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Welcome from the Principal

This edition of Alegria celebrates what is special about Mercedes in its 170th Year and in the Jubilee Year of Mercy. We are grateful to Sr Ursula Frayne and the other Sisters of Mercy who founded this College. They brought with them the wisdom of Catherine McAuley and her dedication to helping others. It is hard to believe that on 2 February, 1846 the Sisters, expecting many students needing an education, only had one turn up at the beginning of the school year. From such a small beginning Mercedes has grown to a College educating nearly a thousand students. At our family masses at the beginning of the academic year this small beginning was re-enacted to emphasise how much the College has expanded. A College Sundowner was held at the end of the first week of Term 1 to officially open our 170th celebration and a short film showcased the school at the Innaloo Cinema Complex over a period of six months.

The Sisters of Mercy have always encouraged students to excel and achieve personal excellence. In this edition of Alegria this is evident when you read about Year 12, 2015 results, scholarship achievements, the Perspective Exhibition for Visual Art, ACC sporting successes and the many leadership opportunities enjoyed by our students. To have a student from the College named as the Save the Children Australian Ambassador was a great honour in 2015 and emphasises the importance of mentoring young people so that they have the skills and confidence to take on leadership opportunities. This stays true to the work started by the Sisters of Mercy 170 years ago.

Catherine McAuley's commitment to helping others particularly the poor and marginalised is reflected in the articles that show mercy in action. Our peer mentoring programme, involvement with the United Nations and International Women's Day activities all attest to our commitment to educate students so that they are willing to stand up for the rights of others and be involved in service activities.

Mercedes also provides students with a holistic education and articles about such topics as the Italy Tour, Year 12 Ball and House events give a snapshot of the wonderful co-curricular activities students can be involved in. Being part of the Italy Tour for this year made me very proud as I saw the way our students conducted themselves overseas. They made the most of the opportunity to improve their knowledge of the Italian language and their behaviour won favourable comments from many hotel staff and bus drivers.

In our 170th year it is pleasing to see the growth and development of our College Alumni. Four generations of one family featured in our first Youtube film that dealt with the reasons why a family would choose Mercedes generation after generation as the school to educate their daughters.

As 2016 continues more events celebrating our 170 years will take place. Enjoy reading the following pages of Alegria knowing that the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy lives on. We are very fortunate to be part of this inspirational College community.

Mrs Kerrie Fraser
On the 3rd of April the Mercedes College Italian Language and Culture tour group attended the Pilgrim’s Mass in Rome celebrated by Pope Francis in Saint Peter’s Square. The Mass was concelebrated by many Cardinals and Bishops and attended by special guests.

The group of 35 students and five teachers was seated near the Obelisk at the centre of the Square with a good view of the altar, with the Jubilee Holy Door as a backdrop. They also caught a glimpse of the pilgrim representatives from the Sisters of Mercy with their banner held high.

The large video screens on either side helped the group to see every detail of the liturgy.

The Principal, Mrs Kerrie Fraser, who was participating in her first tour with the College since commencing her role in 2015, said it was a good learning experience to hear the Mass spoken in Italian with the Prayer of the Faithful in languages from around the world.

“A highlight of the liturgy was the beautiful singing by the Choir, and the parts of the Mass sung by Cantors.”

The hour and a half long Mass ended with Pope Francis’ completing a lap of Saint Peter’s Square in the Pope Mobile which enabled many of the group to get photos close up of the Pope.

The group began their three-week tour of Italy in Rome.
An Italian Language and Cultural Tour

What a special tour this was for the lucky thirty-five Year 10 and 11 students studying Italian and the five accompanying staff. Our arrival date coincided with the Mass of Divine Mercy concelebrated by Pope Francis at Saint Peter’s Basilica making the tour a holy pilgrimage to Italy for all involved. Starting the tour by walking through the Holy Door at St Peter’s was a special blessing for us all and ending the tour by walking through the Holy Door at the Duomo di Milano was also such a touching way to say grazie mille to our Lord for enabling us to experience and learn so much; culturally and linguistically, establishing new friendships and personally maturing along the way as students learnt to cope with the many demands a tour like this brings along with it.

There are far too many unforgettable moments to mention so I will endeavour to highlight only a few. The breathtaking views from the Cupola at St Peter’s, la Civita di Bagnoregio, la Torre del Moro in Orvieto, Piazzale Michelangelo a Firenze and the La Torre Pendente di Pisa were all well worth the climb to the very top. The famous monuments which before were only images in books or on the Internet, came to life right before our very eyes; we imagined what life was like as a gladiator at the amazing Colosseum, we all managed to throw our coins in the Trevi Fountain to ensure our return to the beautiful city of Rome, we delved into the mysteries of Pompeii, we fell in love with the city of Florence with its Ponte Vecchio and we stood in awe as we admired the Statua di David and felt absolute joy on our gondola through the picturesque city of Venezia. Our visit to the beautiful and unique islands of Capri, Murano and Burano will stay with us forever.

A highlight of the tour and a great way to experience the Italian way of life was through the amazing medieval city of Orvieto, sitting high on the tufa rock. It is where we attended our full immersion language lessons at the school of Dante Alighieri. We also experienced the countryside around “the rock” with an excursion to Bolsena, the largest volcanic lake in Europe and where the miracle of the Corpus Christi took place many years ago. The incredible city of Civita di Bagnoregio, a city clinging to life, was simply unforgettable.

What were we expecting from our tour? Amazing architecture, fantastic shopping opportunities in the fashion capital of the world, scrumptuous food, language immersion, breathtaking art, historical treasures, many captivating Cathedrals and Basilicas or scenic beauty? Whatever it was, this 2016 Italian Language and Cultural tour truly delivered it!

Angela Velletri
Tour Co-ordinator and Head of Languages
At the start of this new academic year we have taken the opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful achievements of our students who were our graduates in 2015. At the annual Excellence Assembly held on Monday 1st February, the Mercedes College community were presented with the students who achieved ATAR scores above 95 in the WACE external examinations. The exemplary work of these students was the result of diligent study and a willingness to participate in the diverse activities of the College. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

Shardalee Lievers achieved the highest accolade in the state for her work in Stage 3 Children, Family and Community. She was awarded the Course Exhibition and a Certificate of Distinction. A Certificate of Distinction was awarded also to Lauren Brambilla for English.

In summary:

- Nine students achieved Certificates of Commendation for achieving a minimum of 20 A grades over the course of their senior school studies. These students were Lauren Brambilla, Imogen Brierley-Hay, Sarah Coutinho, Nicola Hynes, Amelia Ikin, Genevieve Mascarenhas, Rachel McKenna, Alessia Pintabona and Bailey Taylor.
- One student achieved an ATAR above 99
- 17 students achieved ATARS above 95
- 21 students achieved ATARS within the 90 – 94.9 range
- 133 were offered places at public universities out of 154 students. 15 students were offered early entry positions at Notre Dame University. The balance of the graduating class have been offered places in various bridging courses and TAFE courses.

