The Opening of the O’Regan Arts and Cultural Common
Recognition of Leadership

“Our College is a thriving, progressive and faith-filled school”

On Thursday 18 September, over 1000 Monte students, staff, parents, community members and friends united in recognition of the Leadership of Catherine Alcock, Monte Sant’Angelo’s College Principal from 2004 to 2014.

Catherine Alcock made an extraordinary and significant contribution to the lives of thousands of Monte students, staff and community during her ten-year leadership of the College.

She served with a deep commitment to the education of women, a commitment to the endeavour of being active in promoting a socially just world, and a desire to continue the work of Catherine McAuley.

As a visionary leader, she built her success on a platform of dedication, devotion, discipline and determination to imbed the Mercy values into the College culture and traditions.

Her leadership was underpinned with a down to earth, pragmatic and charismatic quality that encouraged and empowered others. Catherine was also optimistic and entrepreneurial. When confronted with a challenge, she would always look for the opportunity within. She saw the glass as half-full rather than half-empty and was extremely resourceful, often connecting the dots of opportunity and developing the relationships needed to get the job done.

Catherine implemented the International Baccalaureate Programmes and in 2007 Monte became the first Catholic girls’ school in NSW to offer both the International Baccalaureate Middle Years and Diploma Programmes.

It was Catherine’s vision that led to the development of two significant capital facilities projects at Monte: Catherine McAuley Place (CMP) and the O’Regan Arts and Cultural Common.

One of Catherine’s many unique qualities was her ability to seize the day…carpe diem. Our College is a thriving, progressive and faith-filled school because she believed in seizing every day, seeing opportunity, and recognising the achievements of students and staff.

Nicole Christensen
Principal

Cover photo: The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, Mrs Nicole Christensen and Grace Hartley, College Captain at the Opening of the O’Regan Arts and Cultural Common
Catherine Alcock
Principal 2004-2014

“As a visionary leader Catherine Alcock built her success on a platform of dedication, devotion, discipline and determination”

Extract from Catherine Alcock’s speech at her “Recognition of Service” Celebration Thursday 18 September 2014

“The College has many enduring strengths over its now 140 years. These have sustained it in the past and will do so in the future. These strengths and guideposts include: The star of the ocean in the College Crest; the College motto: Religio, Scientia, Cultus – as the College song says: “Religion, Knowledge, Culture, it has so much to give.” The motto encapsulates the essence of the purpose of the College. A third sustainable element is the tradition of the vision of Catherine McAuley, who believed in quality education for women.

The task of a Principal, when entrusted to be the Principal of a school, is to leave the institution in a better position than when she started. The Principal has both the privilege and responsibility of stewardship. I have always held that I was privileged, as a long time educator and educational leader, to be invited by the Sisters of Mercy of North Sydney to lead Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College in January 2004.

Someone smarter than me said, “Leadership is any action that makes the world I touch a better place”. I trust that there may be this recognition of my leadership as Principal of Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College. It has indeed been a privilege and I am confident that the College and the community will continue to flourish in the path of Mercy and Justice in the years ahead.

My favourite prayer is the Prayer of St Francis; I anticipate that Monte people will always be instruments of God’s peace.”

Catherine was presented with a commissioned artwork by Sarah Fordham former College staff member.

Continuing the Celebrations for Catherine

The whole Monte community had the opportunity to recognise and thank Catherine Alcock for her inspiring leadership of the College and her significant legacy.

The first and formal Recognition of Service for Ms Alcock was held in the McQuoin Centre on Thursday 18 September for College students and guests. That evening, the McQuoin Centre was transformed into a twinkling oasis for a Cocktail Party celebration for 300 guests.

Parents and Friends, the Monte Ex-Students Association, College Staff, College Executive and the College Board have also held their own separate events to thank and honour Catherine Alcock.
Monte’s new O’Regan Arts and Cultural Common was officially opened on Sunday 19 October 2014 by Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO and blessed by Bishop Terence Brady DD VG in the presence of the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney, members of the College Board and Board Committees, parents, students and staff.

This was an historic day for the Monte community. The vision for the O’Regan Arts and Cultural Common started in 1986 when the Master Plan for Monte was developed and then, later in 2007, when former Principal, Catherine Alcock, the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney and the College Board commenced the project.

Inspired by Catherine McAuley’s pursuit of excellence for the education of young women, this new facility has been designed and built for stimulating minds as well as providing a place for community to gather to celebrate creativity and innovation.

