



Avila Old Collegians

Avila College acknowledges the Wurundjeri people, the traditional custodians of the land on which the College is built.

December, 2012

Time to reflect and celebrate

As 2012 draws to a close, Avila College has much to celebrate and much to reflect upon with the passing of two significant women in the history of the College, as well as the retirement of long-serving staff members, a range of remarkable student achievements, and the official opening and blessing of our new Learning Centre.

In October, the College community was saddened by the passing of Sister Raymonde Taylor, our second Principal from 1971 to 1973 and Mrs Sue Redman, Deputy Principal from 1992 to 2003. Sister Raymonde and Mrs Redman were two significant women from very different eras who have helped shape the Avila we know today. See pages 2 to 4 for tributes to these remarkable women.

Another woman who has contributed much to the College, Mrs Barbara Woods has officially retired. Mrs Woods is very much part of the Avila story, having been a foundation student and a long-serving teacher. Her daughter Jean attended Avila and her grand daughter Chelsea will be in Year 11 in 2013. See page 5 for a tribute to Mrs Woods prepared by Ms Vivienne Hughes, also a foundation student and long-serving staff member.

Student achievements - Premiers Awards

In terms of student achievement, our young women have again left an indelible mark across a diverse range of subjects and extra curricular activities.



Premiers Awards recipients Georgia Delaney (left) and Demi Tsironis.

Topping the list were two Premiers Awards acknowledging academic excellence in 2011. Class of 2011 graduate Georgia Delaney received a Premiers Award for Classical Studies while Demi Tsironis, Year 11 in 2012, achieved one for Greek which she studied externally.

Georgia was one of three Avila students to receive an ATAR above 99 in 2011. Georgia's ATAR was 99.45. Passionate about literature, Italian and history, Georgia is currently undertaking an Arts Degree course at Melbourne with the view to eventually find a niche in academia or independent publishing.

See the full list of our Premiers Awards winners on page 11.

Opening of new Learning Centre

A major highlight of the year was the official opening and blessing of our new Learning Centre on August 30. The two-storey flexible learning complex is one of the largest building projects undertaken by the College and features 16 classrooms.

Guests included past principals of Avila as well as principals from other Catholic secondary schools from throughout Melbourne; Sisters from the Presentation Order including Sister Bernadette Keating who is the Congregation Leader in Melbourne; Head of the College Canonical Administrators, Father Brendan Dillon; Joy Wandin Murphy, members of the College Board and representatives from the Catholic Education Office Melbourne, past staff and many parents.



2013 College Captains

CONGRATULATIONS to our incoming student leaders for 2013. Pictured with Principal, Ms Louise Gunther, and Leadership Co-ordinator, Ms Karis Dalton, are College Captain Carlie Saunders (seated left) with Vice Captain Shalyn Mathew, and Liturgy Captain Simone Lancuba (standing left) with Vice Captain Kathryn Elliott.

Vale - Sister Raymonde Taylor

Avila College Principal 1971 - 1973

Star of the Sea chapel was crammed full on November 7, 2012 to farewell former Avila Principal, Sister Raymonde Taylor pbvm.

Sister Raymonde's passing on October 30, 2012, at the splendid age of 92, was mourned in a celebration of mingled laughter and tears. There were the members of the Presentation Order which she had loved and served since her profession 70 years earlier. Also, there were the numerous members of the younger generations of her beloved family, and many former students and staff from the schools where she had taught. All had gathered in gratitude to celebrate her remarkable and generously loving life. And a celebration it truly was. Two wonderful eulogies: the first from her niece, Anna, a practising artist, and the second from Sister Patricia Foley, pbvm, truly evoked the Sister Raymonde whom so many had 'been privileged to know and love'.



Sister Raymonde

In 1971 Sister Raymonde was appointed as the second principal of Avila College which had been founded six years earlier by the redoubtable Sister Patricia Carroll, pbvm. The College was still very much in its early days of growth and under Sister Raymonde's leadership, it continued to flourish and develop the foundations for the Avila we know today, a highly respected Catholic school for girls and the second largest of its kind in Victoria.

Sister Raymonde was an imposing presence of intellect, will and seemingly boundless energy - it was her abundance of exuberant energy, combined with her robust stature, that is believed earned her the nickname of 'Bomb'. And while she was officially named after a male saint, she somehow inherited an 'e' at the end of her name, perhaps for a feminine touch.

Sister Raymonde believed passionately in the mission of the Presentation Order for the education of girls and in the principles laid down by Vatican II for Catholic life in the latter part of the 20th century. She worked tirelessly to bring these ideals into the day-to-day-life of the school.

Yet, her three years as principal were in many ways very difficult: the enrolment rates grew phenomenally, but the school's income and buildings did not. As she later recalled: 'Lack of money created many problems: lack of buildings and lack of support staff, particularly in administration - I worried terribly about the huge debts we had on the buildings, despite the absolutely wonderful support from groups of parents and the College Council.' (Extract from Teresa's Women)

The late 1960s and early 1970s was a period of change in many ways, from the triviality of the mini skirts that most students craved as part of the uniform, to the serious economic impact of swelling student numbers seeking full secondary education and a much wider range of subjects. Sister Raymonde dealt firmly (but with an underlying kindness sensed by most students - 'she had a soft and loving heart' one offender admitted) as regards uniform fashions and other misdeeds.

A truly committed Presentation Sister always ready 'to take one pace beyond'. I know this to be true because she taught me leaving honours English Literature and Geography at Marion College, Myrtleford in her second year of teaching in 1943... During her time as Principal at Avila she fought hard to ensure that Avila remained an all-girls school.
Sister Patricia Carroll, Avila Foundation Principal 1965-1970

Economic and academic pressures were much more demanding because numbers in the Presentation Order were falling and there was a desperate shortage of adequately trained secondary teachers in Victoria. Determined educator that she was, Sister Raymonde found and employed lay teachers to meet Avila's needs. The classes were large, the teaching loads heavy. But the Principal, studying part time at Melbourne University for a post graduate Education qualification, took on a heavy teaching load herself.

