Cricenti) who was interviewed by our very own intrepid reporter, Ms. Farah. The theme of the day ‘You Are Not Alone’ was encapsulated by the spirit of giving, as students ran a wide range of stalls and activities to raise funds to support Mercy Works abroad. We also saw some budding Vixen netballers give the teachers a lesson in skill and agility in the Staff V Student netball match. What a game!

In the afternoon, students participated in a carefully planned and thoughtful reflection in the College Hall. The girls were invited to reflect on God’s presence in the world and challenged to consider their own role in contributing to the goodness in the world. The day concluded with a memorable and amusing staff auction, while staff enjoyed a well-earned afternoon tea.

The amount raised on the day was above $4,000!! It was a day that all involved at St. Aloysius should be proud of.

Mr. Paul Ives and Mrs. Rose Cricenti
Mercy Day Committee
‘You are not alone’
Charles Moss Duke Jr. would rank as one of the most impressive visitors to St Aloysius College in its one hundred and twenty seven year history. A sprightly seventy-nine year old, his thrilling speech during Mercy Day celebrations held students and staff enthralled ... because Brigadier General Charlie Duke was the tenth of only twelve human beings to walk on the surface of the Moon.

In 1972, during the Apollo 16 mission, he spent 71 hours on the moon performing experiments and collecting rock samples. He was also CAPCOM (the astronaut in charge of communicating with the team in space) during the historic Apollo 11 landing on the moon.

During his presentation Charles Duke described the challenges of survival and simple movement and shared NASA footage of the mission. He was clearly still taken by the sight of his own footprints left permanently on the dusty moon surface and the vision of the Earth as a jewel in a velvet black sky. A deeply spiritual man, Charles Duke inspired us with his impressive life lived in devotion to family and God.

Dr. Susan Long  
Science & Innovation Curriculum Design Leader
Rosemarie Carman, nee Raymond, was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List of 2014. The citation for Rosemarie’s OAM is “For Service to veterans and their families, and to the community”.

This is Rosemarie’s story:
I was born in 1943 in Queenscliff, Victoria, the fifth of six daughters to Lt. Col. Claude and Ann (Nan) Raymond. Dad was a Duntroon-trained officer, who fought in WW1 (NX20), and, as a permanent soldier, after the war, he was posted to Japan with B.C.O.F. (British Commonwealth Occupation Force), to assist in cleaning up after the devastation of the bombing at Hiroshima (6th. August 1945) and Nagasaki (3 days later), and to help with the restoration of Japan.

The Australian Government decided then, that as a public relations exercise, they would show the Japanese “how civilised Western families lived”. So, from May 1947, Australian wives and dependant children sailed to Japan to re-unite with their husbands and fathers. Dependant Housing was created in a number of areas, with newly-built, fully-furnished houses provided for Australian families as they arrived over the following months to join other BCOF Forces from U.S.A. and England.

Schools, churches, halls, play areas and swimming pools were all built to accommodate these families. Dad was already in Japan when Mum, with her six girls, travelled by train to Sydney, where we all boarded the ship to travel to Japan, arriving 24th. December 1947. We lived for 12 months in Eta Jima, then we shifted to Kure to an area called Niji Mura, which was Japanese for ‘Rainbow Village’ as the houses were painted in a variety of pastel colours. As we were one of the larger families, we had four house girls, a cook and a gardener to help Mum in the house.

BCOF was the employer of thousands of Japanese people who would otherwise not have had any work or money to support their families, and when BCOF left Japan in 1952, unemployment for the Japanese soared.

Our family left Japan in February 1952, and we sailed back to Sydney. After disembarking, we caught the train back to Melbourne, then travelled onto Queenscliff. My older sister, Janelle, younger sister, Julie, and I went to school for a few months at St. Aloysius, Queenscliff, before Mum and Dad purchased a house in Rose Street, West Coburg, and we moved there. My three eldest sisters went to work, and Janelle, Julie & I went to St. Fidelis Primary School, Moreland, after which I went to St. Anne’s Central School, West Melbourne, for a year, before following Janelle to St. Aloysius College, North Melbourne, in 1956.

I spent three years there – Sub-Intermediate, Intermediate and Leaving classes. In that era, very few girls continued on with their education for that final year – Matriculation.