Dame Marie Bashir’s official opening speech truly encapsulated Monte’s vision and purpose. It was as inspiring as this extraordinary Australian woman, who was this year awarded Australia’s highest honour, Dame in the Order of Australia. She is patron to more than 370 charitable and service organisations.

An excerpt follows:

“It is indeed a privilege to join you all today on this significant, indeed a truly blessed new chapter in the life of a fine college for young women. Today we give thanks for the divine inspiration that has contributed to the high quality education of young Australian women, an enlightenment which enables them to fulfill their potential and go on to contribute to the greatness of Australia, which in turn contributes to the stability and harmony of the Asia Pacific Region and beyond.

We remember with unending gratitude Catherine McAuley and also Mother Ignatius McQuoin, founder of the Sisters of Mercy, North Sydney, who set this model of Christian education from the earliest days of her arrival in Australia.

With the inspiration of all those courageous individuals who have gone before, enriching the quality and the access to education of young Australian women, will further drive Australia’s prosperity, and not simply for material gain, but to improve continually the quality of life – intellectual and spiritual.

This will enable so many young Australian women to achieve their potential, to be sensitive to issues of social injustice and inequality, whether in our own beloved nation, or beyond. And through the enriching experience of an education at Monte, they will develop a quiet inner confidence to contribute meaningfully to an even better society in our land, and beyond.

“...this new facility has been designed and built for stimulating minds as well as providing a place for community to gather to celebrate creativity and innovation”

I was deeply touched to learn also that community service involvement is expected of all Monte students, integral
to the middle years of the International Baccalaureate expectations. Our fortunate Monte students will thereby quietly develop a personal value system, which will guide their lives, and imperceptibly will strengthen their capacity to be thoughtful members of their communities – their world.

This new O’Regan Arts and Cultural Common will be a model for innovative and flexible learning, for stimulating bright and beautiful young minds towards creativity, service to others and the quiet reward of “making a difference”.

I congratulate and thank all those who have inspired and brought to fruition this great new chapter, and for allowing me to share a wonderful occasion in the life of a great school – Monte Sant’Angelo North Sydney.

Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO extract from her speech at the opening of the new O’Regan Arts and Cultural Common, Sunday 19 October 2014.

The O’Regan Arts and Cultural Common is a highly significant landmark project for Monte Sant’Angelo Mercy College and the College acknowledges and thanks the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney, past and present College Board and Committee members, staff, the Parents’ and Friends’ Association, the Ex-Students’ Association, parents and friends of the Monte community for their passion, time and financial support in helping to bring this vision to life.
The original O’Regan building adjacent to the Chapel, facing Miller Street was a private home purchased in 1917 for the Sisters of Mercy through the generosity of the O’Regan family. It became a Novitiate for the women who entered the Sisters of Mercy.

Three daughters of the O’Regan family entered the Sisters of Mercy: Sr Mary Beatrice, Sr Mary Malachy and Sr Mary Wilfred. Sister Wilfred O’Regan later became the Superior of the Sisters of Mercy Convent for 12 years.

In 1960 the building was designated as a Primary school for Monte for classes from Kindergarten to Year 6. In 1979 the Primary school ceased and the O’Regan building became the home for Religious Education classes.

Today the O’Regan building has undergone significant refurbishment, enabling it to be incorporated in the O’Regan Arts and Cultural Common.

The word ‘common’ is part of the word ‘community’ and has historical meaning as a gathering place.

In keeping with its heritage status, old and new architectural styles have been skillfully blended to create this leading edge, flexible learning centre for Monte.

Sister Carmel McDonough RSM
Director of Mission
Thank You ACC Capital Campaign Donors

With your generous support we have raised $1.63M towards our target of $2M.

With mixed emotions Year 12s celebrated their final week at Monte as they counted down their last day with a procession through the College, their formal Graduation Ceremony and an inspiring Graduation Mass.

Year 12 Graduation is a milestone marking the culmination of 13 years of schooling. The academic achievements of our Year 12 students are praiseworthy and extensive. Graduating from Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College is however, about more than academics. It is also about the other achievements afforded to them by the College, their family and community: a keen sense of self, a mercy spirituality, awareness of community and what the world beyond Monte may demand of them.

We Congratulate the Class of 2014 Major Award Recipients

- Catherine Alcock Award for IB Dux of the College – Isobel McDonald
- Sister Ambrose Geary Award for HSC Dux of the College – Sandra Kanjian and Carly O’Sullivan
- Mother Ignatius McQuoin Award for the Girl who Most Personifies the School Motto – Sophia Shatek
"Follow your Aspirations" – Isobel McDonald
Year 12 Graduation Mass Gospel Reflection

"More than anything, we need people who are humble, people who are pure of heart, people who are merciful, and people who work for peace; because the reality that we, the graduating Class of 2014, now face is perplexing and troubling. We have been taught in school that all countries are sovereign, that all people are created equal, that democracy fosters equality and allows us to pursue happiness, that freedom is embraced by all nations because it is undeniably and inherently good. But we are now old enough to realise that these lofty ideals are often just – ideals.

