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Cover image
Year 11 student Georgia Hackett, with friends

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St Catherine’s ceremonial flag bearers
(left to right): Year 11 students Siobhaun Smith, Lily Beckhurst and Lucy Blanzan
A St Catherine’s girl...

“Intelligence is not enough.
Intelligence plus character
– that is the goal of a true education.”

Martin Luther King Jr
‘The Purpose of Education’, Morehouse College
February 1947

Each of our girls is unique, blessed with her own set of God-given strengths.

Our wish for our girls is that they harness those unique strengths to become young women of intellect and character – women who achieve at the highest levels in their area of expertise, and do so with integrity and fortitude.

This Bulletin highlights the range of gifts and talents our girls have, and the uses they put them to – from positive psychology practices to overseas service visits to professional networking breakfasts.

As you leaf through the pages, I am sure you will be struck by the courage, resilience, compassion, generosity and joy of our girls, both past and present – by their intelligence and character.

Dr Julie Townsend
Headmistress
We congratulate the Class of 2013 on their outstanding HSC results. With 41% of girls receiving an ATAR of 90 or above and nine students receiving Premier’s Awards, St Catherine’s was ranked 33rd in New South Wales.

These are excellent results and we are so proud of the girls and their dedicated teachers who worked with determination and commitment to achieve these superb results.

The great depth of the cohort was seen in St Catherine’s receiving 135 mentions across 32 courses on the Board of Studies Distinguished Achievers list from a cohort of 83 students. We were also very proud to see our girls nominated in every HSC showcase including three for Encore (music), one for CallBack (dance), one for ArtExpress (visual arts), one for DesignTech (design and technology) and one for Young Writers’ Showcase (English extension 2).

Other extraordinary achievements included placing second and third in the state for music 1 with both students scoring a perfect 100%. We secured ninth place in studies of religion and all students studying French continuers and English extension 2 were placed in the top performance band.

It is interesting to see our performance in comparison to the state and the table below indicates subjects where students performed at twice above the state mean.

Of particular interest is the strong correlation of study patterns to successful ATAR scores. Our key finding indicates that students with a minimum of 11 units of study, outperformed the ATAR achievement of those with only 10 units.

Trends reflect that girls who had the most rigorous study patterns were the strongest performers in the HSC. The girls who achieved the top two ATAR scores were students studying 13 units. Our other Premier’s Award winners studied either 11 or 12 units. It is clear that a rigorous pattern of study, hard work and setting high expectations, are key factors in a successful HSC performance.

We warmly congratulate the Class of 2013 and wish the Class of 2014 every success.

Ms Bernardine Knorr
Head of Teacher Excellence
**Top achievers in NSW**
(left to right) Stephanie Ng, Felicity Lane and Laura Ng

**French continuers**
(left to right) Emily Lipschitz, Rebecca Caton, Adela Davis, Catherine Romeo, and Phoebe Skuse

**Natalie Chye** (left) accelerated student in mathematics and Pamela Wu, accelerated student in mathematics and music

### HSC courses with band 6 (2 unit subjects)/band E4 (extension subjects)

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<th>Subject</th>
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<th>Bands 5+6 school (%)</th>
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It’s all in the family

It’s a fine compliment we receive when Old Girls return with their daughters for us to educate the next generation.

**Angeliki Caredes**  
(nee Macarounas)

**Elena Caredes Year 3**

“I began my schooling life at St Catherine’s in 1986 in Year 1 with my older sister, Christina, who started in Year 3. One thing I clearly remember from all those years ago is the warmth and acceptance of being part of a beautiful school community. Together with our younger sister, Zoe, we have very fond memories of our time as St Catherine’s girls.

“Toward the end of Year 7 after being accepted into Newtown High School for the Performing Arts to pursue my interest in dance and drama. Then upon finishing my HSC, I continued on to the University of Technology, Sydney where I completed a Bachelor of Education (Primary).

“Throughout my years of study I would often think about the rich learning experiences I had during my schooling at St Catherine’s and how it helped to shape me as a person as well as the teacher I was studying to become.

“When my daughter Elena was born in 2006, I did not hesitate in choosing St Catherine’s for her. Even during her orientation before the commencement of Kindergarten, I felt a great sense of pride taking my daughter back into the school I had once attended. I know that Elena loves that her mum knows all the words of the school song and cheers at carnivals with just as much pride as she does for our beloved Hulme-Moir! We are happy that Elena can also be proud to be a member of the community that her mum and aunties are part of and enjoy.”

**Anastasia Anne Nicolaou**  
(nee Tsolakis)

**Eva Nicolaou Year 7**

Anastasia commenced at St Catherine’s School in 1974. During her time in Senior School she was an active member of the Gymnastics Club, competing in both artistic and rhythmic teams over six years. Anne demonstrated strong organisational skills and went on to become both sports captain and house captain of Casterton. Conducting the house choir during the Clubs & Choirs inter-house competition and choreographing Casterton’s routine for the inter-house Physical Culture (PC) competition were memorable personal highlights. Anne was also elected as a school prefect in Year 12 and was awarded the Waverley Council Prize for Leadership in that year. She is the donor of the Gymnastics Cup, awarded annually since 1980 at the Senior School Speech Night.

Within independent schools, Anne is a well-respected primary school educator and over the last 30 years she has held senior executive and classroom teaching positions at Canberra Grammar School, Ascham School and St Spyridon College, in addition to relief teaching at St Catherine’s Junior School. Anne is a life member of the St Catherine’s Old Girls’ Union.

Eva, Anne’s daughter, commenced at St Catherine’s in 2012 as a Year 5 student, after relocating from Canberra with her family. She immediately immersed herself in school life becoming a member of the junior choir, percussion ensemble, junior concert band and rhythmic gymnastics team. Eva also represented St Catherine’s in the da Vinci Decathlon academic gala day in 2012. In 2013, she was elected Casterton vice-captain in the Junior School and gained immense pride as she personally helped Casterton in their attainment of the Gymnastics Cup in the annual Junior School inter-house competition.

