Principal’s Welcome

This year, 2016 is quite literally an extraordinary year – in fact, it’s an extraordinary Jubilee year, the Jubilee of Mercy. The Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy commenced on 8 December 2015 – with the opening of the Holy Door at St Peter’s Basilica – and will conclude on 20 November 2016 with the sealing of the Holy Door. For the first time in history, the Pope invited each individual Diocese across the globe to open a Holy Door – a Door of Mercy – and St Aloysius College has taken this idea to heart.

Our College theme for 2016 has been Catherine McAuley’s inspirational and reflective words: “Mercy receives us anew and pardons again and again”; Mercy invites us to open new doors, to revisit old ones and to seek tireless ways of turning our Mercy values into actionable pursuits. As a community we have been challenged this year to be ‘the face of Mercy’, and as you flick through these pages I’m sure you will agree that, as a community, we have risen to that challenge and met it in a manner that we all should be incredibly proud of. This year we have ‘flung open the doors’ in both a real and metaphorical sense....and we still have so much to do! If you haven’t revisited St Aloysius in a while, what better time to do so than in this Jubilee Year of Mercy? As always, at St Aloysius College, all are most welcome.

This edition of Always Aloysius reveals a snapshot of 2016 and the year so far. There are articles from past students, mothers of current students and words from staff. The community is a dynamic one, steeped in tradition but very much agile, moving not only with the times, but ahead of it! Enjoy the read and please come and visit.

In the footsteps of Catherine McAuley,

Mary Farah
Principal
Thursday 18th February was the Opening College Mass, an occasion on which the whole school – students, teaching staff, administration staff, parents, and invited guests came together to give thanks to God for our College, and to ask God’s blessing on the year ahead.

Fr. Hien Vu and Fr. Joe Dirks concelebrated. The Mercy Education Board was represented by Directors Mr Tony Wheeler and Ms Mary Retel, and Catholic Education Melbourne by Regional General Manager, Mr John Mills. St. Aloysius College Advisory Council Members Ms. Maria Ruberto, Dr. Wendy Bower, and Ms. Joan Ryan were also in attendance as well as our College Chaplain, Sr. Carmel McCormick.

The College theme for 2016; influenced by the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, and drawn directly from the words of Catherine McAuley, is “Mercy receives us anew, and pardons again and again”. It was appropriate then, that this be the theme of the Opening College Mass. The Gospel reading was taken from Luke Chapter 6, “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful”.

At the Mass, new staff of the College were commissioned in their various roles, and presented with a College candle, a Mercy Education Values bookmark and an Inspired by Catherine McAuley book; signifying not only that they accept their roles as educators in a Mercy school, but that in their facilitation of learning, they empower the students of St. Aloysius College to live as women of Mercy through word and example.

The occasion of the Opening College was both sacred and celebratory. It marked an important and significant event in the life of our College community.

Dr. Brendan Hyde  
Head of Catholic Identity and Action
St Aloysius College Alumni Recognised on St Aloysius, Feast Day

Celebration of St Aloysius’ Feast Day provided a special opportunity to recognise past students who continue to be formally involved in the College community.

Mass was celebrated in the College Hall by Bishop Terry Curtin which was followed by a College Assembly.

Alumnae Sisters of Mercy, Sr. Beth Calthorpe, Sr. Fran Caldwell, Sr. Sylvia Williams, Sr. Julie O’Brien and Sr. Rosemary Paterson, alumnae teachers Rina Prinzi and Rosa Martic, alumnae administrators Marita Whitten, Sarah Alissi and Pina McCallum and Alumnus Fr. Barry Tobin were inducted as Old Collegians.

To top this wonderful occasion off, Mass was concelebrated by our alumnus, Fr. Barry Tobin.
High Achievers of 2015

On Thursday 18 February a High Achievers’ Assembly was held to celebrate the achievements of the Year 12 Class of 2015. This assembly was an opportunity for staff, students and families to come together in recognition and celebration of all of the hard work, dedication and commitment displayed by our highest achievers.