I finished my schooling at the end of 1958, and joined the Commonwealth Bank, working at Brunswick and Northcote branches. I met my husband, Terry, while working in the Bank, and after we became engaged, I had to leave the Bank as married women were not employed. I worked in the office of Buckley & Nunn, which was next to Myer in the City. Terry and I married in May 1963, and, some months later, when I asked if I could have time off as Terry had his scheduled holidays in the October, I was told that, as I was pregnant, I “might as well finish up then”, and so that was the last time that I received payment for any work that I did!

We had three sons, and, after living in South Blackburn and Doncaster while Terry worked in City branches of the Commonwealth Bank,
Over the years, I’ve managed to compile an unofficial database of 844 dependants who went to or were born in Japan (NO official list of those names is available!). Many on that list are deceased (cancer?) and I have not been able to contact some females whose names have changed, but I now have an active list of over 330 names with whom I am in regular contact. I had been contacted by some of those children who were born in Japan who had been having trouble trying to obtain a Birth Certificate, and asked for my help. I contacted, and then met up with, Christine de Matos, a researcher who had an interest in BCOF Japan, and supplied her with the information she needed to interview those ‘non-persons’ and write her article in The Australian – ‘Aussies who aren’t Aussies’.

I have also been trying to help those BCOF dependants who have suffered from various forms of cancer, and have tried enlisting the help of many politicians, but of course, they don’t want to admit that there is any problem due to radiation. The BCOF veterans are known as ‘The Forgotten Force’ and their children are also part of that.

Most Australians don’t know that there were Australian wives and children in Japan after the war, so I have tried to bring awareness to that fact. Our group is a ‘select’ group – it was the ONLY time that Australian wives and children were included in an OCCUPATION Force, but politicians don’t, or won’t, recognise that.

I was both honoured and humbled when my name was included in the 2014 Queens Birthday Honours List and I was awarded an OAM (Order of Australia Medal). I was presented with my medal by His Excellency, Alex Chernov, Governor of Victoria, at Government House on Friday, 5th September – a memorable day! I was fortunate to be able to share that day with my husband, Terry, who has been a great support and help to me over our 51 years of marriage, and our eldest son, Sean.

Since 1975 when the first Australian Honours awards were presented, I am honoured to be the third St. Aloysius College OAM recipient, following Moira Kelly (2001) and Sister Wilma Geary RSM [dec.] (2002).

I have certainly come a long way from that young Rosemarie Raymond, and I have to smile, wondering what the nuns who taught me would have thought about my award. If, at that time, they had to predict names of those pupils ‘most likely’, mine would surely have been well towards the end of that list! However, along with my parents, I do have to thank those nuns for my education and their help in instilling the values and empathy that I have today. I have been a regular attendee at the Past Pupils’ Reunions over the years, and I also maintain contact with our particular school group. Since the St. Aloysius Centenary in 1987, I have written a Newsletter and, each February, organised an annual get-together of our group. I am organising a Luncheon for October, and we will celebrate approximately sixty years since we were all at school together – a celebration of our ‘old school days’ and the fact that we are still around to enjoy it!

I’m unsure where all those years have gone, as I certainly don’t feel ‘old’. However to all those ‘younger ones’, I would like to get the message across that sometimes these honours and awards aren’t just handed out to those figures who are forever in the public eye – actors, TV ‘stars’, football ‘stars’, sports men and women, etc.

Sometimes the ‘quiet achievers’, even though they don’t do their voluntary work for the accolades, DO get rewarded for their efforts, so I hope you, also, can all aspire to higher things.

The St. Aloysius song we sang in our era was: “Ad altiora natus” – “I was born for higher things”!

I wish you well as you all strive to achieve your aims.

Rosemarie (Raymond) Carman OAM
I hope you enjoy the snapshots of St Aloysius College which may bring back memories.

We have been successful in receiving a Grant of $2,200.00 through the Victorian Government funded Local History Grants Program. The funds have been approved for the purpose of “conservation and cataloguing of objects and records”.

In making the recommendation for funding, the assessment panel made the following comments:

“A worthwhile but ambitious project, part funding is recommended to purchase archival material to begin conserving and cataloguing records and objects held by St Aloysius College. The panel commends the applicant’s commitment to preserving the College’s rich collection of records spanning 127 years”

I gratefully acknowledge Trish Collin’s (nee Halls) donation of her school texts and work books and the generous offer received from Domenica Leone (nee Di Santo).

Elaine Kent
College Alumnae Relations Manager
The reunion of Alumnae on the 30th August last was well attended by past students who had attended St Aloysius College in the 1930s, 40s, 50s, 60s and every decade since, right up to welcoming back students who had graduated last year. It was wonderful to meet the young women who brought their children along to see where they had gone to school as well as some alumnae of more mature years. The occasion was a happy one with light lunch and drinks served, along with entertainment provided by comedian, Damian Callinan who is a veteran of Catholic education.