I feel like our generation is inheriting a world at the height of human civilization but at the brink of total collapse. These things are not our fault, but they are our problem. Not only must we take responsibility for our own actions, but for the actions of our predecessors, our ancestors, and our governments. We must deal with our problems, and the problems to which we are heir. Whether we like it or not, we’re going to have to fix these things and what we’ve learnt at Monte will equip us to work towards solutions.

Reflect back on the first reading, from 1 Kings 19. A story of religious persecution, escape into the mountains and rescue. There are distinct parallels with the story of the Yazidi people, persecuted by Islamic State, and rescued after weeks besieged on Mount Sinjar. Sometimes we are all Elijah, and in the face of difficulties, we run away and fall asleep under a tree. But if we don’t look at things that have happened, learn from them, and ensure they are never repeated, then they will keep happening. We need to break the cyclical and institutionalised ignorance and apathy and actually do something.

"We need to break the cyclical and institutionalised ignorance and apathy and actually do something".

Throughout our time at Monte, we have been taught and we have seen that the rewards for being kind and merciful and humble are not always public adulation and assembly presentation. Rather than being kind and merciful and humble because of the rewards God promises, I think we must be kind and merciful and humble because it is the right thing to do. We shouldn’t expect reward for just being a generally decent person, and that’s one of the key things we’ve learnt at Monte. Monte’s satellites of mercy, scattered all around the world – from the Central Desert to Timor Leste to Peru have shown us that the actions we take have long-lasting and far-reaching impact. Because of this, it is important that we use the lessons and experiences and values that we have been taught at Monte to work for change, to work for truth and to work for righteousness.

I think that it is time that we as Monte women wrote the history books. We can write about how we campaigned and fundraised to close the gap between aboriginals and non-aboriginals in terms of health care and the systemic educational neglect they face. We can write about how we knitted blankets for women in Ethiopia. We can write about the inspirational people who modelled fortitude, compassion and perseverance, like Ms Alcock. We can write about how we protested the cruel treatment of asylum seekers and petitioned politicians to protect the things that matter to us. We can write about what we did, however small or large, to try and make the world better.

Isobel McDonald
Year 12, 2014
Awards

Wind Ensemble NSW State Band Champions

Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College’s Wind Ensemble gained First Place in the NSW State Band Championships held on Sunday 31 August. The Wind Ensemble competed in the Junior Concert Band Division. Around 50 Monte students participated in the event, which saw Monte compete against nine other Bands in the Junior Concert Division.

Directed by Ms Catherine Walmsley, the Wind Ensemble performed three pieces and came First in each. The Band performed “They Led my Lord Away” by Fred J Allen; “Seagate Overture” by James Swearingen and “Celebration and Song” by Robert Sheldon.

Monte’s Wind Ensemble experienced success earlier this year when they placed First in the Sydney Eisteddfod Secondary School Intermediate Concert Band as well as receiving Gold and Diamond Awards in the 2014 Yamaha Band Festival.

Congratulations to Ms Catherine Walmsley, Monte’s gifted Band Director for over seven years and to the dedicated group of students and their supportive parents.

Archbishop of Sydney Awards Lucy Mathias

At a special ceremony held at St Mary’s Cathedral on 5 September, Bishop Peter Comensoli, Apostolic Administrator for the Archdiocese of Sydney, presented Lucy Mathias, Year 12, with an Archbishop of Sydney Award for Excellence for her exceptional contributions to Monte and the community.

The Archbishop of Sydney Awards recognises not only a student’s academic performance but importantly, their dedicated commitment to their faith and Catholic life, as well as their commitment and passion for social justice.

The prestigious Award also recognises Lucy’s personal qualities such as generosity, compassion, courage, enthusiasm and participation in school life.

Dayna Spink – Award for Exemplary Service Leadership

On Friday 15 August, Dayna Spink, Monte’s Community Service Captain for 2013/14 received a North Sydney Community Award, presented by the Treasurer and our local MP, The Hon. Joe Hockey. This award was in recognition of Dayna’s work as an exemplary leader who took her role to new levels of engagement and for her efforts in promoting service in the College and in wider communities.

