Welcome to the Autumn edition of The Link for 2013. Following the MESA Annual General Meeting (AGM) that was held in the Mercedes staff room in February, a warm welcome was extended to the 2013 Mercedes Ex-Students’ Association (MESA) committee members:

- Carol Mitchell (nee Mettam. Class of 1982); President
- Rita Panebianco (nee Lombardi. Class of 1985); Vice President
- Dani Wares (nee Harper. Class of 1989); Secretary
- Rita Mola (nee Romeo. Class of 1984); Treasurer

Committee members:

- Kate Ringvall (Class of 1988)
- Lydia Bordoni (nee Vieceli. Class of 1972)
- Ann Kinsman (nee Donnelly. Class of 1965)
- Amy Rossbach (Class of 2001)
- Jennifer Mohen (Class of 2008)
- Rebecca Joseph (Class of 2011)

It’s wonderful to have some more recent ex-students (that means much younger!) join our MESA committee. They have already been a really positive addition. I would also like to thank our Alumni Officer/MESA support: formerly known as Tanya Finch; now Tanya Vandermark (congratulations on your wedding) and our Mercedes Principal: Sheena Barber, (who is currently overseas enjoying long service leave) for their continued support of MESA and the expanding Victoria Square Alumni (VSA).

Our Term One highlights have included the MESA Mocktail evening for the leaving class of 2012; our wonderful Mercedes Fete that was held in April and more recently, Open Day. It has been great to share some of these events also with our friends from the St Joseph’s Victoria Square (SJVS) committee or their broader membership. We welcome more involvement from any ex-students from Our Lady’s College as well. These events and more are highlighted in more detail in the Autumn edition of The Link. Remember that we also welcome your contribution to this publication and we are happy to help you stay connected to your/our special ex-student community. Please stay in touch!

Blessings.

Carol Mitchell (nee Mettam ’82): President (2013)
**MESA Mocktail Party - Graduates of 2012**

By Rita Panebianco (nee Lombardi, '85)

Earlier this year MESA held our first event for 2013 – our annual Mocktail Party for the Graduating Class of 2012. As Friday 15 March drew closer we began to panic about the weather we had been experiencing during the week. As the co-ordinator of this event by Thursday afternoon when a severe weather forecast was delivered and a storm front hit I have to admit panic began to set-in.

The Mocktail Party is held in Catherine’s Garden and always seems to coincide with the weekend of music and swimming camps. As there was no plan B or an undercover space available if the wet weather continued the MESA committee prayed for fine weather and kept everything crossed for the next day. Our prayers were answered and we were blessed with a beautiful warm afternoon and lovely evening for our Mocktail Party.

The committee has felt a special bond with the Graduating Class of 2012 due to a number of events we held last year, along with attending Presentation and Graduation Nights. We were looking forward to catching up with the girls to see how they had transitioned from Mercedes and into life after Mercedes. As the girls arrived Catherine’s Garden became abuzz with squeals of excitement as this lovely group of Graduates exchanged embraces and chatted about the events of the last couple of months.

As ex-students we are overwhelmed and share a great sense of pride in the traditions of Mercedes College and the life-long friendships we take with us. It was obvious that too was the case with the Graduates of 2012. We had a great turn-out and it was lovely to watch the girls chat away as they sipped a variety of Mocktails and nibbles. The highlight of the evening was taking a photo of the Graduating Class as a keep sake from the event. As the night concluded it was fantastic to see the girls continue the gathering at friends’ houses and other venues.

The MESA committee is very excited to have quite a few younger members this year and it was lovely to have their assistance on the night. We reviewed the Mocktail Party at our last meeting and have a few changes in the pipeline ready for the Graduating Class of 2013. We enjoy organising this event and welcoming the new graduates into MESA. I would like to thank the MESA committee members who worked hard setting-up/packing away, preparing mocktails and nibbles for the evening. We look forward to catching up with this lovely year group at our other MESA functions during the year.
Mercedes College Fete 2013
By Rita Mola (nee Romeo, '84)

On Sunday 14 April, Mercedes College was transformed with its carnival rides, music, dancing, entertainment, delicious food stands, market and craft stalls and many more fun filled activities into the ‘Mercedes College Fete’.

An enthusiastic group of volunteers from the Victoria Square Alumni (Mercedes College, St Josephs and Our Lady’s College) worked together to welcome many people who stopped to have a chat and find out about the rich history of Victoria Square. There were countless stories told of times at the college, as people stopped to look at the many photos on display. Some even surprised to find a photo of themselves or someone they knew.

