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St Aloysius College Alumni Keep The Date 130 Year Celebrations

College Opening Mass
23 Feb 2017 10.00am for 10.30am  
Venue: St Patrick’s Cathedral

130th Anniversary Alumni Cocktails
18 Mar 2017 6:00 – 8:00pm  
Venue: St Aloysius College

Cover image: Student artwork by Therese-An Ho.

St Aloysius College
31 Curran Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051
Ph: 03 9329 0411  Fax: 03 9328 2801
Email: principal@aloysious.vic.edu.au
Design: White Creative / anna@whitecreative.com.au  0403 047 844
Principal’s Welcome

Family is certainly the key word. Interestingly, just a few months ago Pope Francis spoke about the importance of family and indeed about what family really means. Throughout the Pontiff’s sermon one descriptive word was prominent – reciprocity. The strength of a family, as Francis so eloquently spoke, is based upon the strength of reciprocal action; acting in a way for others exactly how you would want someone to act for you. At its heart this is what Mercy is all about - when Catherine McAuley first opened the doors of Baggot Street she, and her fellow Sisters, were putting into action the act of reciprocity. In that moment she started the journey, the most amazing and continuing journey, that has grown a global Mercy family of which St Aloysius College is just a small part.

Family of course is a central, basic and universal human concept, certainly not limited to any one time or indeed faith. Interestingly, the notion of reciprocity has been spoken about for centuries, perhaps millennia. One of my favourite stories concerns the great Philosopher and Leader Confucius who was asked by one of his students, Zigong, “Is there one word that one can act upon throughout the course of one’s life?” Confucius replied, “Reciprocity - what you would not want for yourself, do not do to others.” Reciprocity - and we can think of reciprocity as Love, they are selfless - is not just the defining strength of families, the beating heart of Mercy but indeed the very thing that makes us human.

As you read the articles that follow, they are characterised by a sense of giving. There is a tangible joy that leaps from the page when an event is retold, when a story is regaled, when a success, hard fought, is finally achieved. Joy, love, reciprocity - these truly are the foundations of our family, a St Aloysius family, growing not just in numbers but growing in strength, growing in reciprocity.

Families though are never static entities, they ebb and flow with each sad departure and each new joyous arrival. As we close 2016, St Aloysius like all families, says farewell to a number of staff members and, as the 2017 academic year commences, we will welcome our new family members.

I would like to acknowledge the following staff who will be leaving St Aloysius at the end of 2016 and thank them for their service - their reciprocity - and wish them all the very best in their future endeavours. Though gone, they will always remain an integral part of this family: Susan Long who has served this community for over 16 Years; Dorothy Tarzia, who will retire at the end of the year. Dorothy has been at the College since 1976 and Elaine Kent, although Elaine has been with us only for 3 years, she has however served Catholic Education for over 35 Years. Collectively they have supported and educated 1000s of students and on behalf of all I wish them all the very best in the years ahead.

On behalf of all of us, I extend my thanks and appreciation to Elaine in her role as Alumnae Coordinator, for all her work in reuniting many of our past students and inviting them back into the College and also for her work in the College Archives.

Please now enjoy Always Aloysius, and have a very safe, fun and reciprocal Summer break.

In the footsteps of Catherine McAuley,

Mary Farah
Principal
Our Year 12 students celebrated their Graduation Mass on Wednesday 19th October at St. Brendan’s Church, Flemington. Bishop Mark Edwards, Auxiliary Bishop for the Western Region of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, and Fr Hien Vu were the concelebrants for this occasion.

In taking the College motto, Ad Altiora, Bishop Edwards challenged our graduating Year 12s to strive “for the heights” (a more literal translation of Ad Altiora, which our students generally understand as “strive for higher things”) not just academically, but also in their personal lives and interactions with others. Such a striving for the heights, he reminded all of us, is really what is required for the path of Mercy – a path that Catherine McAuley followed faithfully and encouraged others to do so. Bishop Mark’s interaction with our students [and indeed the whole congregation] was warm and genuine, and in speaking with our graduating Year 12s after Mass, many did indeed feel inspired to strive for the heights.

