Creative Connections 2012
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We blossom and flourish

This term we said farewell to our 94 Year 12 girls. As I sat in their final chapel assembly, at which our Kindergarten students sang, I reflected on the 13 years of growth that takes place during school, and the great joy it is to watch our girls develop from young children into fine young women. And as they leave school for the wide world beyond, we are always so proud to hear of their achievements – whether winning Olympic medals or sitting on the board of the International Sumo Federation.

Our wish for every St Catherine’s girl is that she leaves us with the character and skills to flourish at whatever she does.

And to ensure that our school remains a place of challenge and growth, this year we published our Strategic Plan, which will inform our direction for the next five years. At the heart of the Plan is our vision for every St Catherine’s girl, that she will be “secure in her character; confident in her abilities, respectful in her manner, and equipped to make her unique contribution to the world.”

As you read our latest Bulletin, I feel sure you will get a strong sense of our flourishing school community, from our primary girls, to our secondary girls, to our Old Girls – wherever in the world they may be.

Dr Julie Townsend
Headmistress
St Catherine’s shines at London 2012

St Catherine’s has always been renowned for its sporting achievements, with many girls over the years entering the sporting Hall of Fame. This year our school has excelled itself with five representatives at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

St Catherine’s Old Girl Olivia Price fought hard for gold as skipper in the women’s match racing team. Her team won silver in a exciting final match against the Spanish. Olivia Price left St Catherine’s in 2009 to further her dream of taking part in the 2012 Olympics.

When the competition started, Olivia was just 19 years of age, the youngest member of the Olympic sailing team. She celebrated her twentieth birthday on the water after a series of successful match tests. “St Catherine’s is so proud of everything Olivia has achieved in London, a silver medal is a fantastic and well deserved achievement, it’s amazing to see her reach her Olympic dream,” Mr Ryan Cameron, St Catherine’s Director of Sport said.

Three of St Catherine’s sports coaches, Mr Richie Campbell, Mr Joel Dennerley and Mr Andrew Yanitsas also flew to London to take part in the men’s water polo. Both Mr Campbell and Mr Dennerley competed in the water, with Mr Yanitsas motivating the team as Sports Science Coordinator/Coach. The men’s team played well, seeing them through to the quarter finals, ending in a close defeat against Serbia.

Mr Yanitsas said “Fifteen years of coaching at St Catherine’s provided me with the experience and support to take me to the Olympics. It was a dream come true to represent my country and take my coaching to the highest level possible.”

The London 2012 Olympics was Mr Campbell’s second Olympic water polo appearance, having competed in Beijing in 2008.

The coaches’ water polo success has been passed on to the students. Four St Catherine’s girls brought home Australia’s first medal in the U20’s tournament at the Pan Pacific Festival, winning bronze in New Zealand.

“This just shows the strength of St Catherine’s water polo, it is of a world class level with some great players coming through. The Olympics 2016 are well within their sights” Mr Dennerley says.

Old Girl Sarah Stewart won her third Paralympic medal in women’s wheelchair basketball in London. Sarah won silver in Athens in 2004, bronze in Beijing 2008 and silver at this year’s games.

Mr Christian Sprenger, brother of Junior School teacher Miss Hancock, won silver in the 100m breaststroke and bronze in the Men’s 4x100m medley relay. Mr Sprenger also won silver at the Beijing Olympics. Sport at St Catherine’s is of a world class standard with many girls competing at a national and international level in a variety of sports, the last few months has brought extraordinary excitement for the girls current and past.
Gearing for a global future

On 4 September the world renowned, Boston based Mr Alan November came to St Catherine’s to work with staff, parents and a select group of students.

It was an Australian first for students and teachers to work with November in this way.

The day was declared a student free day except for a group of 20 girls who took part in the interactive sessions and who will continue to work as a focus group.

The ground breaking educational learning workshop revolved around these vital questions – do you know how to search on the internet? Do you know where the information came from?

Simple questions! After a session with Mr November it is clear that there is much more to online research than you had ever imagined.

Mr November amazed and empowered students and teachers alike with tools and techniques to unravel the intricacies, deceptions and permanency of the internet.

Mr November said “We strive towards challenging and inspiring faculty to think beyond the classroom and work towards preparing students for today’s global economy.”

In the evening, parents attended a Parents’ Digital Survival Kit session with Mr November where he provided the tools to help keep their children safe online and develop good-quality research techniques from a young age.

“It is possible that technology is changing so fast that parents have not caught up to helping their children think critically about digital content… The role of the parent is critical in partnership with the school to prepare our children to be safe, to be critical thinkers and to prepare to have a global work ethic.”

Mr November teaches that “It’s not the technology itself that’s important; it’s the way we use it.”

Year 10 student Brodie Clark said “I feel very privileged to be able to learn from Alan November as he is such a prominent and knowledgeable figure in regards to technology – it’s intrinsic to all areas of our lives but also often challenging and misunderstood,” said Brodie.