Now in Year 7, Eva is receiving great pleasure from participating in the senior choir, intermediate concert band and flute ensemble. She is also training with St Catherine’s gymnastics club and will compete in the rhythmic representative squad at level 4 in local, school and state competitions later in the year. Eva is also a member of the 2014 Future Problem Solving team. She is eagerly looking forward to see where her exciting St Catherine’s journey will take her next.
Cathy Ridge (nee Ward)

Amy Ridge Year 12
Meghan Ridge Year 10

Cathy began at St Catherine’s in 1970 and graduated from St Catherine’s in 1983; while at school she held various leadership roles including being a prefect. She has been a member of the Old Girls’ Union and its executive since leaving school. She is currently the president of the OGU. After leaving school she studied computer science at the University of New South Wales. Cathy became a computer science graduate while working for Qantas in 1987 and, over the next 25 years, worked her way through many different departments and jobs within IT.

Cathy is currently a freelance contractor working most recently on the introduction of state-of-the-art technology in the brand new Qantas Catering Centre at Brisbane airport.

Amy started at St Catherine’s in Kindergarten in 2002 and Meghan in 2004. They were both swimmers from an early age.

Amy was a state and national swimmer before giving up swimming to concentrate on water polo. She has represented St Catherine’s at the JSHAA/IGSSA swimming carnival every year since Year 2 – this year will be her eleventh swimming interschool carnival for St Catherine’s and she is the co-captain of the team. Amy has gone on to play water polo for NSW in the U14s and U16s. She also represented NSW in the Australian School Girls competition last year in Perth, where they won gold. She played three test matches against New Zealand in the Australian U16 team, and most recently spent three weeks in January training full-time at the Australian Institute of Sport with an Australian junior squad. She is currently playing National League for her club team Cronulla, training with the NSW U18s side for the nationals in April. Amy also trains twice a week with the Senior NSW Institute of Sport squad at Homebush.

Meggie is following in her sister’s footsteps: also a state swimmer, she took up water polo in Year 6 and has represented NSW in the U14s state side. She plays U16s and U18s with her club – the University of NSW – and is currently training with the Emerging Talent Squad at NSW Institute of Sport. In March this year she was selected to attend an Australian U16 camp.

Louise Messis

Zara Messis Year 2

“Life for me at St Catherine’s was mapped out by my older sister, Michele, long before I even started at the school. Having started in Kindergarten herself in 1964, Michele was very excited about having her much younger sister starting in 1974 at the same school which she loved so much. So needless to say, when our daughter Zara Rose was born, it was my partner who (with a roll of the eyes) actually called her “the newest St Catherine’s girl” before any Messis did!

“My years at St Cath’s are often played out, over regular dinners with my close knit circle of school friends. Mum features in many of these stories, having been a St Catherine’s mum for 20 plus years. She certainly did her fair share of tuck shop duties, endless fetes and fundraising events, and competed in every ‘mothers and daughters’ swimming race for both daughters!

“My desire to be as much a part of Zara’s school life as my mum, is something I’m very passionate about. I’m following in Mum’s footsteps, with regular Deli duties. I will always be Zara’s biggest supporter at school carnivals, plays and recitals, just as Mum was to us. In fact, Mum still gets a little teary when she sees Zara doing something at school that Michele and I did. I often feel a little cheated when we don’t get to sing the school hymn or the school song in chapel or Friday Friends, but I’ll sing it with Zara driving home – she’s impressed that I remember all the words and verses!

“My years after school were spent studying here and abroad. I’ve just clocked up 20 fantastic years at Qantas, which has allowed us to travel extensively. To me, St Catherine’s is as symbolic as the red kangaroo is to Qantas. No matter where you are in the world, there’s usually a St Catherine’s girl or a connection to the school, nearby. When you connect, there are always plenty of stories, happy memories and laughter. I hope that Zara, and the next generation of St Catherine’s girls, will feel the same way.”

THEN...
Michele and Louise Messis in 1977

...AND NOW
Louise Messis with her daughter Zara

An Anglican day and boarding school for girls | 7
Eirene Mort was born on 17 November 1879 and was the third daughter of Henry Wallace Mort, the first rector of All Saints’ Church in Ocean Street, Woollahra.

In 1889 she began her schooling at St Catherine’s and remained there until her senior examination in 1897. She was a bright student and was awarded prizes each year in English, French, mathematics, art, painting, scripture and botany. Eirene was interested in sport, particularly cricket, which she played at St Catherine’s.

She went on to win a Knox scholarship and the University Medal for Design.

Whilst at school her interest in art was fostered by her Headmistress Helen Phillips who built The Studio (now our Museum) as a working studio for her pupils.

Her first art teacher was Signor Dattilo-Rubbo from whom she gained a classical aspect for accurate drawing. She also studied with AH Fullwood, a contemporary of Arthur Streeton and Tom Roberts.

In 1898 Eirene travelled to London to further her studies and she attended the Grosvenor Life School, the Royal Academy of Needlework and Kensington Art School from which she gained an art teacher’s certificate.

During this time Eirene came under the influence of the Pre-Raphaelites and, on her return to Australia in 1906, she opened an art and design centre with a former friend, Nora Weston, which flourished for 30 years producing art works and artefacts which emphasised Australian motifs and patterns. Eirene also developed a strong interest in personalised book plates.

Eirene taught art at a number of schools and was a founding member in 1908 of the Arts and Crafts Society of NSW. She also wrote and published a number of books including The Story of Architecture which she wrote as a text book at the request of the NSW Education Department.

In 1956 Eirene attended St Catherine’s centenary. Her gift to the school was her ‘ABC’ and an account of her school days which is one of our most valuable and original historical sources.

In her later years she was proud of her status as the ‘oldest old girl’ from St Catherine’s.

Eirene died in 1977. Aged 98 she was involved in life, work, her family and friends to the end. She once said she was too busy for a career. If that meant she spread her undoubted talents far and wide instead of following a traditional career path then posterity can only be grateful.

Mrs Evangeline Galettis
Archivist
Friendship is the key

St Catherine’s girls come from far and wide, but the friendships and care they receive at the boarding house make it a place they can truly call ‘home’.

Jessica Berryman
Year 12
Jess joined St Catherine’s in Year 11, having moved from her country town of Wellington, located west of the Blue Mountains, not far from Dubbo. Jess adapted well to boarding and, as a testament to her independent nature and popularity, she was recently voted Year 12 leader of the 2014 boarders’ council.