Students from the College were also very successful with scholarship applications with Ellie Narducci, Rachel McKenna and Nicola Hynes all receiving the John Curtin Undergraduate Scholarship.

We know that the journey of academic pursuits is different for each student. There are many ways to gain success: with this in mind, at Mercedes College there is the enduring value that one must have perseverance to do the best that one can. Knowing how to achieve your personal best comes with conversation and seeking advice from teachers who are committed to ensuring success.

Liana Strutt
Deputy Principal – Academic Services
Scholarships Success for our Students

Three graduates from Mercedes College were awarded the John Curtin Undergraduate Scholarship at an awards ceremony in February. This is the first time three students from one school have been awarded the prestigious scholarship.

Ellie Narducci, Rachel McKenna and Nicola Hynes were all successful with their applications, which provide full funding for their tuition over the duration of their degrees, plus $1,000 per semester and $6,000 towards an exchange overseas.

Ninety seven applicants from across the state met the scholarship prerequisites. Students needed to be in the top 5% of their graduating year, have a strong commitment to serving the community, as well as display strong leadership amongst their peer group. The girls were amongst a group of 15 students to receive the scholarship.

Ellie was also the recipient of the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering “Women in Engineering Scholarship”, valued at $24,000.

The girls are enthusiastic about commencing university and feel they are already part of the Curtin community, having already met the other 15 students in a variety of settings. In February they have attended the awards ceremony, a meeting and a 3-day camp at Point Walter. They said the camp provided a great opportunity to get to know the other students and hear from Curtin Alumni about their experiences and what they can expect from being a part of this group.

They are all exploring different career paths; Rachel is doing Physiotherapy, Nicola, Nutrition and Ellie will be completing a five and half year double degree in Engineering and Commerce. They all agreed the application process for the scholarships seemed insurmountable at first, what with Mock exams looming, but the support provided by College staff enabled them to complete the task.

Ellie said, “the assistance provided by senior staff, enabled us to persevere with the process and we are very glad we did. We would encourage other like-minded students to take up this opportunity."

Other scholarships awarded to Mercedes students included the Edith Cowan Excellence Scholarship, which was awarded to Alessia Pintabona. Alessia has begun a degree in classical voice at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Michelle Curro received the Western Power Women in Electrical Engineering Scholarship, also at Curtin University.

Cheryl Alach
Careers Co-ordinator

Where did the 2015 Graduating Class go?

128 students with an ATAR applied for university

<table>
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<td>Engineering</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who have enrolled

- Students who have offered their 1st preference
- Students who have offered any of their preferences
- Students who have enrolled

Source: Tertiary Institute Service Centre (TISC)
In Term 4 last year the focus was on Leadership. Students and staff elected the Prefect Council on 14 October, with deputies announced the following week. The last assembly was a celebration of these leadership positions and Mrs Fraser reminded all students that with the excitement for those students that get elected, there will be also disappointment for many students. It was important for students to have the strength to move past the disappointment and to not let it discourage them from putting themselves forward for the many other leadership opportunities that arise throughout the year.

The Prefect Council are:
The Head Girl: Georgia Mola
The Deputy Head Girl: Stefanie Boyle
The Prefects:
Jaya Bourgeois Brookes, Danika Calyon, Nina Campagna, Gillian Hackwill, Matilda Haywood, Ruby Higgins, Sabrina Ipsaro-Passione, Eva Mallet, Riley McCourt, Anna Mincham, Iesha Palelei, Carissa Soares, Taylah Spano and Josephine Volk
The Deputy Prefects:
Jessica Burnell (Cooper), Sinead Duffin (Frayne), Alicia Casella (McAuley), Madeleine Kruize (McDonald), Tess Raven (Serisier), Caitlin Cappeluti (Wright).

Shortly after the commissioning, the Prefects enjoyed an afternoon tea with Mrs Fraser and The Honourable Lord Mayor of Perth, Lisa Scaffidi, who is the Patron of the College Prefects. The Lord Mayor spoke to the students about their roles in the College and the leadership opportunities for women in the community.

The Prefects have been very pro-active taking the lead on a number of initiatives including organising a student-run Melbourne Cup activity at the end of the year, and this year Georgia Mola and Josephine Volk were instrumental in producing a video to promote Harmony Day to the student cohort.
The move from primary to high school may be considered a key ‘rite of passage’ as students move from one level of schooling to another. Such a move generally requires a change of school, mixing with a new and different peer group, learning new forms of school organisation and having many more teachers. It has been suggested that the primary/high school transition is an ‘abrupt disjuncture’ between two very different forms of schooling.

The high school environment is important, not only because students spend a significant portion of each day at school, but also because high school is a place where students form new relationships with peers and adults.

Peer mentoring or peer support is an effective way through which students can develop the many facets of personal and social capability, which is one of the seven general capabilities outlined in the Australian Curriculum. Mercedes College offers the opportunity for Year 10 students to become Peer Mentors to new Year 7 students. The Peer Mentor program is a peer led, skills based, experiential learning program that empowers young people to support each other and contribute positively to society. It provides students with a supportive learning environment in which to develop the skills, understandings, attitudes and strategies to improve their mental, social and emotional wellbeing while aiming to develop key skills in resilience, assertiveness, decision making, problem solving and leadership.

Once nominated as Year nine students, Peer Mentors are selected by the Pastoral Council based on their ability to aspire, excel and lead. After completing training sessions with Year Coordinators and College Psychologists, Peer Mentors work with their Year 7 students throughout the year, running formal activities and informal meetings during recess and lunchtimes. More specifically, Peer Mentors play a key role in hosting incoming Year 7 students at the College’s Orientation Day in November, making an introductory phone call to their ‘little sister’ over the summer break and run an afternoon session with Year 7 students on their first day of high school in January. Peer mentors run an extended activity during the College’s Pastoral Care period once a term and regularly meet with their students informally during Picnic Week each term.

The Peer Mentor program at Mercedes College allows Year 10 students opportunities to develop skills that can be used in the wider community in order to be effective and confident leaders who have a better understanding about themselves, but more importantly about the needs of others.

Melissa Trolio (Year 7 Coordinator)
Sherrin Adams (Year 10 Coordinator)
An Insight into Australian Politics

From the 15th to 19th March, I was fortunate to attend the National Schools Constitutional Convention in Canberra. Along with 14 other students from Western Australia, we debated alongside politically like-minded individuals from every state and territory. The topic on the agenda - Education in a federal nation.