Sister Raymonde's great passion was Art which many of her students remember with affection and deep gratitude.

Frustrated by timetable clashes, and sympathetic to students at schools where Art was not offered, Sister Raymonde instituted the Saturday Art class. The Art room on Saturdays vibrated with intense energy and was remarkably peaceful and happy. Her radio provided music and in the season, 'the footy', because she was a loyal, vociferous and life-long Carlton supporter. The Saturday class included some non-Avila girls and also boys from schools such as De La Salle, St Kevin's and Xavier.

One of her past students from a long established Presentation school summed her up as: 'Extraordinary. She could so quickly assess the potential of a piece and grasp what you were trying to do. She inspired confidence. Somehow she fitted in theory as well, and she took us every Saturday, public and school holidays too.'

Perhaps that best sums up her generous spirit. She loved people; she loved learning and she loved sharing it through teaching. Long after her official retirement she continued to do so in a variety of ways and places.

After three years as principal, Sister Raymonde knew unshakably that her heart and mind yearned to be in the classroom not in the principal's office. Her Order accepted this. She remained at Avila for three more years of full-time teaching of the subjects most precious to her - Art and Religious Education. However, Avila continued to have a special place in Sister Raymond's heart right up until her passing.

The Avila College community, together with many other schools and the wider Art world, owe much to Sister Raymonde's passionate commitment and deep understanding of learning generally and Art in particular. She was a long-serving member of the committee responsible for Leaving and Matriculation Art in Victoria; she was often called on for advice by teachers in other schools and occasionally she gave unofficial public lectures at various galleries!

Avila's 1974 School Captain, Veronica Caven Aldous (nee Caven), herself a practising artist currently completing a PhD in Visual Arts at Monash University, speaks of Sister Raymonde's contribution: 'She not only had an immensely profound, intelligent and passionate approach to Art teaching but grasped fully the potency of all the Arts as an essential part of a full life which she passed on to her students.'

We have been privileged to share in her many gifts.

Mrs Pat Hall

Mrs Hall taught at Avila from 1966 up until her retirement in 2002

... Everywhere I have gone to see great art, Sister Raymond (sic) has come with me. It was because of her that I drove my elderly Triumph Herald across the wheat fields through the mists of dawn to Chartres and tiptoed to stand before 'La Belle Verriere', glowing blue and red in the dawn twilight... I'll be walking among the columns of Luxor and there she'll be... I wouldn't have even been in Luxor if it weren't for a woman who never had the chance to go there. Sister Raymond may have left this world but she will be with me for the rest of my life.

**Excerpt from an article in *The Age* by iconic feminist, Germaine Greer
Ms Greer was a student of Sister Raymonde at Star of the Sea.**

I have such fond memories of Sister Raymonde. Every time I'm in an Art room, I hear her saying 'unless you put your head down and your posterior up, you are not going to pass Art, Vicki'. I find myself saying similar things to my own students now. She was a great influence in so many of our lives. She was wonderful.

Ms Vicki McGowan (Class of 1975)

Ms McGowan is incoming Deputy Principal of Marion College, Myrtleford, where Sister Raymonde once taught.

The following is an extract from a eulogy by Sister Patricia Foley who also taught at Avila during its formative years:

Raphael Consedine wrote a poem called *Beyond*. The first line reads – the spiraling energies of God defy containment.

.... I think that Raymonde participated in God's spiralling energies in a myriad of ways and often they did defy containment! We recall her sweeping gestures, robust enthusiasm, whirlwinds of creativity and dogmatic pronouncements! These latter featured in her passionate, life lone one-eyed barracking for Carlton. She also loved cricket – test matches and The Ashes only!

Raymonde lived in a rich cultural world of faith, the scriptures, art and literature, history and probably much else. She was nourished and transformed by all that she loved and I believe it was this that so enriched and energized her life and work.

She was an outstanding teacher. Teaching was her greatest love and she gave everything she had to it. It was as though she glimpsed a pearl of great price in each of her students – she was encouraging and empowering and aimed at developing each one's potential. She was interested in all her past students and as we are discovering, she kept every card or letter she ever received from them

She was most well known as an art teacher and promoted the teaching of arts in schools generally. She always claimed not to be an artist herself but she certainly knew how to draw out the giftedness in others.

At the centre of all this was a deeply prayerful, faithful contemplative woman in Raymonde – lover of the Eucharist, lover of the scriptures which imbued her whole life. Smiling, she described herself recently as only being 'holy' in fits and starts.

We honor her now with the lovely words of Paul to the Phillipians ... So, Raymonde, 'We thank your God whenever we think of you and every time we pray for you, we pray with joy.



Sister Raymonde Taylor with other former Avila principals from left, Ms Patricia Ryan, (1980-1986), Sister Patricia Carroll (1965-1970), the late Sister Josepha Dunlop (1974-1979) and Mrs Maureen Thompson (1987-1995).

Vale - Mrs Sue Redman

Deputy Principal 1992 - 2003



Mrs Sue Redman

Former Deputy Principal at Avila, Mrs Sue Redman, passed away on October 17 after succumbing to a courageous battle with cancer.

Having retired from Avila at the end of 2003, Mrs Redman's commitment to education, passion for life and care for others inspired all those with whom she came into contact.