Francesca Earp in Year 10 said “This opportunity to learn alongside my teachers was an interesting change to the normal student teacher relationship. After considering how I use the internet I have realised that I know very little about the world of technology that surrounds me.”

Mr Carnemolla said “We are delighted to have had such a prestigious world leader in technological thinking come to St Catherine’s. His experience in the field of technology and change is invaluable to the staff, students and parents.”

“Mr November shared with us that ‘We strive towards challenging and inspiring faculty to think beyond the classroom and work towards preparing students for today’s global economy.’”

“We strive towards challenging and inspiring faculty to think beyond the classroom and work towards preparing students for today’s global economy.”
A school of gardens and pathways

"The kiss of the sun for pardon, The song of the birds for mirth, One is nearer God's heart in a garden, Than anywhere else on earth." From God's Garden by Dorothy Frances Gurney

These days, when so much of our campus is covered with buildings it is a little difficult to imagine St Catherine's with extensive gardens, though trees are still very much in evidence.

The magnificent Moreton Bay figs by the Isabelle Hall Wing and our Magnolia grandiflora are all well over a hundred years old and were once surrounded by gardens. Eirene Mort, our authority for so much of St Catherine's history, drew a map of the gardens and grounds surrounding the Stone House in the 1890s. A kitchen garden, of course to provide vegetables for the boarders and a paddock for Nancy the cow, but also flower beds and open spaces. She describes her earliest school days as one of "little ones" like this: "We had lessons in the morning only. The afternoon was spent in the garden, gardening Australia judged by Costa from the ABC's Gardening Australia celebrating its Silver Jubilee. This year it will be judged by Costa from the ABC's Gardening Australia. Details are on Waverley Council's website.

Gabriela Tavella and Telsha Stevenson (Year 12), Anna Alexander (Year 11), Sophie Menzies (Year 10) and Rhianne Bori (Year 8), are the youngest siblings in their families to go through boarding at St Catherine's.

Meanwhile, Sze Wing (Year 12) and Ka Wing (Year 9), Beau (Year 12) and Belle (Year 8) Boopathakam, Courtney (Year 9) and Emily James (Year 7), and Xia (Anita) and Yuan (Fiona) Gong (both in Year 10) are currently living together in boarding.

What's it like living with your sister in boarding?

Beau and Belle: "I thought it would be annoying to have my sister live with me, but it's actually been good", explains Beau. "When I want to go out and enjoy Thai food, I have a willing partner! Belle and I were apart for four years and didn't get along at all. Well when I returned to Thailand, but now we're together at St Catherine's we don't fight much at all. It's really good to have Belle here to speak with in Thai."

Belle likes having her big sister in Year 12. "I feel protected having Beau here and if I'm upset I go to Beau. We like to go shopping and eating out together. I already feel that I'm going to miss Beau very much when she leaves, but I'm also feeling much more comfortable in boarding than when I first came."

Sze Wing and Ka Wing: "We've always got on very well. Sze says, "but drifted apart during my first three years in Sydney when Ka Wing was home in Hong Kong. Out of the two of us, I'm more independent, so it was a good thing I came first. We've grown closer since living under one roof, and I enjoy having Ka Wing closer. Ka Wing is equally enthusiastic about living in boarding with Sze Wing. It's great having Sze here; she's been very supportive and helped me settle in quickly. We enjoy sister time! at least once a term, stopping and sharing a meal together. I'm going to miss her next year, but she's planning to go to the University of NSW and that's not too far away from St Catherine's. I know she'll come and visit me."

Courtney and Emily: "I'm the eldest of six children and because I'm used to being around people, I settled quickly when I moved into boarding", Courtney explains. "When I heard Emily was coming I was excited for her, but at the same time wanted to be here by myself. It was difficult at first because Emily didn't find it easy being away from home. Eight months down the track she's much happier, I've regained my independence and I'm pleased that mothering phase is over!" Emily is grateful for Courtney's support. "It was good for me to have Courtney here because she helped me cope with my new environment. She showed me around the school, how to study and how to manage friendship issues. We got on well and I like having her here, although I don't need as much help any more."

Anita and Fiona Gong: "The Gong sisters have been in Australia for eight months, having spent most of that time studying English at Milton College, while staying with a "fabulous" home stay guardian. With their parents and three siblings in China, Fiona reveals they "suffered strong homesickness" when they first arrived in Sydney. Anita adds, "We have always been very close and have done everything together since we were seven years old. It helps being together; we are very happy here and comfortable sharing the flat in boarding."
Year 12’s passing parade
Our academic leaders

**Director of Staff**

**Miss Sonya Judd**
BSc (Maths) (Hons) Dip. Ed
In 2002 after seven years working in project management, in the corporate sector, Miss Judd realised that it was time to follow her dream of becoming a teacher. Having already gained a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics of Management, Sonya returned to the University of New South Wales to do a Diploma of Education. This led to her teaching role here at St Catherine’s as a full time mathematics teacher. Now in her tenth year Miss Judd has combined teaching with the demanding role of Director of Staff. In a nutshell the role involves making sure staff and students know where to be and when.