Dayna also modeled exemplary service through her personal commitment to Surf Life Saving patrols at Longreef, as well as working on a Water Safety program with the Nippers. Dayna also volunteered with Stage Artz’s Charity Musical ‘Alice: The Musical’ which raised $24,000 for the Children’s Hospital at Westmead.

Dayna’s promotion of service and her personal commitment to helping others eminated from her commitment to the Mercy values at Monte and her authentic qualities as a genuine leader.
Monte celebrated Mercy Day on Friday 12 September at a beautiful Liturgy in the McQuoin Centre followed by a procession through the College grounds led by the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney and followed by the graduating Class of 2014.

At this Liturgy the College announced the Catherine McAuley Award recipients for 2014. A student in each year group and a staff member are chosen as those who personify the qualities of Mercy.

For many who may not be familiar with the origins of the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy (Mercy Day), here is a brief explanation from Sister Carmel RSM, Director of Mission:

Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College was founded in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy. The Sisters of Mercy worldwide celebrate every year on 24 September, the feast of Our Lady of Mercy, in recognition of the date on which Catherine McAuley began the first House of Mercy on Baggot Street in Dublin, Ireland in 1827.

Catherine’s vision was to build accommodation for homeless women and open a school to educate poor children. She opened the building with Anna Marie Doyle, a young woman who wanted to assist Catherine and who became her first associate. It was Anna Marie who suggested to Catherine that they dedicate the work they were beginning to Our Lady of Mercy, the loving Mother who protects and guides us, and name the house, the House of Mercy.

It has become custom for all Sisters of Mercy, and those who work with them in their ministries across the world, and those who are aligned to any Institution founded by the Sisters of Mercy, to celebrate on Mercy Day.

For us at Monte, the Mercy Day liturgy provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the value of Mercy and on God’s merciful love for each of us.

Let us pray and give thanks for the contribution of the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney to education, and the staff and students who, in the spirit of Catherine McAuley, continue to be the instruments of God’s mercy and love in our College and in our local and global communities.

Sister Carmel RSM
Director of Mission

Catherine McAuley Award Recipients for 2014

Year 7 – Jessica Cooke
Year 8 – Christine Ha
Year 9 – Violet Simpson
Year 10 – Meaghan Hughes
Year 11 – Danielle Edwards
Year 12 – Annabelle L’Estrange
Staff – Mr Greg Owens; Mrs Nicole Christensen

Mrs Christensen and Mr Greg Owens
Monte’s Immersion Programs

Timor Leste

After six months preparation and a special commissioning blessing, students and staff travelled to Timor Leste to build new connections with the Timorese on behalf of the Monte community during the Term 2 break.

The Monte group had the opportunity to live with the Dominican Sisters in the orphanage and the Holy Spirit Sisters at Collegio who care for 175 girls boarding at the school and feed them on less than $1.00 per day. They witnessed Sr Helen, the Sister of Mercy driving change through compassionate action and sheer determination, help the Sisters create a sense of belonging for all under their care.

“Human dignity is one of the core Mercy values and it is the fundamental value that connects all of humanity as we strive for the right of human dignity for all.”

They observed exceptional women doing inspirational work for the betterment of children, in a country that has suffered greatly, yet has pride, resilience and an incredible sense of hope. The value of education is paramount and is what connected us with the Timorese. We share equally a love of learning, an actual hunger and desire to be connected beyond the walls of the classroom, to have an education that leads to contributing on a broader scale, always giving back to the community.

Imagine a World Where No One is Hungry

The Monte community continues to respond to the hungers of our time in ways that are creative, compassionate, respectful, life-giving and life-changing.

On 13 November, Monte launched the Timor Leste “Food for Thought” Project at a cultural evening to raise funds to meet the nutritional and literacy needs of 450 young students in Collegio, Maliana in Timor Leste, with whom Monte has already established strong connections.

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This project is a partnership between Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College and the diocesan Collegio in Maliana, supporting the works of the Sisters of Mercy in providing funds for nutrition and the education of young women in Timor Leste.
Two way learning with the Anangu people

In the Term 3 holidays, 12 students from Years 10 and 11, had the privilege to participate in the Central Desert immersion trip. We experienced “two way learning” with the Anangu people of the community of Mutitjulu, right next to Uluru. The experience was emotionally, spiritually and physically rewarding and challenging.

Throughout the week the confidence of both the community and Monte girls grew and the relationship and connection between us all became more and more natural and genuine.

