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Beyond the Curriculum Expo, with Zumba spectacular, captures the whole school community
FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Fruits of the harvest

Welcome to our latest issue of The Bulletin, a record of just some of the many achievements of our school community since our last publication. Sir Winston Churchill said that “continuous effort, not strength or intelligence, is the key to unlocking our potential” – and that continuous effort is certainly demonstrated throughout these pages. From our rowers, who competed in the prestigious Head of the River for the first time in our school’s history, to our record number of Gold Duke of Edinburgh awardees, to our girls’ commitment to serving others – what underlies these various achievements is the girls’ unwavering effort to work to the best of their ability.

We cannot all be the best, but we can all do our best. And, like Aesop’s tortoise, a focused determination can yield an unexpected result. As you read this bulletin, I am sure you will be impressed by the significant achievements across our community. I hope that you will be more impressed by the passion, dedication and effort that lie behind them.

Dr Julie Townsend
Headmistress
The ICT for Learning program, conceived in the second half of 2010 was built on connected, collaborative approaches using stylus-based technology. In 2010 the appropriate computer hardware to combine high level performance with the portability and convenience of a slate device had not yet been invented. However, following a year trialling with larger, heavier stylus-based tablets, the Samsung slate PC was released just in time for the start of the 2012 school year.

With the aid of a multi-touch, stylus enabled screen, students were able to navigate through large and complex OneNote notebooks with relative ease. For the first time, students had access to all materials from all courses in a device smaller than most textbooks. As most course materials were delivered through OneNote, students are able to use the advanced search features of this program to quickly access required content.

OneNote is a key part of the ICT for Learning strategy. It is an organiser of content with advanced multimedia capabilities, hence notes taken in OneNote are far richer than paper equivalents. OneNote is ideal for the classroom as it is designed to be shared so that a number of individuals can contribute to the one document. Teachers can share with students, students with students.

With the aid of the stylus-based technology provided by the slate PC, students can touch type, handwrite, draw diagrams or work through equations. Stylus-based technology allows students to move seamlessly between pen and keyboard enabling them to work more efficiently.

A point of difference between our ICT for Learning program and other laptop programs is the intense focus on learning. All ICT initiatives have been designed to improve learning efficiency. New techniques and software that does not pass the improved learning efficiency test is immediately rejected.

In the past we tried to be all things to all people and tried to support numerous software packages and operating systems. By spreading our resources too thinly we were not able to provide adequate support or training. Through some tough decisions, involving single platform and standard software, we have been able to provide timely and effective ICT support and extensive training for teachers.

Recognising the importance of relationships for learning in the classroom, ICT has been used to enhance our communications and collaborations.

OneNote is now used to track communication with students and parents; Microsoft Lync has been used for video conferencing, sharing screens and applications.

Dyknow enables the teacher to monitor student work on computers in real time, block access to certain applications or websites and allows interactivity between the teacher and the students.
A student away from school can log on remotely, join lessons and actively participate – not just watch. Lessons can also be recorded for later revision.

This technology is exciting because it allows us to focus on individual students with targeted, timely and continuous feedback in a way not previously possible. Our staff have done a great job preparing the first year groups – Year 5, Year 7, and Year 10 – who have been working one-to-one with tablet computers and slates.

**StCathsConnect**

Our new portal is known as StCathsConnect, which will enable parents to access attendance, school reports, and current timetable for their daughter(s).

StCathsConnect will also include a virtual classroom for each class, and include the following main features: Dropbox, Blog, wiki, resources and discussion.

**Showcasing ICT for learning**

Building on recent media reports on the ICT for Learning program, on 10 May two film crews spent a day filming for a short video to be released worldwide through Microsoft websites. This video showcases our ICT for learning program and includes interviews and footage of teachers and students in the classroom. On 5 June another crew filmed for a short video to be released worldwide through Samsung websites.

On 31 May a colloquium provided an opportunity to showcase to our community and interested members of the public, presentations on “Showcasing the 21st Century Classroom”. It included a demonstration of the new portal StCathsConnect.

**Mr Paul Carnemolla**
Head of Information
Service education is an integral component for students’ understanding of community help and responsibility. Across the school, students have been involved in a wide variety of activities, from collections for charities, to fundraising and volunteer work. This has been done at a local, national and international level. It demonstrates awareness of putting the needs of others before ourselves and showing the importance of working together for a cause.

Locally, Year 11 and 12 students have volunteered at Bread of Life – a breakfast program run through St Michael’s Church, Surry Hills. This provides the homeless ‘companions’ with a healthy start to the day and companionship with the volunteers. St Catherine’s also runs a winter appeal for this, collecting warm clothing from the school to distribute.

Nationally the St Catherine’s students participated in the collection for the Salvation Army, collecting a portion of the $45,000 collected in the Bondi/Waverley area. Students doorknock in the local area asking for donations to support the wonderful services provided nationally to homeless and at risk people. St Catherine’s support has been invaluable in helping the local community.