“I love working with the staff at St Catherine’s, I am so lucky to have the balance between administration and teaching. The classroom is definitely the highlight of my day. Everything else I am working on doesn’t matter when I’m in the classroom. The girls are all that matter.”

Miss Judd is also a musician, playing trombone for the school’s Senior orchestra, concert band and stage band. Born and bred in Clovelly, exploring new countries and cultures is another of Miss Judd’s passions, venturing through the States, Asia, Africa and Europe. While away Miss Judd takes the opportunity to kayak and bushwalk some of the world’s greatest tracks, with a favourite being in the northern tip of New Zealand’s tranquil South Island.

**Secondary and Tertiary Studies Adviser**

**Mrs Jo Robillard**
BA Dip. Ed
Having worked at St Catherine’s long enough to have seen Deputy Headmistress and Old Girl Mrs Anne Johnstone complete her HSC and graduate from St Catherine’s, Jo Robillard is one of St Catherine’s longest standing staff members. As a student Mrs Robillard loved school with a passion and felt that going back as a teacher was the best way to continue the joy of school life. Living in the eastern suburbs and graduating from the UNSW with a BA and Diploma in Education, Mrs Robillard went on to teach English and history at Sydney Girls’ High School whilst raising her three children.

The move to St Catherine’s saw Mrs Robillard taking on a careers advisory role which has been shaped and developed into the role she has today, overseeing secondary and tertiary studies. Mrs Robillard also sits on the UNSW High School Advisory Committee.

“In my role I get to know the girls on an individual basis. One of the best days, in the school year, is when the Year 12s return in December with their HSC results and ATAR. Their glowing faces and pride in their achievement is wonderful. Their happiness is infectious.”

Mrs Robillard loves spending time travelling with her husband, making regular trips to Europe and more locally to Lord Howe Island.

**Head of Design and Technology**

**Miss Kate Sonter**
Bsc (Design) Dip Ed
Despite making a pledge with her brother not to follow in the footsteps of her parents and become a teacher, Miss Kate Sonter has been teaching here at St Catherine’s for almost 14 years. Growing up in Gorokhan on the Central Coast, Miss Sonter moved to Newcastle to study a BA in Industrial Design, graduating in 1997. Not entirely sure of what the next step should be she started a graduate Diploma in Education. It was at this time Miss Sonter realised her calling in life and discovered a real love of teaching. A passion that has continued and developed throughout her career.

Miss Sonter feels her strength in teaching is in her relationship with the girls. “The highlight for me is working with the Year 12 girls on their HSC major works – when a girl achieves something and her face lights up – I love that moment!”

Miss Sonter continues to develop her creativity in her spare time, being a keen photographer and currently taking part in the 365 photo a day. Although she likes to keep most of her masterpieces under wraps Miss Sonter has had public success, making the top ten in a national photography competition.

Miss Sonter takes the opportunity to take photos while bushwalking in the many national parks around Australia, from Tasmania to the outback of the Northern Territory.

“Bushwalking makes me value the beauty of the world, it’s peaceful – I just love it.”

**Director of Sport**

**Mr Ryan Cameron**
Based in Cloatley with his family, wife Amanda and three boys, William 7 years, Joshua 6 and Callum 3, Mr Cameron has worked at St Catherine’s for ten years, becoming Director of Sport in 2010. Born in Paddington and growing up in the eastern suburbs, Mr Cameron gained a Bachelor of Arts in Human Movement Studies at UTS Kuring-gai supplemented by a Diploma in Health Counselling. Having represented NSW in athletics and played 1st grade Rugby Union for Easts, Southern Districts and Parramatta from 1997-2001, Mr Cameron knows the highs and lows of a young sporting career. Mr Cameron and his talented sports staff – some at Olympic standard – have coached many St Catherine’s girls into the sporting Hall of Fame, providing a first class sporting education here at St Catherine’s.

Previous to coming to St Catherine’s Mr Cameron worked for the University of New South Wales and braved the weather of the Scottish Highlands working at the George Watsons School, Edinburgh in 2000.

Aside from keeping the girls on their sporting toes he loves spending time with his family. “Sundays are usually spent at a park in winter riding bikes, kicking some sort of a ball around, or at the beach in summer making sandcastles and getting dumped on shore with the boys. I love golf but my last game was about seven years ago. I cheer on the Roosters, except when they play St George, as my family are all red V members.”
Design and technology saw a range of designs from sustainable, flat pack Christmas trees, anti-drinking campaigns and garments for all occasions. The challenging subject reaped rewards for all students through their learning in fields like ethics, manufacturing and the environment, which are all prevalent in global societies.

Likewise, visual arts produced an outstanding selection of works, through a variety of media from video art to photography, demonstrating the way that art is changing with the times. Art allows all students to challenge perceptions of the world while being able to create things within their imagination and thereby gain a sense of achievement and satisfaction.