We were fortunate enough to experience the country and all it had to offer first-hand. Uluru is phenomenal. We walked around the base learning about stories and traditional ways of the Anangu people. Perhaps when Uluru looked its finest was when we got to sit alone in silence, with our paints and journals, and watch the late afternoon sunset transform the colour of the rock to a fiery red. An important lesson that we learnt was the importance of silence.

Mumma T who accompanied us on the trip taught us, “there is a lot more beauty in silence than boredom.”

Although our trip was rewarding in the connections we made with community and country as well as the friendships and experiences we had, it was the more confronting and serious aspects of the trip that motivate us and challenge the way we think. So many questions we had went unanswered, because the solutions were so far unobtainable. So many tragic and complex issues that affected the Mutitjulu community and Indigenous Australians we did not fully understand. These injustices resonated with us and will lead to further discussion at our Biamunga Mob meetings.

Nell Ringrose, Emma Huskins and Lili Sparke, Year 11

Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community

Monte’s program with the Wreck Bay Aboriginal community took place in the July holidays. The Monte Wreck Bay Mob trained to support child care, arts and land care activities and also learnt the Whale Dreaming and a Whale Dance, which they performed at the Wreck Bay and Nowra NAIDOC Ceremonies.

Monte is very appreciative of the welcome they received from the community as well as the guidance they received during the trip from Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison and Auntie Rayma Johnson.

The following statement by Auntie Julie Smith, Kalkadoon woman and Monte’s Indigenous Curriculum Consultant explains the philosophy of the Monte program.

“The way forward for the program at Monte we call Biamunga (a Yuin word given to Monte to use by Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison in our Indigenous programs that represent our ‘journey to the mountain and our journey to understanding’) is for students to be comfortable in their own skins, whilst learning to engage with particular Indigenous communities. This engagement needs to be at a pace that the Indigenous community is able to direct.

Biamunga aims to strengthen the leadership skills within the Monte community, whereby both staff and students can engage with Indigenous communities in other parts of the world in a manner that builds on the ways Aboriginal people have partnered our understanding of the complexities of cultural issues.”

The most significant thing I learnt was about thankfulness and connection to the land which was taught at the sacred site of Gulaga.

Sophia Charlton, Year 11

The experiences I had are ones that you will never achieve in the classroom. They are experiences that are purely first hand and no amount of stories can teach you and make you understand this much about Aboriginal culture and life.

Phoebe Pugh, Year 11

I will grow my connectedness with the Aboriginal culture in the future by raising awareness of the issues in community that are unknown to most Australians.

Isabella Urquhart, Year 11
Global Young Leaders

In the June/July holidays, 15 Year 11 Monte students attended the Global Young Leaders (GYL) Conference in America and Europe.

This leadership program is run by Envision, who have been running this program since 1985. Students are free to apply to attend one of the GYL Conferences which provide them with opportunities to adopt international leadership strategies and gain confidence to embrace diverse cultures and backgrounds. They learn from the past and look forward to the future while meeting and networking with the most motivated students from across the United States of America and over 145 countries around the world.

Report of the Global Young Leaders Conference – America

In America, we spent five days in Washington and nine days in New York, along with 238 other teenagers from around the world.

We were separated into country groups to prepare for various simulations, as well as a way of getting to know each other. The Washington simulation was a UN Security Council simulation where each group wrote a resolution for the civil conflict in Cyprus from their country’s perspective. Then we all met up to debate each resolution and elect one as an action.

In New York we prepared for the Global Summit simulation. Each country worked resolutions to a set of issues that would best benefit their country’s national interests. Some were involved with forming alliances with other countries, others forming resolutions or preparing a debate about such issues as environmental or peace and security or border disputes for the General Assembly meeting.

We completed the simulation in the General Assembly of the United Nations Headquarters, so it was a taste of what it would be like to actually represent a country at an international level. The passion in the room surrounding some of the topics discussed was amazing and it was a really exciting atmosphere.

Madeleine Edwards and Julia Boyle, Year 11

Report on Global Young Leaders Conference – Europe

I was fortunate enough to go to the Global Young Leaders Conference in Europe. I was one of seven Australians out of 200 delegates coming from 42 countries. The trip took in Vienna, Prague and Berlin, with an extension to Munich and Salzburg.

The main focus of the Conference was leadership in the global community and the steps we can take to become leaders in our own right. For me, the most important aspects of the trip were an increased sense of responsibility, independence and confidence as well as teamwork and conflict resolution skills.

In the group meetings, we looked at topical global issues. One activity that we participated in was a mock United Nations session on water scarcity. We were all given roles as environmental, business or governmental leaders and needed to work together to develop an action plan that satisfied each member’s needs.