Afterwards, we celebrated our Valedictory Dinner at The Melbourne Pavilion in Kensington. As a part of this celebration, each Year 12 student was presented with a Certificate to commemorate their years at St. Aloysius College, and listened to a very well-prepared and inspiring speech delivered by the 2016 Valedictorian, Heidi Nippard. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all.

Dr Bendon Hyde
Head of Catholic Identity and Action
Father/Daughter Breakfast

Our partnership with families is an important part of our culture at St Aloysius College as we work together to educate, support and nurture the students. To celebrate Father’s Day this year, the College hosted a Father/Daughter breakfast for our College community.

Fathers and Grandfathers gathered to share breakfast and to listen to a wonderful guest speaker, Bridget Barker from the North Melbourne Football Club & Huddle. Bridget shared with the audience her experience in women’s football and how, through sheer determination and hard work she has developed her passion and love of Football into a successful career. She spoke strongly of the support and positive influence of her family; in particular her Father, throughout her journey. Bridget encouraged our students to have a strong voice in their chosen fields, to push boundaries and to continue to work toward their goals. It was a lovely morning shared with our College Community.

Mrs Jodie McLeod
Community Development Manager
Our College community extends beyond our enrolled students, to include the entire family. Recently the College extended an invitation to the ladies of the College community; Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts, friends and extended family, to join us for High Tea to help raise money for McAuley Women’s Services.

Many ladies from the College community gathered to share an afternoon of scrumptious food and entertainment while raising money for a very worthy organisation.

Comedian Cal Wilson kept us entertained, sharing with us her wit and wisdom about parenthood, home renovations and her insights into aging. Many recognised Cal from her involvement in programs such as ‘Have You Been Paying Attention’, ‘Spicks & Speck’s’, ‘Good News Week’ & ‘Thank God You’re Here’. Cal generously donated her time to perform at this function.

It was a fantastic afternoon for our College Community. We look forward to hosting similar events in the future.

Mrs Jodie McLeod
Community Development Manager
On September 3rd this year, the annual September reunion was held at the College for all past students. The range in ages of the women in attendance is evident from the group photo. It was a happy occasion created by the group of sixty eight alumnae in their excitement of catching up with old friends from last year’s reunion and reconnecting with alumna they had not seen for some time. Some ladies arranged their own groups to attend and it was wonderful to see a mother bringing her young daughter along to see Mum’s ‘old school’. A daughter accompanied her ninety four year old Mum and there were friends who have maintained their relationships since meeting in Prep and attending school together through to completing their secondary education. In point, Francy Reardon (nee Attard) and Viv Vecchio (alumnae 1978) have been friends since meeting at kindergarten.

Alumnae travelled from across Melbourne, Geelong and Wodonga to be there.

In between afternoon tea, tours of the College were conducted by members of Leadership and many comments made on the ‘new school’ compared to the classrooms the ladies remembered.

Two families of three sisters who had all attended St Aloysius College were in attendance. The Morison family daughters, Susan, Heather and Carol attended St Aloysius across the years from 1968 to 1978 and the Coco family daughters, Gina, Ninette and Mary attended the College during the period 1961 to 1975. Unfortunately, Dr June Self (nee McKeogh. Alumna 1943) sent her apologies and her greeting was communicated to those present.

A special experience on that afternoon was Sr. Silvia Campo (alumna 1964) introducing a recorded conversation and interview she had with Shirley Howard (alumna 1944). This year was the first reunion that Shirley was unable to attend. In the past she would travel by taxi from her home in Mount Macedon to arrive at St Als in plenty of time for the reunions. Shirley is now living at a Mercy Care facility and Sr. Silvia is in frequent contact with her. You will see in the group photo the picture of Shirley in the background. We were all touched by Shirley’s recount of a conversation she had with the Mother Superior when Shirley suggested she may have been incorrectly recognised with an award, to which the Mother Superior stated “We don’t make mistakes”.