We were delighted to reconnect with numerous ex-students and look forward to remaining in touch with them in the future, through regular notices and ‘The Link’ newsletter.

Ann Kinsman (1965) kindly made and donated a beautifully stitched quilt which was raffled on the day. Congratulations to the winner Leonie Beth. Proceeds from the raffle have contributed to the grand total raised, approximately $55 000 (the final figure is still to be confirmed), which will assist the current restoration of the St Joseph’s building.

We would like to thank everyone who assisted on the day and a special mention to the wonderful ladies from St Joseph’s Victoria Square, whose involvement was well received and was very much appreciated.
**Going to the Chapel...**

Jasmine Coverley (Class of 2004) and Jason Bunter exchanged their vows at the Mercedes College Chapel on Sunday 21 October 2012. Jasmine a Mobile Lender and Jason an Agri-Business Banker both at the Commonwealth Bank, met at a mutual friend’s birthday and as they say, ‘the rest is history’.

The newly married couple, with family and friends (including maid of honour Mercedes College ex-student Emma Brown and a close group of ex-Mercedes College girlfriends) commenced celebrations on the special day with pre-dinner drinks on the Mosman Park foreshore followed by a reception at Mosman’s Restaurant. For their honeymoon, Jasmine and Jason travelled through all of Vietnam for 3½ weeks.

Best wishes for a lifetime of love, happiness and special memories

*There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage.* ~ Martin Luther ~

**A Special Morning Tea**

On Thursday 11 April a group of 29 ex-students from St Joseph’s Victoria Square and Our Lady’s College came back to the College to attend a special morning tea with Principal, Sheena Barber. They enjoyed a sample of the College’s beautiful choral ensembles and were all amazed at the physical changes to the College. Hopefully we will see many of these ladies again at the Victoria Square Alumni Mercy Day Mass to be held in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception in September.

**In Memoriam**

In Loving Memory of MESA committee member and dear friend Sharon Ann Fletcher (14 March 1970 – 23 June 2012)

**Sharon’s After Glow**

I’d like the memories of me to be a happy one.
I’d like to leave an after glow of smiles when life is done.
I’d like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.
I’d like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.
**Notices**

**Year 7 Scholarship 2014**
MESA offers a scholarship to support the education of girls and to promote the business and identity of MESA. The Scholarship is awarded to an incoming Year 7 daughter or grand-daughter of an ex-student of the College who is also a MESA Member. Applications close 30 August 2013. The recipient of the MESA Year 7 scholarship for 2014 will be awarded at the Mercedes College Presentation Night on 25 October 2013. Applications and further information regarding the MESA Year 7 Scholarship are available through the MESA link on the College website, or email Tanya Vandermark at the College on tvandermark@mercedes.wa.edu.au.

**Wanted - Missing College Annuals**
At a recent stocktake, Mercedes College realised they are missing some Annuals from their collection: 1970, 1971, 1972, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1993. If any ex-student is willing to donate an annual from these years to the College library it would be very much appreciated. Please contact Mrs Marg Ryan at the Mercedes College Library on 9323 1359. If you have a copy of the missing annual and would prefer to hold onto it, we are willing to scan and return to you. Please contact Rita Mola (Mercedes Ex-Students’ Association) on 0408 914 997 or email irmola@iinet.net.au.

**Reunions**
How many years has it been since you walked through the Mercedes gates for the last time as a student? Are you hoping to reconnect with former class mates from your days at Vic Square as a former student of Our Lady’s College or St Joseph’s? If so, MESA is here to help you reconnect with your former class mates. We have a detailed list of ideas that can help you get started: ‘Tips for organising a reunion’. If you already have a reunion planned for this year - then send us the details (mesa@mercedes.wa.edu.au) and we can help advertise it via the MESA section on the College website and the next edition of The Link.

**Upcoming Events**

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<tr>
<td>23 August</td>
<td>Year 12 MESA Lunch</td>
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<td>22 September</td>
<td>Victoria Square Alumni Mercy Day Mass</td>
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**MESA Meetings / 6.15pm / Mercedes College Staffroom**
Wednesdays 26 June, 7 August, 4 September, 16 October and 27 November.

**Reunions**

**Class of 1978 (35 Year Reunion)**
Saturday 9 November, 5pm onwards / The Brisbane Hotel; 292 Beaufort Street, Highgate 6003 / For more information contact Fran Massera francm@westnet.com.au

News stories, reunion updates, photos or contact detail updates can be emailed to mesa@mercedes.wa.edu.au.

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*The only return God requires of us for all favours is a return of love.*

- Catherine McAuley