The diversity of vocal and instrumental performances also demonstrated the dedication and hours of practice of these students. The drama performances allowed the St Catherine’s community to witness the journeys of characters through the transformation of students into fairytale characters and child soldiers and all provoked discussion and thought within audiences that came to watch.

Aboriginal studies major works reflected on Aboriginal communities, historically and contemporarily, which the students completed to a very high standard.

Overall, Creative Connections allowed St Catherine’s to show off the immense amount of creative flair and talent within their girls, which has been nurtured by the teachers since Year 7.

On behalf of all of the students I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our amazing teachers who have helped us through every step of the way and pushed us to create some inspiring individual achievements.

Charlotte Goodsir
Year 12
Junior School highlights

Kiravanu
Junior School’s magical children’s opera Kiravanu was a fantastic success. The hours of preparation by Junior School girls, parents, staff and the amazing director and music director Mrs Birrell, certainly paid off. The outstanding performance of singing, dancing and spectacular costumes was enjoyed by a packed audience of parents, Old Girls, staff and friends over the three performances in September.

St Catherine’s was honoured to have James Humberstone, the composer of Kiravanu, visit to see the production. Here is what he had to say:

“...it is just brilliant to see a school really lead the way with brilliantly executed works of art put on at the highest standard by children... On display was an incredible depth of talent not just from the leads but from every girl giving it her all on stage, and the dance, acting and musicianship were all of the highest calibre. I can’t tell you how proud and moved I was by the experience.”
Mothers and daughters working together

Clares to the power of four

I started at St Catherine’s as a teacher in the mathematics faculty in 2010. I have had a 16-year association as a parent with the school. I have three daughters who have all attended St Catherine’s since Kindergarten. My eldest daughter, Marcelle is now 22 years old. She began her schooling at St Catherine’s in 1996 and graduated in 2008. My middle daughter Montanna, is currently in Year 12 and the prefect for Holme-Moir. My youngest daughter, Remi is currently in Year 8. One of the best features of working at the school my children attend is having my special coffee delivery every morning. Of course, being able to be present at their assemblies and sporting carnivals is wonderful too. It has worked well for me to be at the school in so many ways.

Montanna says: “The best thing about my mum being at school is that the support I receive at home, is constantly available to me at any time of the school day. As mum teaches a few of my friends as well, I think it’s great that she knows some of my friends and that they know her too.

“Having mum work at school has definitely made our own relationship stronger; plus, the constant supply of currency available to me isn’t bad either.”

Mrs Samantha Clare
Teacher of mathematics

Seeing girls blossom

I began teaching at St Catherine’s in 1999 when the new Junior School building was opened. My first beautiful Kindergarten class graduated from Year 12 last year. I have loved watching the girls grow into such impressive young women. My daughter, Isabella joined St Catherine’s in 2010 and is now in Year 2. Her favourite things about St Catherine’s are making lots of friends and her wonderful teachers.

Mrs Maryanne Dwyer
Deputy Head of Junior School

Three generations at St Catherine’s

I started working at St Catherine’s as the Director Extra-Curricular in March 2011. My first days on staff were somewhat easier than normal as I knew Margaret Leggett the Head of Languages very well – she is my mother! Lara was so excited to begin Kindergarten this year knowing St Catherine’s as her mummy and nana’s school. It is uniquely special to be able to work with my mother and have my daughter here too – three generations of us! I look forward to 2014 when my other daughter Madison also joins us.

Mrs Jackie Gilson
Director Extra-Curricular

The Murray Ridgway connection

I came to St Catherine’s at the beginning of 2011, after my nine-week cultural and language exchange at the Lycée Pierre Termier in Grenoble France. St Catherine’s was incredibly welcoming but what I loved so much about coming to the school was that my mum, who is Director of Media and Communications, is working so close to me. I get to see her throughout the day at school and whenever I need her she’s there. I’m up to date on the latest changes, generally get my notes in on time and besides it’s all very handy for when I need money for the Deli!

I’ve really valued my two years at St Catherine’s; the friendships, the teachers and the supportive networks have been so genuine and wonderful and my mum has been part of it all.

Lily Murray
Year 12

Work and family balance

I joined the Junior School in 2004 and am fortunate to have a job I enjoy and which enables me to have a balance between work and family. Having Gaselle here makes morning drop off easier too! Gaselle is currently in Year 4 and likes having me on campus especially when we can share in some of the school’s activities together. A recent highlight for Gaselle was “driving to school in our Book Week costumes and nobody recognising you as Wanda when we arrived!”

Mrs Natasha Jackson
PA to Head of Junior School
P&F contributes to our school

With the end of another academic year approaching we are aware of the many actions the P&F have undertaken to support our girls at St Catherine’s. I would like to thank the executive – Tory Bevan, Michelle Mott, Dr Masrudi Jeff, Leanne Chessell and Courtenay Fensom for their excellent work on your behalf in so many different ways in the school community.