Jess loves sports such as soccer and touch football; the location of the school to Bronte Beach for her morning run; and the friends she’s made.

“I’m forming friendships that will last forever. There’s always someone to cheer you up when you’re down.”

Matilda Single
Year 10
Tilly has been a boarder for just over a year, having left Mudgee High School in 2013 to join Year 9. Tilly has a lot of interests: sports like netball, tennis and softball and subjects such as visual arts, drama, English and history. Tilly “loves making boarder buddies. I’ve never experienced such strong friendships as those I have in the boarding house”.

Alessandra Panizza
Year 11
Alessandra chose to leave Victoria Junior College, Singapore to experience her senior education in Sydney as a boarder at St Catherine’s.

Why St Catherine’s? “It has a beautiful location and campus and a wide range of activities and programs that go alongside the academic classes. The boarding house seemed to have a lovely homely atmosphere and I thought it would be a good place to transition back to Australia.”

“What I like most about my experience so far is the friends I’ve made and the combination of independence and care that allows us to grow and form our individual identity.”

Darcie Urquhart
Year 8
Darcie, sister of Madie Urquhart, Year 10, lives in Quirindi. “I chose St Catherine’s because the first time I met some boarding staff members they were kind and polite.”

Darcie likes to run and is particularly keen on athletics and hockey. She also likes to draw and experience things that are completely new. “I’ve adapted well to my new lifestyle as a boarder”.

An Anglican day and boarding school for girls | 9
A family affair

In January this year, St Catherine’s welcomed five members of the Kemister family to Junior and Senior School. A sixth will arrive in the not too distant future.

In 2009, after nine years in Wangaratta Victoria, Reverend Bradley Kemister, his wife Mary Kemister and their growing family moved to St John’s Church, Darlinghurst for a more evangelical approach. At the beginning of Term 1 in January, St Catherine’s welcomed five of their eight children – Elizabeth, Julia, Mariam, Rebekah and Talitha – after being home schooled since mid-2008.

The family chose St Catherine’s because of its location, Anglican Christian ethos and positive community spirit. With their youngest daughter in Kindergarten and the eldest in Year 10, the girls will soon be joined by their youngest sister Hadassah who turned three this year.

Despite being quite a change, from country to city and home schooling to mainstream schooling, the girls are thoroughly enjoying their time at St Catherine’s, making new friends and taking in their new environment. Rev Kemister said “We home schooled the girls because we really wanted to shape their character and we weren’t happy with the local schools in the country. Now in Sydney, the girls are loving St Catherine’s, they have settled in well. We really want them to have an Anglican education outside of the parish of Darlinghurst and St Catherine’s is just perfect for this.”

Julia Kemister, who is in Year 10, said “I really enjoy being at St Catherine’s, everybody is so friendly and welcoming. I have made a lot of new friends and there are so many more opportunities available to me. I have joined the choir and I play violin as part of an ensemble. Moving from the country to the city and going to school instead of being home schooled has been a new experience, but I am very happy about it. Being part of a big family is exciting and fun, there is always something happening at home, it’s impossible to be bored. Having my sisters here at school is great, we are like best friends.”
Sisters Laura and Kate Farquhar joined St Catherine’s boarding community at the beginning of Term 1. They have settled into boarding life brilliantly; already, both girls have been voted onto the boarder’s council by their peers and housemates.

From a large family of four siblings, the girls spent much of their childhood on a livestock farm in Manilla (a small town in NSW), before moving to Tamworth. Quite a contrast to the bright lights and bustling streets of Sydney.

As talented water polo players, the girls made regular trips to Sydney for competitions. They chose St Catherine’s because of the sporting opportunities available. Budding actress Laura (Year 11) was also particularly taken with the arts and theatre prospects.

“The drama facilities and courses at St Catherine’s are brilliant, I really enjoy the drama I’m involved in and it’s all on my doorstep. I enjoy living in the boarding house, it’s very friendly and welcoming – it’s like a second home. Moving from the country to Sydney is a very different experience, but I feel independent exploring the city. I’ve always wanted to go to university and had only really considered smaller towns. Now I think Sydney will be the best place for me to study”, said Laura.

Year 10 student Kate has achieved great success in swimming and water polo and is excited to be at a school where she can develop her skills in the pool as well as in the classroom.

“In Tamworth, water polo has to stop in winter and we lose a lot of our skills. At St Catherine’s the sport runs year round and we have Olympic standard coaches. I love being part of a team and training to be the best I can be.”

Florina flies in from Switzerland

Florina Normann joined St Catherine’s for Term 1 as an exchange student from Geneva, Switzerland – where she lives with her parents Lasse and Sybille Normann. Florina has a talent for languages, speaking both French and Norwegian at home and learning German and English at school.

School life in Switzerland is very different when compared to Australia. Despite having turned 18, Florina and her peers are set to graduate from high school at the age of 19 or 20. After hosting an exchange student, Emily Rice from Sydney Girls High School, Florina took the opportunity to improve her English and experience life in Australia.

Florina is staying with Emily Rice, her parents Simon and Elizabeth Rice and Emily’s two siblings. As an only child, Florina enjoys the change in dynamics a large family brings.

With the Rice family, Florina has visited some of Sydney’s famous icons and sunny beaches.

“Everything is new and exciting. I am used to lakes and mountains, so even the sand and the waves at the beach are new to me. I have gained so much from this experience and I’m so glad I have taken the opportunity to experience a new culture and improve my language skills. I really love St Catherine’s, it is very different to my school, especially the house system; it creates a real sense of community – it’s like a small family and there is such a great atmosphere,” said Florina.

After she leaves St Catherine’s, Florina will attend an English language school in Australia, before she flies to Germany where she will complete a further six months exchange at a school in Munich or Berlin.
Our academic leaders

**Head of English**  
Dr Nina Cook  
BA Dip. Ed MA PhD

Born into a large family of five children, Dr Nina Cook grew up in Lindfield. Reading and creativity have been her biggest passions from a young age; it seemed only natural to become an English and drama teacher when looking at career options after school.

