Dear Past Students,

Our College theme for 2015 is Hope: For the Head, Heart and Soul with the aim to draw each member of the community into a promise of engagement, vitality and growth. Hope becomes the light in the darkness, the breath into life, the embrace of possibilities.

As a Christian community, our hope rests in the person of Jesus who is Lord, raised from the dead and the anchor for life’s meaning. Hope conveys the confident trust in God’s redemption won through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom 5:5; 2 Cor 3:12). Hope speaks of an inseparable union between humanity (us) and the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 8:39) and St Paul’s letter to Corinth (2 Cor 12:10) identifies Hope as part of the difficult journey…the tinkering of something more.

The theme of HOPE is vital for us as we live in a world that can be at times so confronting with shocking acts of terrorism, great vulnerability, abuse and confusion by the mixed and false messages projected through the media about life.

It is essential for our community to become the collective voice of Hope. Not quietly but loudly and strongly. For when Hope becomes the core of our being and the driver for our head, heart and soul we become our very best selves and by doing so, we become agents of hope, the carrier of the flame. We become more open to receiving hope from others as we give hope.

Such a reciprocal relationship was crystallised this year as six students and two members of staff travelled to Bacolod, Philippines in April. Their trip offered friendship to the Sisters of the Good Samaritan as they worked daily in the Kindergarten and neighbourhood, giving to those who have little. The students who gave also received in abundance, through the smiles of welcome and hope filled spirit of the Bacolod community.

It is these actions of discipleship, the call of the Good Samaritan parable to “Go and do likewise” (Lk 10:37) the catalyst of Hope begins for all, yet especially pertinent for those who have been educated within the Good Samaritan tradition.

Deborah M. Barker - Principal
Farewell Gifts
It has been the custom for some years for the departing Year 12 students to give the College a present. Past gifts have included a garden seat, a comfy couch for relaxed reading in the Library, and the much used blue couch outside the Year 12 Coordinator’s Office.

We have a detailed account of the 1970 presentation - a baby tree.

The 1971 Marian reported that:

“The 1970 Matriculation Class presented the College with Year 12 students to give the College a present. Past gifts have included a garden seat, a comfy couch for relaxed reading in the Library, and the much used blue couch outside the Year 12 Coordinator’s Office.”

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Archbishop’s Conversation
On Friday 20 March, we were privileged to go to the Archbishop’s Conversation with 2015 Student Leaders.

The day started off with Archbishop Denis Hart, welcoming us and sharing his experiences growing up and what faith meant to him.

The stage was then graced by Brother Marcus and Christina who taught us about a very inspirational man, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. Pier died at the early age of twenty-four but lived his life with plenty of adventure. Most importantly he lived his life constantly helping others. Pier was the main focus of the day. He would constantly put those who were less fortunate before himself.

A quote by Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati provided much of the conversations we then had in our small group discussions- “The higher we go, the better we shall hear the voice of Christ”.

This event was a fantastic opportunity to listen and ask questions of Archbishop Denis Hart, to meet some very cheerful people from NET Ministries and to talk to students from Catholic Schools all around Melbourne.

Thank you to Mrs Ridley for supporting us on the day and to the College for the wonderful opportunity.

Vale Louise Kurczycki (Class of 1979)
Earlier this year, twenty outstanding women were inducted onto the 2015 Victorian Honour Roll of Women, tying in with International Women’s Day on 8th March.

We are proud to announce that one of those inductees was talented MS researcher, Louise Kurczycki, whose pioneering work on tackling continence issues in MS was recently funded by an MS Research Australia project grant and made significant inroads to changing clinical practice.

Louise sadly passed away in late 2014, leaving behind her husband Joe and three children, Alek (21), Andrew (18) and Olivia (17), not to mention the many colleagues and people with MS who benefitted from working and meeting with her.

Louise was an exceptional clinician; combining sensitivity, humour, a deep understanding of cross-cultural issues and a firm hand. Few others in her field could match her capacity to empower people who were suffering with continence problems.

Most recently, Louise was funded by MS Research Australia to undertake a randomised control trial in the management of continence issues in MS and an associated prevalence study. The first stage of this project refined a screening tool for people with continence issues. The second stage implemented the refined tool through MS nurses in Australia and New Zealand and her most recent work sought to clarify the prevalence and impact of these symptoms on the MS population. So Louise, through her research and screening of 200 MS patients, personally developed an effective tool to tackle these issues.

Despite having her own health problems, Louise travelled around Australia and New Zealand to educate as many MS nurses as she could, face to face, on how to implement, understand and direct management plans for their MS patients. This is undoubtedly changing the way continence issues are being addressed in Australasian MS patients for the long term, primarily from this one woman’s endeavour.

Louise’s passion was to teach staff to enable them to teach patients. Two weeks before she died, too early of advanced breast cancer, Louise was teaching the nurses at a Melbourne private hospital how to teach patients to self-catheterise. She was an inspirational speaker, using humour and personal anecdotes that helped staff and health professionals to grasp this difficult and important concept. Right up to the end she was still imparting her expert knowledge and making a real and lasting contribution for people with MS.

Louise Kurczycki gave an inspiring service to the MS community. She benefitted many people with MS individually; she advocated for people with MS through her research projects and she has ensured her legacy will live on through her sharing of knowledge with MS professionals around the world.

Victorian Minister for Women, Fiona Richardson, said “The Victorian Honour Roll of Women formally acknowledges the women who have worked hard to make our society stronger, better and fairer”.

Winifred Chiminello
Winifred Chiminello passed away on 6 June 2015 aged 93. Win attended Santa Maria College in the 1930’s and was a member of the Class of 1940, Lourdes House.

Win loved her years at Santa Maria College and was very proud of her association with the College and with the Good Samaritan sisters. She was a loyal old collegian and delighted in returning to Santa for milestone class reunions, especially her 70 year reunion in 2010.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Ann McCrohan (Mears)
passed away on 8 April 2015 aged 67. Ann attended Santa Maria College in the 1960’s and was a member of the Class of 1965, Rosaria House.

Winifred Chiminello (Long)
passed away on 6 June 2015 aged 93. Win attended Santa Maria College in the 1930’s and was a member of the Class of 1940, Lourdes House.

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Rest in peace, Win.

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