Mrs Redman arrived at Avila College in 1982. Her teaching speciality was Home Economics, Health and Human Development. Modifying the Tuck Shop offerings became her mission; more salad, more fruit, less fizzy drinks became her mantra. Not all students welcomed this move towards healthy eating! As the years rolled on Mrs Redman often provided, or organised delicious food for staff and, on special occasions, the College community benefited from her catering expertise.

A few years into her career at Avila, Mrs Redman became Year 9 Co-ordinator. She was able to promote a positive atmosphere through her organisation of innovative assemblies, camps, Christmas picnics and city experiences.

In 1992 Mrs Redman was appointed Deputy Principal. In her role as Deputy Principal and VCE Co-ordinator, Mrs Redman was involved with the introduction of the new VCE. She helped teachers to understand the new system and did so with a clear headedness and calm that enabled them to be well informed about the dramatically new processes.

A passionate believer that all students had a right to learning programs relevant to their abilities, Mrs Redman was at the forefront of developing TAFE (Technical and Further Education), VET (Vocational Education and Training) and VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) programs. She became a spokesperson for the ways that secondary education and tertiary programs could be linked. As well as setting up realistic courses for students, Mrs Redman continued her own education, graduating as a Master of Educational Administration while simultaneously meeting the challenges of being Deputy Principal.

Mrs Redman became responsible for school-wide events, which meant, for example, moving more than 1000 students and staff to St Patrick's Cathedral to celebrate Avila Day. She must have had nightmares about bookings, buses, lists, and timetables, not to mention the implications of having to cancel Sports Carnivals, when storms were brewing. Students without books for the day, teachers without plans for their lessons! Mrs Redman did prefer to have things ship shape! Whole school assemblies conducted by Mrs Redman ran like clockwork; however colleague, Mrs Liz Trembath, recalls the day Mrs Redman came to school after babysitting at the weekend. She remarked, 'I can organise 1000 girls at assemblies but Sally (her then three-year-old grandchild) has me well in hand. She told me to go to the cubby house and to stay there!'

Always impressed with Mrs Redman's poise, staff members remember that at staff briefings she would place her feet in the number two position of a ballet dancer. At Year 12 graduation ceremonies, students were given guidance about dignified reception of their certificates.

Mrs Redman retired from Avila in 2003 but she still had work to do! She established the Avila Alumni, a means for past staff members to keep in touch. She organised meetings every school term for which she catered, of course. She kept the Avila spirit alive through her affectionate communications and by caring for the alumni members.

What the Avila community will remember most about Mrs Redman, however, will be her extraordinary courage throughout her illnesses. In spite of discomfort and the steady toll of treatment, Mrs Redman never complained. When cancer first struck more than 20 years ago she was valiant in continuing to further her projects at the College. The wonderful variety of scarves that she wore became a fashion statement. Just over two years ago the cancer returned.

Over the past two years her courage has been remarkable. Her role modelling of how to face adversity is a lasting legacy of a loved member of the Avila community. May she rest in peace.

Mrs Marie Hall
Deputy Principal at Avila 1989 - 2001

Vale - Helen Drummond

Former Avila student Helen Drummond, who dedicated her life to assisting Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory, passed away in Darwin on October 10 aged 58.

After completing Form 4 Avila in 1970 Helen gained a Diploma in Secretarial Studies before moving to the Northern Territory in 1973, at the age of 18. She became a lay missionary, assisting the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) in their work with the Aboriginal community. She mainly worked in office administration on the remote Daly River Mission Station, 250km south west of Darwin, on land now controlled by the Malak Malak Land Trust.

Helen spent six years at Daly River, at a time when contact with the outside world was by radio receiver. She adapted to the challenges of remote outback life; Indigenous ways and beliefs; and communication in Pigeon English with the Nauiyu Nambiyu peoples of Nungi Kurrunggurr (the deep green river) of the Daly River. She became part of the community, hunting and foraging with the women and children, playing some netball and tennis with them, and occasionally going on 'all night' patrols in the local rangers' boats. She sometimes accompanied the rangers to spot, count, capture and tag the crocodile population. It was a challenging life full of adventure.

In 1979 Helen returned to Melbourne where she worked for the CSIRO for 12 months. During that time significant change took place at the Daly Mission and Helen was asked to return as office manager. She did so in 1980 with the position including her appointment as council clerk (town clerk) by the government.

By this time the Daly Mission Station had been renamed Nauiyu and was run by an Aboriginal council. The Catholic Church was in the process of handing over the land to the Aboriginal community - except for the church, school, convent and a few houses. Helen's appointment by the government was a recognition of what she had achieved earlier.

Helen was manager/council clerk until 1988 and during that time she made a significant contribution to the community in what was a very challenging political and social environment. One of her greatest passions was the protection of Aboriginal women and children, particularly the need for the provision of accommodation when alcohol and violence were involved. She also met the required responsibilities for government finances and developing community resources. With Helen's assistance, the Daly River community made significant progress and was seen as a good example amongst the bush communities.

In 1988, Helen moved to Darwin to help establish the Alcohol and Family Recovery Unit, a Catholic Church initiative, which included services to the wider suburban community. Programs were established, funds arranged and program implemented in many communities, stretching from Turkey Creek in the west to the community of Santa Teresa east of Alice Springs, and Bathurst Island and Melville Island (Snake Bay) to the north.