Since becoming a teacher in 1987 Dr Cook has combined her love of travel and seeking new experiences with her role as an educator. Her first teaching position took her to the red dirt surrounds of the outback in Wagga Wagga and Hillston, NSW. After two years she moved overseas to teach drama in the UK – which led to a role even further afield at an international school in Athens, during the Gulf War.

After three years, Dr Cook returned to the UK as Head of Drama and Theatre Arts. During this time she completed a masters in the literature and politics of the Romantic era and a PhD on contemporary female biographers.

With a doctorate and years of varied experience behind her, Dr Cook made the move back to Australia to spend four happy years close to her family. However, in 2004 she felt it was time to return to the UK, where she stayed as Head of General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) until 2010. Now back on the sunny shores of Sydney, Dr Cook joined St Catherine’s at the start of Term 1 as Head of English; a role she thoroughly enjoys.

“I love being in the classroom and communicating a love of literature and books. It is so important to read in this day and age. My experience of working in other countries and travelling has taught me so much; travel develops empathy and understanding and it is one of the most important human qualities. I really want to develop a culture of thinking within the classroom and a pleasure in investigation, exploration and conversation. I truly believe that we shouldn’t be scared of making mistakes; failure makes us stronger and it helps us to learn.”

Despite being settled here in Australia, Dr Cook still enjoys spending time abroad and uses non-term time to travel to New York, Paris and London; visiting art galleries, going to the theatre and of course reading as many books as she can.

**Head of Science**  
Mr Mark Webber  
BSc Dip. Ed MA (Education) MA EdL

Mr Webber joined St Catherine’s as Head of Science at the beginning of Term 1, after nearly 33 years of teaching. Throughout high school Mr Webber developed a love of science and the environment and went on to study a Bachelor of Science at The University of Sydney, majoring in geology and geophysics. It was at this time he recognised a strong desire to teach and went on to complete a Diploma of Education at The Australian Catholic University.

During his third year of teaching Mr Webber embarked on a Masters in Arts Education at Macquarie University.

Since then Mr Webber has been working in education gaining vast experience in a variety of roles including Assistant Principal, Director of Curriculum, Head of Teaching and Learning as well as Liaison Officer for the Board of Studies.

“It’s not just teaching science that I love, it’s teaching and inspiring young people. My aim is to ensure that science is a stimulating and challenging course of study for girls at St Catherine’s and to raise awareness of the career potential in science, technology and mathematics. It is important to increase girls’ self-confidence in problem solving and creative thinking in these fields; especially in today’s global society, where there is an ever greater demand for skills in this area.”

Born and bred in Sydney Mr Webber grew up near Eastwood with his parents and four siblings. Having enjoyed being part of a large family he and his wife Carola are now happily married, living in Parramatta with four children of their own.

When not at work or preparing lessons, Mr Webber enjoys spending time with his family. As they have become older and more independent Mr Webber uses the extra time to keep active, regularly going cycling. To relax he enjoys reading and watching movies. Travelling is also a passion of his; from relatively near – visiting Tasmania and the Northern Territory – to overseas, exploring New Zealand and South East Asia.

Mr Webber’s next trip will take him further afield to Spain, visiting his daughter on a University of Technology Sydney exchange program.
Ms Walker lives in Pymble with her husband, childhood sweetheart Andrew and their three children, Nick, Abbey and Mark. Born in Melbourne and raised in Sydney’s north shore Ms Walker loves living in Sydney, being in a familiar environment, surrounded by people with a shared history. Inspired by her modern history teacher, Ms Walker aspired to become a teacher from a young age. After graduating from high school she went on to study a Bachelor of Education at The Australian Catholic University; specialising in economics. Soon after graduation Ms Walker’s first teaching role was at St Scholastica’s in Glebe. While at the school she took on various leadership roles and worked on literacy and commerce based projects for the Association of Independent Schools. After five years of teaching business and economics, Ms Walker moved into the corporate world to gain hands on business experience. She worked in marketing and sales for Optus before moving into event management for the Australian Tourism Export Council.

In 2004 Ms Walker and her growing family moved to Perth where she returned to teaching as Head of Middle School at Irene McCormack Catholic College. Her previous leadership roles had been mostly curriculum focused, this new role was a great opportunity to explore pastoral care, an area she thoroughly enjoyed. Despite enjoying life on the west coast, the family moved back to Sydney in time for their eldest son to start high school. Ms Walker continued teaching and joined St Catherine’s as Head of Social Science in January at the beginning of Term 1.

“I love teaching, every day is different and there is always something new to learn. I am inspired by what technology is doing for teaching. The possibilities for innovative learning are endless. Instead of one excursion to explore geography per year, you can go on virtual field trips. You no longer have to go out and find the world, you can bring the world to you. My vision is that as well as developing a love for the social sciences, girls will learn 21st century thinking skills they will use for the rest of their lives.”

Outside of school Ms Walker keeps very busy renovating houses, judging gymnastics competitions and watching their two race horses bring home medals. With three children, relaxing is a luxury but the family find time to head down to the beach on sunny days. School holidays are spent travelling as much as possible; it has become a tradition for the family to go skiing in Wanaka, New Zealand each year.

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Born in Ireland Mr Adam Carron was raised one of six children and it would seem he was destined to become a teacher. He and three of his siblings have followed in the long standing family tradition of joining the teaching profession, with many generations of teachers and principals before them. After high school Mr Carron moved to the UK to study a Bachelor of Science in Business and Consumer Marketing at the University of Manchester. Having enjoyed his studies he moved back to Ireland to study a Masters in Strategic Communications and Information at Queen’s University, Belfast, with an end goal of teaching business and economics. To gain industry experience, he took on a project management role for a year, before moving back to the UK to study a Post Graduate Diploma of Education (PGCE) to become a qualified teacher.

Mr Carron has taught at co-educational schools in inner Manchester and worked as an examiner for the UK qualifications authorities. Lured by the warm weather, golden beaches and great career prospects, Mr Carron came to Sydney, where he worked for two years as ICT Integrator and Teacher Librarian at Newington College.

Joining St Catherine’s as Head of Research Centre at the beginning of Term 1, Mr Carron has a strong interest in research and inquiry based learning. He is excited about taking on such a dynamic role at the school.