The assembly culminated in our 2015 College Dux, Edna Marely Adan Sanchez (pictured right with Principal, Mary Farah), delivering a very powerful and inspiring speech. Marely spoke about the importance of making the most of one’s opportunities, especially in the secondary school years.

As a College we wish each of our graduating students all the best for the next phase of their lives. We very much look forward to your continued involvement in our College as valued Alumnae.
Congratulations to the St Aloysius class of 2015

St Aloysius College congratulates the 2015 Year 12 cohort on their achievements:

- **TOP 20%**: One in four girls achieved an ATAR placing them in the top 20% of the State.
- **TOP 8%**: Over a fifth of students achieved a study score in the top 8% of the State.
- **40+ SCORES**: Over a third of classes had students with scores of 40+.
- **TOP 8%**: 43% of VCE studies with students in the top 8% of the State.
- **100% SUCCESS**: in VCAL.

Courses offered to St Aloysius students at each institution:

- RMIT
- Latrobe University
- Victoria University
- Australian Catholic University
- Monash University
- University of Melbourne
- Swinburne University
- Box Hill Institute
- William Anglis Institute
- Deakin University
- Academy of Design
- Australian College of Applied Psychology
- Kangaroo Institute

Most popular courses – Class of 2015:

- Health Sciences/Medical
- Commerce
- Design
I first walked through the main gate of St Aloysius College, which was at the Brougham Street end, in February 1969 and graduated in 1974. My surname then was Nero. I came to St Al’s with one friend from Brunswick (St. Margaret Mary Primary School – Mercy Sisters), but soon made many new friends. There were certainly many to choose from with the school numbering close to Fifteen Hundred students!!
Always Aloysious – Winter 2016

I remember lining up every Monday morning in our blue wrap-around aprons on the yard on which now stands the Library and Hall. We were addressed by the Principal, Sr Elaine Harrington, we would say our pledge: “I love God and my country, I serve the Queen, I honour the Flag and I cheerfully obey parents, teachers and the laws” Then we listened to “God Save the Queen” and marched off to our classes of approximately thirty five to forty students!!

I remember Sr. Barbara standing by the Chapel door and greeting us each morning with “Good morning ladies, don’t forget to go in and say good morning to God before going to class.” and pointed to the chapel door.

Further down the pathway, near the now Food Tech courtyard, we would find Sr. Dorethea with her one meter rule. If she wasn’t happy with the length of the skirt she would ask the girl to kneel, down measure the length from the ground to her knee, and if it wasn’t the correct length, the student would be sent to the textiles room to unpick and re-do her hem!!

It was lovely seeing the nuns around the school, Sr. Dorothea, who taught Secretarial Studies, Economics and also managed the College’s financial books; Sr. Mae who introduced me to the love of reading and Sr. Adrian who taught us woodwork and floral arrangement. Just to name a few.

I must mention Sr. Helen Delaney, who was my Principal for all but one of my student years, and then was my first employer. It was because of her inspiration and guidance that I chose a career in teaching. It is always lovely to see Sr. Helen. Each time she reminds me that she has a recording of AMARA, the first Musical Production performed at St Al’s (written & produced by Jeff & Joanne Neal), in which I had a leading role.

Sr. Francis Baker became principal after Sr. Helen and it is because of her faith me that I am still teaching at St Aloysius. Sr. Francis was very supportive when mum was diagnosed with Alzheimers.

In my time at St Al’s as a teacher, since 1978, I have taught Mathematics, Music, Language Studies, and Religious Education to Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 students and I have been part of the Musical Production team, Junior RE & Music Co-ordinator and Choir Director. I was part of the Music Department when we celebrated our Centenary and had the pleasure of performing on stage at Hamer Hall as a soloist and as part of the Past Pupils Choir. I have had many opportunities to conduct the choir and congregation at our school masses, but my greatest achievement was preparing and conducting the choir for our mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral to mark the 125 years of St Aloysius College. This year I am teaching Year 7 Italian and Mathematics, Year 8 Mathematics and Year 9 Italian and Religious Education. I am also Pastoral Leader of 8C.