Ms Elaine Kent
Alumni Liaison
On 21st October last, the Class of ‘85 met at the College for their first formal reunion since leaving school. Pina McCallum (nee S collo) and Maria Ruberto had planned and organised the occasion over some months and put the word out through social media and friendship group links.

Maria welcomed the ladies and over the evening they enjoyed champagne and a light supper with linked photos of their school days in the background and the necessary tour of the College.

Both Pina and Maria remain formally part of the College’s community. Pina is the College’s Human Resources Leader and Maria practises as a Psychologist and is a member of the College Advisory Council.

The laughter and excitement of catching up with each other was testament to the Class they were – a close group who enjoyed their time together and hold fond memories of their time at St Aloysius.

Ms Elaine Kent
Alumni Liaison
When I first started teaching at St Aloysius, the school was in the grip of ‘Grease’ fever. It was the end of the seventies and students were singing ‘Summer Lovin’ and dreaming of John Travolta. The school was small, the enrolment large. More than double the present day numbers were squeezed into every available space. I mostly taught English in a portable classroom where the Gazebo now stands, or held ESL classes in the now beautiful double storey terrace near the school in Brougham Street.

When I returned to St Aloysius in 2005, the school was more spacious and much less cramped. Today there are dedicated rooms, such as the Stem Centre, offering wonderful work environments to the students. What connects these two periods of my teaching at St Aloysius though, are the Mercy values that stretch across time and which never have a used-by-date. The warmth and friendliness of the St Aloysius girls has always been my favourite feature of the school. I have never taught at a school where I could be more myself. Teaching English has been my passion, but the time has come when other paths beckon- Grandmother duties, travel to my beloved Italia, books unread, patchwork quilt ideas demanding to be realised...

Sorry to be leaving? Yes! Excited about the unknown future? Yes!

Would I do it all again? Oh yes! Teaching has fulfilled me in so many ways and from the St Aloysius girls I have learnt such a lot!

Mrs Dorothy Tarzia

I commenced at St Aloysius College three years ago in the capacities of Archivist and Alumni Liaison Leader. Soon, I was also acting in a temporary capacity as Careers Co-ordinator and VET and VCAL Co-ordinator which provided me with the opportunity to continue contact with students and maintain the student teacher relationship.

Having taught in the Catholic system for thirty eight years, not working with students was a significant and noticeable feature of the Archivist role.

I came to teaching later in life, having first completed a Law Degree, Articles and practised as a Solicitor. Consequently my major teaching method was Legal Studies.

Now the time has arrived to retire and develop other interests, without time being “of the essence”, though I wonder if that is ever the case.

I have enjoyed my time in the community of St Aloysius College. The students I have met and worked with have all been magnificent young women, who are a credit to their families and the College. I have valued the support and generosity of the Alumni (both women and men) and enjoyed hearing their school day stories and information which has filled gaps.

What has consistently struck me when speaking with Alumni, both everyday encounters and particularly at reunions, is their love and respect of each other, their long lasting friendships and the fondness they hold till today for the Sisters of Mercy and their teachers.

Signing off.

Ms Elaine Kent

When people ask me how long I have been teaching at St Aloysius College I usually say I arrived in 2000. But in fact, I have arrived and left and arrived and left and arrived and now .... probably ..... this is the final leaving. The first leaving was for two years living in the US and another two years were working on my thesis and working at Genazzano FCJ college. The ties that bind me to this community are wound tightly around my heart. I am very proud to have been associated with Mercy Education for almost all of my life, both as a student and as a teacher. I have seen hundreds of young women grow up and head out to make their mark on the world and of course I have made lifelong friends amongst my fellow teachers. As our year 12s had their final assembly, I led a prayer that assured them, that this remarkable place would still be here and they would always be a part of this place; I know that I too have been shaped in this community and I will always carry it with me where ever I go.