Internationally, I accompanied 20 students and two staff on a service education trip to Nepal. Students travelled to the Himalaya region and met locals, trekking for six days, meeting Nepali children and learning about the Nepalese culture. Then we participated in the outreach component of the trip. A program developed by myself is delivered by the St Catherine’s students to Nepali students at the Mitrataa Dream Centre. These Nepali girls, primarily domestic servants, have the opportunity to complete homework and receive assistance with literary and numeracy skills, which they otherwise may not have access to. We have also donated $8500 to this cause this year. This is a significant involvement, demonstrating our teamwork and leadership skills, which are used for the benefit of others. Many St Catherine’s girls have said this was a life changing experience and we learnt more from the Nepalese students than we could have ever taught them.

There have been many other projects as well including fundraisers for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the SMILE Foundation, United Nations Women, Barnados, KidsXpress, Greenpeace and World Vision. We are looking forward to these throughout the year.

The importance of service education is so valuable for the growth of community minded students, who, when leaving school have an awareness of the world around us. We can really see the need to work together and we can see the benefits of the whole school approach to service. We are developing a mind-set of doing things for the good of all, a Christian principle where we serve others.

Ms Sarah Hatch
Service Education Coordinator
Top left: Charlotte Atkins and Natalie McDowell
Top right: Year 12 prefects for SMILE fundraiser
Centre: Students prepare to collect for the Salvation Army
Left: St Catherine’s girls at Barnardos fundraiser
Dorothy Hulme-Moir (born 1908 nee Smee) joined St Catherine’s as a boarder in 1917. The Headmistress at the time was Miss Ellen Lenthall and Dorothy remembered her with great affection, describing her as a good teacher and scholar full of compassion and wisdom. Dorothy left in 1924 and, on Miss Lenthall’s advice, went to business college and learned to type. For the next eight years she helped her clergymen father in various parishes and in 1938 married the Reverend Francis Hulme-Moir, later Bishop Hulme-Moir, and became an active and enthusiastic supporter of his ministry.

So why do we associate Dorothy Hulme-Moir with autumn, with a late flowering in the autumnal years of her life? Because in 1982, at the age of 74, she commenced a new career as an author with *The Dawn has Broken*, an account of the medical missionary service of her son Ian in Africa. This was followed in 1984 and 1987 respectively by *New Beginnings* and *Autumn Leaves* – collections of poetry, prayers and prose. Also from 1987 we have *The Edge of Time*, an edited selection of her family papers. Finally in 1993 she published her autobiography *The Silver Cord*.

Dorothy Hulme-Moir died in 1999 at the age of 90, after a full and active life of service to Christian education through her support of the Mother’s Union which was recognised by the award of an OAM in 1995.

Together with her husband, Chairman of Council in the 1960s and 70s, she was a loving and supportive member of St Catherine’s community. Hulme-Moir house, founded in 1987 was named in their honour and she served as its patron. She also served on School Council 1978–1988. Two prizes commemorate Mrs Hulme-Moir’s association with St Catherine’s: The Dorothy Hulme-Moir Prize for English Expression and the Dorothy Hulme-Moir Memorial Prize for Service with Grace.

At the launch of *The Silver Cord* in 1993 the girls of Hulme-Moir House were proud to act as a guard of honour for this great lady.

Mrs Evangeline Galettis Archivist

“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”

*EXTRACT FROM TO AUTUMN, JOHN KEATS*
2012 Boarding Expo in Dubbo

There is something magical about travelling through the Australian countryside looking out at rolling hills, fields of eucalypts and planted crops bathed in early morning or evening light.

Seeing a small echidna scurrying across the road and kangaroos dotted in fields also provide a sense of wonder. Such was our experience as we headed towards Dubbo, a city in the Orana Region of New South Wales, that hosted the first of three 2012 Boarding Expos. Current parents, future parents and Old Girls visited the St Catherine’s stand, and we will be delighted to welcome new boarders from this area in 2013.

As for the school’s 150 birthday celebrations, the Western Plains Zoo provided the venue for Sunday lunch with past and present students and parents. Amanda Griffith (2007) was the youngest of our boarding Old Girls to attend and Dorothy Stanford (1945) was our oldest guest. Boarding tales abounded and we were entertained in spectacular form by the school’s orchestra and choir, who combined this event with performances in two other locations in Dubbo and Orange.

Telisha Stevenson and Taila Green (Year 12), Tayla Braithwaite (Year 11), Octavia Carey and Amelia Simpson (Year 10), and Harriet Hedger (Year 7) are six of our current boarders from Dubbo. Amelia, Tayla and Harriet joined St Catherine’s this year.

Amelia says, “I felt very homesick at first because everything was foreign to me and I kept comparing St Cath’s to St John’s, my previous school in Dubbo. Yet, after just two weeks I felt more comfortable and it was like I had another family here in boarding. Everyone is so friendly and things have become easier at school too. I really enjoy life at St Cath’s now that I’m into the routine of boarding life. I know how to work hard when I need to, and when to have fun. I love life in the city because there is always something to do.”

I met Tayla Braithwaite at the 2011 Boarding Expo in Dubbo. Tayla was impressed with what St Catherine’s had to offer; the academic care, variety of sports, and the option of boarding that would help her become more independent and meet new people. When Tayla toured the boarding house she says, “It felt homely and looked comfortable and I was really excited about starting. I was very nervous when I first moved in, but I met two other new boarders, Annie Alexandra (Year 11 from Cootamundra) and Catherine Romeo (Year 11 from Narrandera) and we supported each other. It was a big learning curve for me, but with the help of my new friends and ‘old’ boarders, boarding now feels like home to me. I’ve slotted in and adjusted easily.”