The best part of the experience was definitely the incredible people I met. I found that, from talking to a variety of people, I was able to learn a lot about their individual cultures and bond over our similarities.

Sylvia Giannone, Year 11
Visual Arts in the Spotlight

The Visual Arts Exhibition held in the College in July was a great affirmation of the significance of Visual Arts in the education of adolescents.

The Exhibition provided a great chance for visitors to experience some of the opportunities that studying Visual Art in Years 11 and 12 presents, in both the NSW BOSTES and IB programs.

While creativity is not the exclusive domain of Visual Arts, many students who elect Visual Arts as part of their senior program of study value the alternative and creative thinking that underpins the development and creation of their artworks.

At the Exhibition, Year 11 exhibited their sculptures that were an exploration of the theme, ‘Self-Contained’. Their unconventional self-portraits used a range of materials and were installed with the inclusion of sound, light or projection to enhance the experience of the audience.

Simultaneously, Year 12 exhibited their HSC Bodies of Work, or for the IB students one of their Bodies of Work. In her welcome, Lucy Ward, Visual Arts Captain 2014/15, reflected that the night was marked with a sense of relief, accomplishment and pride for Year 12 and their families.

Year 12 students are encouraged to produce personally relevant works that reflect a response to their world and an understanding of their own artmaking in the context of the world of art. We are proud of the diversity of the works that represent the particular interests of each Year 12 Visual Arts student, as well as their commitment to authentically engaging with the rewarding experience of making art.

Kate Watson
Head of Visual Arts
Over 1050 Monte students participated in the House Athletics Carnival held on 4 June. The competitive component of the Carnival was hard fought and produced some outstanding results.

Congratulations to the following students who broke records on the day:

- **Molly Quoyle (Year 8) – Junior 800m** (last set in 2001) and **1500m (her own record from last year).**
- **Sara Dougan (Year 7) – 13 Years 100m** (last set in 1988), **200m (last set in 2006)** and **Long Jump (last set in 2001).** Sara was also part of the McGuirk Year 7 and 8, 4 x 100m Relay Team who also broke the record.
- **Claudia Mee (Year 9) – Intermediate 800m** (last set in 1985).
- **Johanna Biddle (Year 10) – 15 Years Javelin** (last set in 2009) and **Long Jump** (last set in 1980).

- **Jacinta Fisher (Year 11 and Athletics Captain) – Open Triple Jump** (her own record from last year), **17 Years High Jump** (last set in 2009). Jacinta was part of the McGuirk Year 11 and 12, 4 x 100m Relay Team who also broke the record.

The race of the day was undoubtedly the 100m Invitational Sprint. The fastest eight students were selected to compete in this match race in front of the whole school. In what was a fitting finale, Jacinta Fisher edged away in the final few metres and broke the record for that event too.

Congratulations to the following individual Age Champions:

- **12 Years** Kate Barry (McGuirk)
- **13 Years** Sara Dougan (McGuirk)
- **14 Years** Emma Smith (Rankin)
- **15 Years** Johanna Biddle (Aquinas)
- **16 Years** Zara Hoare (McGuirk)
- **17+ Years** Jacinta Fisher (McGuirk)

Cheering is a huge part of the culture at all Monte carnivals and this year was no exception. Congratulations to the Cheering winners:

1st – McQuoin
2nd – Aquinas
3rd – McAuley

The overall House Athletics Champions were:

1st – McGuirk
2nd – Rankin
3rd – Xavier
Monte was again crowned Champion School in NSW after defeating the best that the CHS (Public) and CIS (Independent) schools could muster at the recent NSW All Schools Championships. Our girls demolished Cherrybrook Technology High School 82-32 and went on to defeat Westfields Sports High School 95-76 in the Grand Final.

Congratulations to Alysha Skerritt (Year 12), Sara Anastasieska (Year 12) and Madeleine O’Hehir (Year 11) who all represented Monte and NSW All Schools at the School Sport Australia Championships in August. The girls won the gold medal there too.

Basketball State Champions with coaches Alek Horenko and Gail Henderson

**Volleyball**

Congratulations to Harriet Gillson (Year 10) and Charlotte Lloyd (Year 9) who were selected to compete as part of the NSW All Schools Team in the 15 Years and Under School Sport Australia Volleyball Championships which was held in Adelaide in August.

Harriet Gillson, Year 10 and Charlotte Lloyd, Year 9

**Netball**

After a solid year in the Northern Suburbs Netball Association Competition, Monte was awarded the Senior Club Champion Award for the first time in our history. This award is based on members on committees, umpiring awards throughout the season, and the final placings of our cadet and senior teams.