On our first day in Canberra, we spent the afternoon at Parliament House viewing politicians at Question Time before retreating to a Senate Committee chamber to hear opening remarks by the Speaker of the House, The Hon Tony Smith. All students were then given the chance to meet with their local member for photo opportunities, and to discuss issues in relation to their electorate.

On our second day, we resided at Old Parliament House, to listen to Emeritus Professor John Warhurst, ANU Professor Michael Coper, and the Education Minister, The Hon. Simon Birmingham. We conversed in small groups, and compared the education systems of numerous countries, and their Constitutional provisions. It was very clear from the start that us Western Australians have a different outlook on federalism compared to other states. This led to intense debate on funding allocation and GST. At the end of the day, we toured Government House, and then had a three course meal at the High Court.

On our last day, we held a referendum on whether Education should be a federal or state power. The result concluded that education requires federal assistance, although the consensus among the students, was it to be a concurrent power. We spent the remainder of the afternoon in the National Archives building, where the original Constitution lies.

At Canberra airport where saw numerous politicians, as the Senate Sleep over for the Electoral Reforms concluded that morning. As we walked to the terminal, we were star struck as we walked past Senators Penny Wong and Scott Ludlam, and managed to get a couple of selfies with many ‘zombified’ politicians.

It was a privilege to attend the Convention. I would recommend any students interested in politics and law to apply for this program. The Convention has deepened my understanding on key conflicts between State and Federal power, and has strengthened my interest in Australian politics.

Anna Micham (Year 12)

Sir Charles Court Young Leaders Program

On the 19th of April myself and 29 other Year 10s from around the state had the privilege to be selected by Curtin University for the Sir Charles Court Young Leaders Program. I didn’t know what to expect of this four-day camp but I was promised that it was an experience that will completely change my life. It certainly delivered on that promise. The program was a four-day camp driven by a vision to strengthen our leadership quality and make us determined to make a mark on the world.

We attended many wonderful lectures, motivating us to have “10 Seconds of Courage” and we were inspired by guest speakers like the youngest councillor in WA who encouraged us to make our voices heard and helped us to realise that age was no barrier.

I was pushed to step out of my comfort zone and face my fears. Be that climbing and jumping off a 15 metre pole (with a harness of course) to building a raft and putting it to the test in the river. Before going on this camp I could never have been able to call myself courageous. The camp opened our eyes to the conflicts in our society by activities that explored big issues and how we can make a change. It was truly the most exciting week of my life and through it I have gained more confidence and vision for my future. I walked into the program with 29 strangers and walked out with 29 of the best friends I had ever made who were supportive and motivating and I can’t wait to change the world with them.

I am so thankful for this experience and the memories that come with it that will never fail to make me smile.

Maya Matti (Year 10)
On Wednesday 30 March students in the Accelerated Learning Program were given the opportunity to participate in a Robotics Incursion. The Nao Robot from The Brainary in Victoria is a fully programmable humanoid robot that can interact, dance and even play soccer. Nao demonstrated the new, exciting and novel uses of robotics in the workplace such as in rehabilitation therapies and healthcare.

The demonstration highlighted the importance of coding using the python platform and challenged students to explore the application and future of robotics. The incursion was an entertaining and exciting introduction to robotics and mechatronics, and it engaged ALP students in cross-curricular areas of, science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Brainary is an organization which promotes world leading resources to the education sector to enhance students’ learning in a fun and interesting way. Presenter, Jonathan Kingsley was in Perth presenting to Universities and schools, and the College was very fortunate to be able to include one of these presentations in its learning program.

Elizabeth Morgan
Science Teacher
A group of mathematic students were selected to attend the University of Western Australia’s “Exploring Engineering” day on 9 March.

The eight students, Hannah Skinner, Jade Mascarenhas, Nakita Gault, Mehak Satnani (Year 10), Emma McDonald, Ivy Bui (Year 11), Grace Hughes and Olivia Bozich (Year 12) spent the day exploring the seven disciplines of engineering - environmental, civil, chemical, mining, mechanical, electrical and computer science engineering.

The University Engineers’ Club ran the event to give students a rare insight into the work university students do in their engineering degrees on a day-to-day basis. It also gave them a chance to talk to engineering students and staff about pathways into engineering at UWA.

Reflection by Hannah Skinner, Year 10

“We learnt about so many things; how to use the computer program Java, we made liquid nitrogen ice-cream in the chemical engineering showcase. In the mining engineering showcase, we were provided with an outline as to what it is about, and even got to watch gold panning. In the civil engineering showcase each group was challenged to make the tallest tower out of nothing but marshmallows and dried spaghetti.

We looked at how environmental engineering can help save and look after the environment and in mechanical engineering, how to build race cars using strong, but light materials which are later raced against other universities nationally and internationally. The day concluded with an electrical engineering exercise, where we learnt about AC and DC motors, and other activities.

The students said it was great to interact with students from other schools and university students, and that the information they received was extremely beneficial.

Peter Mee
Head of Mathematics
At an assembly last November ACC Chief Executive Officer, Suzie Elhers presented four students, Annabel Ridley (Graduate of 2015), Tess Raven, Olivia Ridley and Bronte Mitchell with their All-Star Awards.

The awards were for the two “best performed” athletes within an individual event category and across all divisions of carnival and were selected in an “All Star” honorary representative team. In short students have to finish first or second in an event across all 10 divisions of all carnivals. There is 67 ACC schools and 48,000 students, so this was an amazing effort from the students. The girls received a certificate and an All Star pin.

Olivia Ridley was also presented the ACC Letters, the highest individual accolade awarded by the ACC. It is presented to a student who has been selected in an ‘All Star’ team in the same sport (athletics for this one), for a minimum of four years. Considering Olivia was only in Year 10, this was an extraordinary achievement. Olivia was presented with a framed certificate.

In 2015 there were 13 students presented with the Letters, again out of 48,000 students, a phenomenal effort.

Marnie Barrett
Health & Physical Education

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Marnie Barrett
Health & Physical Education

Art on Show

Congratulations to Zoey Portilla (Class of 2015) who currently has artwork exhibited at the Art Gallery of Western Australia as part of the Perspectives Exhibition. This is a very prestigious exhibition that AGWA describes as, “…Your yearly taste of art by some of the best, brightest and most talented graduating high school artists in the state”.

Zoe’s art piece, titled “Look at Me” mixed media on wood explores the vast poverty, homelessness and inhumane conditions she observed on a trip to Chile.

An excerpt from Zoe’s Artist Statement:

My experience in Chile has sparked my fascination of the human condition. What appears to be an established country is in reality a corrupted country of gang lifestyle, homelessness, and scarcity, leaving a majority of the individuals who live this day-to-day lifestyle unaided without faith and motive.