Tayla has immersed herself in her academic work and sport, participating in soccer (IGSSA), touch football, swimming and cross-country (IGSSA).

Harriet’s mum, Helen Hedger, heard of St Catherine’s from friends who have daughters at the school, and thought it would be good for Harriet to go to a school where she knew others. “I was a little overwhelmed at first,” Harriet says, “but excited about the thought of sleepovers every night! At first I suffered from homesickness, but now I know where everything is and know my teachers, and I feel more settled. I’ve also got used to the amount of homework we get. I was freaked out about doing my own washing but it’s easy here.”

Harriet still misses her family and friends, “and my dog and six guinea pigs, but it’s fun and I certainly feel more comfortable than I did in Term 1.”

Mrs Trish Wilson
Director Boarding and Enrolments
Junior School moments
An Anglican day and boarding school for girls
Our academic leaders

Head of Department – Social Science, Stage 4 Convenor
Ms Magali Foote
B.Ed M.Com (Org. Behaviour)

Ms Foote is in her 26th year in education and she dedicates that to her love of teaching.

She began her career at Brigidine College in 1986, then taught at Ascham before joining St Catherine’s in 2004. And in between she had 10 years off to raise two healthy boys, now aged 18 and 20.

“I always taught girls but raised two boys,” she said.

“Both went to Scots, my 20-year-old is going to become a pro fighter... and my 18-year-old is currently travelling the world and will probably study business management.”

A local girl through and through, Ms Foote attended Holy Cross in Bondi, before graduating from Sydney Teachers College with a Bachelor of Education in Economics and Geography. She also gained a Masters of Commerce in organisational behaviour at the University of NSW.

Throughout her career Ms Foote has been dedicated to the social sciences.

“The nature of our department is that we teach more than one subject – geography, commerce, business studies, legal studies and social sciences. I also have two mottos – to be consistent and persistent with respect, and to have enthusiasm for learning. It’s my motto but I also model that,” she said.

“We have just introduced legal studies as an HSC subject this year, the first time it has been offered... it’s my favourite subject at the moment – it’s new, it’s challenging and I’m still learning. Preparing for legal studies and our entire subject range requires up to date knowledge. We always need new information and it’s always a dynamic that changes,” Ms Foote said.

In her ninth year here at St Catherine’s Ms Foote says she really enjoys everything the school offers staff and students.

“It offers everything – sport, music and the creative... there is a whole curriculum that caters for everyone.”

Ms Foote sums up her impressive career: “I’ve been lucky with every social science department I’ve worked with; I’ve loved it and we become good friends. It’s the staff and mainly the students... and humour is my strength!”

Head of Department – PDHPE
Mr Brett Wilson
B.Ed (P.Ed and H.Ed)

Mr Wilson has learned as much from the students as they have from him in his four years at St Catherine’s.

“The girls have something about them – they are resilient and supportive of each other, and I enjoy that. It was amazing to witness at my first Duke of Edinburgh camp,” he said.

A born and bred Sydney-sider from Maroubra, Mr Wilson attended Sydney Boys High School and the University of Sydney, graduating with a Bachelor of Education in PDHPE.

Previous to St Catherine’s, he was Head of PDHPE at South Sydney High School. Having taught at Matraville and Dulwich High schools before that, Mr Wilson admitted that arriving at St Catherine’s was a bit of a “culture shock”.

“I miss teaching the boys as I was involved in Rugby League programs, but I always used to separate boys and girls in classes to give girls an opportunity to try different things – and I guess I have carried that on here,” he said.

Since Mr Wilson’s arrival at St Catherine’s, the PDHPE practical component now includes more physical activities that students can carry into their adult life.

“We have tried to give the girls an opportunity to do things they would not normally do and to take that on beyond school, such as Zumba, Pilates or yoga,” he said.

Mr Wilson has many years’ experience as an HSC marker, working on the HSC advice line, and curriculum writing. His expertise has helped St Catherine’s develop and implement the PDHPE program.

“It’s not just sport, it’s personal development and health we talk about in PDHPE – mental health, driver education, anti-bullying, positive relationships, self-esteem and self-awareness... I love working with the students, I enjoy their thirst for knowledge and their enthusiasm.”

Outside of St Catherine’s Mr Wilson has an active and busy life.

“I do voluntary patrols for Maroubra SLSC in the summer. I also enjoy training, exercising and playing sport. I run, swim, go to the gym and play competitive touch football and Oztag.”

Mr Wilson is also an accredited first aid instructor and examiner, which is handy for first aid courses at St Catherine’s and for surf life saving in his spare time.
Acting Year 9 Mentor, Service Education Coordinator, History teacher

Ms Sarah Hatch

A talented teacher from the outset, Ms Hatch loves putting her skills into action at St Catherine’s.

“I’m excited to go to work every day and see that I can attempt to make a difference,” she said.

Now in her fifth year at St Catherine’s, Ms Hatch can be found attending to students in her acting role as Year 9 Mentor, busy organising fundraisers and overseas trips as Coordinator of Service Education, or immersed in ancient history books.

Ms Hatch graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor of Ancient History and a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education. In her first teaching position (begun the day after her final exam), Ms Hatch made her mark as an ancient history specialist, assisting five Year 12 students into band 6 at John Therry Campbelltown.