The regular event of the Junior School Book Week celebrations saw parents helping the girls dress up as characters from a book. In addition Year 4 parents organised and ran the barbecue on the day. This was closely followed by the annual Fathers Day breakfast with many girls and their dads enjoying a morning together before they started their day.

As Year 12 students are getting ready to leave the school, the executive wishes them well in both their exams and for the next chapter of their lives. We are sure we will see them as Old Girls still being active in the school in many different ways.

The executive has continued to work on the behalf of all families in the school with a representative on the school Foundation (Lyn West) where she presents at each meeting she attends, a report on the work of the P&F. It is delightful to see the list of actions we have undertaken each term recorded in writing.

We continue to hold our twice per term meetings which include a discussion on a range of issues. This year we have welcomed as speakers to our meetings Dr Peter Boxall AO, Chairman of the Foundation Dr Peter Boxall AO, Headmistress Dr Julie Townsend, Chairman of Council Rev Tony Payne and President of the P&F Dr Diana Whitton.

Thank you to these speakers who have given of their time freely to attend our meetings.

Thank you to you all for your contribution to the school as part of the P&F – our development of the community within the school is through the support you give and actions you undertake.

Dr Diana Whitton
President

A culture of philanthropy

The Foundation is putting in place two important programs “to establish a culture of philanthropy in the school community and to strengthen the financial position of the school”. We are preparing to launch a capital campaign to raise funds towards the construction of the school’s multi-purpose complex, including an indoor swimming pool. This is one of the major initiatives identified in the school’s Strategic Plan as issued recently.

The Foundation has also developed a concrete proposal to establish a Bequest program which we plan to launch in the first half of next year. Remembering St Catherine’s in your will is a significant and very special way to show support for the school. I look forward to sharing more information about this program in the next edition of The Bulletin.

Our sincere thanks to the many members of our community who made a gift to the 2012 Annual Giving appeal. Your gifts do make an important difference and will support the girls marvellously, whether through resources for the library, building an endowment to support scholarships for future students, or capital works carried out to enhance the facilities for our students.

Members of the Foundation board and the executive committee members of the P&F and Old Girls’ Union were delighted to have dinner with members of the school Council recently. The three St Catherine’s support groups each have an important role to play to support the school with its vision and the Foundation looks forward to an ongoing and warm working relationship with the P&F and OGU.

Each member of the Foundation board looks to build on the legacy of past generations – our girls today all benefit from the generosity of past families who have been contributing since 1856 to provide the best learning environment for our girls.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me through the Director Community Relations (details below) should you wish to discuss any aspect of philanthropy at St Catherine’s.

Mr Peter Boxall AO
Chairman

St Catherine’s Foundation Board members

Dr Peter Boxall AO – Chairman
Mr Jack Lowenstein – Deputy Chairman
Mr Nicholas Beckhurst
Mrs Evangeline Galettis
Mr Vince Muritii
Mrs Jennifer Santifort
Mrs Genevieve Teo
Mrs Jacqui Guy – Council representative
Mr Jack Lowenstein – Council representative
Ms Bronwyn Cooper – OGU representative
Mrs Lyn West – P&F representative

If you would like to discuss making a gift to St Catherine’s or remembering St Catherine’s in your will please contact Mrs Marlyn Richard, Director Community Relations on 02 8305 6238 or mr richard@stcaths.nsw.edu.au
Building on past generations

In July, the Old Girls’ Union once again enjoyed a dinner in the Magnolia Room hosted by the School Council. This year, the Council invited the executive of the Parents and Friends’ Association, the Foundation and Old Girls’ Union to the same dinner, as a thank you to all of these organisations for their contribution to the school over the year.

As Rev Tony Payne was thanking each organisation, I looked around the room and realised that Old Girls are involved in so many facets of the school. Not only were they at the dinner representing the Old Girls’ Union, the President of the P&F is also an Old Girl, we have two members of the Foundation, and one on the Council. Each and every member of the Old Girls’ executive at the dinner had sent their girls to St Catherine’s, so was also involved in the school as a parent or past parent.

But it doesn’t stop there. There are ten teachers who are Old Girls including of course Mrs Anne Johnstone. There are also two members of the administration staff including Mrs Evangeline Galettis, our archivist, Mrs Helen Walsh who runs the bookshop, and many sports coaches and tutors.

There are also more than 50 Old Girls with daughters currently at the school, and Old Girls who volunteer every year to help with mentoring or career coaching. Each of these, whether employed by the school or involved in a voluntary capacity, have chosen to become involved in St Catherine’s and its future and this is their way of giving back to the school.

We hope that this involvement of past generations continues for many years for the benefit of the current and future generations of St Catherine’s girls.

As we say goodbye to the Year 12 girls this month, we wish them all the best in their future studies and careers. Each of these, whether at university, in the workforce or in their chosen field, will have benefited from the many opportunities and experiences they gained during their time at St Catherine’s.

An old member of the school, June Elizabeth Mansell nee Bartley, left St Catherine’s in 1954 after she completed the Leaving Certificate. She was born on 22 June in 1927 and died on 28 March 2013.