My work replicates this tragedy through a mixed medium arrangement and diverse practice, depicting urban spaces and street lifestyle through the use of raw timber pieces, which replicates the materials used when assembling their houses. Homelessness is represented through the homeless male morphed with a dog, which explores the idea of both human and animal homelessness; the many eyes of the innocent leave the viewer left searching the reality of our world and hint a sense of guilt and unease. The great scale of the eyes directly in the centre stresses this remorse sensed. The words “AYUDA” meaning help in Spanish isolates the frantic nature of the artwork. The colour red has been screen-printed and is the only presence of red creating a focal point. The colour blue represents the calm nature and innocence associated with the eyes of the many victims, this juxtaposes against the raw composition, highly contrasting and creating a flow within the artwork, this implies the viewer’s eye to start at a point and flow out onto other points of interest.

Only 58 artworks were selected for exhibition from high schools around the State. The exhibition runs until 13 June.

Andrea Hosking
Art Co-ordinator
The 2016 Inter-house Swimming Carnival was held on Tuesday 23 February at HBF Stadium. On the day students had the opportunity to represent their House by participating in individual events in the 50 metre pool and novelty races conducted in the dive pool. The atmosphere and colour in the stands was wonderful, as each House encouraged their team members in the various events on the day. It was also great to see a large number of parents watch their daughters swim in the carnival.

The competition between the Houses was very close all day, and the final result was not determined until the completion of the relay events. The final individual and team results were as follows:

**INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS**

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**Champion**

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**TEAMS**

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<td>6th McAuley</td>
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| 1st McDonald          | 160  |
| 2nd McAuley           | 130  |
| 3rd Seresier          | 128  |
| 4th Cooper            | 112  |
| 5th Frayne            | 76   |
| 6th Wright            | 74   |

Congratulations to Cooper on winning the Swimming Shield for the first time and well done to all of the students who participated on the day.

Greg Smith
Acting Head of Learning, Health and Physical Education
Students in all Houses were invited to enter this year’s House Art Competition to celebrate the College’s 170th Anniversary.

Students were asked to design an image that represents inspiring Women of Mercy. Several designs were selected and printed for the 2016 International Women’s Day post card and for use as gift cards.

The original designs had to be presented on paper, using either landscape or portrait and the whole A4 piece of paper. Students could use any medium and took inspiration for their design from the College’s Founding Sisters and other Mercy women in our history and community today.

Five designs were selected and students were asked to write a description of their designs.

Andrea Hosking
Art Co-ordinator

Isabella Ulrich (Year 8)
“Catherine McAuley has been represented for the significant role she played in the establishment of our College.”

Annabel Haizer (Year 12)
...“the travels and works left by the Mercy Sisters in Perth...”

Isabella Rosarro (Year 12)
...“the journey of the Sisters of Mercy changing through time.”
The House Performing Arts Festival held at the Perth Concert Hall on Monday 4 April was once again an overwhelming success. Over 300 girls performed to a full house in either the House Choir or House DramaDance performances.

The combined Drama/Dance and Choir Festival encompasses a holistic approach to the Performing Arts at Mercedes College, allowing students to work collaboratively and celebrate the wonderful talents among the students across the three performing arts areas. Drama and Dance have continued to combine pairs of Houses, allowing for sufficient leadership and casting opportunities, as well as having enough suitable rehearsal spaces during rehearsal time. Choir once again has strong numbers, with 235 girls taking part in this year’s Festival.

The theme for the performances was “Let us entertain You” and the selection of the performances were very entertaining. The leaders and participants have embraced the Festival and, while finding aspects daunting, they rose to the challenge to create performances of which they can be very proud.

The student leaders were responsible for the production – producing, directing, choreographing, costuming and rehearsing. Teacher help was provided in rehearsal accompaniment, some music editing and lighting design as well as access to Wardrobe for costuming and Mentor Teachers provided support.

The adjudicators were so impressed with all the performances, that it was a challenge to select winners for each section of the Festival.

The winning houses were:

**House Choir Champions:**
McAuley
*It’s the Hard Knock Life* from Annie the Musical

**House DramaDance Champions:**
Frayne and Wright
Who together presented *Hansel and Gretel*.

The photos tell the story and capture the energy and excitement of the performances and just how outstanding each House really was. Congratulations to all girls who participated.

Kathleen Cocks
Head of Arts
In this special Year of Mercy, the College community came together on Tuesday 15 March to enjoy a breakfast to celebrate International Women’s Day. More than 90 mothers, daughters, family members, teaching staff and Sisters attended the breakfast which was supported by the P&F. Guests heard from speakers, Mercedes College Alumni, Carol Mitchell (Mettam) Class of 1982, and the Hon. Liza Harvey, MLA Deputy Premier of WA (Class of 1983).

As well as being Minister for Police, Road Safety, and Training and Workforce Development, the Minister is also responsible for the Women’s Interests portfolio. The Minister opened the breakfast with the announcement in the Roll of Honour of the 2016 Inductee to the WA International Women’s Day Hall of Fame; Sister Mary Martin Kelly (1930–1987). Sister Kelly was honoured posthumously for her services to the Wembley Catherine McAuley Centre, which provided support to marginalised families and unwanted children.

The Minister was particularly pleased as Sister Kelly was her father’s cousin and acknowledged the presence at the breakfast of her cousin Gemma Wooltorton, who also volunteered alongside her aunt at the Catherine McAuley Centre for a number of years. She spoke about our unsung heroes, particularly those women in our community who live the Mercy values, and encouraged all of those women attending the breakfast to continue to promote these women of Mercy.

Carol, who is currently the Director of the Justice, Ecology and Development Office for the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth spoke about her work over the years in the areas of Justice and Mercy. She shared her experiences of working with a range of organisations including Outcare Inc. (WA), the Immigrant Women’s Support Service in Queensland and various government departments where she provided support for men and women in need and at risk in our community.

Carol said that working in the social justice area can mean you are often in a negative space looking at obstacles and barriers, so sometimes it can be challenging to see the opportunities that are before you.

The quote by Mahatma Gandhi: “Be the change you wish to see in the world” resonates strongly for Carol and challenged the students to follow their personal passion or dreams and try to work in that area; or live with such hope.

Julie Cameron
Marketing & Community Relations Manager

IWD Breakfast – Celebrating Women of Mercy

Following Danikka Calyon’s trip to New York last year as Australia’s national youth ambassador for Save the Children, the Year 12 student has been inspired to work at home to better recognise indigenous people in her community.

Together with teacher mentor, Lisa Speranza, Danikka and fellow student Kula-lee McKeon submitted a proposal to the College executive to plan and establish a Reconciliation Pathway in the College.

The project will take the form of a Wagyl, which formed the landscape of the Aboriginal Dreamtime story of the rainbow serpent. The project will help give a presence of indigenous culture within the College, and help bridge the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous students.