Dr Susan Long
World Youth Day 2016, Krakow

Katelyn Marzan (Year 10A) and Jessica Azzopardi (Year 11B) represented the College at World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland, along with 130 other pilgrims from schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The theme for the 2016 World Youth Day in Krakow was: “Blessed are the merciful; for they shall receive mercy” (Matthew 5:7)

Jessica & Katelyn share with us their experience:

I feel so privileged to have been chosen to attend World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland. The pilgrimage enabled me to enrich my faith and make a closer connection with God. We attended mass and catechesis almost every day and it was great to see many young priests, sisters and chaplains evangelising the Good News to the youth of the world. Amongst the 3 million pilgrims in attendance, I was fortunate enough to meet my second cousin Maria from Malta for the first time, an experience for which I will be forever grateful. The multicultural atmosphere was mesmerising! Young people from all over the world uniting as one to celebrate God’s love for them. We encountered many acts of mercy throughout our pilgrimage which served as humbling reminders that Mercy lives within us and it is up to us young people to make a change. The idea that stuck with me the most is that we, as young people of the church aren’t the future of the church, we are the church, it is up to us to make a change and start today! Pope Francis put this idea into the context of our own lives in his address at the World Youth Day prayer vigil, “The times we live in do not call for young “couch potatoes” but for young people with shoes, or better, boots laced.” My small group was lucky enough to see His Holiness Pope Francis not only once, but 3 times! This experience has truly changed me as a person and strengthened my trust in God.

Jessica Azzopardi 11B

To say that World Youth Day was amazing would be the understatement of the year; those two weeks spent in Poland were BEYOND amazing. To see so many young pilgrims from many different countries across the globe in one place, as well as seeing them come together through their journey in faith was truly special to experience. Walking everyday to see all the different cathedrals and religious icons that Poland had to offer was also rewarding in itself, even if we averaged 9-10km per day of walking in the summer heat. Through this experience I have been able to form lifelong bonds with people who were previously strangers to me; these people are now like a second family.

Some things may not have gone so well, and that’s a given; majority of the time we became sidetracked and lost in a city we knew close to nothing about. But in these cases, surprises and rewards presented themselves to us; once, we took a route that was totally unplanned and now I have a close video of the Pope driving through Krakow while blessing the crowd. My experience at World Youth Day is something I will treasure forever. “Here’s to the nights that became mornings with the friends who became family.”

Katelyn Marzan 10A

We express our gratitude to Catholic Education Melbourne and the Archdiocese of Melbourne for facilitating this experience and for providing finding for this faith-filled opportunity that enabled students from our College to attend World Youth Day.

Dr Brendan Hyde
Head of Catholic Identity and Action
Global Connections

Italia
In August this year we were delighted to host 20 students and two staff members from our Italian Sister-School – Educandato Statale Emanuela Setti Carraro dalla Chiesa. Our visitors enjoyed a dynamic 10-day program which saw them visit a number of major tourist sites. The girls especially enjoyed their visits to Torquay and Phillip Island as well as many popular landmarks throughout Melbourne, including the Old Melbourne Gaol, Federation Square, the Botanic Gardens, the State Library, Treasury Gardens and St Patrick’s Cathedral to name just a few. These excursions allowed our Italian visitors to appreciate Australian culture, history and our way of life. The Italian students very much enjoyed attending classes with their host sisters as well as a range of specialist classes. The 2016 Exchange Program was only possible thanks to the many College families who so willingly and generously opened their homes to welcome an Italian exchange student or two. It was an absolute delight to watch the friendships between our students and the Italian students blossom. We trust that the time that was spent with our Italian visitors was enriching and that the friendships will continue to be enjoyed for many years to come.

Japan
In August the College was again thrilled to host and offer an exchange program for students and staff from our Japanese sister-School Kyoto Seibo Gakuin Junior & Senior High School. A total of 12 Japanese students and two Japanese teachers stayed with us for 12 days. Whilst at the College, the girls enjoyed a range of activities including attending Japanese language classes and classes with their host sisters. The girls very much enjoyed being part of the audience for the College Production of Annie, as well as a range of specialist classes including Art, Food Technology and Physical Education. A trip to the Melbourne Zoo and our Torquay facility proved to be a big hit with the girls and teachers alike. The Japanese girls enjoyed being hosted by families from our College and as usual there were more than a few tears when it was time to say goodbye. We are very grateful for the generous support provided by Host Sisters and their families and we hope that this experience paves the way for life-long friendships and experiences.