I am grateful to Mary Farah for her generosity in supporting the occasion and I formally extend my appreciation to the teachers, staff and the Leadership Team who attended the day, and for their hard work in preparing for the occasion. You can view photos of the reunion through the Alumni link on the College website.

The day not only provided an opportunity to catch up, but was significant in marking the re-launch of the St Aloysius Old Collegians. Expressions of interest received from alumnae on the day to support the planning and implementation of future events is appreciated.

Our Alumni data base contains over one thousand names and our publication Always Aloysius has been mailed to all. Formation of the St Aloysius Old Collegians will make distribution of publications, invitations and news to Alumni more manageable. Publications, invitations and news of events will continue to be accessible through the College website Alumni link for those who wish to keep in touch, but not necessarily join the Old Collegians. We do hope that all Alumni subscribe to the St Aloysius Old Collegians.

On Sunday 30th November, Father Tran, Parish Priest of St Michael’s Church, North Melbourne offered Mass for deceased students of St Aloysius College who were remembered through prayer.

Alumni will be kept informed of occasions planned for 2015 via the College website and also through publication of Always Aloysius. Reunions of particular year levels, an open reunion, a Celebration Mass for deceased past students and staff, and a weekend film morning are planned.
Old Collegians

- Subscription form can be found on the reverse side of the address sheet for you to complete and return to the College. Form may be downloaded from the College website through the Alumni link.

- As a one off contribution, we ask all Old Collegians to donate $40 to establish the foundation of the organisation. All contributions will be recognised in the next edition of Always Aloysius and will receive an Old Collegians badge. A $100 donation will entitle Old Collegians to a gold badge, revealing exceptional foundation support.

- $10.00 of each Subscription Fee will be deposited to the St Aloysius Old Collegians’ Scholarship Fund

- Members will receive a St Aloysius Old Collegians badge

- Particular functions and reunions will be organised for the year ahead
Year 12 Graduation

Congratulations to the Class of 2014
Our Graduates become our Alumnae
Year 12 graduation celebrations commenced with a College assembly to farewell our senior students, followed by morning tea with parents, Sisters of Mercy, Year 12 teachers and the College Leadership Team. Conclusion to the celebrations was the following day when Mass was celebrated at St Brendan’s, Flemington followed by the Valedictory Dinner at Ascot House, Ascot Vale. There, Year 12 students were joined by their families, special guests Sister Carmel McCormick RSM and Sister Margaret McDonnell RSM, teachers and college leaders for a formal dinner, speeches, messages of thanks and a photographic ‘walk down memory lane’.
The Young Collegians of ‘71

“I don’t believe in aging. I believe in forever altering one’s aspect to the sun.”

Virginia Woolf
And so we gathered under the North Melbourne sun thirty five years on to celebrate the talents and the lives of our school yard friends. Standing in our classroom of ’71 felt extremely familiar, a warm home coming that generated broad smiles and much laughter. As baby boomers are apt to do, we quickly concluded that we had not aged one iota! A sighting & subsequent conversation with the eternally effervescent and sprightly Sister Kevin (our forever young Principal) confirmed this beyond question.

Differences were quickly forgotten as our chests puffed out on discovering the wonderful achievements that our mates had notched up – after all we were the Class of “71 – one of St Al’s best! We clucked & cooed over photos of children and grandchildren and also shed a silent tear for the dear friends who were sadly no longer with us.

We all counted our blessings for the education we enjoyed (an appreciation that was to come much, much later) and marvelled at the resilience we developed as a result. Looking back it’s a wonder that we had the time to master the 3 Rs as our days were filled to the brim with lessons in becoming a domestic goddess – needlework, sewing, cookery, mothercraft, dancing classes with the renowned Miss May Downes, speech lessons (shades of Eliza & Henry spring to mind) as well as singing classes. We were being groomed for the arrival of our own Mr Darcy!! Somehow, amidst all of this domestic utopia we managed to complete subjects such as Literature, Applied Mathematics, Physics and Politics at VCE level. Phew, we were busy and we relied heavily on each other to get through the massive workload – some might call it cheating, we preferred “bonding” and it served us well and laid the foundations for the friendships that have now spanned fifty years.