With the support of Reconciliation WA and other companies in the community, indigenous and non-indigenous students in the College will create a mosaic design that uses images and materials that reflect the seasons of the Noongar people.

The setting for the project is outside the Frayne building, addressing one of Reconciliation WA’s aims to bridge the gap between the Catholic Church and the indigenous people.

Teacher mentor, Lisa Speranza said it is hoped the project will be completed by Term 3 allowing for a blessing to take place involving members of the College community.

Since Danikka’s return she has been a guest speaker at a number of events where she has provided thoughts on a variety of topics to do with indigenous youth. Danikka will soon be attending a climate change conference through SEEDS which is an indigenous climate change group.

In the meantime, Danikka is concentrating on her Year 12 studies so that she can continue her studies at the University of WA.

She continues her volunteering work in her local community for Save the Children, which is what led Danikka to be selected from more than 700 applicants for the Youth Ambassador role in 2015. At the UN General Assembly in New York she was joined...
Harmony Day

Harmony Day, 21 March, is a day dedicated to celebrating Australia’s cultural diversity. It promotes a sense of belonging and inclusiveness for everyone no matter what their background.

The Prefects decided to compose a video for Harmony Day to display and celebrate the diversity within our Mercedes College community. Students and staff came together for the production of the video, voicing in their own languages our 2016 Harmony Day theme "Our diversity is our strength’.

The short clip which was shown to students during Pastoral Care reinforces the importance of inclusiveness and encourages us to embrace multiculturalism.

Our beautiful Inclusive Education students were also busy for Harmony Day, baking delicious biscuits representing the College’s diverse cultural heritage. The activity was part of the students’ Education Business Enterprise unit of work where students sell an item. Students lined up at lunchtime to purchase biscuits representing countries from South Africa to Ireland and China to Croatia.

Georgia Mola
Head Girl

“Our diversity is our strength.”

by other young representatives from around the world, including education advocate and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Malala Yousafzai.

In the future Danikka hopes to be able to contribute to addressing Indigenous inequality and gender equality, campaigning for increased education opportunities for Aboriginal girls.

She said it’s much easier for an Aboriginal boy to get into a private school.

“There are a lot more opportunities for boys than there are for girls. Unless we are very smart, or doing some kind of sport, it’s really difficult for us to get into a private school”, she said.

Danikka said she has loved her time at Mercedes College and wanted to see more Aboriginal girls benefit from the positive environment and supportive community that she has experienced.

Danikka also works for the City of Armadale in one of their youth sporting programs.

Julie Cameron
Marketing & Community Relations Manager
Last year we began the journey of implementing Positive Education into Mercedes College. We started by training staff members and implementing wellbeing initiatives for staff to improve their personal wellbeing and to get an understanding of the key principles of Positive Education.

This year, we are focusing our implementation of Positive Education into Pastoral Care in Year 7 to 10. Dedicated wellbeing lessons allow students to experience wellbeing activities, which then encourages students to continue using the concepts and skills in everyday situations. The aim of these lessons is to improve the overall health and wellbeing of our students, which will then lead to more effective learning as well as offering a strong foundation on which they can build a successful life.

Positive Education uses the science of Positive Psychology to encourage and support staff and students to gain specific skills that assist them to strengthen their relationships, build positive emotions, enhance personal resilience, promote mindfulness and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

The Year 11s and 12s use Sean Covey’s “7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens” program, which links to the Positive Education principles learnt in lower school. Students have the opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments, set goals for the long and short term and get into the habit of setting aside time to plan their time effectively.

‘Sharpen the Saw’ is one of the habits which describes the importance of taking a break and focusing on four aspects of our lives – Heart, Mind, Body and Spirit. Students were given the choice of one of the four aspects and completed activities that allowed them to focus on that particular aspect.

Students who chose Heart, focused on relationships and gratitude by writing thank you cards to those close to them, whereas students who chose Body were able to have the time to complete a Yoga routine and then used the fitness centre machines to complete a workout of their choice.

Over the next few terms, there are many wellness lessons, guest speakers and whole school activities that allow students to focus on their wellbeing at the College, however it is vital that they recognise the importance of using the skills they learn outside of the College setting also.

For further information on Positive Education and The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers, please look at the following websites:

www.ggs.vic.edu.au/School/Positive-Education/What-is-Positive-Education
www.seancovey.com/teens.html

Hannah Lalor
Pastoral Care Wellingbein Program Co-ordinator

Kindness Canvases created by the Year 8s and 9s during Random Acts of Kindness Week.

Students with their Character Strength flower.

Wellbeing in Pastoral Care

Year 11s, Ashling Black and Jamie Starcevich, creating a Prayer Bracelet to give to their Mothers on Mothers Day.
You have a strong connection to the College. Why is this so special?
Born in Madrid, Spain, I arrived in Australia in 1962 with parents and brother at a time when the Immigration Department had launched a significant campaign to attract skilled European workers with young families, greatly needed as Western Australia was opening up the North of the State. Leaving a very close extended family and the metropolis of Madrid and spending my first months in a new country at the Northam Immigration Hostel and Graylands “Nissen huts”, were both an adventure and culture shock at once. Literally knowing only four words of English, I with thousands of other immigrant children, presented a considerable challenge for Australia’s education system. For my part, it is to the Sisters of Mercy that I owe enormous gratitude as they patiently and with few resources, imparted care and instruction. Thanks to the efforts of inspirational teachers, I was able to complete my Leaving and Matriculation and gain a scholarship to study at the University of Western Australia.

Coming from a long line of educators, both lay and religious, teaching and learning appears to be in the blood. Happiest when immersed in academia and given the Mercy grounding of formative years, it is not surprising that being a teacher at Mercedes College has given me purpose and fulfilment for more than three decades and I may dare say a lifetime. The privilege of being part of the great story of 170 years at Victoria Square, that we celebrate in 2016, is astounding. For me these grounds are home and the community, family.

What roles have you had over the years?
I have held Leadership roles including the Head of Social Sciences from 1987-1997 and have been a Senior Teacher of English, Religious Education and Social Sciences with great passion for History.

There have been many changes over the years, what are the most significant?
Apart from the most evident change in the campus with the restoration of its heritage buildings, together with the construction of the newest facilities and lovely gardens, changes in curricula, pedagogy and extensive use of technology have transformed the College. Somewhat less outwardly visible, but of great significance to those who have had a long association with Victoria Square, has been the transition from predominantly religious principals and teachers to a largely lay staff. We are fortunate that Mercedes College continues to be steeped in a shared living of Mercy values and tradition under the tutelage of Mercy Education. The Sisters of Mercy are very much a presence and inspiration, that take us to the heart and centre of the authentic spirit of Catherine McAuley. Today we feel a keen sense of responsibility to ensure “knowing Mercy and living Mercy” is an aspiration for today and secured into the future. As a member of the Mercy Values and Traditions Action Research Team (2009 - 2012) it has been particularly gratifying to see the enhanced House System, with the addition of Wright and Cooper Houses, thriving and fulfilling much of what was envisaged in the understanding of history, heritage and living the Mercy values.