St Aloysius College Inaugural Japan Study Tour
In the Term 3 holidays, 21 lucky students from Years 9-11 were accompanied by Ms Francis, Ms Daunt and Ms Bloomfield on the inaugural 14 day St Aloysius College Japan Study Tour. The purpose of this trip was to immerse the girls in the Japanese culture so that they could develop a deeper appreciation of the history, architecture and way of life in Japan. Whilst the beauty and mix of traditional and modern Japan was a visual feast for all tour participants, the highlight was the five days spent at our sister school, Kyoto, Seibo Gakuin.
The tour began in the ancient capital of Kyoto, world heritage listed sites such as Sanjuusandendo Hall which is a Buddhist temple with 10001 statues of Buddha. This temple was originally constructed in 1164 and is the longest wooden structure in Japan. From there we travelled to the serene settings of Kinkakuji Temple, or as we know it “The Golden Pavilion.” The girls were mesmerised by the beauty of this structure built by a statesman who upon his death, left it to the Zen Buddhist monks to care and continue the tradition of appreciating the beauty and serenity of the setting. The final major tourist destination in Kyoto, was the famous Kiyomizudera Temple, high up in the mountains overlooking the bustling metropolis of Kyoto. This temple was built in 780AD. There we enjoyed some quiet time wandering around the gardens and temple, before embarking upon souvenir shopping in the ancient winding streets- we were mesmerised by many young couples and families walking with such grace in the traditional summer yukata. Furthermore, we marvelled at the age of these historic sites, and were so impressed that the Japanese love to visit their places of national importance. Our day trip to Nara provided us with yet another opportunity to appreciate the wonderful architecture of the Todaiji Temple, which houses the largest indoor statue of Buddha. The streets of Nara were full of deer who delighted the girls from afar, but proved to be more challenging when some tried to eat their lunch in Nara Park.

As our the Memorandum of Understanding with Kyoto Seibo Gakuin had been ratified in August 2016, it was with much excitement that we were welcomed in style by the Concert Band, Chorus Club, Handbell Club and the Dance club, before being treated to many cultural experiences and Japanese classes. Each day girls were welcomed with much joy by the staff and students of Seibo and friendships that were formed will last for many years to come. Staying with specially selected accommodation buddies in a nearby traditional Japanese inn, also gave St Aloysius and Seibo Gakuin students a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the ties between our schools and create lasting friendships.

After fully appreciating all that the ancient cities of Kyoto and Nara had to offer we took the Shinkansen to Tokyo where we enjoyed the sights and sounds of Sensoji Temple in Asakusa, the shopping districts of Shibuya and Harajuku, not to mention the peaceful gardens surrounding Meiji Jingu where there were numerous wedding parties parading through the grounds. At night we visited the beautiful Ginza district to see how the Tokyoites like to spend their Sunday evenings. The last day was spent in Tokyo Disneyland where the girls ran from ride to ride and spent their last few yen on various merchandise for friends and family.

It was an absolute privilege to travel with such poised, mature and flexible young women who embraced every aspect of the Japanese culture with a keen sense of curiosity and happiness. It is hoped that this will be the first of many trips for them to Japan.

Ms Pauline Cutajar
Head of Students & Programs
& Ms Sarah Francis
Japanese Teacher
As St Aloysius prepares to celebrate 130 years next year, we continue to evolve and take pride in delivering innovative learning and wellbeing programs to our students. Whilst the Mercy Values continue steadfastly, I wish to share a few of the many successes enjoyed this year by our students.