Known at school as Betty, June Bartley left St Catherine’s in 1954 after she completed the Leaving Certificate. She went to University of New South Wales to study for a degree in Education and in 1963 she married Bruce Evans. June Evans has always been an active member of the school community and has continued to be involved in the school through the Old Girls’ Union. June Evans was born on 24 May 1912, the daughter of the Rev Percival Evans. Together with her sister Dulcie, she was a boarder for two years until her father took a parish at Emmore. The sisters then became day girls and came to school on the tram. June Evans enjoyed her time at St Catherine’s; she remembers outings to Centennial Park on Saturdays and walking ‘in crocodile’ to church at St Jude’s on Sundays. Boarding was very different in her time. She remembers that there were only 20 or so boarders who all slept in one dormitory. Prep was followed by tea and then bath time. Miss Tickle was the Matron who prepared baths for the boarders.

Edna May Evans turns 100 years of age

We celebrate the 100th birthday of Old Girl Edna Evans, 1922–1928. Edna was born on 24 May 1912, the daughter of the Rev Percival Evans. Together with her sister Dulcie, she was a boarder for two years until her father took a parish at Emmore. The sisters then became day girls and came to school on the tram. June Evans enjoyed her time at St Catherine’s; she remembers outings to Centennial Park on Saturdays and walking ‘in crocodile’ to church at St Jude’s on Sundays. Boarding was very different in her time. She remembers that there were only 20 or so boarders who all slept in one dormitory. Prep was followed by tea and then bath time. Miss Tickle was the Matron who prepared baths for the boarders.

Edna’s Headmistress was Miss Lenthall and she remembers also Miss Short who, like Matron Tickle, was resident staff. Of her friends and contemporaries she remembers the Ashcroft sisters, Joan and Betty, whose grazier farmer supplied local butchers; Hope Boardman, like herself a clergy daughter; Mary Flannery whose country home was called ‘Gaylon’ and the Thomlinson sisters with whom she spent a country holiday.

Edna’s great-granddaughter Isabella Wellings left St Catherine’s at the end of 2011 to go to the Performing Arts School at Newtown.

Valuable contributions

June had fond memories of her school days and her school friends and the school hymn was played at her funeral. Being resident in the country it was not easy for her to attend functions, but we were always glad to see her when she could make it.

We extend our sympathy to June’s family on the loss of this exceptional lady.

Valuable contributions

Judith was attended St Catherine’s from 1950–54. Born in Lugarno in 1937 she passed away peacefully on 28 March 2012 in Orange Hospital with her family around her. She asked them not to cry because she was gone but to smile because she had been here.

Judith was initially educated in country schools and by correspondence but came to St Catherine’s as a boarder for her senior school years. She was a good student, academically, completing the Leaving Certificate, and also good at sport. She was Athletics Senior Champion in 1953, and a member of the basketball team. Judith was Barker-Sports Captain and a Prefect. Judith’s sister Helen was also a St Catherine’s girl, leaving in 1959.

After leaving school Judith trained as a nurse and worked in England before returning to Australia in 1963 to begin a midwifery course at Royal North Shore Hospital. In 1966 she married Byron James with whom she had one son, Milton, and two daughters, Anita and Elizabeth, both of whom attended St Catherine’s.

She was a lifelong supporter of the Old Girls’ Union and a strong supporter of her local church. We extend our sympathy to Judith’s family on the loss of this exceptional lady.

Valuable contributions

Judith was very generous to St Catherine’s archives, giving us her blazer with prefect’s and sports pockets, her badges and various books and notebooks. She was also a strong supporter of the Old Girls’ Union and attended many functions.

Judith James nee Rossiter

Known at school as Ross, Judith James left St Catherine’s in 1954 after she completed the Leaving Certificate. She was born on 22 June in 1927 and died on 28 March 2013.

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Old Girls go far

Katrina Watts (1970) writes:

“One never knows what twists and turns lie ahead along life’s path. We can only do our best to be prepared for anything and flexible and open minded enough to take up the challenges.

“At school I was not great at sports, so I never expected to end up as the president of a sporting association. I did have a couple of years presidential practice, holding that position with the St Catherine’s Old Girls’ Union before I went to work in Japan, but here I am President of the Australian Sumo Federation.

“I thought I was going to Japan for two years, but that became 25. I went from secondary school English/foreign language teacher to Associate Professor of English at a Japanese university, from simple sumo fan to sumo commentator on Japanese television, and from audience member cheering for the Australian team to Board member of the International Sumo Federation.

“I did French and German at St Catherine’s and added Japanese at university. These languages have taken me all over the world working with the professional and amateur sumo as an interpreter and stadium announcer. Luckily I later studied Russian and a little Spanish as sumo is in the World Games, which are in Colombia next year, and the 2013 Combat Games are in St Petersburg.

“Some people say to follow your dream, and that’s good advice, but I prefer to say, learn all you can about everything you can so you are ready for anything, because you just never know where life may lead you and who you may become.”