Most rewarding moment?
One simple moment that exemplifies what I try to achieve as a teacher was when I discovered a brief note in my pigeonhole after an ex-student reunion. It read, “We never knew how much you did for us. Thank you!”.

What do you enjoy outside of school?
I love travelling to places where the History I teach and study come alive. The last trip was to Russia sailing the waterways from St Petersburg to Moscow. Next on the agenda is Japan during the Cherry Blossom season in imperial Kyoto. I also enjoy reading Spanish literature, a beautiful language and my mother tongue.

What does the future hold for you?
Hopefully enjoying good health, family and friends and continuing my love for History and learning. I would like to learn Russian and also get involved in humanitarian work.

Returning to Spain is something I am also impelled to do as friends, family and country of birth call strongly every few years.
**SOCCER**

**Morgan Aquino Year 9**

Fourteen year-old Morgan is part of the U19 Football West National Training Centre (NTC) Soccer team (playing in the Womens' League Premier Division). In June she travels to Canberra, alongside fellow student Georgia Teakle and their team, to compete in the National NTC Challenge. Morgan will represent WA as the goalkeeper in the team. Morgan has been playing soccer since she was six years old beginning in an all-boys team.

Over the last few years Morgan has attended four camps in Canberra, three of which were for the Young Matilda's and one specifically for goal keeping with the Australian Goal Keeping Coach.

Morgan loves playing sport and has played cricket, netball, basketball and AFL. She is passionate and committed in pursuing her goal to develop as a player and one day hopes to represent WA and Australia in both soccer and cricket.

**GYMNASTICS**

**Tianna Martelli Year 11**

For Tiana gymnastics is her love and passion. She first started when she was 8 years old and at her peak has trained up to 18 hours a week. Although she has sustained a few injuries from gymnastics she has never been deterred. She has received dozens of trophies and awards over the years. Tiana started Acrobatics in 2015 and is the youngest in her trio. Tiana's trio competed at the national acrobatics championships last September in Bendigo, where they were awarded with 4th place.

As the highest achieving trio, the team were chosen as the WA Acrobats of the Year.

**BALLET**

**Bridget McDonald & Nicolette Sparks Year 10**

While most of their friends were off to the beach or enjoying their summer holidays, Bridget and Nicolette were donning their tutus and ballet pumps and performing to packed audiences at His Majesty's Theatre. Both girls had several roles in the ballet, The Nutcracker performing as soldiers, Waltz of the Flowers, Snowflakes and Arabians.

Their amazing journey began when they were eight years old, five years after they began dancing. They auditioned for the Junior Professional program at Youth Ballet WA, which is part of the Charlesworth Ballet Institute. At the Institute's specialist program, they are taught the Vaganova method, a Russian method considered one of the finest syllabus in the world.

During 2012-2014 both girls travelled to Melbourne to participate in the Open Water Championships.

**OPEN SWIMMING**

**Ellen O'Hara Year 11**

In February Ellen travelled to Mooloolaba, Queensland where she finished 29th in the Australian Open Water Swimming Championships - a personal best in very choppy conditions. This was Ellen's first Nationals event and, whilst she was competing against swimmers who excel in their class, she was not daunted and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

On her return she joined her three training companions, the “Rotto Racers”, to compete in the Rottnest Channel Swim. Although quite nervous (it was their first attempt), this did not affect the performance of her team as they were the first female team across line.

Conditions were perfect and helped contribute to the excellent time of 4 hours and 58 minutes. An amazing result!

Ellen’s plans are to undertake some 10km races with possibly a solo crossing in the Rottnest Channel Swim. She trains with the Western Sprint Swimming Club on average seven times a week swimming between 5 and 8kms and backs this up several times a week with another session in the evening.

Competing in the Swimming WA Open Water Series for 2015/16 saw Ellen get a silver medal at the WA Open Water State Championships.
The Mercedes P & F has begun 2016 as a very busy group.

We kicked off with welcoming the new Year 7 parents with a morning tea—an opportunity for mums and dads to mingle and get to know others in their year group. During that first week we also held our Parent Sundowner, celebrating the College’s 170th Anniversary in the beautiful Cathenne’s Gardens. The garden space was transformed into a magical setting with lanterns in the trees, Edison lights hanging from verandahs, easy listening music in the background, and tasty canapes served by some of our hardworking prefects. A very enjoyable evening for all staff and parents who attended.

A new format greeted prospective parents for the College’s Open Day, which proved to be most successful. Morning tea was served whilst parents toured the College with students getting a glimpse of everyday school life.

The P & F also hosted the International Women’s Day Breakfast, where two ex-students were guest speakers; the Honourable Lisa Harvey and the amazingly busy Carol Mitchell—both inspirational and very successful in their careers.

In March the ever popular Mother/Daughter camp took place in Margaret River. An action-packed weekend involving abseiling, kayaking, surfing and cave dwelling, all requiring bonding as mother/daughter, mother/mother and student/student took part in the activities. Everyone had lots of fun and laughs.

Our “Friends Groups” have also started off actively. Working alongside the P & F, among others, the Mums of Mercedes (MOMs) and Dads of Mercedes (DOMs) have had a number of events and activities as you can see from the photos. The MOMs started their year with a well-attended breakfast at Tarts Cafe, while the DOMs held their Dads Only Sundowner, where they were suitably impressed with the College’s custom built BBQ trailer.

The Mercedes P & F are always looking for parents to join us as we keep fundraising and FUNraising.

Louise Comiskey
President

CHECK OUT OUR COMING EVENTS:

Guest Speaker & Forum
“Body Confident Children & Teens”
FREE event for all parents/carers
Monday 23 May
6pm for 6.30pm start followed by the
P&F Forum
College Staff Room
light refreshments available
Bookings via Trybooking on website

P&F Family Fun Night
“Bollywood” style
Saturday 25 June
7.00pm
College Hall
Join Alumni and Channel 9’s Today Perth Presenter, Lisa Fernandez as host for this fun-filled night
Tickets $16
BYO Drinks & Snacks
Tables of 8 or 10 can be booked via Trybooking on the website
Loads of fun prizes and cash to WIN!