A special congratulations also goes to Anais Simo Dzumgang (Year 8) who received the Junior Umpire of the Year Award. Anais received her National C Badge earlier in the year, which is a fantastic achievement at only 13 years of age. Congratulations Anais.

Anais Simo Dzumgang, Year 8

**Athletics**

Monte athletes produced some outstanding performances this season.

The team comprehensively won the CGSSSA Carnival and a number of students were then selected to represent CGSSSA at the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Carnival. Unfortunately, injuries took their toll on the teams’ overall performance at the IGSSA Carnival however there were a few individual highlights.

Sara Dougan (Year 7) won the 13 years 100m, 200m and Long Jump at both the IGSSA and CGSSSA Championships with the IGSSA effort earning her the joint Junior Age Champion Award (a first for the College). Sara then continued her tremendous form when she won the 13 years 100m at the NSWCCC Carnival in record time.

Sara Dougan, Year 7
Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College enjoys the benefits of a supportive, caring and engaged school community.

In Term 3 the Monte P&F hosted Year cocktail parties, at various locations, with a variety of themes that were well attended. The Monte P&F also supported the social activities promoted by the College, and we thank the many volunteers who contributed to the success of the Rugby Lunch, and the Blue and Blue Lunch, particularly, as both these events raised funds in support of the College Bursary program. Bursaries support families and provide a number of young women with the opportunities of a Mercy education at Monte.

We also thank the community for their support of the Arts and Cultural Common Capital Campaign, raising funds towards our state-of-the-art facility, which will provide unique spaces to support and develop creative learning. These learning spaces will provide many benefits to current and future students.

Parent Forums

Following positive feedback, the P&F Executive was delighted to continue facilitating Parent Forums. In July this year, Jill Arkell presented “Influencing With Impact”, an interactive and thought provoking seminar, to a packed McQuion Centre audience. She gave insights on using emotional intelligence to develop positive relationships with teenagers. Parenting is about learning, gaining insights into our own behavior and into what ‘drives’ our children.

We thank the community for their support and their ongoing desire to seek out information and tools that will support family relationships and common goals.

The P&F Executive thanks Mr Marshall Leaver, Biamunga and Community Outreach CAS Coordinator and Ms Caroline O’Sullivan, Head of Year 7, for attending the P&F Annual General Meeting in September to inform the parent community of the College’s Community Outreach Programs. Monte students, Ciara O’Sullivan and Olivia Beck, shared their first-hand experience of the immersion trip to Timor Leste, and the difficulties and challenges faced by the Timorese people in their determination to provide basic needs, food and education for local children. Marshall Leaver gave us an appreciation of the many hours of planning and training involved in ensuring the students have an appreciation of, and sensitivity towards, the culture and environment of a community. Students travelling to the Central Desert, for example, are required to attend weekly training over a school term, to become familiar with Aboriginal culture and traditions.

A Celebration of Service

In September, we gathered as a community to celebrate the inspirational leadership of Catherine Alcock. Over the past ten years, many parents have had an opportunity to meet and socialise with Catherine, who always enjoyed attending P&F social events.

Catherine’s passion for the education of girls, her vision for developing ‘lifelong’ learners’ and her commitment to achieving excellence in education is clearly evident at the College. Monte was fortunate to have Catherine’s leadership skills and the College has prospered and been enriched through her contribution.

General

We particularly acknowledge those members of the P&F Executive Team who stood down at the September P&F AGM – Sue Boudakin, Steve Cahill, Jenny Carmody, Miriam Hancock, Geoff Morel and Cheryl Newtown. We thank them all for their outstanding efforts on behalf of the parent community.

We congratulate the incoming Executive team, comprising Sonia Brennan, Therese Daly, Rachel Eagleton, Bernadette Gates, Lauren Heath, Catherine Hnidec, Peter McNamara, Joanna Raheb Mol, Andrew Rutherford, Jean Shatek, Anna Stackpool, Nicole Upfold and Anna Willis.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Nicole Christensen on her appointment as College Principal, and thank her and the Monte Executive for their continued support of the P&F and willingness to engage and consult with the parent community. We also acknowledge the Development Office Team, we welcome Deanne O’Shea and thank, Pat Clarke and Ann Buchanan for their ongoing assistance and advice.

Anna Willis and Lauren Heath 2014 P&F Presidents
The Mercy Foundation’s Grants to End Homelessness

In 2008 the Mercy Foundation, a work of the North Sydney Sisters of Mercy, introduced a new grants program called ‘Grants to End Homelessness’ (GEH). The focus of this program is on funding new projects and innovations that will serve to ‘end’ the experience of homelessness of a particular number of homeless people identified as the target group for the project. The program also aims to support projects that would sustain people in housing (prevent them becoming homeless again) or research which would contribute to the evidence base for interventions that prevented or ended people’s homelessness.