Maree Giles (1971) is an award-winning Australian author, editor, poet, journalist, creative writing teacher and mentor, and the mother of two grown-up children. She was a Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Kingston University London, 2009–2010, and is currently a dissertation supervisor on their Creative Writing MFA. Currently she is working on her fourth novel and adapting her first novel for the screen. Maree Giles writes...

“I’m so thrilled to have reconnect with St Catherine’s. I wish I had done so before now as it’s wonderful to be in touch with old friends again.

“This is a recent photograph taken on my honeymoon in Rhodes. This is my second marriage, we’ve been together for 17 years but now we’re married – we are very happy.

“My son is living in Sydney at the moment but returning to the UK next year. My daughter and my mother live with us here in London. My mother is 90 and moved here from Australia last year to be with us. It was a huge upheaval for her but she has settled really well. We are now looking to move to Spain as the climate will be better for her health, and my husband will commute to London each week from there for his work. So we have some exciting plans for the future.

“The Forgotten Australians is now an Australian history topic on the school curriculum, so the girls might benefit from reading my first novel, Invisible Thread, alongside other material. You can read more about the background to the Forgotten Australians story on the Parramatta Precinct website at www.parragirls.org.au and on my own website www.marceegiles.com

“At present I’m working on the first in a romantic adventure series set in the Australian outback. I’m also writing a poetry collection about the Forgotten Australians and Parramatta Girls’ Home. So it’s all systems go!”

Best wishes,
Maree Giles

Anne Stewart (Park 1980) sent the following comment after requesting help to log onto St Catherine’s Old Girls Online:

“I have such wonderful memories of St Caths – some of the happiest years of my life. I commenced there in 6th Class in the old white building over the other side of ‘the field’ in 1949 and although it seems like yesterday it was almost a life time ago! We used to have pairing lessons in a little old art room down where the pool is now. I was in the choir and fainted in front of all the school and special guests at the opening of the pool. We used to sit and talk to Mrs Hinde right up in the boarding school while she plaited her long grey hair. As you see I have a lot of great memories and I apologise for going on. Such a happy simple time.”

Jane Barker Luncheon
Dr Julie Townsend welcomed 50 Old Girls who had left St Catherine’s 50 years ago or more to the second Jane Barker Luncheon held in the Magnolia Room on 12 September 2012. Past students had travelled from North Mackay, Toowoomba, Condobolin, Narronine and the ACT. Mrs Anne Johnstone and members of the Old Girls’ Union Committee joined the Old Girls to help celebrate this special occasion. They each received a silver photo frame engraved with the school’s crest as a memento of their reaching this milestone. Following the luncheon guests were treated to an engaging performance by the whole Junior School of Kirovank, an Australian children’s opera.

Judy Wallace (Paterson 1953) lives in North Mackay, Central Queensland and has a passion for family history. She, along with four others, has received a National Trust Community Award for the book entitled Early Settlers of Mackay 1860–1885.

Country celebrations in Wagga Wagga
On Saturday 16 June 2012 Mrs Trish Wilson Director Boarding and Enrolments and Mrs Marilyn Rickard Director Community Relations hosted a dinner at the Three Chefs Restaurant for current and past community members. Old girls and past parents enjoyed the company of current parents and all reminisced about their time at St Catherine’s.
Passing the baton

Well, we’ve come to the end of our tenure as the 2011–2012 prefects for St Catherine’s. And we’re getting ready to hand down the role as school leaders to the year below.

What has been most rewarding about my time as a prefect has not been having authority over others, not the badge, not the title, but having the opportunity to learn from girls and teachers alike, the chance to involve myself in areas of school life that I might have otherwise shied away from.

But, most importantly, I have come to realise that a prefect’s job description is not merely to fundraise, promote, dress up and frolic in the name of school spirit, but to embody the St Catherine’s ideals. A good example of this can be found in one of the most odious areas of a prefect’s jurisdiction: uniform. At surface value, it’s a chore to stand at the front school gates of a cold morning to remind girls of arbitrary and trivial rules, eg that cardigans cannot be worn without a blazer.

However, after a while, we come to realise that school uniform means something bigger – being unafraid to represent St Catherine’s to the best of our ability. But, whether it be a sports medal, an academic accolade, a public service award, a Duke of Edinburgh badge or a well-starched stripy shirt, being a part of St Catherine’s means putting these superficial symbols of achievement second to the values of good sportsmanship, diligence and generosity.

It’s not about the blazer, it’s about the pride with which you wear it. It’s not about how heavy your tunic is with sport or music badges, it’s about the joy with which you play. In the same way, the success of a prefect body cannot be quantified with how many thousands of dollars were raised, but the attitude and spirit we bring to our duties. Projects, posters, assembly slits will be forgotten, but we are more likely to have a lasting impact on the school by bringing enthusiasm, tolerance and kindness to our duties.

So here is the most important piece of advice to the next prefect cohort: it’s not what you do, it’s who you are.