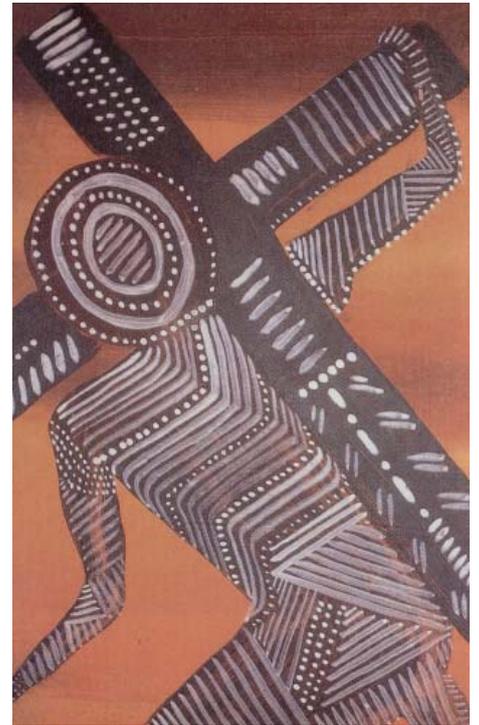
In the late 1990s Helen did some work for the electoral office and continued her work as a Justice of the Peace. She was Registrar for the Northern Territory Justices Association and also helped judge minor cases, to ease the pressures within the court system.

Sadly, Helen contracted a serious medical condition about 12 months ago, leading to her death on October 10.

Helen and her twin brother Ivan, were the eldest of five children, adopted by Gerry and Clare Drummond from the Saint Leonard's Parish.

Helen surely lived a full, and good christian life.

Arthur Carter
a member of the Saint Leonard's Parish
and life-long friend of the Drummond family



Unfortunately we were unable to source a photograph of Helen but she would have indeed shared a kindred spirit with gifted Aboriginal artist, Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann who is from Daly River. Miriam-Rose painted the Stations of the Cross for the Daly River Church.

In Memoriam

BLACKMORE, Genevieve (Class of 1992). Gen passed away on Wednesday, September 5 after losing her battle with cancer.

Living out her lifelong passion for music, Gen was a presenter for Triple R Radio station in Melbourne up until earlier this year.

Gen is survived by her parents Carmel and Barry and younger sisters Melinda (Class of 1993) and Suzanne (Class of 1994).

Many members of her Avila friendship group were among those who attended her funeral to celebrate her vibrant, yet all too short, life and joie de vivre.

Farewell - Mrs Barbara Woods (nee Nicoll, Class of 1969)



Mrs Barbara Woods

While she may beg to differ, Mrs Barbara Woods' retirement this year is quite an historic moment in the Avila story - as a foundation student and student leader, then a member of the teaching staff for the past 37 years and part of the leadership team, Mrs Woods leaves an impressive legacy.

Mrs Woods was a member of the first Year 8 intake in 1965 and one of 13 students in the first graduating Class of 1969. She was Nagle's first Sports Captain. As a senior student, Mrs Woods was a driving force behind many activities, both academic and social, where Avila played host to students from other secondary schools. The love of learning that has characterised her approach to her personal life and to her teaching was evident even then.

Avila has always been a family affair for Mrs Woods. Her parents devoted many hours to supporting the work of the College as it grew from its early origins into an established secondary school. Her mother, Phyll, worked

tirelessly in the canteen and was still on the roster many years after both her daughters had left Avila. Like many staff, Mrs Woods showed her confidence in Avila by enrolling her own daughter, Jean, at the College. Her grand-daughter, Chelsea, is a current student and continues the Woods tradition of involvement in many facets of school life.

As a student, Mrs Woods persisted in learning the trombone. Her daughter, Jean, starting at Avila in 1989 provided the impetus to take up the instrument again and mother and daughter soon became part of the orchestra. Over the years Mrs Woods has attended and helped to administer more than 20 orchestra camps and Creative Arts and Music festivals. It was in this capacity that she first joined the team of helpers that has since grown to be our wonderful Stage Crew. Mrs Woods' husband, Bill, and each of their five children have assisted at various times. In 1998, Mrs Woods took over the leadership of the Stage Crew which now assists with events well beyond those of their original brief in the Music Department.

Mrs Woods returned to Avila as a teacher in 1975. Initially she was a part-time Mathematics teacher and, over subsequent years, balanced the demands of full-time teaching with those of raising a young family. Her ability to explain complex mathematical processes has always been impressive. As a fellow student, I was on the receiving end of more than one of her patient and well-reasoned tutoring sessions! Many an Avila mathematics student has been coached to success by means of Mrs Woods' unstinting gift of extra, one-on-one assistance outside the classroom.

From 1990 to 1994 Mrs Woods was Head of Mathematics and under her leadership the department was consolidated into a dedicated team whose collegiality and cohesion was (and still is) admired by all. Mrs Woods' leadership style nurtured the talents of others and delivered excellent curriculum outcomes for our students.

From 2005 to 2010 Mrs Woods worked in the senior administrative role of Daily Organiser with responsibility for the timetable. Her quick and flexible thinking and keen organisational skills enabled us to continue to deliver quality instruction to our students in the face of staff illness and absence. She spent many hours at home, refining timetables to meet the needs of students and staff. Her skills, in large part, were responsible for Avila being awarded the Victorian Independent Education Union's 'Family Friendly Workplace' award in 2008.

Despite her heavy workload, Mrs Woods' office door was always been open to anyone who needed to chat, or to touch base on a difficult issue. Peals of laughter would often resonate from her office. This joyful approach to life was quite infectious and was guaranteed to boost the spirits of anyone who happened to be passing by.

Mrs Woods' working life has been characterised by great talent and generosity of spirit and she leaves Avila so much the richer for her contributions. Retirement will allow time for more travel with Bill and more time to spend with her beloved children and grandchildren. We wish her every joy and blessing in her retirement.