“I am really passionate about literature and reading. One of my biggest aims is to find that one special book that turns a non-reader into an avid reader. I firmly believe that every child matters. I aim to ensure that information literacy skills are embedded into the girls’ learning; preparing them for future study and the global world of work. My vision for the Research Centre is for it to be the hub of the school. It plays a pivotal role in 21st century education and supports the learning of both students and staff. I am excited about the future.”

As a lover of good food, books and reading, the Australian beach and café lifestyle suits Mr Carron well. He uses his holidays to explore Australia; his favourite place is Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory. Before coming to Australia, Mr Carron took in the sights and sounds of South East Asia, a place he hopes to visit again soon. Mr Carron is currently teaching himself Spanish with a view to exploring South America in the not so distant future.
The principles of positive psychology and the core virtues of St Catherine’s school underpin our Service Education program. This program enables our students to engage in meaningful service through volunteer work, awareness programs, charity fundraising, production of resources or donating goods at a local, national and international level.

Service Education is a program that provides students with an understanding of how they can make a difference in the lives of others. It not only enriches the educational experience but teaches the students an ethic of civic service and the value of community relationships, resulting in positive feelings of gratitude, optimism and self-worth.

In 2013, students fundraised for the Black Dog Institute, World Vision, Daffodil Day, Pink Ribbon Day, Barnados, Jeans for Genes and much more. We also collected items for the Footpath Library, Youth off the Streets and boxes of goodies for Samaritan’s Purse. Students also volunteered for Bread of Life at St Michael’s Church and for the Red Shield Appeal.

St Catherine’s partnership with Mitrataa was sustained by consistent fundraising donations and another group is travelling to Nepal in April 2014. This will be our five-year anniversary of a relationship with the Dream Centres in Nepal. Service Education enables the girls to have awareness for their lives beyond school. Class of 2013 student Anastasya Lonergan was selected as an ambassador for World Vision and travelled to Tanzania as part of a leadership project.

It is great to see the girls of St Catherine’s enthusiastically involve themselves in all the activities on offer and we look forward to continued involvement in 2014.

Ms Sarah Hatch
Service Education Coordinator
A remarkable commitment

While others celebrated the end of a school year, Anastasya Lonergan took on a role as part of the World Vision Triennial Council in Tanzania. She shares her experience with The Bulletin...

Last November after completing my final HSC exam, I hopped on a plane that afternoon and went to Tanzania. The Triennial Council is a conference of all of World Vision’s board members, CEOs and international staff who meet together to discuss strategy and policy and review the organisation’s progress over the last three years and plan their vision for the next three.

This year the key theme was ‘Emmanuel let the children come’ and was centered on youth engagement and the importance of young people in a non-government organisation that serves people living in poverty.

As part of my role I was both a youth journalist and had to put together an exhibit about the way World Vision works with youth in Australia – then present all this in front of the International Board.

I talked about what issues young people thought were important. It was an incredible experience to get to meet a wide range of youth and staff from World Vision’s international offices and contribute my perspective on world issues and help plan towards World Vision’s future.

Alongside all the planning and logistics we visited Area Development Projects in the field, went on a safari and saw performances by traditional Masai dancers.

A memorable occasion was when all the youth from supporter countries met together with youth from sponsor countries and got to hear about the great work that was being funded by their countries. To have adults and youth from Cambodia, Romania, Tanzania and Rwanda come and tell me stories of the infrastructure being built in communities, children being sent to school and lives being changed because of funding from campaigns like the 40 Hour Famine, was incredible.

Each of them shared individual stories with me. One in particular was 15 year old Serevath from Cambodia, who spoke about how his family had been affected by poverty, leaving him to scrounge for food in the rice fields to feed his siblings. Through World Vision Australia his family had received agricultural training to grow healthy crops to feed his family. As he finished his story and I went to thank him he said, smiling through tears of joy, “Most importantly I would like to thank all the young people like you back in Australia, because although they do not know my name, or my story, they still give, they still care.”

So I’d just like to encourage St Catherine’s girls – every time you hold a cake stall, host a talent show or participate in the 40 Hour Famine you are actually doing something incredible that really impacts on people’s lives. If any of you are interested in getting more involved in service or VGen World Vision youth campaigning, you can contact Ms Hatch.

Anastasya Lonergan
Year 12 2013
Junior School highlights
Positive education is integral to life in the Junior School. Since its inception five years ago, a wide variety of strategies have been implemented, most of which are incorporated in the personal development and health programs taught by each of our class teachers.

For example, our youngest students learn about ‘green light’ versus ‘red light’ thinking; as they get older the students are taught how to ‘flip their thinking’ to learn optimism and manage negative emotions; students engage in ‘strength spotting’ activities, identifying strengths in story characters as well as one another; all Year 6 students complete the VIA Survey for children and young adults, and then represent visually their newly found knowledge about their signature strengths.

As students learn more about their own strengths they gain a greater appreciation of the strengths of others and the value these add to the school community.

Teachers have become familiar with the research and its applications through ongoing professional development. This has allowed them to incorporate positive psychology in numerous other aspects of school life.

The elements are taught, embedded and lived. For example, a number of classes regularly finish the school day with ‘what went well’ and many students record daily blessings in a special journal at home or at school.

This exercise harnesses the neuroplasticity of the brain – that is, its ability to grow and change throughout our lives. Every positive thought creates a channel in the brain. The more positive thoughts we have the deeper and stronger these channels become, thus making positive thought easier (Fox Eades, 2004, p.19).

All staff members have completed the Values In Action (VIA) survey and have been challenged to employ their signature strengths when faced with difficult situations, personally and professionally, and to reflect on the effectiveness of this strategy. Our weekly staff briefings commence with a teacher giving an example of ‘what worked well’ recently in their classroom. This then becomes a vehicle for further professional dialogue regarding best practice.
Inside the classrooms...

The growing tree
In Junior School classrooms, behaviour standards and rules are negotiated between students and teacher in order to foster reflective and respectful thinking. The following example from 4M demonstrates how this is done:

In keeping with the St Catherine’s core virtues and principles of positive psychology, classroom routines have been designed to identify personal strengths of each student and encourage resilience. At the beginning of the year, students in 4M discuss the classroom environment in which they would like to participate. The following classroom guidelines were agreed upon in 2014:

We laugh.
We share.
We begin with the end in mind.
We are curious.
We are honest.
We are all equal.
We do our best.
We try again.
We say sorry when we hurt someone.
We accept a mistake as a mistake.