In the summer of 2007–08 she was one of 50 teachers selected to study in Canberra on the Australian Government scholarship program – a venture which she believed helped her to land a dream job at St Catherine’s.

“We were taught by world renowned lecturers in history. We had access to specific information and we also received a grant to purchase resources to bring to the school.

“I used this grant for the Year 7 St Catherine’s history program, learning about the school’s history,” Ms Hatch said.

“I started (at St Catherine’s) as a history teacher, and at the end of 2010 became coordinator of service education, and now acting Year 9 mentor.

“I like all of the roles but as you progress through your time at St Catherine’s, and girls get to know you better, it’s nice to see them enthusiastically participate in the events I promote – it is fulfilling to see them be community minded and thinking about others before themselves.”

As a service educator, Ms Hatch engages students in volunteer work such as feeding the homeless at St Michael’s Bread of Life program, collecting for The Salvation Army and Anglicare, along with fundraising for charity – with $70,000 raised last year.

“We let students know what the charities are and how they can help so they can adopt them long-term, and realise how important this help is.”

Keeping her busy outside of school is Ms Hatch’s love of sport: playing netball and tennis as well as watching live sport – particularly Sydney Swans matches.

Head of Department – Biblical Studies

Mrs Tessa Repp
BSc (Advanced), Grad. Dip. Ed, BTh (Theology)

Mrs Repp is passionate about teaching and her faith, and sharing these with young people, in particular the girls at St Catherine’s.

“I love it! I really love being in the classroom, love having the responsibility to write the Biblical studies curriculum,” said Mrs Repp.

But before landing at St Catherine’s last year, Mrs Repp has had quite a journey. She grew up on farms in the Glen Innes area, as the middle child in a big family.

“The majority of [my brothers and sisters] are now teachers and married to teachers... Mum and dad aren’t teachers, but it’s probably because we all helped each other with school work,” Mrs Repp said.

At 17 she moved to Armidale to accept a scholarship to the University of New England, later completing a Bachelor of Advanced Science.

Mrs Repp then went into a ministry traineeship with the church where she ran lunchtime Bible studies and a course for uni students. She also helped oversee their youth ministry for high schoolers. It was during this two-year traineeship that she studied via distance to complete her Diploma of Education in theology.

Her first teaching position was at Uralla High School for 12 months – before becoming Youth and Children’s minister at Helensburg, while practicing as a casual teacher at Illawarra Christian School.

It was her experience with youth ministry that compelled Mrs Repp to learn more about her faith. So she returned to college in 2008 to complete a Bachelor of Theology at Moore Theological College in Newtown, Sydney.

“I started pursuing a position in a school as I wanted to combine my experience with youth in a church context and marry that with my love of teaching.

“I wanted to come back to school because I felt that most young people didn’t have a very clear understanding of what the Bible teaches. I wanted to focus my teaching skills on that, although I do miss the science, chemistry and experiments.”

And the girls of St Catherine’s have this youth minister and teacher dazzled: “I am impressed with the reflective nature of the students. They’re really prepared to think hard and analyse the substantial issues.”
Rowing takes its place

The recent introduction of rowing has been a hugely successful venture which exceeded all initial expectations.

Forty committed rowers began the journey in Term 3 last year. They participated in a ‘learn to row’ program where goals were set to develop fitness in Term 3, hit the water in Term 4 and then prepare to compete in season 2013.

But after a very short time, coach Mr Robert Andrews identified two crews that he felt were competition-ready. So on Saturday 3 December 2011 St Catherine’s debuted in the Regatta, at the Riverview Gold Cup – well surpassing the goal to enter their first races in 2013.

The Year 9 and 10 coxed quads had the honour of enjoying this historic moment for St Catherine’s. They soaked up the atmosphere of the famous Riverview Gold Cup and helped realise a vision for the staff, students and parents of St Catherine’s who collaboratively worked together with enthusiasm, commitment and hard work to implement the rowing program.

Taking momentum from this successful induction into the sport in 2011, the St Catherine’s rowers entered in the IGGSA regatta in March 2012.

Much to the delight of all involved, our girls were competitive amongst the best at the regatta. St Catherine’s gained a bronze medal in the open quad division 1 and finished 8th place overall, beating two schools that have been rowing for over 10 years.

Next stop was the Head of the River, also in March, where success continued as six of our crews qualified for their respective finals.

The Head of the River was a wonderful moment, witnessed by over 100 parents and teachers, including Headmistress Dr Julie Townsend.

“St Catherine’s tried unsuccessfully to establish rowing in 1992. It was a wonderful moment, 20 years later, to know that this time we succeeded; with our girls going from registering interest in the sport to rowing for the school at the most prestigious competition in the rowing calendar in less than nine months.”

The achievement of the St Catherine’s rowers has impressed coach Mr Rob Andrews, who is first to recognise just what the secret to St Catherine’s success really is.

“This was a massive feat for our girls, especially as we were entered into higher divisions from their IGGSA success,” Mr Andrews said.

“It has been the parent and school support. Parents have been willing to help out. Preparing food at camps, cleaning up, driving kids to training and events, wherever there was a hole to fill there was a parent filling it.

“Fortunately we were able to get access to experienced coaches who have achieved at the highest level, competing themselves at national titles, world championships and international regattas. The St Catherine’s rowers have had great attitudes, they have been willing and very happy to learn from the experts and put learning into practice.

“And it has been sheer hard work – the girls have to be commended for their attendance to training throughout the season which has been the success of the whole program. In such a demanding sport, training is vital. Every crew is important and a rowing crew can’t row without one another, it’s definitely a team sport. It has been great to see the spirit of St Catherine’s alive and well,” Mr Andrews said.

Training for our rowers has involved a commitment of 4–5 sessions each week. Two to three are boat sessions
out of Drummoyne Rowing Club and two at school for fitness. Speaking like a proud dad, Mr Andrews is thrilled by how well St Catherine’s rowers have delivered from the rowing program. “We are a year ahead of our racing schedule and not only that; we are performing and competing against other successful schools. The girls are making finals and having a go... It’s not like we’re getting smoked. Next year hopefully we’ll be right up there. We are punching above our weight.”

Mr Ryan Cameron, Director of Sport said “Last year was a proud and defining moment for St Catherine’s. To have such a prestigious sport of rowing add to the fabric of sport at St Catherine’s, places the school in a wonderful position. The success of the first year was amazing and testament to all involved in making rowing’s launch so successful.”

Parents’ corporate rowing event

It was the perfect end to the 2011/12 rowing season, when our rowing parents were invited to Riverview to enter the corporate rowing challenge on Sunday 20 May.

Labelled as a prestigious blue ribbon eight event, a mothers’ crew and fathers’ crew represented St Catherine’s after slogging out eight early morning training sessions in preparation. On the day, it was our mums that shone by winning best dressed! Great fun was had by all. We didn’t win a race but we did win a prize, and we were not last either! Congratulations to all parents who participated.
Duke of Edinburgh awards more than gold

Each year over 33,000 people aged 14–25 undertake the challenge known as ‘The Duke of Edinburgh Award’. St Catherine’s participation rate is growing fast, with four girls completing their gold award.

Time commitment separates three levels of the award which are: Bronze (3 months), Silver (6 months) and Gold (12 months). Each award comprises of three categories – physical recreation, service, and skill; along with an adventurous journey component which involves a practice and qualifying journey.

Currently there are 40 girls undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and 43 girls completing their Silver Award. It’s the largest Duke of Edinburgh program in the history of St Catherine’s School.

Emma Cook and Zoe Ditchfield (Class of 2010) have been presented with their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award at Government House by her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales.

Both girls undertook their gold award whilst completing their HSC in 2010. They speak about their investment and the rewards.

Emma Cook, Gold awardee: “The Duke of Edinburgh Award allowed me to do some of the most rewarding activities I have ever done and I would recommend doing the award to absolutely everyone.

“The award is internationally recognised and allows you to extend yourself, learn and improve new skills.

“I hiked various trails in Australia, volunteered in a Salvation Army shop and for the State Emergency Service, and even shook my hips at Zumba, while others chose to volunteer in Fiji, play lacrosse, learn photography or knit blankets for Africa. This award helped me not only challenge myself in various ways by learning new things but it improved my time management skills as I juggled my gold award with my HSC.”

Zoe Ditchfield, Gold awardee: “I had such a fun experience completing the Duke of Edinburgh award, not just from the people I was with, but from the experiences I would otherwise probably never have attempted.

“The award itself is well recognised by employers and definitely worth doing from a skills point of view. Of course the way that you’ll get the most out if it is by doing it with a group of friends. Many people do the bronze award which is great, but if you can stick it out and get to gold it is such a great accomplishment and well worth the effort!”

For more information about the Duke of Edinburgh Award contact Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator Miss Julie Park jpark@stcaths.nsw.edu.au
Our girls in performance

Drama
Among many drama performances at St Catherine’s, our latest success has been the production of Year 11 play, Debra Oswald’s House on Fire. It was a big occasion for Year 11 drama students and their director/teacher Ms Renelle Williams. It was especially wonderful to have the award winning playwright, Debra Oswald, in attendance. She was notably impressed by the high standard this production achieved. The play was a great triumph, especially given the short time Year 11 actors had to prepare and perform, along with attending to multiple production tasks behind the scenes.

Music
There have been many high notes in music this year, all of which deserve accolades. But what stands out in music at St Catherine’s this year has been the enormous preparation and teamwork of students, parents and teachers to bring together two successful events. Students played engagingly at the Twilight Music Scholarship Concert, as well as presenting strong performances at the Magnolia Fair, with over 200 girls performing in one or more ensembles. Nineteen ensembles played on the day, in very difficult conditions – the Junior choir’s performance of Wind was appropriate for a gusty but enjoyable day.
Visual arts – reaping rewards

Visual art is reaping the rewards from a number of developments and innovations at St Catherine’s.

Art Express welcomed artworks by Kendall Miller and Chelsea Booth. Chelsea’s work was chosen for the exhibition, while Kendall received full marks for her body of work. There were more shining stars; seven out of our 24 (29.16%) students received a Band 6 result in 2011’s HSC; and for 46% of students, visual art was their best subject mark as we continue to be able to raise the standard of lower-ranked students.

In other news Taila Green, Year 12, has just been accepted into the winter program for Indigenous students by the Nura Gili section of the University of NSW. Ruby Powell Hughes, Year 10, has been chosen to be a youth committee member of the MCA and is a young guide for its members.

Katerina Theoocharous in December last year won the Art Gallery of NSW Artwrite competition, open to students from Years 7–10. This was a remarkable achievement, given she was in Year 7 at the time.

Year 7 this year are having an exciting year learning ways to use digital programs to widen their appreciation of what art is as well as finding new tools to express their ideas and feelings in line with the words of artist Rebecca Horne “The transformation of the experience: that is pure art.”

Digitally we are making significant changes to our visual art space – we have given our printmaking/ceramic space a makeover to incorporate 10 new computer stations. This has allowed more access to computers for research but also encouraged Year 12 to include digital works in their body of work for this year’s HSC. We are excited that this will hopefully add to the strength of their work and keep our school competitive.

Mrs Glenis Israel
Head of Department – Visual Arts
Design and technology – new programs and challenges

Creativity and complexity were rewarded after major design projects were challenged by having a restriction on the number of pages students could submit for their HSC portfolio. By adhering to the new rules, Jessica Malone should be congratulated for her selection for DesignTECH, our HSC state exhibition.

It’s been a busy and certainly a hard-working 2012 to date! New programs for Year 9 and 10 design and technology are underway after having been re-written by our technological and applied studies teachers. Now, students can enjoy tackling the intricacies of molecular gastronomy, designing architectural buildings influenced by the Australian bush, along with utilising their creativity to make resin cast and polymer clay jewellery.

The introduction of food technology for Year 9 and 11 students has been a great injection to our department. Students have thoroughly enjoyed developing skills in preparing and presenting food, learning consequences of food choices on health and learning how to make nutritional choices for a range of individual health needs. Mrs Katrina Wilkins and Ms Jessica Hill deserve accolades for the amazing work they have put into the development of this course.

We are underway in our second year of teaching photography, video and digital imaging 1 unit course. Offered in Year 11 last year, it was a great success which allowed students to embed new photography skills into their visual arts or design and technology major works. This year students have engaged with landscape, portraiture and macro photography and will learn digital manipulation of their images later in the year.

We are proud of our new beginnings.

Miss Kate Sonter
Head of Department – Design and Technology
Magnolia Fair

The Magnolia Fair on Saturday 5 May certainly was a fun filled family activity. Families flocked to the fair which was run by the Parents and Friends’ Association. The St Catherine’s and local communities enjoyed delicious jams and cakes, live entertainment, rides and games, along with shopping for vintage clothes and plants. Students of the school impressed with their musical and talented performances. An all-time record of over $95,000 was raised!
With the support of many families and the local community the Parents and Friends’ Association held the biennial Magnolia Fair on 5 May.

The day was warm but there was a definite ocean breeze keeping it cool and families and friends enjoyed a wide range of stalls, entertainments and fare. Each year group, the Old Girls’ Union and the School Foundation undertook to coordinate a stall and both musical and dance items were performed. The parents who took on the task of coordinating a stall created a traditional feel to our fair and welcomed the many visitors. It was a very successful day and one to be remembered.

Following close on the fair was the Mothers’ Day breakfast which was celebrated on Thursday 10 May and over 150 mothers and daughters shared food and a chat in the morning before school. This morning is a casual event which gives everyone the chance to catch up with each other from different year groups plus chat informally with the teachers who attended.

After the breakfast we had the P&F meeting which was well attended by the many Kindergarten parents who also were entertained by their daughters. This meeting is a special one when we meet the young girls and see how smoothly they have settled into their life at St Catherine’s.

The P&F is supported by the class parents who organise social events and work with the executive. Some parents take on additional roles – Lyn West represents us on the School Foundation and Rick Wilson is our representative on the Parents’ Council. It is through this support that we continue to develop the community spirit within the school and ensure parents’ ideas are shared at every level.

Dr Diana Whitton
President
The Foundation has continued its work to develop and nurture a culture of philanthropy in the St Catherine’s community. We have started preparation for further fundraising to support the school’s proposed new multi-purpose centre, and we have been working to develop a bequests program. We hope to be able to report further progress on these initiatives later this year.

In the meantime, we have taken two recent initiatives to raise the profile of the Foundation. My fellow board members and I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Foundation Fizz stall at the Magnolia Fair. Our thanks to the many members of the current and past communities who visited our stall to enjoy a glass of ‘bubbly’ during the afternoon. Special thanks to board member Jenniffer Santifort and her daughters Kathryn and Megan for their outstanding commitment to the day. The Foundation and the Old Girls’ Union working side by side with the P&F to support the school was never more clearly evidenced than at the Magnolia Fair.

The inaugural Foundation members’ cocktail party was held on Friday 25 May. We were delighted to welcome ABC journalist Ticky Fullerton as our guest speaker. Introducing this annual event presents us with an excellent opportunity to acknowledge and thank those members of our school and wider community who make giving to St Catherine’s a philanthropic priority.

Our 2012 Giving Appeal has been distributed this month and I take this opportunity to thank the many families who support the school philanthropically each year. Many of our current parents give to the school’s building fund each term and members of our past community have also contributed financially to St Catherine’s. Your gift, regardless of its size, makes a difference to the girls of today and tomorrow and we thank you sincerely.

For some, remembering St Catherine’s in their will is the preferred option to show philanthropic support for the girls. Regardless of how you choose to make a gift to St Catherine’s your support will be valued by the school enormously.

Mr Peter Boxall AO
Chairman

If you would like to discuss making a gift to St Catherine’s or remembering St Catherine’s in your will please contact Marilyn Rickard, Director Community Relations on 02 8305 6238 or mrickard@stcaths.nsw.edu.au
The Old Girls’ Union executive and members are very excited that this year the school has appointed an Alumni Relations Coordinator. Mrs Barbara Peatman started in Term 1. She has been working closely with the Old Girls’ Union to help maintain a relationship with all Old Girls of the school. Her first big task is to ensure the database of Old Girls is up to date and accurate. This is a big job but once complete it will enable much better contact between the school and all Old Girls, no matter where they live. This year, ‘the generation afternoon tea’ became a before school activity so that more working parents could attend.

All girls whose mothers, aunts, or grandmothers attended St Catherine’s were invited to bring their relative to breakfast in the sports centre. More than 25 girls attended with their family member. There are now more than 50 girls in the school who are daughters or granddaughters of Old Girls. This is the most there have ever been; each year the school has many enquiries from Old Girls about enrolling their babies – so there are more to come in the next few years, including Mrs Johnstone’s daughter.

The Magnolia Fair was a great success again this year with a record profit. It was nice to see so many Old Girls attending, many of them showing off their old school to their children. The Old Girls’ Union ran the Devonshire teas in the boarders’ dining room again this year. The cooler weather and the fact that the coffee cart did not turn up meant that we were busy most of the day. In fact we sold out of scones by 2 o’clock. As usual, the dining room was a haven where people could come and sit and relax over a cup of tea. We had many Old Girls visit us during the day to say hello.

Throughout the year, Old Girls often pop in to visit the school, particularly if they are visiting Sydney from interstate or overseas. In February, a group of girls from the class of 1985 had afternoon tea at the school on a Saturday afternoon.

Many of the girls had not been back to the school since they left over 25 years ago, and while they were amazed at the new buildings, it was the old buildings that had the most impact. The fact that some of the buildings have changed so little brought a few of the girls to tears. The Jane Barker Hall was a favourite as they remembered all the times they spent there – from daily assemblies, to exams, gymnastics displays, musical nights and plays. They were also interested in hearing about the rebuilding of the swimming pool, which had been a popular part of St Catherine’s for the whole of their school life.

The Old Girls’ Union agreed at the AGM this year to donate $2000 to start off the fundraising for this exciting new project the school is about to undertake. Many Old Girls or their parents will remember that the second stage of enclosing the current swimming pool was planned to start not long after the pool was opened in 1971! Now 40 years later, it looks like the pool (albeit a new one) will finally become an indoor facility that can be used all year round.

Mrs Cathy Ridge
President Old Girls’ Union

For any Old Girls’ Union queries, please contact the Secretary Janet Smith on jsmith@aitkenlawyers.com.au

Year reunions
Preparations for year reunions are now underway. If you would like to receive more information please contact your year representative.

Class of 2002
10-year reunion
Contact Amanda Griffith or Georgia Zaikowski

Class of 1992
20-year reunion
Saturday 18 August 2012
Contact Rachael Coopes, Janice Duff, Heidi Wolfram or Clair Willmott Weir on Facebook

Class of 1982
30-year reunion
Saturday 13 October 2012
Contact Kerry Wilson, Carolyn Kelly or Lynne Wainwright

Class of 1972
40-year reunion

Class of 1962
50-year reunion
Jane Barker Luncheon
12 September 2012

Please contact Alumni Relations Coordinator Mrs Barbara Peatman on 02 8305 6234 or bpeatman@stcaths.nsw.edu.au for further information on any of the above reunions, to register your interest in attending or to assist with the organisation.
Yasmin Sewell (1993) was named Young Australian of the Year in the UK in 2012, for her contribution to fashion. Yasmin is an Australian fashion retail consultant and creative advisor for various fashion brands as well as a trend forecaster. She is currently based in London. Yasmin Sewell received the honour for her contribution to fashion. Her award was presented to her by Sir Barry Humphries.

Jane Barker Luncheon

In 2011 Dr Julie Townsend commenced a new tradition at St Catherine’s by inviting all Old Girls who had left St Catherine’s 50 years ago or more to the Jane Barker Luncheon. Just over 50 Old Girls were enchanted by their gracious and delightful Year 4 hostesses.

The 2012 Jane Barker Luncheon will be held on Wednesday 12 September. Our guests will be invited to attend the matinée of Kiravanu, a new children’s opera – Libretto by Mary Elizabeth with music by James Humberstone.

Invitations will be distributed in early July. For further information please contact Barbara Peatman, Alumni Relations Coordinator 02 8305 6234 or bpeatman@stcaths.nsw.edu.au.

Patricia Fisher (Edmonstone 1958) attended the luncheon in 2011 and wishes to invite her classmates to gather together at the 2012 Jane Barker luncheon in September.

VALE

Mrs Marianne Lazar
1931–2012

The Old Girls Union were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Lazar in April. Mrs Lazar was a much loved science teacher who taught at St Catherine’s for 20 years from 1963 to 1983. One of her favourite sayings to her Year 12 classes when asked about a topic that was a bit obscure was “If this is in the HSC, I will eat my hat!”

After retiring from teaching, Mrs Lazar became involved in the community as a volunteer and was often seen in the local shopping centres helping elderly people with their shopping.
Old Girls go far

Judith Chivers (Harris 1948) has written to us following receipt of the Autumn 2011 Bulletin.

“Congratulations! I was particularly interested in the article on the unique timber building that had so many ‘lives’. In 1936 as a five-year-old I started kindergarten class in that very building. Miss Isabel James was Headmistress and Miss Ruth Tuck was my kindy teacher and they were some of the happiest days of my childhood.

“I loved all my school years at St Catherine’s and especially the early years in the white timber kindergarten building. It has its own very special place in a corner of the school grounds near a huge magnolia tree. I was so inspired by my teacher Miss Tuck, I went on to become a kindergarten and infants teacher, training at the nearby Kindergarten Union of NSW College in Waverley.

“St Catherine’s has always been a very special school and I am so impressed when I visit at how it has grown and developed over the years. St Catherine’s girls and teachers should be very proud of their school.

“In my later years, in the wartime 40’s, the white chapel building found a new position and purpose and became a science lab. Our class went there for biology lessons and science experiments. Here are my classmates sitting outside the lab having lunch on their last day at school before the leaving exam 1948.”

Margaret Upton Parker (Hargreaves 1951) held a major solo exhibition called Margaret Upton Body Language at the Cairns Regional Gallery from 13 April to 10 June 2012. Classmate Lady Joan Cutler (Goodwin) made the journey up for the opening.

Naomi Yupae (1984) since graduating with a social work degree and working for many years as Executive Director of Eastern Highlands Family Voice in Papua New Guinea, and winning an Australian Leadership Award, she has resigned to do her Master’s degree in Melbourne and is hoping during this time she will have an opportunity to revisit St Catherine’s.

Meherlyn Bamboat (Jussawalla 1994) is currently working at the University of New South Wales at UNSW International as Director – Diplomatic Relations and International. She works closely with the Vice Chancellor and Pro-Vice Chancellor (International) on the strategic protocol direction of the university at an international level.
St Catherine’s reunions

Reunions planned for 2012
Wagga Wagga – Saturday 16 June
Narrabri – Saturday 21 July

Class of 2007 reunion
On 11 May more than 50 day and boarding students returned to the school for their 5-year reunion. This celebratory cocktail function was hosted by the school and held in the Nan Hind Centre. Prior to the students reminiscing about the last five years, Mrs Evangeline Galettis conducted a tour of the Nan Hind Centre for those interested in seeing this innovative facility for our Junior School students.

Reunion organiser Eleni Carkagis thanked all those who attended including Dr Julie Townsend and staff members Mrs Glen Israel, Mrs Gillian Hampton and Mr Tim Ulrick for their attendance.

Country celebration in Dubbo
On Sunday 20 May the St Catherine’s community joined together for a celebratory luncheon in the Savannah Function Centre set in the grounds of Taronga Western Plains Zoo Dubbo. 28 current parents, old girls and past parents were entertained magnificently by the Senior School choir and the Senior orchestra who were present as part of a regional music tour.

Dorothy Stanford (Inder 1945) thanked the girls reflecting on her winning of the music prize in 1945 but without any of the wonderful opportunity and facilities of today.
Welcome to the world…

It is always wonderful to celebrate births within our staff. This season we warmly welcome:

Mae Argyle Smith, born 5 December, daughter of Jane Smith, Year 8 Mentor

Sienna Daisy Cairns, born 21 February, daughter of Elaine Cairns, Head of Junior School Sports

Angus Bennett Koch, born 5 April, son of Reverend Alex Koch.

Congratulations…

It has also been a season of marriages.

Angela Cole, Year 6 teacher, married Luke MacNamara

Alex Le Couteur, Junior School Art teacher, married Danson Mutuota

Tessa Rossington, Head of Biblical Studies married Derek Repp. Her dress was beautifully designed by the wife of Stephen Pfeiffer from the history faculty.

Accomplishments…

We congratulate all staff for another great season at St Catherine’s. We would like to especially note the following accomplishments:

Dianne Hubbard, Assistant Head of English, for presenting at the English Teachers Association HSC Extension 1 Student Day for the plenary session titled, Valuing the art of composing complex texts: the crucial connection between research and composition.

Aine de Paor and Renelle Williams from the drama faculty, for jointly presenting a paper/workshop entitled, Physical Theatre for Dynamic Devising at the Drama NSW Conference. This will be published in an edition of the Drama NSW professional journal, JEDA, later this year.

Aine de Paor, the Head of Drama, for completing her thesis for her second masters degree, an honours masters by thesis in performance studies. She has also been invited to perform at ‘Bloomsday on Bondi’, an event celebrating the works of James Joyce. She has also had her paper, The House Without a Mother. It is based on teaching the HSC topic, ‘Irish drama’ and was published in the first edition of JEDA for this year.

Darryl Hearsch, the Head of Science, for playing in the over 50s and over 55s hockey state championship. Also for being inducted into the sporting hall of fame exhibition for services and achievements to golf at Macquarie University, where he received his Full Blue for Golf in 1984.

Ramona Lobo from the mathematics faculty for appearing on SBS on the show Bollywood Star as a choreographer.

Nicola Logan from the Junior School for winning four gold medals at the NSW surf lifesaving branch championships. She also won two gold medals and a silver medal and came fifth at the NSW state championships.