**Ms Vivienne Hughes
colleague, life-long friend
and fellow Class of 1969 graduate**



1969 - Avila's first Matriculation class. Mrs Barb Woods (nee Nicoll, standing fourth from left) and Ms Vivienne Hughes (standing, far right) with other class members standing from left, Margaret King, Christine Eyre, Elizabeth Healy, Barbara Fix, Kerry Ball and Vivienne Hughes. Seated from left to right, Barbara Prowse, Keryn Roach, Gail Haddad, Mary-Anne Hayes, Maureen Dalton and Sheryl Lunt. Barbara Nicoll, now Mrs Barbara Woods and Vivienne Hughes, now Mrs Vivienne Sullivan, went on to become teachers and have been back at Avila since 1975 and 1990 respectively.

Farewells

Mr David Bruce

Just one year short of a 'silver' milestone of 25 years of service at Avila College, Mr David Bruce is moving to quieter pastures!

Having commenced his teaching career in South Australia, Mr Bruce came to Avila in 1989.

He has been a Careers advisor assisting senior students for the past six years, and before this his focus was in the middle school. Subjects taught in the Economics/Business domain during his time at Avila include Learn a Business, Certificate I in Business and My Future My Career.

Over the years, Mr Bruce has gained a wealth of knowledge in the area of Careers, which in turn he has shared with hundreds of students.

Mr Bruce has been an active committee member for the Careers Education Association of Victoria (CEAV) for four years. He is a life member of the Waverley Careers Association and holds professional membership in the Career Development Association of Australia after completing his most recent qualification, 'Master of Career Development'.

Mr Bruce's level of both expertise and experience will be missed at Avila as he takes up a part-time position at a small community school in the Dandenongs, where he will assist in establishing a comprehensive Careers program.

He is also hoping to travel to Canada and Ireland and perhaps undertake some careers research or further study.

Mr Bruce and his wife, Pauline, have two adult daughters, Meaghan and Stephanie.

Mrs Deborah Parton, Middle School Careers Counsellor



Mr David Bruce

Mrs Leigh Surkitt

After 10 years of inspiring service at Avila College, Mrs Leigh Surkitt has decided to join her husband in retirement. She will be greatly missed for her convivial nature and high academic standards.



Mrs Leigh Surkitt

Those who were fortunate to have her as a teacher would testify to her amazing preparation for each lesson. Working in several departments - Religious Education, Psychology and at one time, General Studies - she was known for her academic rigor.

Those who have worked closely with Mrs Surkitt have appreciated her enormous generosity in sharing resources and her expertise in such a diverse range of subjects.

Mrs Surkitt has also been involved in many other aspects of the school community. She has taken part in many liturgies, including playing the violin which she mastered at Avila. Any occasion where costumes and singing were required, Mrs Surkitt would be there to engender her spirit of fun. In her early years at Avila she started the Chess Club.

Her sense of fun was evident in the staffroom and classroom daily. Whether it be with a joke, a comedic saying or a cartoon, Mrs Surkitt was often at the heart of the laughter. She is known for lifting the spirits of those around her and is sensitive to those in need of caring - this comes from her deep faith and her love for others.

And now, on approaching retirement, it is Mrs Surkitt's wish to spend more time with her children and five grand children. Her caring nature, sense of fun and hard work shall continue only with a later start to the day and more time to share a big pot of tea with her friends.

Ms Gillian Goldsworthy

Ms Jacinta Girolami

It will be Avila's loss and Mazenod's gain when Ms Jacinta Girolami commences at our brother school in 2013.

Ms Girolami came to Avila in 2001 with a strong sense of the importance and value of being part of a faith community. Her deep faith shows in her acceptance and forgiveness of all people and those who have had the good fortune to work with her, are certainly the richer.

Initially she worked as a replacement English teacher but in 2006 she became permanent and taught Religious Education and English. In 2007 she began teaching Year 12 Psychology and in 2008, taught Year 12 Geography. She also completed her Masters in Education.

Ms Girolami began teaching because she loves learning and this passion inspires her classroom practice. She brims with enthusiasm and her energy and optimism engages students. In recent years Ms Girolami has been a Year 12 homeroom teacher, encouraging the girls to find the balance between the challenges of Year 12 and the opportunities of the future they are about to begin. Many of our graduates would have benefitted from her nurturing and support, from the celebratory 18th birthday cakes to the words of wisdom she quietly gave to the student who was feeling a little overwhelmed.

Speaking fondly of Avila, Ms Girolami feels she benefitted from the legacy strong staff such as Liz Gleeson, Chris Dalwood, Kath Taylor, Louise Verstraelan and Sue Bourke gave to the school and from colleagues such as Leigh Surkitt, Jenny Dunn and Louise Swift, just to name a few, who have given friendship, support and laughter along the way.

We will miss her brightness, her joy and her friendliness, and wish her well in her next learning adventure

Mrs Marie Stuart



Ms Jacinta Girolami

Award-winning chemist follows dream



Angela Liakatos

In her senior years at Avila, chemist Angela Liakatos, was determined to have a career in Science but had no idea that it would take her to Germany on a world-renowned research fellowship, provide the opportunity to become fluent in German and then land a dream job in Melbourne with a pharmaceutical company.

Equally significant for Angela is that her work as a research and development chemist has enabled her to contribute to making a positive difference in the world.

Angela, 34, has worked hard to make her dream a reality, having attained a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne University and followed by an Honours degree, a PhD at Griffith University in Queensland and then a postdoctoral fellowship in Germany. An award winning student, she is quick to acknowledge the role Avila has played in her accomplishments.

'Avila instilled confidence in students ... I left Avila with a strong belief in myself and that I could achieve anything that I was willing to work towards,' said Angela who graduated from Avila in 1995.

'My teachers at Avila were supportive and encouraging and always willing to help after hours. I will always remember my Chemistry teacher, Mrs Marianne Young, particularly. She was so supportive and dedicated and taught Chemistry in a way that made it really interesting.'