It’s important to remember that the Mercy Foundation remains a fierce advocate for systemic change. We know that a grants program can’t end homelessness in Australia and that this will only happen through public policy leadership which addresses affordable housing, poverty and community support for people with mental illness or disability.

We believe this is how homelessness will be ended, one individual and one family at a time.

For more information about the Mercy Foundation go to www.mercyfoundation.com.au

Summary of the Grants to End Homelessness program

- Since 2008, the Foundation funded 41 GEH projects. This represented just 12% of applications received. 24 projects were based in city areas; eight in regional areas; six in rural locations and three were national projects. The majority of projects focused on linking people with housing and sustaining people in housing. Seven were about better practice and four were research projects.

- Almost 44% of all projects targeted individual adults; 15% targeted families; 22% women and 15% young people. The majority of funded projects were delivered by small or medium sized organisations. The Mercy Foundation prioritises small organisations that would not otherwise be able to access other sources of funding. It is also interesting to note that 56% of the organisations funded were not specialist homelessness organisations. This speaks to the important role that community centres and other general locally based services can perform in addressing homelessness.

- One of the key findings was that a relatively modest amount of money ($1,538) helped create a housing outcome. We are not suggesting that this was all it took, as many organisations also contributed their own staffing or other costs to the project. We are also pleased to report that quite a number of the projects which received ‘seed’ funding from the Foundation to help start or test a new approach have since been able to continue with alternative funding from government or other sources.

- A few types of projects and approaches worked better than others. By segmenting the population and working closely with a specified number or type of clients, organisations could report on their housing (and support) outcomes. This works better than a ‘scatter gun’ approach that simply aims to ‘help’ people who are homeless. Whilst fewer people were able to be assisted, by ‘ending’ their homelessness, they no longer needed to access other types of assistance for homeless people.
A Message from the Ex-Students’ President

Welcome Class of 2014

Congratulations and welcome to the Class of 2014 as our newest ex-students! It was a privilege to attend their graduation ceremony, where I was honoured to present students with a Monte Ex-Students’ sterling silver ring. On behalf of the Ex-Students’ Association, we wish the Class of 2014 all the best with their future endeavours. We look forward to seeing you at some of the many ex-students’ events in the future. Be sure to keep in touch and please let us know of your many exciting achievements.

Catherine Alcock

On 22 October the Ex-Students’ Association held a dinner for Catherine Alcock to acknowledge the contribution she has made to the Association during her time as Principal of Monte. Amidst her very busy days, Catherine always made it a priority to attend ex-students’ events and meetings and was unwavering in her support and encouragement of the initiatives of the Ex-Students’ Association. It is a tribute to her excellent leadership that over 40 ex-students from leaving years 2004-2013 joined us for the evening. They spoke of the way in which Catherine helped and encouraged them during their time at Monte as students and beyond into their studies at University. The way in which Catherine took the time to encourage the girls, in particular, attending their sporting matches, debating and performances and her willingness to listen to their hopes and aspirations were memories the girls treasured. We wish Catherine all the best in her future and thank her again for her involvement and support of the Ex-Students’ Association.

London and New York Reunions

2014 has been a big year for reunions – London, New York, Melbourne, Canberra and of course the local Year Group reunions that are such enriching occasions for all. We thank the representatives from individual years who have taken on the organisation of anniversary reunions in 2014.

AGM

In 2015 our Annual Reunion and AGM will be held in conjunction with the College’s annual Open Day/ Back to Monte Day on Sunday 15 March 2015. We hope many ex-students will take the opportunity to join us on this day, which provides an opportunity to see the College at its most lively and see what the Monte girls of today are up to.

Thank You


The Committee would like to congratulate Mrs Nicole Christensen on her appointment as Principal of Monte. Nicole has already provided much support and encouragement for the initiatives of the committee and we look forward to working with her in 2015 and beyond.

I would like to take the opportunity to remember ex-students and community members who have passed away in 2014. Our thoughts and prayers are with their friends and families.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to wish the Monte Community a very peaceful and safe Christmas. The Ex-Students’ Committee and I look forward to a rewarding and fun-filled year of events with the community next year.

Kate Anderson (Ford, 1992)
President, Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College Ex-Students’ Association
In July 2014, four ex-students travelled back to the red dirt of the Central Desert. