MESA YEAR 12 Lunch 2013
By Rita Panebianco (nee Lombardi, ’85) and Amy Rossbach (’01)

On Friday, 23 August, the Year 12 cohort gathered in the school hall for the second annual Year 12 MESA Lunch. A tasty meal of hamburgers, cupcakes and fruit was provided by MESA for students of the graduating class. This event gave the Year 12’s the chance to enjoy a special lunch and also hear from ex-students about their experiences since leaving Mercedes.

This year the two guest speakers – Amanda Meloni (’09) and Lucy FitzSimons (’08) provided words of inspiration for the students. Both girls spoke about the importance of maintaining a link with the school through MESA and also about how Mercedes had prepared them for life in the ‘real world’.

Another important aspect of the lunch is that it provides MESA with an opportunity to promote the Year 12 ‘Living the Mercy Values Award’. The winner of this award is selected by the graduating class and aims to recognise a student who incorporates the mercy values into their everyday life. The award is presented each year at the College Speech Night.

This lunch was a great success, with the students reminded of the excellent work MESA does in linking past and present students, as well as helping to support Mercedes activities. The lunch takes a lot of organisation and MESA would like to thank the committee members who gave their time on the day, as well as Tanya Vandermark for her assistance. A huge thanks must also go to the maintenance team, Kathy Smith and Jackie Stacey for their help in ensuring the day ran smoothly.

Highlights of the MESA Year 12 Lunch
**Mercedes College Open Day 2013**
*By Rita Mola (nee Romeo, ‘84)*

Many families toured the school grounds and were very excited to see the sports and learning facilities, working art display and classroom and library displays at the annual ‘Mercedes College Open Day’ on Sunday 19 May 2013.

The ‘Victoria Square Alumni’, members from the Mercedes College Ex-Students Association and St Joseph’s Ex-Students Association, enjoyed welcoming ex-students and their families. Many shared memories as they reminisced whilst browsing through the old school annuals and photos on display.

Thank you to the Mercedes Ex-Student Association committee members for their time and involvement on Open Day and a special thank you to St Josephs for assisting with staffing the VSA stand

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**Victoria Square Alumni (VSA)**
*By Rita Mola (nee Romeo, ‘84)*

To unite the past and present schools of Victoria Square, ‘Victoria Square Alumni’, also referred to as ‘VSA’, will be the umbrella heading for the Mercedes Ex-students’ Association, St Joseph's Ex-students’ Association and Our Lady’s College. Each of the ex-student associations will continue to function separately, yet there will be a link through the ‘Victoria Square Alumni.’

The new logo designed by Tim Waters of Tim Waters Design, acknowledges the importance of our heritage and recognises the shared history of St Joseph’s, Our Lady’s College and Mercedes College.

We look upon the meaning of the new ‘Victoria Square Alumni’ banners with great pride and reflect on their historical significance. MESA Committee Member Lydia Bordoni (nee Vieceli, ‘72) pictured left stands next to the new Victoria Square Alumni Banner, at the 2013 Mercedes College Open Day.
Ex-Students: Where are they now?

Megan Clunies-Ross (nee Graves, 2001)
During her five years at Mercedes, Megan was always looking for ways to help others. Her caring nature made teaching a perfect choice of profession and in 2005 Megan completed her Bachelor of Education (Primary) at Edith Cowan University. A chance decision to complete her teaching practicum on the remote Cocos (Keeling) Islands had a bigger impact on her life than she could have ever imagined!

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands are a group of twenty seven islands situated roughly 2750 kilometres northwest of Perth. It was during her teaching prac that Megan met Jack Clunies-Ross, a member of the family that once ruled the Islands. The lovely couple returned to Perth for their wedding in 2010, at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. Megan had her sister Carly (Class of 1998) and Mercedes friends Emily Rayner and Amy Rossbach (Class of 2001) as her bridesmaids.