After Avila, Angela successfully completed a Science degree at Melbourne University majoring in Chemistry and Pharmacology, reflecting her strong leaning towards medicinal chemistry. She then did her Honours degree before moving to Queensland so she could undertake her PhD under the guidance of an academic whose research work she particularly admired.

With a yearning to learn more and broaden her horizons, Angela applied for and was awarded a coveted Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship which allowed her to work on a synthetic cancer vaccine in Germany in 2005/2006. The Humboldt Foundation enables researchers from all over the world to spend time researching in Germany. The Foundation maintains a network of more than 25,000 Humboldtians from all disciplines drawn from more than 130 countries and including 48 Nobel Laureates.

'The fellowship has been a real career highlight. It enabled me to get international experience in research. Also, as part of the fellowship, I undertook an initial four-month intensive language course in Germany. This was invaluable because it helped me integrate more easily into the German culture. Also, all my learning was in German,' Angela explained.

Since the beginning of 2007, Angela has been working for IDT Australia Ltd, an Australian owned and listed pharmaceutical company. Much of her work involves the research and development of cancer drugs and antibiotics, leading to their manufacture for use in clinical trials.

Due to the toxic nature of some drugs, particularly cancer drugs, and to protect the pharmaceutical product from

contamination, Angela often works in a 'clean room' or containment facility where extra precautions are taken in terms of clothing and breathing apparatus. Angela has to be completely 'suited up' from head to toe, complete with face mask and sometimes breathing apparatus.

Angela noted that it was encouraging to see an increasing number of women in the Science field but was concerned that lack of government funding in research in Australia meant fewer people were pursuing PhDs. She believed the real pinch of a Scientific drought would be felt in about 10 years time.

'If you have the drive and determination and are prepared to work hard, you can achieve anything that you want,' Angela concluded.



Chemist and past student, Angela Liakatos at a containment facility with head-to-toe protective clothing.

Joie de vivre in work, play

The term 'biting the bullet' only scratches the surface when it comes to summing up what ambitious Law graduate, and talented performer and musician Cze-Hui Lee has achieved in just a few short years.

At 27, the past Avila student already has an impressive curriculum vitae which clearly reflects her 'can do' attitude, pro-activeness, determination, flexibility and incredible work ethic, both at a professional and personal level – and, put quite simply, her joie de vivre.

'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full' John 10:10 resonates in all that Cze-Hui takes on board.

The Lee family is very much a part of the Avila fabric. Cze-Hui (Class of 2003) is one of four sisters who attended Avila and her mother, Seow, has been the tuck shop manager for 14 years.

Cze-Hui, Avila's 2003 College dux and Music Captain, is currently working as a project officer with the Department of Justice and has secured a coveted traineeship, commencing next year, with Russell Kennedy, a full service commercial law firm.

With a strong leaning towards administrative law, Cze-Hui aspires to work her way up the corporate ladder at Russell Kennedy which has a large government law practice and a number of Law Institute of Victoria accredited legal specialists. Over the next five years she hopes to pursue further academic studies by completing a Master of Laws.

Cze-Hui has successfully completed a double degree in Arts/Law (Honours) at Monash University. She will graduate in October this year having submitted her 12,000 word thesis on the concept of unconscious discrimination in the context of Australia's anti-discrimination law regime.

A double degree in Arts (majoring in History with a minor in English) and Law is a challenging undertaking. However, Cze-Hui went a step further by finishing her studies while also working full-time at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) and the Department of Justice. And, ever mindful of the importance of keeping a balance, she still managed to pursue her love of musical theatre to play the lead role of Kim in Box Hill based Nova Music Theatre's production of *Miss Saigon*.

The decision to combine her studies with full-time work was a conscious one, prompted by the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) and her determination to get 'her foot in the door'.

'The GFC hit close to the end of my course which meant it was even more challenging to obtain a graduate position. So, I started looking for ways to get the necessary experience and was offered a position with VCAT,' explained Cze-Hui who worked as a secretary to VCAT members who are the decision-makers of the Tribunal.

'Working at VCAT was an amazing opportunity and really enhanced my studies. Everyone was so enthusiastic about my studies, supportive and helpful...My marks shot up incredibly because I had a working perspective of what I was learning.'

Cze-Hui believes her time at Avila provided her with an excellent springboard.

'Avila nurtures in girls a great sense of empowerment and the belief that young women are strong, intelligent and resourceful. The culture at Avila really allows students to find out what they are good at and how to further enhance their learning,' said Cze-Hui.

She particularly valued the College's holistic approach to education through extra curricular opportunities. By being involved, Cze-Hui said students become more confident, flexible and adaptable, and learned new skills. Qualities that are all highly regarded and sought after by employers, together with a good work ethic and general attitude.

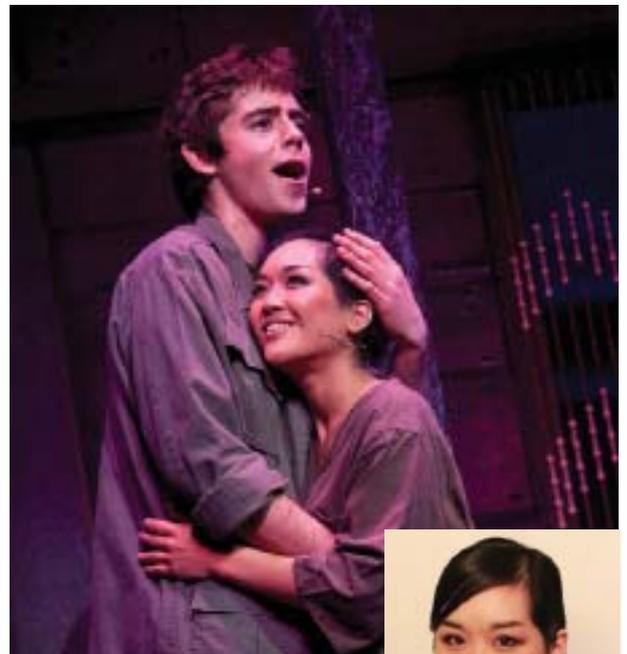
Cze-Hui was involved in a wide range of extra curricular activities: social justice, public speaking and debating, music and drama. She co-wrote a song which won an Amnesty International award and ranked the Creative Arts festivals and Avila/Mazenod musicals, where she enjoyed principal and lead female roles, as being among her absolute highlights.

Given her areas of interest and drive, law is a good fit for Cze-Hui.

'Law is all about problem solving, finding legal solutions for clients. It is very rewarding when you are able to help people by coming up with a solution for them,' said Cze-Hui.

For students currently considering career pathways, Cze-Hui stressed the importance of being flexible and to not be afraid of challenge or change. She initially started an Arts degree and then took a semester off before enrolling in her double degree course.

'There is nothing wrong with being unsure of what career to undertake. In the pace of the modern world, it is important to be agile, explore opportunities as they present themselves and never limit yourself to a finite pathway. It is through experiencing life that your career path will be refined. And in the meantime, you will gain new skills and enhance your professional network.'



Cze-Hui Lee on stage and off.



Joining the ranks of Victoria Police

When Rebecca Lloyd was sitting in Mr Phil Cornell's units 3/4 Legal Studies class in Year 11 aspiring for a career in the legal industry, she had know idea she would go on to join the girls and boys in blue.

After completing an Advanced Diploma of Business (Legal Practice) and spending three years working in one of Australia's top tier law firms, the class of 2006 graduate wanted to challenge herself and be involved in something really important to her and that she really believed in. Victoria Police was where she wanted to be.

After months of physical training, study and interviews, Rebecca was accepted into the Victoria Police Academy as one of the force's newest recruits.

Recruits spend 33 weeks learning, training and being assessed on everything from the law to defensive tactics. A portion of this time is spent on placement at various training stations, getting a taste of what life will be like after graduating, and gaining invaluable experience. A two weeks stint at Melbourne East Police Station as part of the "Safe Streets" operation was a particular highlight for Rebecca.

Constable Lloyd graduated from the Victoria Police Academy as part of Squad 28 on September 27 this year, watched on by proud family and friends including mother Jennifer Lloyd (nee McClure, Class of 1976), sister Sarah Lloyd (Class of 2009, who has recently completed her Nursing Degree), aunty Helen Penwill (nee McClure, Class of 1974) and cousin Laura Penwill (Class of 2011).



Currently stationed at Knox Police Station, Rebecca would like to become a Youth Liaison Officer, helping at risk and in-need youth in the community and eventually joining the Critical Incident Response Team. Whatever the future holds, Constable Lloyd is very excited by the range of career opportunities Victoria Police has to offer.

For any girls at Avila considering a career with Victoria Police, Rebecca says go for it – 'It is a very rewarding career and it's been great so far and I'm told, although tough at times, it only gets better!'

Rebecca and Sarah Lloyd at the Squad 28 Graduation Dinner



Constable Rebecca Lloyd with the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, Ken Lay at Constable Lloyd's graduation.

Discovering Avila

After finishing my undergraduate degree at Monash University in Business and Commerce/Communication I took a year off to work and then travel to Europe and the United States for three months. Travelling with my friend Olivia, we started our trip in the Greek Islands, travelled to France, Spain, Morocco, Portugal and then to the US.

While in Spain, I visited Avila, about an hour and a half out of Madrid. I wanted to visit the town my secondary school was named after and the birthplace of Saint Teresa.

Avila is famous for its medieval walls that surround the city, as well as a number of cathedrals and churches including the house and birthplace of Saint Teresa, which is now the church of Saint Teresa. We learned about the history of this quaint little town walled off from the countryside.

My trip inspired me to embark on a Masters Degree in International Business at Monash University, majoring in marketing. In my undergraduate degree I excelled in international marketing and after travelling overseas and learning about different cultures and countries, it reinforced my passion to explore and understand people from different countries and cultures and how brands and companies are adapted in different parts of the world.

Upon completion of my Masters next year, I hope to find an international marketing or cross cultural communication role, particularly in the health and fitness industry and would love to work overseas for a few years.



Tatum de Silva (Class of 2006)

Class of 2011 reunion

A large number of students from the Class of 2011 gathered for their reunion on August 14 to share stories, reminisce and rekindle friendships.

The reunion is an Avila tradition, much anticipated by past students and their teachers.

College Principal Ms Louise Gunther, congratulated the Class of 2011 on making a successful transition to further study or work and wished those undertaking a gap year success in future studies. She encouraged them to become active alumni, never losing their connection with their alma mater.

The Avila community wishes the graduates of 2011 all the best for the future and we hope that they put into practice the ethos of service the school has instilled in them.

Mrs Louise Swift
Year 12 Co-ordinator



Premier's Awards

Avila students have received a number of Premier's Awards, reflecting the academic rigour of the College and the opportunities available to students.

The following is a list of students who have gained Premier's awards for academic excellence. In 1992, prior to the Premier's Awards, students were recognised for being the top in the state for particular subjects.