Since leaving St Al’s as a student, I completed a Diploma of Teaching and a Bachelor of Education. Whilst teaching at St. Al’s I have completed an Associate Diploma in Opera and Music Theatre and a Certificate IV in Training & Assessment. Also, I married Piero and we have three beautiful children Jessica, Cassandra and Maximiliano. I am proud to say that both my girls chose to complete their secondary studies at St Al’s because they felt it offered both academic and creative pathways. Jessica graduated from Melbourne University with a Bachelor of Science but has decided to pursue her other love, the performing arts, and is now in Ballarat studying a Bachelor of Musical Theatre. Cassandra is completing her last year of a Bachelor of Fine Arts and intends to travel and explore other avenues within the creative arts. They were both involved in the school productions and both share my love of music and singing. Max is studying at CRC North Keilor and was rather disappointed that St Al’s wasn’t co-ed!!

In my time at St Al’s, as a student and staff member, I have been guided and nurtured through my Mercy journey by many wonderful people who have instilled in me the Mercy values of Hospitality, Service, Compassion, Social Justice and so much more. These are the values that have made me into the wife, mother, teacher and friend I am today and I hope will continue in my children.

Rina Prinzi
The Two of Us

Margaret Lewis and Carmel Tammaro

CARMEL TAMMARO (Vitale)
Alumna: 1957 – 1962

I first met Margaret in 1957 when I started Year 7 at St Aloysius College.

In the beginning I tended to mix with a couple of girls who had come from St Mary’s in West Melbourne, as I had. The new school was larger, intimidating at first, but we soon mixed well as everyone we found, was very friendly.

Margaret always stood out. She was tall, confident, and of course a red head.

She was liked by all; eventually becoming School Captain in Year 12. We became particularly close from years ten to twelve, and after fifty nine years still are.

Margaret was embraced by my entire extended Italian family, in fact she is considered part of that family. To me she is like a sister.

She is Godmother to one of my daughters, and I, in turn, was her Matron of Honour and Godmother to both of her sons.

There is nothing that we cannot say to each other.

After leaving school Margaret went on to be a teacher, but after a couple of years she left to become a Flight Attendant with TAA and then Qantas until 2014. She was so generous that she nominated me as her travelling companion with Qantas and we had many fun filled overseas trips together.

In life, we meet many people, and we may have many acquaintances and sometimes friends, for which I have been very fortunate.
It is very rare, however, to find someone who is completely selfless, generous, honest, intelligent, and whom you would trust with your life – for me that is Margaret.

I feel I have been truly blessed. We are always there for each other and our families.

In fifty nine years I cannot recall ever having had a disagreement. Without any offence to my other friends, Margaret is, and always will be, [ Numero Uno ] Number 1.

PS. Margaret was always late for school, but somehow she always managed to win the Late for School race on Sports Days. How she ever managed to be on time for work to catch all of those planes we will never know.

MARGARET TAYLOR (Lewis)
Alumna: 1950 – 1962

Carmel arrived in Form1. I had been at St Al's since Prep . The influx of new girls from nearby Primary Schools shook the status quo. They were smart and good at sport. Some were from European backgrounds eg. Polish, Dutch, and Italian.

It was just before leaving school that Carmel and I became buddies. Family-wise we were opposites. I was an only child and my mother widowed. Carmel had her grandmother, parents, brother, sister, uncles, aunts, etc. and the whole Italian community.

Carmel’s parents owned San Remo Catering and San Remo Ballroom, Carlton North. In the 1960’s weddings, balls, dinner dances and Sunday night dances were so popular. Many a girl from St Al’s met their future husbands there. Carmel included me in all of these social activities. I was so lucky.

Carmel married at twenty and when I eventually married at thirty three; she insisted on having my wedding reception in her home. It was perfect. She has also catered for my sons’ christenings, communions and birthdays.

Carmel’s generosity knows no bounds. Carmel is the most giving person I know. She never goes anywhere empty handed. If she sees something whilst shopping she will buy it for you. If you are not feeling well, a broth will arrive. Most times I am on the receiving end but occasionally I have a win.