Our lives have gone in various directions – the Class of “71” has stars in Research, Property, Teaching, Genetics, Medicine, Human Resources, two former winners of the Miss Aloysia contest and most importantly, has produced some of the best Mums on the planet.

Yes – you read that correctly! A Miss Aloysia contest was a much applauded, annual event in the 1960s. Two categories – Junior and Senior – involving the obligatory fashion parades (sans swimwear section of course) and insightful and penetrating questions from the judging panel. Hats and gloves were obligatory and the winner was ceremoniously draped in the all-important sash!

Although some of our friends from the class of “71” meet regularly, our reunion allowed others to be embraced for the first time in decades. Yet it felt like only yesterday since we last chatted – the hallmark of great friendships.

We are about to do it all again, eight years later, and this time our chosen aspect to the sun will be in the home of our esteemed colleague and valued friend, Maree Bracken (nee Hodgson).

Our Agony Aunt’s advice to today’s St Al’s gals – keep smiling, value and invest in your friendships and never stop dreaming as dreams really do come true! We know firsthand that they do.

(The Class of ’71 continues to gather. This year their reunion was on 25th October. This article was submitted by a member of the Class of ’71)
When I was asked to reflect on my time at St Aloysius College I took out my collection of college Year Books that dated back to 1981! Memories came rushing back to me of all the wonderful people I had come in contact with at St Als – the teaching staff, the principals and of course the students. But one memory will have a very special place in my heart. I started at the school in 1979 and the next year Camille Bradley and Chris White joined the school. We all taught Physical Education together and even this year we were still teaching Physical Education together!! It’s an outstanding achievement and one that we are very proud of.

My time at St Als has enriched my life greatly through such a wide variety of experiences and in particular the activities that I participated in through teaching Outdoor Education with Annette Diver. The ski trips, the bushwalking camps, windsurfing and kayaking trips were all exciting and challenging activities that students participated in with gusto. Taking the Year 9 students sailing on the bay was another exciting activity, and it never ceased to amaze me that I was actually working! Years of involvement in the Torquay Camps, where students took on unfamiliar challenges and experiences with determination and a smile on their faces, will always hold special memories for me.

I thoroughly enjoyed these experiences, but what has also enriched me is working with the most dedicated and professional group of people – the staff of St Als. The care and concern they show for the students is amazing and this is reflected in the students’ affection shown towards staff members. The friendships I have formed over the years with these staff members is something I will always cherish.

The students, of course, have been a wonderful constant throughout my time at St Als. Whether in the classroom, the sporting field or the playground, students have always shown an easy friendliness and a genuine care for staff. I have enjoyed their humour in good times and their compassion in difficult times. I feel truly blessed to have worked with the girls of St Als.

Over my 35 years at St Aloysius I worked with some wonderful leaders – Sr Helen Delaney, Sr Frances Baker, Sr Joan Thomas, Mr John Davidson and Ms Mary Farah, all of whom have instilled into the school community the Mercy values of Catherine McAuley. I managed to survive four of these principals but I couldn’t outlast Mary Farah! I wish Mary every success in her efforts to keep St Aloysius at the forefront of cutting edge educational performance and sustained excellence.

I will always hold St Als in a very special place in my heart. Thank you to each and every individual who has been a part of these 35 years.
St Aloysius College will always hold a special place in my heart. It was here that I launched my teaching career as a young, wide-eyed graduate, passionate about psychology; and twenty years later, I leave the College older, wiser, and blessed for having been part of a Mercy-filled community. In the spirit of Catherine McAuley, the care and compassion shown by staff for our wonderful students and the care and compassion shown by our students for their peers, teachers and the wider community are outstanding. Even though I am leaving St Aloysius College at the end of 2014, I will take with me the Mercy story and I will continue to treasure the many memories of our community being called to action just as Catherine would have deemed it rightly so.

I have often said that I have ‘grown up’ at St Aloysius and I still believe this to be true. I am grateful for all the wonderful experiences that have been instrumental to my growth, both personally and professionally. I would like to acknowledge Ms Mary Farah for her support over the past two years. I am grateful to former Principal Mr John Davidson, for providing me with so many professional opportunities and for encouraging me to undertake further study. I would also like to acknowledge and extend my sincere gratitude to Sr. Joan Thomas, the Principal who appointed me in 1995. Four years after my appointment, I decided to leave teaching. It was Sr. Joan who recognised my potential and encouraged me not to resign but to take a year leave instead. It was also Sr. Joan who appointed me to my first position of leadership as the Year 11 Coordinator and had the foresight to make Mrs Mary Karavias, an outstanding educator and leader, my mentor. I am a product of excellent mentoring and I will always be indebted to Mary for being my role model, colleague and friend.