Parents Only 80’s Disco in August
(Details to come)

Mother and Daughter High Tea (MOMs)
Sunday 18 September
2016 has already brought many events to the Ex-students’ Association. Following a SWOT analysis in 2014 and discussions with our ex-students and Mercedes College, the committee decided to undertake some re-branding. Such changes have involved a change of name from the previous Mercedes Ex-Students’ Association (MESA). In November 2015 the committee voted and we are very excited to introduce our new logo and name:

Along with this name change we are currently in the process of rebranding to represent our diverse group of alumni. When thinking of a new name to call our proud ex-students’ association we wanted to keep Mercedes in the title in order to reflect the name of the school we attended, and also as a way for those in the community to easily recognise the foundation of the alumni.

As ex-students we are very proud of the history of our school which also involves a history of ex-students continuing the work of mercy in the wider community. We are excited to continue to represent previous students through the Mercedes College Alumni which falls under the wider label of Victoria Square Alumni.

We have recently purchased Potentiality software in order to increase our ability to connect and communicate with previous students of Mercedes College. We believe potentiality will allow us to develop and strengthen our database and thus aspire to our vision for the future of our alumni. A big thank you to Kerrie Fraser and Mercedes College for their support and encouragement throughout this exciting process.

As an alumni group, we also feel a sense of duty to support current students and help them experience an enjoyable and fulfilling time as a Mercedes College student. Therefore, this year we will again present ‘Living the Mercy Values’ awards each term to a student from each year who has been observed to uphold the values of compassion, service, justice, excellence and integrity in their everyday actions. A member of the MCA committee will present these awards to the recipients at term assemblies.

Mercedes College Alumni will be involved in the celebrations of 170 years of education at Victoria Square. The committee is currently busy planning an event for all ex-students for Saturday the 17th September 2016. Please stay tuned for further details.

We are always keen to hear from ex-students and to provide further information about our alumni. We welcome all members at our monthly meetings and encourage you all to ‘like’ our Facebook page in order to keep informed about all alumni events.

We hope you have all had a wonderful start to 2016 and we look forward to continuing to celebrate the history of our College whilst forever supporting and encouraging all ex-students in their endeavours.

God bless.

Lucy FitzSimons (Class of 2008)
MCA Vice President

2016 MEETING DATES
Wednesday 22 June
Wednesday 10 August
Wednesday 14 September
Wednesday 12 October
Wednesday 23 November

Students receiving the “Living the Mercy Values” awards L-R
MCA Committee Member, Jessica Patterson;
Bianca Metcalf (Year 7), Nicola Pike (Year 9),
Rosie Monaghan (Year 11), Marelene Slabber (Year 10),
Absent: Montanna Godsell (Year 8), Kathlyn Del Rosario (Year 12).
St Joseph’s Ex-Students’ Association

In 1846 the name “St Joseph’s School” was first introduced to the people of Western Australia. It was the first school in the State. That was 170 years ago.

Fast forward 169 years to 29th November 2015 at Mercedes College Conference Room and the name “St Joseph’s School” was still in use, although the school closed in 1967 and Mercedes College was formed.

A large gathering of ex-students of St Joseph’s School were anticipating Christmas celebrations, reminiscing about their school days and enjoying the entertainment. The Mercedes College Choir performed a selection of Christmas carols and without doubt everyone reflected on their experience with Sr Mary Margaret and her famous choirs. Alix Jordan was a guest singer and her music was so infectious that many in the audience were up on their feet dancing.

The Visiting Team continues its special work contacting members who cannot attend functions and birthday cards are still being gratefully received by our members. Collecting material for the archives remains a major work for the Association.

This year the Association will be holding their special functions on 25 June and 26 November in the College’s Conference Room. Contact: Helen Rogan 93441757 or rogans1@westnet.com.au or Janice Hunt 0400997188 or huntjanice53@gmail.com

Helen Rogan
President

St Joseph’s Leaving Class 1965
Back row: Nancy Genovese, Christina Ulrich, Susan McGillivray, Margaret Saligari, Cathleen Mahony.
Front row: Violet Gugich, Maree Macpherson, Susan Stratton, Louise O’Loughlin.
Absent: Patricia Kenney, Annette Cunningham.

Caitlin’s Winning Entry

For this year’s National Youth week, the SBS provided a platform for young Australian’s to share their stories of identity.

Caitlin Gerkhen (Graduate of 2015) was one of five young people who won a place in the SBS National Youth Week competition for 14-20 years. After submitting a video pitch to SBS for the chance to submit a 1-minute video, they spent five days in Melbourne in a film making workshop.

With the help of SBS and Foundation for Youth Australia the group of five created their five films which aired on SBS2, NITV and Food Network throughout National Youth Week from the 8-17 April.

Caitlin won the competition with her compelling entry of Identity which you can view at: www.sbs.com.au/learn/youth-week.

A fashion student on the Autism Spectrum, Caitlin explained the reason for doing the film was that she wanted to put something different in front of people to challenge their ideas of autism.

Caitlin is completing a Certificate 4 in Fashion Design at Bentley TAFE.

Julie Cameron
Marketing & Community Relations Manager

Ex-students who attended St Joseph’s from 1965 to 1967 enjoyed seeing the many changes at the College during their visit in February.
On the 27 November 2016 the Graduating Class of 2010 gathered at the Grosvenor Hotel to celebrate 5 years since leaving Mercedes! Although it has only been a short period of time the 60+ girls had many stories to share discussing travel adventures and career pursuits. It was a great opportunity to reminisce on our time at the College, especially as one of the year groups favourite teachers Mr Shine made an appearance to wish all the girls well.

Charlotte Pittman
Class of 2010

Saturday 12 March heralded the 40th Reunion for the Mercedes Class of 1976 with 58 girls gathering in the Grosvenor Hotel wine room to celebrate this milestone, joining us was Sr Perpetua who shared in the photos, laughter and memories.

Girls flew in from the east coast, and many travelled from various parts of Western Australia to join in on our great day, for most it was their first reunion since leaving Mercedes, others had not seen each other since our 20 Year Reunion in 1996.

The room quickly filled with laughter, exchanging of stories and reminiscing as we looked through old photos. It was clear to see that the Mercedes bond that was formed way back can be reignited instantaneously; it was as simple as being back where we left off.

As the hours drifted along the 20 or so who were still there decided on a meal so you could say the Mercedes girls of 1976 had their own long table dinner at the Grosvenor Hotel, with many drifting on into the night still reminiscing. The Grosvenor Hotel staff were fabulous ensuring that our function went off without any hitches.

For the majority it was re-establishing long lost friendships which will no doubt go on as if 40 years have not passed, and for those of us who have maintained friendships it was an addition to our memory lane.

Here’s to another long table meal and then our 60th Birthdays reunion!
On the 25 October 2015 the Class of 65, including students who completed their Junior Year in 63 attended their 50 Year reunion. Not only was it the 50th reunion of this year group it was also the first!