We have enjoyed several overseas adventures thanks to my work. Ten years ago her family included me in a return to Ragusa visit. I was able to see the town where Carmel was born and experience the Sicilian culture.

Carmel achieves one hundred and one things in a day whilst I am still writing a list. Carmel could feed an army. Mine would die of malnutrition. When Carmel speaks Italian I am an earnest listener, but sometimes, I understand more than she realizes.

Her family are my family. My friends are her friends and vice versa.

We have in common, the need to win, over who pays the bill, telepathy, a love of clothes, reading, travel and an enjoyment of each other’s company. We are each other’s “very best friend”.

The bond that formed as classmates, and lasted all these years, must give credit to those very happy years spent at St Al’s. That was the foundation for our lasting and wonderful friendship.
On the 20th April, 2016, the class of 1976 returned to the College, for the first time as a group, to celebrate their 40 year reunion. The evening was made special not only by more than thirty past students attending, but also by the presence of Sr. Helen Delaney (our Principal at the time), Mary Farah, current College Principal, past teachers – Joan Audino and Jeff Neale, Sr. Carmel McCormick, College Chaplain and current College leadership.

Teresa Soliman (Ruberto) and Angela Grassi (Pavone), expressed their joy at the overwhelming and enthusiastic response to the evening. They were truly grateful for the effort made by all and acknowledged those who travelled a great distance to be present on the night – especially, Christina Montano from Sydney and Giulia Capocchi from the Mornington Peninsula.

The atmosphere was electrifying and the emotions ran high as each person entered the College. Ladies seeing each other again after so many years, and catching up made the room a very exciting place to be in. This excitement continued through the corridors of the College when the Class of 76 was taken on a tour to see the massive improvements made since we left the College. Memories and stories of events that took place many years ago, where revisited along the way.

The names of all those who could not attend were read out and the memory of former students and teachers who have passed onto eternal life were remembered as well.

In the welcoming speech, Angela said: “Tonight, we remember the commencement of our secondary school experience on these very grounds and that within these buildings, we travelled our learning journeys together, as Sisters of Mercy students. We therefore, gather...
tonight, to celebrate and share the stories of our pathways and successes to which we owe our academic and spiritual nurturing. We are the prodigal students of St. Aloysius College Class of 1976."

A celebration would not be complete without a cake and Sr. Helen was given the honour of cutting the celebratory cake.

The class of 1976 who gathered in spirit and laughter sincerely thanked those who contributed in making the night possible.

Firstly, Mary Farah for allowing the group to gather and re-open the school doors as well as her generosity of hospitality; to Elaine Kent for her support in organizational and administrative follow-through to make the night possible and to the current leadership team for their time and participation leading the school tours.

A special thank you to Sr. Carmel McCormick for supporting the evening and to Sr. Helen for her address and kind words to the Class of ’76.

The evening then concluded with the final prayer – I am a Mercy Girl.

The group now awaits the wonderful 130 year celebrations of the College next year.

Angela Grasso (Pavone)
I began my education at St Aloysius College in 1952. As I hadn’t turned five until June 25, I started at the beginning of Term 3. Beginning also on that day were Mary Flynn and Carmen Southall. We were in the Babies, as it was called then.

My sister, Nola was in Sub-Intermediate (Year 9) that year at the College, so I travelled by two trains with her, coming from Spotswood and changing trains at North Melbourne then catching the Fawkner train to Flemington Bridge.

At that time Sr. Leonie taught us. In the one classroom there were Bubs, Grade 1 and Grade 2. So in effect Sr. Leonie taught me for two years and one term.

When I was in Grade 2 we made our First Communion and if my memory serves me correctly, we had our First Confession in Grade 1. Our First Communion was made at St Michael’s Church on the 31st October 1954.

Moving on to Grades 3 and 4, our teacher was Mrs. Rafferty again, all in the one room.

At the time of my enrolment, boys also attended the College from Babies to Grade 3, where they usually went on to St Joseph’s College, North Melbourne in Grade 4 and continued their education with the Christian Brothers there.