To my students, past and present, I thank you for being quite simply, extraordinary young women. Together we have laughed and cried and shared many memorable moments. I hope to bring the lessons that you have taught me to my new role as a Director of Student Wellbeing in 2015. Continue to strive for higher things and in the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson “Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail”.

I will always be indebted to Mary for being my role model...
When I started teaching at St Aloysius as a first year graduate in February 1978 I could never have imagined that this school would become my second home for thirty six years. In fact the years I have spent at St Al’s have been some of the happiest and rewarding of my life.

I can still remember my very first Year Nine Red Australian History class in Room 8. When I walked into the room there were forty two very friendly and welcoming girls. That atmosphere in that particular lesson was something I experienced in all of my classes right to the very end of my career.

Although a lot of changes have taken place in regards to curriculum, teaching practices, class numbers, student pathways and obviously technology, a constant for me, has been the character of the St Aloysius students.

I have always admired and taken pride in our girls’ enthusiasm, attitude and achievements, and it is our girls that I will miss the most.

Looking back on my career and thinking of all the wonderful people I have had the opportunity to work with is something I will treasure. It has been a great privilege to have worked with a committed and dedicated team who make up the St Al’s staff. Their devotion and care for our girls have been outstanding.

The Staff and Administration of the College have always ensured that our girls are nurtured and challenged to strive for higher things and be accepted for whom they are. I am confident that the tradition of Mercy and the vision of Catherine McAuley will continue to flourish under the current leadership and staff of St Al’s.

I am very proud to belong to the St Aloysius community, and although I have recently retired and swapped teaching for a somewhat less hectic lifestyle, I will never forget the people with whom I have worked and the students who have been part of my life for the past thirty six years. To all of these girls, I say, “Thank you for your enthusiasm and everything you taught me”. I would also like to thank the families of our community for their support and trust they placed in me.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the Principals with whom I have worked at St Al’s. To, Sr Frances Baker, Sr Joan Thomas, John Davidson and Mary Farah, thank you for all the support and encouragement you have given me. I owe a special debt of gratitude to Sr Helen Delaney who appointed me in 1978 and provided me with a teaching position that became a career of a lifetime.

I wish Mary Farah and the College Staff all the very best as they lead St Aloysius into its next phase of growth.

Mary Karavias
Staff Farewells
Asha Jacob

Leaving but not letting go

St Aloysius has been my home for the past twenty-five years. Hence I am torn between the excitement of beginning a new chapter at a new school, and the sadness of saying goodbye. As I recollect my first year of teaching at the age of twenty-one, I remember feeling apprehensive meeting my Year 12 Biology class, as they were only a few years older than me! The years quickly slipped by and with each graduating class I became older, wiser and more ingrained in the ways of St Aloysius.

With more than half of my life spent at this College, I am blessed to have experienced many milestones with the students and staff, such as getting married and having children. I will miss sharing family stories or discussing classroom situations with the amazing staff who have become my dear friends.

I will also miss the treasured students who have given me such purpose over the years. The girls at St Aloysius are indeed one-of-a-kind. They are diverse, yet united in the common ideals and culture of the school. What an honour it has been to guide and shape the minds of the young woman of the school and encourage them to appreciate our world through Science.

Whilst I am leaving, the encounters, stories, experiences and relationships I have made with the St Aloysius community will remain with me always. I endeavour to take with me the memories and the knowledge gained here.

Thank you! Goodbye! St Aloysius will always be a part of me.
Asha Jacob

The 2013 Biology class had the opportunity to meet Nobel Laureates Sir Gustav Nossal. It was a unforgettable evening for the girls and myself!

Jessica Au signed to Melbourne Victory

Jessica Au graduated from St Aloysius College in 2013, after successfully completing Year 12. Jessica, an accomplished sportswoman, shone in all sports, but clearly her passion was soccer.

Melbourne Victory has signed Jessica for the 2014–2015 Westfield W-League season after she starred in this year’s edition of the Women’s Premier League.

Jessica, as a winger, has played a large role in her side’s dominant season - which has seen her club take a three-game lead at the top of the league – contributing eight goals and a number of assists along the way. Jesssica is acknowledged by ‘the experts’ for her technical skills, composure and decision making ability that belies her age of nineteen years.
St Aloysius College
NORTH MELBOURNE

Strive for Higher Things