Each Tuesday after school, students in our Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) Program prepared to problem solve. We were proud of our students working their way through to the ‘Tournament of the Minds’, national level of competition. Every Monday lunchtime, during Semester 1 and some of Semester 2, the Debating students met and worked diligently preparing their speeches. Our Chess Club, successfully competed in the finals against reputable independent colleges.

Of course competition is not everything but victory is certainly sweet when it is hard fought. The annual, long-running Frayne Festival saw our Voice Choir take first place against a large number of Mercy colleges at Bendigo. A new competition, the Multi-cultural AFL Football round robin led to St Aloysius College winning the inaugural cup and with successful experiences across a range of sports, including rowing proves our love for sport and outdoor education grows ever stronger.

To offer such breadth of subjects is an educational philosophy we aim to uphold. Students study two out of three languages (Italian, Japanese, French) in Year 7&8, and must continue to study at least one language through to Year 10. New technologies are supported in the junior years via STEAM in Years 7&8, STEM and Coding in Years 9&10.

As well as encouraging students to study Science and Engineering we ensure we have the balance of Art and Design Technologies as was displayed at our annual Art & Design Technology Exhibition. We currently have a VCE Studio Arts student likely to be selected into Top Arts.

At Year 7 all students study an orchestral instrument they can take home for a semester and experience performing as a member of a Concert Band or String Orchestra, they also study Drama and all students studying Performing Arts perform to their parents and friends at many concerts. This year’s College Musical production of ‘Annie’ has been lauded in college publications not just due to the high standard of performance but for the growing numbers of students involved in all aspects of the production.

Our Pastoral, Academic and Transition Programs are based on hospitality; taking the time to converse and listen to our students and supporting them as they enter Year 7 or indeed move from one year level to the next. The learning doesn’t stop with our students as we open our doors to the community; inviting parents and the wider community to seminars and events that are informative, educational and entertaining or even for humble refreshments with a personal, gentle connection.

Like the past, our programs at today’s St Aloysius College always put our students first but just as we are always inviting our alumnae to visit and reminisce we are always seeking innovative ways to challenge our students of today.

Ms Rachel Valentine
Deputy Principal
At St Aloysius College our students are provided with many opportunity to help develop their critical thinking skills, communication skills and creativity skills essential for them to be successful in the 21st century.

It has been extensively researched that when students participate in creative subjects such as in the Visual Arts, schools produce students with a range of skills including students who are creative problem solvers. Through the arts and technology subjects we educate our students that problems can and often have more than one solution thus helping our students build resilience in their problem solving skills. The Visual Arts help to cultivate confidence with in our students as they master new and varied skills and give the students a chance to step outside their comfort zone. As they improve and see their own progress, their self-confidence continues to grow. In semester two Art Club took on a new project to revamp existing wooden stools with famous artworks. Our students were faced with the challenge to explore famous artists and select a painting they would then translate to a canvas. This time however their canvas was a little different as it was a wooden stool. The students needed to develop an idea and work around their unusual canvas to bring to realisation their painting on a piece of furniture. The girls worked in teams to capture the artistic style of their chosen artist and recreate their work on the wooden stool. Art club has helped to cultivate confidence with in our students as they master different painting techniques while also being introduced to working on a new surface such as the wooden stool. As they improve and see their own progress, their self-confidence continues to grow. Art Club has also develop the student’s decision making skills and strengthen their ability to work as a team.

Art Club has also developed thought the creative nature of this Co-Curricular activity creates a mindset that carries thorough their entire education in all subjects and as they grow and move forward, these skills will help them in their chosen career paths. Well done to all the students involved. As you can see below they created amazing works of art. These stools are now being exhibited around the school accompanied with a small information plaque to ignite interest and educate the wider student body on the artists each stool represents. The stools will be auctioned to raise money to support Macaulay Community services for Woman. These stools were kindly donated to the Art Club by Matt Blatt furniture store at 587-593 Church Street, Richmond VIC 3121 Australia.

Ms Siobhan Bloomfield
Key Learning Area Team Leader – The Arts
This is Father Barry’s story.