Students are encouraged to recognise acts of their peers by placing a leaf or blossom on the ‘growing tree’ when they observe a class member demonstrating one of the guidelines in the school community.

The power of positive psychology
The language of positive psychology has become part of our daily conversation in 2B. The students actively ‘hunt the good stuff’ and take great joy in pointing out the positives in every situation. At the end of each day we discuss ‘what went well’ which allows each student to share their positive experiences with the class. The students then go home with feelings of gratitude and satisfaction. This has a wonderful impact on their approach to learning as the girls feel safe to take risks and appreciate every achievement.

Strength spotting
In 3D, strength spotting is used to build each students’ confidence. During the week students actively identify strengths shown by class members. On Friday one student is chosen and her strengths are identified on our class display of signature strengths. The students then discuss when they have seen this strength demonstrated by the student. The girls think hard and give good examples – they say the best part of strength spotting is being able to take Tuddy, the class bear, home for the weekend.

Ms Sarah Guy
Head of Junior School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VIA strengths survey</th>
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<tr>
<td>Top strengths for Year 6 students at St Catherine’s in Term 1 2014</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humour and playfulness</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bravery and valour</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curiosity and interest in the world</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gratitude</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zest, enthusiasm and energy</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citizenship, teamwork and loyalty</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appreciation of beauty and excellence</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spirituality, sense of purpose and faith</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modesty and humility</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairness</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self control</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindness and generosity</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry, diligence and perseverance</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
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Per cent 0 5 10 15 20 25 30
A busy year ahead for P&F

It is with pleasure that I write this column for the Bulletin in my second year as president.

The P&F Executive is a volunteer body of parents at the school. We have a number of new parents this year and we welcome Darren Collins as treasurer and Lisa Hammond as vice president.

We give a huge thanks to the outgoing P&F Executive members: Melissa Fisher (vice president), Dan Taylor (treasurer), Lyn West (P&F representative to the Foundation) and Joy Wooden (Senior School class parent co-ordinator). Melissa has now taken on the role of P&F representative to the Foundation. Thank you to all of the outgoing volunteers for your hard work and dedication to making the P&F a successful part of the fabric of school life at St Catherine’s.

The P&F continues to have shared responsibility for upholding the school community spirit, through the variety of events and initiatives that we run or are involved with. The first big event in the school’s social calendar is the annual cocktail party which is subsidised by the P&F.

On Valentines day in February 2014 we welcomed around 600 guests to celebrate the new school year. We were blessed with great weather and the prefects played a wonderful role as waiters during the event. This long standing annual social event is a chance to connect with old friends and meet new parents at the school.

At the P&F’s first meeting of the year in February 2014, we were entertained by our wonderful Kindergarten girls who sang, under the creative tutorship of Mrs Birrell.

By far the biggest event sponsored by the P&F in 2014 will be the Magnolia Fair – held every two years in May. The 2012 Fair raised a fantastic $90,000. I thank (not for the first time and definitely not the last) Sally Taylor who has volunteered to run the 2014 Magnolia Fair subcommittee. We are hugely grateful for the work Sally and her team are doing.

Money raised by the P&F is used to purchase items that contribute to the welfare of our girls, the school and the school community. For example, in 2013 the P&F purchased a small bus to get students to sport and other events – it does not need a special driver’s license, so parents and teachers can drive it.

At the first 2014 P&F meeting we agreed to fund an Artist in Residence program. The school will be utilising the remarkable talent of Lachlan Philpott – a professional playwright with a strong track record of collaborating with young people to create new theatre work. We look forward to some great outcomes from Lachlan’s work at the school in Term 2.

The P&F can’t do all of this on our own. We are ably assisted by the terrific group of class parents who also volunteer each year. I take the opportunity to thank our class parents, particularly in a Magnolia Fair year.

The P&F Executive encourage all of you to be active in the community and social life at the school. We also invite any new ideas or improvements you might suggest. We look forward to meeting and seeing you at many 2014 school events.

Thank you to all the prefects who gave their time on a Friday night to support us at the annual cocktail party.

Cool headmistress! Sometimes a parent’s camera captures a fabulous moment.
Maintaining and building a philanthropic culture

As we review the journey of the St Catherine’s Foundation we are delighted to report that many members of our school community – current and past parents and current and past staff – are contributing to ensure the best opportunities and facilities for St Catherine’s students now and well into the future.

We have received gifts made up of donations, pledges and bequest notifications from over 350 members of our community over the course of 2013. Thank you for your commitment to St Catherine’s and the girls.

The Foundation continues to focus its activities on building and maintaining a philanthropic culture in the school. And to that end the Foundation Scholarship fund is working to build a strong endowment to support students who might not be able to attend the school.

The Library Fund supports a range of initiatives, the most recent being the subscription to an excellent online history resource.

All donations to the school’s Building Fund are now being directed to our proposed capital works project comprising a Research Centre, 500-seat theatre, 12 lane indoor swimming pool and a multi-function hall which will be used for myriad activities.

The Foundation is also working to form alliances with the corporate sector to provide work experience and networking opportunities. Initially we are targeting business studies and economics students in senior years. This recent and exciting Foundation initiative has been well received and supported by the Head of Social Science Ms Tracey Walker.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of giving, including making provision for St Catherine’s in your will, please email Mrs Marilyn Rickard, Director Community Relations mrickard@stcaths.nsw.edu.au.

Should you wish to make an online gift to support the school please visit www.stcatherines.nsw.edu.au and select Online payments.

Annual Foundation members’ cocktail party
Friday 23 May 2014

This year we are delighted that Year 7 parent Michael Cordell, one of Australia’s most established producers and filmmakers, has agreed to be our guest speaker.

His projects have won numerous awards including six Logies, two Walkley nominations and two international Rose d’Ors.

Should you, as a member of our community who supports the school philanthropically, wish to receive an invitation, please email Mrs Marilyn Rickard, Director Community Relations mrickard@stcaths.nsw.edu.au.