Madie Boxall
Head’s Liaison 2011–2012

Prefects

Head’s Liaison
Madeleine Boxall 2011–2012
Ella Deane 2012–2013

Boarding
Sai Wing Wai 2011–2012
Keerthana Rajalingam 2012–2013

Debating and Public Speaking
Sabrina Woodhouse 2011–2012
Phoebe Skuce 2012–2013

Drama
Charlotte Goodair

Enrichment
Sasha Elias 2011–2012
Katharine Christopher 2012–2013

Environment and Sustainability
Sarah Lowe 2011–2012
Xiao Wang 2012–2013

Music
Beau Boobphakam 2011–2012
Pamela Wu 2012–2013

Public Relations
Elen Richardson 2011–2012
Felicity Lane 2012–2013

Service Education
Caitlin Jones 2011–2012
Katie Prince 2012–2013

Sport
Emma O’Sullivan 2011–2012
Grace Partridge 2012–2013

Stage 4
Sophie Kalidor 2011–2012
Emily Meers 2012–2013

The Arts

Emily Lipschitz

House Captains

Barker
Emily Doyle 2011–2012
Mia-Jane Elias 2012–2013

Bronte
Amelia Meeaday 2011–2012
Tate Soller 2012–2013

Casterton
Nicola Teo 2011–2012
Tori Morrissey 2012–2013

Hulme-Moir
Montanna Clare 2011–2012
Alce Tricks 2012–2013

Sutherland
Jessica Wheeler 2011–2012
Lily Davies-Long 2012–2013

House Vice Captains

Barker
Emily Forte 2011–2012
Amy Giddy 2012–2013

Bronte
Beth Middlemiss 2011–2012
Georgia Tomczuk 2012–2013

Casterton
Lily France 2011–2012
Sophie Shanahan 2012–2013

Hulme-Moir
Stephanie Aravopoulos 2011–2012
Elizabeth McDonnell 2012–2013

Sutherland
Ashley Stone 2011–2012
Chrissy Christofa 2012–2013

Life’s milestones

How the St Catherine’s family has grown since the last edition of The Bulletin! We are delighted to celebrate so many joyous births.

Welcome to the world...

Jamie Louise Woolf, born on 19 June, daughter of Mrs Kim Woolf, English teacher and acting Year 8 Mentor
Grace Williams, born 19 August, daughter of Ms Renelle Williams, drama and English teacher
Lucy Vancers, born 2 September, daughter of Mr Brody Vancers, English teacher and acting Year 12 mentor
Oisin Andrews, born 4 September, son of Mr Rob Andrews, coordinator of rowing and snow sports
Zoe Hipoloto, born 9 September, daughter of Ms Monalene Inandan, Hulme-Moir house leader and social sciences teacher
Elise Sandy-Jade O’Donnell, born 10 September, daughter of Mrs Breena O’Donnell, academic support teacher.
Accomplishments...
We congratulate all staff for another great season at St Catherine’s. We would like to especially note the following accomplishments:

Mr David Gresham, Head of Music – Performance, adjudicated at the Yamaha Band Festival in June.

Ms Lyndy Cracknell, Junior School teacher librarian published her own book on her family history. It is available in the National Library of Australia catalogue. She also joined the team writing teaching guides for the NSW School Magazine for 2012–13 and was invited to speak at the Abbotsleigh Literary Festival in August on Online Conferencing.

Ms Ramona Lobo, mathematics teacher – and her Bollywood dance company Sirens – qualified to compete in the television show, Everybody Dance Now.

Mrs Marilyn Rickard, Director of Community Relations chaired the 2012 international ADAPE/Education Plus conference held in Sydney during the first week of September. It was attended by over 650 education specialists from schools, colleges and universities around the world. Mrs Rickard was presented with the Trevor Wigney Award for her outstanding service and contribution to the advancement of education over many years.

Ms Bronwyn Ridgway, Director of Media and Communications was presented with the 2012 Communications/Marketing Award – Publications – for excellence in communications and marketing. Both awards have raised the profile of St Catherine’s worldwide.

Ms Natalie Miller, Head of Academic Support completed her first marathon at the Sydney Running Festival in September.

Mr Greg Murray, father of Lily Murray Year 12 and husband of staff member Ms Bronwyn Ridgway, was posthumously awarded the Keaney Memorial Award 2012 by the Criminal Lawyers Association and NSW Legal Aid. It was in recognition of outstanding service and dedication to the legal profession, excellence as a criminal lawyer, commitment to clients and concern for social justice.

Sadly Mr Murray passed away in March this year, after a two-year battle with cancer. Proceeds from this year’s St Cath’s Got Talent and other Year 12 fundraisers have been donated to Oncology Unit Research St Vincent’s Hospital Darlinghurst.

Above: Ms Ramona Lobo and her Bollywood dance company

Award winners Mrs Marilyn Rickard and Ms Bronwyn Ridgway with Headmistress Dr Julie Townsend and Mr Craig Gravestein, Xponential Philanthropy at the 2012 Education Plus conference