“War time memories of St Aloysius”

On the 26th February 1942 a Japanese reconnaissance plane was catapulted from a submarine in Bass Strait near King Island.

It’s pilot, Nobuo Fujita flew over the Melbourne Port and North Melbourne area and was seen by army gunners. They attempted to shoot down the enemy plane with anti-aircraft fire, but the Japanese airman flew out to sea and escaped unscathed.

Darwin had been bombed only a week before and wanting to prevent panic among the people, the Government suppressed the truth by propagating the story that it was one of our own planes. It was claimed that our gunners mistakenly thought it was Japanese and wrongly fired on it. However years after the war the truth was revealed. Indeed it was an enemy plane.

At the time my family lived at 421 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne. I was six years of age and while this action was unfolding I was missing. My mother was beside herself. But finally I turned up chatting excitedly. I kept saying to her “Wasn’t it beaut Mum! Wasn’t it beaut?” I must have thought it was some kind of fireworks display!

These early war years were exciting for small children. At St Aloysius College we had air-raid drill every day. There was a very real fear that the Japanese might invade Australia and that Melbourne would be bombed.

Sr. Leonie who taught me in Preps and Grade One used to march our class into the nuns’ convent. We would go to the nuns’ refectory dining room.

The room was dominated by a huge refectory table. Sr. Leonie would instruct us to put cotton wool in our ears and an Indian rubber in our mouths. She would then blow a whistle and we would dive under the table. How we all fitted under there I’ll never know.

The cotton wool was meant to prevent us becoming deaf from the noise of the bombs and the rubber, it was hoped would prevent our teeth from clattering in fear. It was also believed that if the roof collapsed with the bombing, the safest place was under a strong table.

Fortunately Melbourne was never bombed so the effectiveness of cotton wool, an Indian rubber, and a solid refectory table was never put to the test.

Despite the war St Aloysius continued to hold their annual school concert in St Michael’s Parish Hall. The boys in Grade One performed a song from the “Pirates of Penzance,” a popular musical light Opera composed by Gilbert and Sullivan.

We dressed up like little policemen and sang “A Policeman’s Lot Is Not A Happy One” We brought the house down.

All of the boys wore the tall policeman hats then worn by the police. They were made of cardboard and painted black. All except mine. One of my father’s friends was a policeman and he gave me a real policeman’s tall hat. I was so thrilled and proud because I was the only one with a real hat!

Our class with the older children from time to time were marched up to St Michaels’ Church to attend a school Mass. I think we also went to Benediction.

The church was familiar to me as I used to attend Mass there every Sunday with my parents.

I used to love looking at the beautiful paintings. My favourite one was St Michael the Archangel, the patron of the Church. It depicted the fighting archangel standing on the neck of Lucifer. In his hand he held a great sword and with it was about to clobber man’s great adversary. I used to love that picture and I would gaze at it all through Mass.

Sr. Leonie was a wonderful Mercy Sister. But after Grade One my family moved to Malvern. I then went to St Joseph’s Parish School and later De La Salle College.

When I went to the Seminary in 1958 to study for the priesthood, I used to visit Sr. Leonie in the summer holidays. She was always pleased to see me and used to assure me she was praying for my perseverance.

Her prayers must have been answered. When I was ordained a priest in 1965 I celebrated my second Mass at St Michael’s Church. Sr. Leonie was there and all of the students at St Aloysius College attended. After Mass I went back to the school and gave the girls a holiday. In those days that was the tradition when newly ordained priests visited their old school.

Although I only attended St Aloysius in Prep and Grade One, it has always had a special place in my heart because it was my first school. I will always be grateful for the kindness shown to me by Sr. Leonie and the other Sisters who touched my life in so many ways.

Fr. Barry Tobin PP
Last week I attended EMERGE the RMIT Associate Degree Graphic Design Exhibition which featured Aluma Molly Yang. The name Emerge stemmed from the designers desire to forge a name for themselves while they develop their creative identities.