Honouring your gift

A bequest to St Catherine’s is the ultimate gift, a way of expressing the affection you have for St Catherine’s and a way of giving back to the school.

Dr Peter Boxall AO
Chairman
OGU annual function

On St Catherine’s Day 2013, the Old Girls’ Union held their annual function at Vaucluse House tearooms. Instead of our usual Saturday lunch or afternoon tea, we decided on a Sunday brunch so that the function would be held on St Catherine’s Day.

It was a beautiful day and the outlook from the tearooms across the grounds was spectacular. The vote on the location, venue and time was that this was a resounding success and this year we will again be holding the function on a Sunday morning at Vaucluse House – so for those of you who were unable to come last year, pencil this in your diaries for Sunday 23 November 2014.

AGM and Chapel Service

Our Annual General Meeting and Chapel Service were held on 15 March this year. It was nice to welcome Rev Koch to his first Old Girls’ Chapel Service.

Magnolia Fair – Saturday 10 May 2014

The Old Girls are running the popular Devonshire teas in the boarders’ dining room again this year at the Magnolia Fair. All our scones and cakes are baked by Old Girls – so if you feel like doing some baking we would love any donations early on the morning of the Fair. If you are not a baker, you can still drop in for morning or afternoon tea to catch up with other Old Girls.

Vale

Florence Coombs (1915–2013)

A true St Catherine’s treasure

Florence Coombs was a lady who adored St Catherine’s in every way. Her association with the school began in 1958 when her daughter Sarah started at St Catherine’s. Sarah later became a boarder, as Florence travelled the world as a buyer for David Jones. Florence’s granddaughters Alexandra (1988–2001) and Jessica (1990–2003) also attended the school. She watched over the girls, the Junior School campus and displayed acts of kindness in so many ways to so many people. Her strong Christian faith was the essence of her life, she was an active member of the school prayer group and attended chapel services regularly.

Florence will be remembered as an amazing, loving, caring, dignified and selfless Christian lady who touched the hearts of everyone she met. She will be dearly missed.

Mrs Evangeline Galettis
Archivist and OGU Treasurer

OGU Executive

Mrs Cathy Ridge  President
Ms Patricia Wong  Vice President
Mrs Kim Rossleigh  Vice President
Mrs Evangeline Galettis  Treasurer
Mrs Janet Smith  Secretary
Mrs Wendy Jarratt  OGU Representative on the School Council
Ms Bronwyn Cooper  OGU Representative on the School Foundation

For any Old Girls’ Union queries, please contact the Secretary Janet Smith on jsmith@aitkenlawyers.com.au
On 6 March, 2014 we held our first St Catherine’s Professional Women’s Networking breakfast – to celebrate International Women’s Week and to connect as a community of professional women, sharing a common bond of St Catherine’s.

As we celebrate 158 years of educating strong, independent young women, we realise it is more important than ever to connect with our current parent body and alumni so we can provide our girls with a variety of successful role models across multiple disciplines. At the same time, we want women of St Catherine’s to have the opportunity to form valuable connections with each other and build their professional network.

Dr Julie Townsend, together with Mrs Genevieve Teo (parent Years 9 and 11, Class of 2009 and 2012) and Ms Anne-Maree Taylor (Year 5 parent) launched our first event with professional women based in Sydney’s CBD. Hannah Soh (1987), a partner in the global accounting practice of BDO, generously hosted the breakfast at BDO’s boardroom. Anne-Maree led a short networking exercise where women were able to meet other like-minded professional women.

The gathering were thoroughly engaged as guest speaker Emma Alberici – current host of ABC Lateline and former Europe correspondent – spoke on societal impediments to women’s success and led a spirited discussion on the introduction of quotas for women on boards.

Feedback from the event was very positive and we have already begun planning our next event later in the year. We will also launch a similar initiative for entrepreneurial women and small-business owners within our alumni and parent ranks. So if you would like to be involved in either group, please register your interest with Mrs Barbara Beasley Alumni Relations Coordinator bbeasley@stcaths.nsw.edu.au.

"Quoting the IMF's Christine Lagarde, working women can't fly solo... they need a community of support.”  
Emma Alberici, guest speaker and host of ABC Lateline

"I felt extremely inspired and motivated. This has changed the way I think about self-advancement.”  
Alexandra Teo (2009)

"The speaker, Emma Alberici, was very inspiring.”  
Bonnie Nixon (2006)  
Clinical Research Associate Roche

"Loved Emma Alberici's talk and the discussion.”  
Felicity Hall, Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, and current parent

“Deep cultural change is required to fully support women in the workforce.”
Bridget Powell, General Counsel, HSBC Bank and current parent

"The networking exercise first, followed by a guest speaker, worked well.”
Simone Angelos (1982)  
Project Director, Morph Communications
The Class of 1983
30-year reunion

Twenty-eight girls from the Class of 1983 met for their 30-year reunion in June last year at Ceviche Restaurant Coogee. Girls travelled from north, as far as Queensland, south, east and far west... even from Singapore! The chatter and laughter grew louder as the evening went on and by the end, a lot of great stories were told and a lot of fun catching up had been experienced by all.

The Class of 1989

One group of Old Girls -- all friends from the Class of 1989 -- hold an annual get together, with their families, to catch up and reminisce. Between them they have 15 children aged 2 to 14.

The Class of 1993
20-year reunion

On Saturday 30 November, a group of Old Girls from the Class of 1993 gathered at the Clovelly Hotel to celebrate their 20-year reunion. Over 45 people spent the afternoon reminiscing about their school days and talking about what they have been doing in the last 20 years.

The Class of 2003

The Class of 2003 celebrated their 10-year anniversary in October last year. Around 22 Old Girls enjoyed an afternoon at the Paddington Bowling Club.

Welcome back to the Classes of 2012 and 2013

In February, the Headmistress Dr Julie Townsend and other staff members welcomed back to the school students from the Class of 2012 and 2013. Several past students had just returned from a gap year overseas and had some wonderful stories to relay.