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Moving on to Grades 3 and 4, our teacher was Mrs Rafferty again, all in the one room.

In Grades 5 and 6 our teacher was Mrs Goodman and in Grade 7 we were taught by Sr. Pauline when that class received the Sacrament of Confirmation also at St Michael’s Church. In Grade 8 our teacher was Miss Furdos.

I remember that year was the first year where we had two classes. When I reached Sub-Intermediate my teacher was Miss Wallace and we went to three classes and there was also three classes of Intermediate. Miss D’Aprano was my class teacher. Two Leaving classes were privileged to have as our Class Teacher Sr. Xaveria who later became Reverend Mother, or as we understand today, The Principal of St Aloysius College.

Some of the Sisters during my time were: Reverend Mother Xavier, Mother Claver, Sr. Dorothea who was in charge of the Commercial classes; Typing and Shorthand. She also taught Economics to the Leaving and Matriculation classes as well as collecting school fees and other financial related activities. Sr. Flavia taught French as did Sr. Florence. Sr. Columba taught German and as I remember in the fifties, and she was quite elderly. Sisters Elizabeth, Maurice and Valeria taught me piano over the years. Later on, Sr. Liam and Sr. Francine came to the College in the early 60s and from memory Sr. Francine taught the Sciences.
Mrs. MacDonald would come once a week to teach singing to all classes and Miss Kellaher (may not be quite right) taught Elocution.

Mrs Hooper would come everyday at lunchtime and sell lollies to the students. She was a lovely, jolly lady, who now, on reflection, was a very patient lady.

The College had a school ball every year in August at the Melbourne Town Hall where each class from Babies through to the Senior Classes performed various dance items. Towards the end of my schooling we forewent the Ball and instead performed Operettas.

Our Dancing teachers were from the May Downs Dancers, including May Downs. We would have these classes at St Michael’s Primary School Hall, (just up the hill in Brougham Street).

I finished my years at St Aloysius in 1963 on completion of Leaving.

I have very fond memories of my time at the College.

After graduating at St Aloysius, I was employed at the Taxation Office in Melbourne, where I found a number of Old Collegians also employed there.

In 1971 I married Lawrie Grant and now we have five adult children and five grandchildren.

In 2013, we retired from our relevant employment, Lawrie was an Architect in a Melbourne Practice and I was Receptionist at Mount St Joseph Girls’ College, Altona.

In our retirement, we found an advertisement in a Parish Newsletter asking for Volunteers in the Kimberley. The advertisement asked for people with some gardening, maintenance, housekeeping, administrative, building, electrical, plumbing and carpentry skills. Whilst still enjoying good health, we applied to volunteer for the Catholic Diocese of Broome, and we were accepted. Lawrie is in charge of properties and coordinating building projects that are in need of repair or proposed new buildings which are coordinated in the Bishop’s office Broome. I work in the Diocese office in Reception.

From time to time we go to help at remote communities in the Kimberley. Recently, we were in Balgo, which is a small Aboriginal community, about 900 kms from Broome and approximately 800 kms from Alice Springs. This community is situated just off the Tanami Road bordering The Tanami and Great Sandy Deserts. We were there for a couple of weeks until the next volunteers arrived. We had been there three times previously, supporting the Parish Priest with day to day working and maintenance of the Parish, formerly a mission. We were then sent to Kalumburu December / January 2013/14 for eight weeks, which is the northern most part of Western Australia, where similar roles were undertaken. Another community is Warmun, formerly known as Turkey Creek, which is along the Great Northern Highway, where we spent another couple of weeks.

Lawrie goes to these places from time to time checking buildings and then he writes reports on the needs of repairs and coordinates the works.

We are planning to leave the Kimberley in mid August 2016 and be home in September after a period of approximately thirty three months away. We did have a break at home in Werribee, from October 2014 to April 2015 and one month mid December to mid January 2015-16.

We have loved our work and involvement in the communities, but after such a time away from home, we are looking forward to spending quiet and gentle time with our children and grandchildren.