- 2012 Georgia Delaney (Classical Studies)
- 2012 Demi Tsironis (Greek)
- 2010 Margaret Hezkial (Religion and Society)
- 2009 Talisa Trantino (Design and Technology)
- 2006 Brittany Bowd (Equine Studies)
- 2006 Jessica Shields (Psychology)
- 2005 Amy Alchin (Food and Technology)
- 2005 Sally Crook (Physics)
- 2002 Laura Thom (Agriculture/Horticulture)
- 2002 Felicity Simons (Religion & Society)
- 2001 Kate Warby (Technological Design and Development)
- 2001 Karly Van Der Gaag & Helen Tran (Agriculture/Horticulture)
- 2000 Renee Stockley (Legal Studies)
- 2000 Megan Cox ((Technological Design and Development)
- 2000 Elizabeth Addison ((Technological Design and Development)
- At a national level, Liz won a prestigious Australian Students Prize for her academic achievements in 2000.
- 1999 Elizabeth Addison (Agriculture/Horticulture)
- 1998 Lalitha Mylvaganam (Technological Design and Development)
- 1998 Jennifer Burt (Agriculture/Horticulture)
- 1996 Catherine Borg (Religion & Society)
- 1996 Pia Walters (Agriculture/Horticulture)
- 1995 Tracy Lee & Catherine Rossouw (Religion & Society)
- 1995 Nina Stevens & Virginia Lee (Agriculture/Horticulture)
- 1994 Naomi Murphy (Human Development & Society)
- At a national level, Naomi won a prestigious Australian Students Prize for her academic achievements in 1994.
- 1994 Karen Axton (Agriculture/Horticulture)
- 1993 Tracey Van Grunsven (Agriculture/Horticulture) - Avila's first Premier's Award recipient.
- 1992 Paulina Slodowy (Business Management) - First place in the state in the subject. Second place in Religion and Society.
- 1992 Sally-Anne McDonald (Agriculture/Horticulture) - First place in the state in the subject

2012 Presentation Evening

At the 2012 Presentation Evening at the Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University, the following major awards were presented:

- Ms Filomena Salvatore College Dux Award, 2011:**
Fiona Canny
- Sister Patricia Carroll Award for Service to Sport:**
Sally Boxall
- Sister Raymonde Taylor Award for Creative Arts:**
Music Performance - Katrina Liston;
Drama Performance - Carly Watson;
Visual - Stephanie Berlangieri
- Sister Josepha Dunlop Award for Christian Leadership:** Kiara Goldsmith
- Patricia Ryan Award for Love of Learning:**
Li-Chun Chen
- Public Speaking and Debating Award:**
Sashika Harasgama
- Susan Puohotaua Orchestra Award:**
Alysha van Eyk
- Monash Prize for Excellence (Year 11):**
Genevieve Townsend
- Mulgrave Country Club Scholarship (Year 11):**
Lucy Moon
- Marie Boyle Year 10 Excellence Award** (Mrs Boyle taught at Avila from 1979 until her retirement in 2003): Christine Ishak
- Staff Alumni 'Service to the Wider Community Award:** Kiara Goldsmith
- Australian Defence Force (ADF) Awards:** Year 10 - Georgia Muling; Year 11 - Shalyn Matthew; and Year 12 - Kiara Goldsmith
- Spirit Awards:** Year 7 - Zoe Evans
Year 8 - Olivia Frisch
Year 9 - Sophia Elliott
Year 10 - Madeleine Heyn
Year 11 - Miranda Koroknai
Year 12 - Stephanie Barcham.

Attended by four sisters

Class of 2007 graduate, Anna Murphy was attended by her four sisters for her marriage to Michael Curtis on November 3.

All the Murphy girls attended Avila whilst Michael is a former Mazenod Vice School Captain.

Following their wedding at St Judes Church Scoresby, the couple honeymooned in Mexico and then San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Anna is a registered nurse and Michael is a chartered accountant.



Anna and Michael



Pictured above: Anna with her attendants from left, Kathleen Murphy (Class of 2009), the groom's sister Emma, Louise Murphy (Class of 2011), Madeleine Murphy (Year 11, 2012), and Clare Murphy (Class of 2005).

40 year reunion - Class of 1973

Planning is underway for a 40-year reunion of the Class of 1973 including those who were part of that cohort but who may have left before Year 12.

The reunion is to be in the second half of 2013. Those interested in attending/helping organise the reunion are asked to contact Cathy Anning (Deveney) catha56@gmail.com/ 0419 350 152 or 03 97002383; or Sue Ball spb1108@gmail.com.

20-year milestone



Congratulations to Mrs Jenny Eason who has reached her 20-year milestone as part of the staff at Avila.

Mrs Eason is a familiar face in the front office in her role as an administration officer.

In addition to her cheery service, Mrs Eason is well known for her love of animals and particularly her care for injured animals.

Staff news

Staff Alumni



Past Avila staff at a gathering of the Staff Alumni earlier in the year are from back L-R, Mrs Alice Willee, Mrs Marylou O'Halloran, Ms Adele Morice, Miss Franca Giovannini, Mrs Marie Boyle, Mrs Lynsey Poore, Mrs Marie Hall, and front L-R, Miss Patricia Ryan, Mrs Jill Withers, Mrs Elma Thursky, and Mrs Annette Oakley.

Avila Old Collegians

subscription/change of details

Name:

(please provide maiden name, and if applicable, married name)

Final year at Avila: Year started at Avila:

Postal address:

Email address:

SUBSCRIPTION: \$100 for life

Please send your subscription to:
Avila College Old Collegians,
35 Charles Street, Mount Waverley 3149
or contact Sandra on 9831 9661.

Avila's archives

A reminder that Avila's archivist, Mrs Marion Wilson, is always on the look out for items to add to her collection.

If you have anything from your time at Avila that you may no longer want to keep, then please consider donating it to the College archives.

With the 50th anniversary fast approaching in 2015, the College is keen to expand its collection of memorabilia even further.

Items of interest include uniforms, reports, minutes of meetings, assignments, photographs (dated and named), Avila publications and stationery, videos, letters, speeches, programs, newspaper cuttings.

For further information, please contact Mrs Wilson on 98319600.