If you see someone you know and would like to get in touch, go to Old Girls Online http://internet-alumni.com/nsw/stcaths
An Anglican day and boarding school for girls

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

Class of 2009
5-year reunion
Friday 16 May 2014
St Catherine’s School
Contact Mrs Barbara Beasley
bbeasley@stcaths.nsw.edu.au

Class of 2004
10-year reunion
Contact Kathleen Brady
kathleennbrady@gmail.com

Class of 1994
20-year reunion
Saturday 21 June 2014
Clovelly Hotel
Contact Kirsty Stewart
kirsty@portaleducation.com.au

Class of 1984
30-year reunion
Contact Kylie Heussner
Kylie.Heussner@macquarie.com

Class of 1974
40-year reunion
Contact Mrs Barbara Beasley
bbeasley@stcaths.nsw.edu.au

Jane Barker Luncheon
– 50 years and beyond
Wednesday 21 May 2014
at St Catherine’s School

Please contact Mrs Barbara Beasley, Alumni Relations Coordinator if you have any enquiries. Email bbeasley@stcaths.nsw.edu.au or phone 02 8395 6234.

Old Girls’ mother and daughter breakfast

One of the annual events held at the school is the Old Girls mother and daughter breakfast which is hosted by the Headmistress Dr Julie Townsend and Head of Junior School Ms Sarah Guy. This breakfast is for Old Girls who now have daughters at the school.

The Class of 1963
50-year reunion

The Class of 1963 held their 50 year reunion at the Double Bay Sailing Club on Saturday 19 October, 2013. Twenty-two girls attended and 13 apologies were received. Eight of those in attendance were from the Kindergarten Classes of 1950–51.

It was a very happy reunion of old friends – some had not seen each other for over 40 years. Friendships were rekindled and all plan to keep in touch.

Old Girls’ mother and daughter breakfast

Mrs Trish Wilson, Director of Boarding and Enrolments at the Education Expo in Hong Kong with Old Girls Sharon Yam and Maggie Chan from the Class of 2004

Left to right: Mrs Judy Greenlaw (Green), Ms Joyanne Wilson and Mrs Linsey Plante (Tate)

Left to right: Ms Elizabeth George, Mrs Dianne Oliver (Shaw), Mrs Jennifer Antico (Collins), Mrs Robyn Chadwick (Scheller), Mrs Vanda Cassim (James), Mrs Diane McHardy (Boyd) and Mrs Dianne Keniry (Cooper)

Mrs Margaret O’Neill (Murden) and Mrs Vivienne Luscombe (Davey)

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Life’s milestones

To the bride and groom...

Our congratulations go to Miss Meg Hanvey, Kindergarten teacher, who married Mr Andrew Lim on 14 December.

We are also delighted to share the good news of the marriage of Mr David Gresham, our Head of Music – Performance, to Ms Alina Belshaw, a past music teacher of St Catherine’s, on 4 January. Needless to say, the music was exquisite!

...and welcome

We are very excited to announce our smaller recent additions to the St Catherine’s community:

Alyss, born on 20 November, daughter of Mrs Alex Mutuota, Junior School visual arts teacher.

Flynn Koch, born 28 December, a third son for Rev Alex Koch, our school chaplain.

Harry Allan, born 27 March, son of Mrs Elaine Cairns, Head of Junior School Sport.
We congratulate all staff for another great season at St Catherine’s. We would like to especially note the following accomplishments:

• **Ms Bernardine Knorr**, Head of Teacher Excellence, concluded a three-year appointment as HSC Supervisor of Marking, English Extension 1 for the NSW Board of Studies.

• **Ms Natalie Miller**, Director of Learning Enrichment, was elected to the NSW Learning Difficulties Coalition management committee.

• **Mr David Gresham**, Head of Music – Performance, adjudicated the Yamaha Band Festival and completed Level 3 Orff Schulwerk Creative Music Education.

• **Mrs Beatriz Cartlidge**, Head of History, was awarded the Professional Teachers’ Council (PTC) NSW Outstanding Professional Service Award for 2013.

• **Mrs Margaret Leggat**, Head of Languages, was appointed as Chief Examiner and chair of the 2014 examination committee for German.

• **Ms Sarah Hatch**, the Year 10 Mentor and Coordinator of Service Education, travelled to Cambodia with Samaritan’s Purse as part of a principals and educators trip to learn about their needs for service. As part of the trip she participated in an educational symposium to improve education in Cambodia.

• **Ms Marion Rosen**, French and Japanese teacher, was elected President of NAFT (NSW Association of French language Teachers). She presented workshops and delivered presentations at the professional learning sessions. She also implemented a number of professional development opportunities for teachers and students of French – including conferences, an immersion weekend, Year 12 study and speaking days, Stage 6 assessment and feedback learning sessions.

• **Ms Zara Collins**, General Art Assistant, was the curator for the jewellery exhibition, White Heat.

• **Mr Darryl Hearsch**, Research Centre Manager, who retired the end of September 2013, currently leads the NSW Order of Merit with a win, 4th place and 2nd place in the first three Seniors Events.

• **Ms Sarah Hatch**, Ms Jessica Hill, Ms Nikki Bowden and Mr Brody Vancers all gained the accreditation level Experienced Teacher as recognised by the Independent Schools Teacher Accreditation Authority.
In memory...

The boarding community has experienced such deep sadness at the loss of Grace Lindsay and Anne-Marie Spencer, yet we are grateful for their influence, and hold wonderful memories of two very special women who we've been privileged to know and love.

**Grace Lindsay** joined St Catherine’s in Year 10, 2011 and completed her HSC exams in 2013. Grace died at 18 years of age, on 27 December 2013, as the result of a car accident near her home in Narrabri.

With her sharp wit and beautiful broad smile, Grace lit up the room; she made friends easily and was known and admired for her ability to persevere regardless of how tough she found school work or waking up at 4.30am for rowing!

Grace loved her family, the outdoors, painting, and her involvement with St Matthias Church in Paddington.

**Anne-Marie Spencer** passed away peacefully on 17 February 2014, after a long battle with cancer.

Anne-Marie’s strong Catholic faith, positivity, respect for others, caring and gentle nature brought a very special quality to our boarding community – which she joined in 2005. Always sensitive to others’ needs, Anne-Marie endeared herself to all who met her; she will always be warmly remembered as our boarding house ‘treasure’.