The reunion was initiated by Louine Sanders (McGowan), one of the students of that year. Mary Ballantine (Noonan), Coralie Deshon (White) and Erica Harvey (Feldman) worked together organising the day, assisted by Joanna Creighton, Alumni Officer at the College.

It was quite difficult getting in touch with all the ex-students; however with the help of Sister Gregory (now Sister Anna Maria), who had taught most of us in Junior (Year 10), and using our memories, the phone book and the grapevine, plus an advertisement in the ‘Can we Help’ section of the West Australian, contact was made with over 30 students. Many of those were able to attend on the day, including Suzanne McGinty who travelled from Queensland and Jennifer Dibben (Cody) from Victoria especially for the reunion.

The reunion was celebrated at the College, with a lovely afternoon tea. There was a lot of fun and laughter as people shared photos and stories. A highlight of day was having Sister Anna Maria there to share the day with us, and also being taken on a tour of the College which has changed so much in those 50 years.

Sadly, Louine who initiated the reunion in train was unable to attend. She passed away three days after the reunion from multiple myeloma. She is remembered with love and gratitude as the catalyst for a wonderful opportunity for renewed friendships.

If you would like to part of this network, who are now linked via the email, then contact:

Mary Ballantine [maryballantine@hotmail.com] or Coralie Deshon [cadeshon@iinet.net.au].

A group of more than 20 ladies came together on 17 January at the home of Irene Batini in Willetton to celebrate their 60th Reunion. The ladies attended Our Lady’s College (1896), which back then, was one of two schools still remaining on the historic site.

In attendance at the event was 92-year-old Sister Anna Maria O’Shea, a former teacher at Our Lady’s College and a reminder to the women present of the many lessons they learnt from her remarkable teaching throughout their younger years.

Ms Batini said the event was a testament to the enduring friendship of the former classmates as well as the successful legacy which the school has left behind. Our Lady’s College was one of fun, growth and development and emphasised the remarkable work carried out by the Sisters of Mercy at the school.

“We were part of the junior class of 1956. At the time, there was only one teacher who would teach all the subjects. That is why Sr Anna Maria is so special and important to us. She taught us everything except languages. Having her celebrate this 60-year reunion with us was something truly special," she said.

Sr Anna Maria spoke briefly to those gathered about the history of the sisters coming to Perth and the traditions of service and education they initiated in the 1850s.

L - R: Geraldine Rees, Mary Hawthorne, Barbara Zuegg, Jill Sharp, Lynette Sullivan, Jacqueline Clift, Ann Egan, Sr Anna Maria O’Shea, Beth Dallimore (at back), Josephine Smith, Wendy Rutkauskas, Gayna Donovan, Irene Batini, Jennifer Stewart and Toni Rampant.
Keeping up with Friends

Alexis Lateef (Class of 2004)
Former student Alexis Lateef is now making a name for herself on the poetry scene in Australia, and we eagerly await the publication of her first book, next year. Alexis has had a number of her poems already published in Westerly, Australian Poetry Journal, Cordite Poetry Review, Southerly, Shot Glass Journal, and Page Seventeen. She has also been a guest at Voicebox, Ships in the Night, Sturmfrei, Perth Poetry Festival, and more recently at the Perth International Writers’ Festival where she was joined by poets, Peter Rose, Lucy Dougan, and John Mateer. Alexis was instrumental in the launch of Writ Poetry Review, a new WA journal that started in August 2014. Writ aims to publish a carefully curated selection of 21st century Australian poetry. She also assists in running poetry and music nights at Paper Mountain in the city.

Sarah Bonner (2012)
After Sarah left Mercedes she completed a Certificate III in racing and began working in the industry full time. Like most jobs she started at the bottom mucking out yards and saddling horses before progressing to the riding track. She learnt to ride and exercise the horses by galloping and cantering them every morning, and how to jump horses out of the gates. She began riding in trials which are similar to mock races and then at the beginning of 2016 signed up for her Jockey apprenticeship and has since ridden 10 winners. Besides the early mornings and long hours she said it is a great career flying all over WA to race in country rounds in places like Broome, Esperance, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Albany and many more. She said riding horses every day isn’t the worst way to make a living by far! It’s a tough industry but if you are willing to put in the hard yards you have every chance to succeed. Sarah said she has finally found a job and a career she loves and thanks Cheryl Alach, her Careers adviser for the support she received in helping her to find the right pathway.

Kristi Dempster (2003)
Kristi recently visited the College to talk with Year 11s about considering alternative career pathways. Uncertain what she wanted to do when she left school, Kristi went to Sydney where she explored a variety of different work places. After a couple of years she returned to Perth to study Interior Design. It was during this time she accepted a job opportunity with Jones Lang Lasalle where she has been busy helping to change the dynamics of city buildings. Her success on the 140 building project in Perth, has led her to recently launching her own marketing and communications business, Assembly & Co.

Jessica Patterson (1992)
I miss life at Mercedes. Nearly 25 years “out, in the real world”, I still miss school. It was fun, everything was organised for me and I saw my girlfriends every day. But I love where I am now.

Unlike many, I did not travel overseas after school. I stayed and pursued my legal career dream, doing it the hard way, working fulltime as a law clerk whilst attending UWA fulltime. I am now a partner at a wonderful WA firm, Lavan Legal. I also hold positions on several nonprofit boards/management committees, including the College’s “old girls’ association” which is undergoing an exciting re-brand.

Along the way I married my gorgeous husband, Brock Allan – a Newman boy. We have travelled throughout northern Australia, established an olive tree farm and relished time boating, fishing and camping.

I lead a very full and demanding life with many commitments and loves. I get up at 4.30am every morning, which is crazy I know! Thank goodness for the Mercy values in my education and upbringing, for they help keep me motivated and loving life.
Hairspray College Production
When: Wed 3 August – Sat 6 August
Where: Performing Arts Centre
For more information go to:
www.mercedes.wa.edu.au

FASHION FOR COMPASSION
When: Friday, 2 September
Where: College Hall
Support our Young Mercies for this very special fundraising event.

MERCEDES COLLEGE ALUMNI CELEBRATION
October (Date to be confirmed)
Alumni of Our Lady’s College, St Joseph’s School and Mercedes College will soon be invited to our special 170th Anniversary celebration. Look out for your invitation.

CATHERINE MCAULEY ROSE
P&F FUNDRAISER
$30 per 20cm Pot
Orders can be placed via
www.trybooking.com/KYIW
For more information contact
Mrs Jackie Stacey
jstacey@mercedes.wa.edu.au

170TH STAFF ALUMNI SUNDOWNER
Friday, 23 September
4.30 – 8.30pm
More details to follow.
Please forward to any past staff you may know and request contact information to be sent to mca@mercedes.wa.edu.au for updating.