Julie Grant
Link today’s St Aloysius students with St Aloysius College Alumnae working in the Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

St Aloysius College had the privilege of hosting part of the ‘The League of Remarkable Women in Australian Science’ exhibition in March. It was an inspiring photographic display of insights from women scientists working throughout Australia, in industry and academia. Forty female scientists studying volcanoes, dark matter, spiders, solar cells, protein crystallography, photosynthesis, and more, shared what it meant to them to be a woman in science, with the exhibition curator Dr Anne-Sophie Dielen.

The League of Remarkable Women in Science exhibition was first displayed during National Science Week 2015 and was sponsored by Inspiring Australia and the Australian National University Gender Institute. Women in Science AUSTRALIA proudly brought the exhibit to Melbourne as part of a tour around Australia, including regional and rural areas. St Aloysius College was invited to host part of the exhibition for two weeks. While it was on site, the college community was inspired by the women’s accounts of the determination, persistence and personal reward that was part of their career journeys. Both staff and students commented on the warmth brought into our STEM centre when the faces of women from different generations were displayed over the walls.

Three of our Year 9 students were also invited to attended the launch of the exhibition at the Melbourne Brain Institute. They were fortunate to hear firsthand about the career experiences and extraordinary research projects of a number of prominent female Australian scientists. Our students were made very welcome and were sought out by a number of the prominent guests who were keen to inspire our students to consider science career pathways.

St Aloysius College is planning our own exhibition of remarkable women in science, engineering, technology and mathematics careers. It is incredibly important to model a range of potential career pathways for our current and future students. Profiling past students, both recent and from previous decades, helps our students to believe that pathway is possible for them too.

We know there are many alumni who have forged careers in the STEM fields. If you are willing to be interviewed or if you are in contact with alumni who might be willing to join in our St Aloysius College Exhibition of Remarkable Women in STEM, please contact Susan Long (longs@aloysius.vic.edu.au).

Dr Susan Long
Innovation and Curriculum Design Leader
AFL Clinic Story
North Melbourne Footballers train St Aloysius Students

On Tuesday the 1st of March, students from Years 7 to 12 participated in a skills clinic run by five players of North Melbourne Football Club. They worked on their handballing, kicking and bouncing. It was great to see so many students from all year levels connecting and enjoying being physically active together. You will enjoy reading some student recounts of the experience.

Ms Jennifer Hay
Sports Coordinator

Student Recounts:

The visit from North Melbourne football players brought together large numbers of the St Aloysius girls despite the hot weather. We were taught several basic skills such as handballing, bouncing the ball and kicking, which, although ended up in missed targets, was a great laugh for us all. The clinic overall was great fun but what I liked most about it was that girls from different year levels who wouldn’t normally choose to play sports during lunchtime moved out of their comfort zones and participated.

Mi-An Dang Year 12

On Tuesday the North Melbourne Football players came to do clinics with us. It was hot and sunny; everyone was pumped up with a lot of energy, and so excited to meet the players. The North Melbourne players are very tall and really good players. We had to stand in a line with our partners and bounce the ball and handball it to them. Then we played a game and our aim was to get the ball into the basketball hoop. Everyone tried very hard with varying levels of success. After that we played another game – Drop or Catch. One person was chosen by the players to stand in the middle of the field and the remainder of us chose a side, either Drop side or Catch side. If the person in the middle of the court caught the ball the people who were on the Drop side had to do five push ups. Everyone had a big smile on their faces and enjoyed the clinic and the game we played. When it was Ms Hay’s turn some of us went to the Catch side and some went to the Drop side; the ball was flying in the air and Ms Hay jumped and caught the ball. The Drop side had to do five push ups and we were saved by Ms Hays Catch. At the end of the program everyone went up to the football players and thanked them for the experience.

Neha Oraniuk Year 9
Vale Audrey Mary Brockhoff (nee Kelly)
9th April 1931 - 28th August 2015
Alumna St Aloysius College 1949

This article is in memory of our Alumna, Audrey Mary Brockhoff, written with the kind support of her children, Mary, Monica, Michael and Paul.