Megan is now a full time teacher on Home Island, where the local Cocos-Malay community resides. The island life certainly suits Megan perfectly and during her time off she enjoys fishing, camping and making the most of her home in paradise!

Donelle Tyler (nee Poulter, 1984)
Donelle attended Mercedes College from 1980 – 1984. Donelle’s two older sisters also attended Mercedes College (Colleen ’79 and Natalie ’80). Since leaving Mercedes, Donelle pursued a career in nursing, specialising in pathology and travelled extensively. After having their beautiful triplets in 2001, Donelle with her husband Colin and their young family, settled in the Swan Valley to run their small vineyard that has been selling wine grapes to well established wineries in the Swan Valley for over 15 years. They have now decided to produce their own wine that specialises in 100 year old non irrigated Grenache vines and 12 months ago opened cellar door sales. The unique family-run business allows you to celebrate your individuality by creating your own label for Tyler’s palatable wine. Take or bring a photo, design your own label, print it out instantly, adorn your bottle at no extra cost and walk away with a special memory.

Donelle, Colin and their gorgeous 12 year old triplets, Oliver, Callum and Elizabeth would warmly welcome a visit from Mercedes ex-students. Their beautiful Golden Retriever dog named Whisper, well behaved goose named Lucky and a bottle fed ram lamb that thinks it’s a dog, will all greet you at the gate.

Tyler’s Vineyard (corner of Padbury and Moore roads) - Opening times are 11-3 Thursday/Friday/ Monday and 11-5 Saturday/Sunday
www.tylersvineyard.com.au
Nadia Santarini (2000)
Nadia completed Year 12 in 2000, and has been working as a qualified dental assistant with her dad, for the past 12 years. In 2011 she had the opportunity to travel to Europe for a lovely vacation and also participated in World Youth Day events in Barcelona.

Nadia was a member of the ex-students choir with Mrs Dragun and sang with the Malcolm Sargaent choir. She was also involved in The Maggie Box Theatre Company, a not-for-profit organisation, that organised variety shows to help raise funds for children in the orphanages in India.

Over the years, Nadia has been busy singing at wedding ceremonies and various musical productions which include 3 Italian plays at the Dolphin Theatre UWA under directorship of Bruno Napolitano and Mrs Canestrari. Also musical productions with the Stirling theatre group which include Hello Dolly where she played Ernestina, one of the Everly Sisters in Flapper and Kate in the Gilbert and Sullivan production of The Pirates of Penzance at the Playhouse theatre and another production of Iolanthe.

A highlight for Nadia, was performing in the Sound of Music at the Regal theatre with the MS society. Nadia performed on telethon in 2002 and 2003 with vogue entertainment and entered the Star search competitions and came runner up in 2005 and won the vocal duet in 2007 with Santo Lo Grande. Nadia also enjoys performing for the W.A. heart foundation memorial service each year with pianist Ailsa Gleesan and cousin, David Torre. This year they performed at the 150th celebration for the sister’s of the Good Shepherd at St Michael the Archangel Chapel, where Nadia’s mother Marina also performed.

Nadia sings regularly at St Joseph’s parish in Subiaco and Infant Jesus in Morley and looks forward to furthering her wedding singing career.

MESA are delighted to have Nadia sing at the Victoria Square Alumni Mercy Mass on Sunday 22 September in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.

Stephanie Santarini (2006)
Stephanie graduated in 2006; she was Music Prefect and also choreographer for Serisier House Dance which placed second.

Stephanie completed her Bachelor of Music in Operatic Studies at University of Western Australia and a Certificate II in Music Theatre at WAAPA. During her studies she was fortunate enough to be apart of WA Opera company’s performance of Rigoletto in 2007. In 2009 she was vocalist for WA Philharmonic Orchestra for Disney in Concert at the Perth Zoo. In 2010 - 2011 Stephanie was Junior Voice teacher at St Hilda’s and the Year 7 choir conductor for two years. She was also dance captain for the Junior team at Mercy College.