Each student produced a distinct body of work for exhibition. The designers featured their Capstone Project which was a self-driven project demonstrating their acquired skills and reflecting a chosen area of focus. The students participation in this course took them from novice to knowledgeable in the technical and conceptual fields of graphic design, granting them the means to Emerge into highly capable designers. Molly Yang completed both Studio Arts and Visual Communication Design at St Aloysius in 2014. The Visual Arts knowledge she developed during her time with us at St Aloysius College equipped her with the necessary skills to advance through her course showcasing her natural flair for design. Over the last two years Molly has further developed and refined her design skills to become a young designer to watch in the coming years. I was very proud to see her humbly accept the great feedback from both industry representatives and strangers. She has blossomed into a talented designer while still remaining a Mercy girl at heart. Molly has plans to complete further study in the area of design and we wish her all the best in her creative future.

Ms Siobhan Bloomfield
Key Learning Area Team Leader - The Arts
The Alumnae Association honours a Mercy graduate each year whose life is a reflection of the Mercy Vales. Someone who is living out their faith and serves as a role model for Mercy girls. A woman who makes a significant impact on a local, regional or national level and has maintained a connection with Mercy. This award recognises an alumna for her compassion, generosity, her ability to lead as well as serve.

**Circle of Mercy Awardees**

**Sr. Hermenilda (Lil) McManus** is an alumna of St Aloysius College of 1937. She was born in Parkville on the 7th March 1921, one of eight children whose sisters all attended St Aloysius College. Now in her 96th year, and she is considered to be the most senior of the College’s alumni.

Sr. Lil was academically, a high achieving student established a career in the Commercial and Business worlds of Melbourne in the late 1930s to early 1940s. In 1942 she entered the Mercy Order and took her final vows on 24th January 1950. She has taught and held positions as Principal in no less than fifteen Mercy schools, often simultaneously leading her Community as Superior. To this day Sr. Lil continues to engage with students in a pastoral care capacity.

Sr. Lil is a woman of Mercy who chose the motto upon her profession “I can do all things in him who strengthens me”. Her vocation and character has enabled Sr. Lil to live a life considerate and caring of others with a kind heart, optimism, a gentle disposition, a superior intellect, and a lovely sense of humour. Her niece Beate McManus accepted the award on her behalf.

**Ms. Moira Kelly** is another of our alumna (1982) and Order of Australia recipient. Moira was born in Melbourne on the 31st January 1964 and first voiced her interest in working with disadvantaged children after seeing a documentary film about Mother Teresa, as a young primary school student. After graduating from St Aloysius College, Moira studied Special Education, trained as a lay missionary and qualified as a Probation Officer to work with young offenders.

She then worked as a ‘house mother’ with young indigenous people in Western Australia, and subsequently returned to Melbourne, to then travel to Calcutta where she lived and worked with Mother Teresa’s mission.

In 1992 Moira travelled to Bosnia and Herzegovina. There she founded ‘Nobody’s Children’, a volunteer program at refugee camps. As Director of Field Operations of ‘Nobody’s Children’, she organised aid and welfare programs which led to establishment of two pharmacies with a free mobile dental health care clinic, a home care program and emergency medical evacuations of patients to overseas hospitals. After returning to Australia, Moira established the non-profit organisation ‘Children First Foundation’. The Foundation facilitates medical treatment for children in developing countries who have serious health problems. The children are often treated by medical teams who donate their expertise through the Royal Children’s Hospital and the Epworth Hospital, as well as medical teams in New York, Boston and Ireland.

All who know Moira and her work and achievements would perceive her life as testament to commitment and unyielding pursuits for improvement of physical, social and emotional circumstances of disadvantaged peoples across the world. Moira, an Australian International Humanitarian, is an inspiring woman, truly living Mercy values.

**Ms Elaine Kent**
Alumnae Liaison Coordinator & Archivist

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Top:  Ms. Moira Kelly
Left: Sr. Hermenilda (Lil) McManus
## College Donors and Supporters

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Strive for Higher Things