Audrey attended St Aloysius College, graduating in 1949 when she held the position School Captain. She trained as a teacher in the 1950’s at Mercy Teachers’ College, Ascot Vale under the tutelage of Sister Mary Ethelburga (Mary Harrington). Sr. Mary, coincidentally was the novice mistress of our much loved chaplain to St Aloysius College, Sr. Carmel McCormick. Sr. Mary died two years ago and had two sisters who were also Sisters of Mercy.

In her teacher training Audrey undertook practicums at St Aloysius College and as her son Michael recalled, “Audrey loved her time at St Aloysius both as a student and teacher.”

Audrey would tell the story of how she got to North Melbourne and Ascot Vale from Surrey Hills in the years of post World War 11, Melbourne when train strikes were a regular occurrence. Audrey would be driven to Richmond where one of her aunts had a hairdressing salon right underneath the Swan Street railway overpass. From there she would take her bike, which she left at the salon, and ride to school or college. She said sometimes she would ride along Swan Street into town and make her way to Elizabeth Street and northwards. Sometimes she would go along Wellington Parade or straight up Punt Road. She said the trip home was always quicker as much of it was downhill.

Audrey had remarkable energy for a woman who was not expected to survive childhood. When she was twelve years old, she spent many months in Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital with Scarlet Fever. She missed a whole year of school. She once asked her mother what, “pushing up daisies,” meant. Bewildered, her mother asked her why. Audrey recounted that she had overheard one of the nurses telling another that was what she would soon be doing. In all innocence, Audrey was concerned that she would not be able to perform this “pushing up daisies” task and wanted to get ahead of the game. That was so like Audrey to be super organised. A born teacher.

Audrey married Gijsbertus Gerardus Maria Brockhoff (Guy) in 1955 at Surrey Hills and moved to Clayton and the Parish of St Peters where she taught at St Peter’s Primary School for many years.

In Audrey’s Eulogy, Mary remembered when her Mum was having Paul. She was six, Monica five and Michael two. “Mum told Monica and I to look on our bed heads for a beautiful ribboned headband that she had sewed especially for us. If we found them there in the morning when we woke up, it meant Mummy had gone to hospital to have the new baby. We were so excited and jumped around squealing when we found those headbands.”

As the family grew, Audrey returned to teaching at St Peters, Clayton, which is where her children attended school. Audrey was feared by the kids, but usually only the naughty ones – “Oh no Mrs. Brockhoff is on the war path again!” She never let any student, her children included, get away with anything. She was a no nonsense, practical and caring teacher, who had the gift of seeing beneath layers and masks.
to bring forward a child’s full potential. Over the years, Audrey’s children have been approached as adults by former students who have said they were not sure where they may have ended up if Mrs. Brockhoff had not been a part of their lives.

In 1984 Audrey and Guy moved to Yarroweyah, a small hamlet near Cobram by the Murray River, later moving into Cobram in the mid 1990’s. During her time in this district, Audrey continued to teach at St Joseph’s Primary School, Cobram and at other schools in the Sandhurst Diocese; St Joseph’s Primary School, Numurkah and Galen College, Wangaratta.

Audrey’s family wishes to honour her beautiful life, her love of their father who adored her from the moment he laid eyes on her, her strength, integrity and courage, her diligence and hard working ethic, her trust and love of God and the path set before her.

They honour a woman who was a daughter, a sister, a cousin, an aunty, a mother, a grandmother, a great grandmother, a teacher, a mentor and a friend to many. They honour a woman of Mercy values.

With these sentiments, Audrey’s family chose the following Reading from the Book of Proverbs for her Requiem Mass.

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Who shall find a valiant woman?
Who shall find a woman of strength?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband’s heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life.
All who are with her have confidence in her and benefit from her experience.
She initiates good, not evil every day of her life.
She does not neglect her tasks; she willingly works.
Broadminded, her understanding of life is a source of nurture for her.
She considers her options, makes her move, investing the experience she already has, She works diligently; taking pride in her inner resources and strengths.
She opens her heart to the needy; she is generous with the poor; yet she does not neglect the family’s needs nor her own priorities.
She is known for her dignity and strength and she laughs at the days to come.
She speaks with wisdom and she teaches kindly.
Those who are close to her; praise her.
Charm is superficial, and beauty fades, but the woman who is wise is the one to be praised.
May all value who she is and may all applaud her integrity.

Audrey is survived by her brother John, her children Mary, Monica, Michael and Paul, grandchildren Chris, Miho, Leah, Jacob, Maya, Harold, Bethany, Zane and great grandchild Kotaro.
Mothers’ Day Breakfast

In celebration of Mother’s Day, the College hosted the inaugural Mother’s Day Breakfast to celebrate all mothers in our community. The event was well attended with over two hundred and ten people gathering early on the Friday morning before Mother’s Day.

Breakfast was a beautiful spread laid in the College hall with decorated tables for mothers, daughters and grandmothers to dine at. This special event was crowned by the address of Andrea Clarke, our guest speaker.

Andrea is a Television News Reporter, driven by a passion for human rights. In 2008, Andrea moved into the international non-profit arena, as a media officer for International Relief & Development based in Washington D.C. For most of her career as a television news reporter, Andrea covered major news events for Al Jazeera English, the Pentagon Channel, the Seven Network and Reuters, including the US Presidential Election, the Virginia Tech campus shooting and Hurricane Katrina. Andrea has also filed reports for SBS World News and currently appears on Sky News Australia and Sky Business News as a guest commentator.

Andrea spoke of her involvement in establishing the unprecedented outreach event between the State Department and the Sudan advocacy movement. This involved establishing a live, online broadcast from the White House in which the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan answered questions from activists about the administration’s strategy to bring peace to the region.

We often speak about role models for our girls, but rarely do we meet someone with the drive, energy and female tenacity that Andrea exhibits. Her example, is one every girl who wishes to achieve her dreams can pursue – knowing that everything is possible.
Music seems to provide a background to all of my memories of my days at St Aloysius College. In some form or other, music wafted through the corridors of the school and flowed from the convent parlour. Singing lessons took place in classrooms and girls undertook private instruction in piano and sometimes violin, with varying degrees of competency. One day per week we marched up the hill to St Michael’s Hall to be instructed in the mysteries of ballroom dancing. So, it is not then surprising, that when it was decided to discontinue the annual college ball where we girls displayed our ballroom dancing skills to parents, it was decided instead to stage an operetta.

Directed by Miss Mercovich, choreographed by Miss Downs, with the music provided by Miss Walsh and all coordinated by Sister Xaviera, “The Emperor’s Nightingale” was staged on Tuesday August 6th 1963 at the Melbourne Town Hall with almost all girls at the College at the time involved in the production.

The operetta was in three acts and the story line was simple. The Emperor of Japan hears of and seeks out a nightingale. As a consequence the Emperor meets Peach Blossom, a humble kitchen servant, who becomes Empress. In addition to the main characters, there were ladies of the court, butterflies, flowers, lantern bearers, fan bearers, umbrella bearers, stick bearers and birds, all of whom sang and danced.

On the stage, the time flew. I can still remember clearly looking out over the audience as people sat silently listening to Rosemary Stevenson (Peach Blossom) and I (the Emperor of Japan) sing the love duet. Only the music could be heard, there was not even a cough from the audience.

By all accounts the performance was a great success, and so it should have been given the amount of time and energy injected into the performance by College Staff, parents and girls. However the outcome could have been different – the “super cool” Emperor of Japan after blithely informing her mother that she was not at all nervous, left her costume at home and a taxi had to do a high speed dash back home to get it!

A copy of both the program and the libretto are held in the College Heritage Room. The libretto is the original document and has been annotated by hand by both Sister Xaveria and Miss Walsh. The College reunion on Saturday, September 3rd this year, and celebrations of the College’s 130 years in 2017 will provide opportunities for we who took part in the operetta to meet again.

[With a little persuasion I may perform my part in the “The Emperor’s Nightingale”).

Antoinette Trembath (Kelly)
Alumna 1962
## College Donors and Supporters

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Strive for Higher Things