After graduating, Stephanie moved to Brisbane to continue her training and studies at Queensland Conservatorium of music under the guidance of opera singer Lisa Gasteen and singing teacher Margaret Schindler. There she has completed a Graduate diploma of music studies. She has performed in various shows and operas and is currently rehearsing for The marriage of Figaro. In Brisbane she has been training in dancing with Helena Moore and Michael Edge at Mad dance house company.

Stephanie teaches singing and coaches singing at Fireworks School of Music in Brisbane and teaches tap and music theatre at Northside school of dance.

She hopes to relocate to Melbourne at the end of the year and pursue a career in theatre.
Going to the Chapel...

On Saturday, 5 January 2013, Stefanie Neri, primary school teacher (Class of ’06) and Clint Bradshaw, plumber (Trinity College, Class of ’06) were married in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception by Father Brian Limbourn. After attending a party at the end of Year 12, the couple dated for 4.5 years before Clint proposed on a rainy night at Fraser’s restaurant in June 2011.

Many ex-students of Trinity and Mercedes Colleges were involved including; Maid of Honour, Alessia Neri (’08) and Bridesmaid, Nastassia Hantzis (’06). Best Man, Matthew Stockton (’06) and Groomsman Liam Moller.

There were photo shoots on the grounds at the College, The Botanic Gardens in Kings Park, The Blue Boatshed and St George’s Terrace. A reception for 160 family and friends was held at The Pan Pacific Hotel and the Master of Ceremonies was the Bride’s brother Dario Neri (TC, Class of ’01).

Clint and Stefanie honeymooned in different destinations in America including; San Francisco, Los Angeles, Disneyland, Las Vegas and Hawaii for 3.5 weeks.

Victoria Square Alumni / MESA Meetings – Please join us!

MESA is open to all students who have attended any of the Colleges at Victoria Square (St Joseph’s College, Our Lady’s College and Mercedes College). Being a member of MESA allows you to remain an integral part of the College community, providing opportunities for you to reconnect with old friends at Alumni and special College events and reunions, assist in planning these events and involvement in guiding association decision-making. It is also a way to give back to the College and its students through mentor programs and scholarships. The committee is voted in annually at the AGM and all members are welcome at meetings throughout the year (You don’t have to be a committee member to attend meetings). We encourage and welcome anyone who has a spare hour to join us at the next MESA Meetings for 2013 at 6.15pm in the Mercedes College Staffroom: Wednesday 16 October & 27th November. Please express your interest to attend to MESA secretary Dani Wares chicken72@iprimus.com.au.
In Memoriam
Sincere condolences are extended to the families of the following ex-students:
Crystal Roberts (Class of ‘09)
Sam Marshall (Class of ‘90)
Kenni Dennison (Class of ‘87)
Marianne Brockwell (nee Megaw, Class of ‘68)

’Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted’ (Matthew 5:4)

Notices
Wanted - Missing College Annuals
Mercedes College 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. Thank you to all those who have contacted the Mercedes Ex-Students Association in relation to lending your annuals for scanning. We will be in touch with you shortly.

Upcoming Events
Victoria Square Alumni Mercy Mass
Sunday 22 September / The Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on the grounds of Mercedes College, 2pm. Followed by afternoon tea in the College Staffroom.

MESA Meetings / 6.15pm / Mercedes College Staffroom
Wednesdays 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.

Class of 1988 (25 Year Reunion)
Sunday 10 November / 3.00pm - 6.00pm / The Boulevard Hotel in Floreat. For more information contact Natalie Cleland (nee Kirkwood): jonno.nat@gmail.com.

2014
Class of 1974 (40 Year Reunion)
May 2014 / Date and Time - TBC / If you would like to register for this reunion please email your contact details to mesa@mercedes.wa.edu.au.

There are three things the poor prize more highly than gold, though they cost the giver nothing - the kind word; the gentle compassionate look; the patient hearing of their sorrows.
- Catherine McAuley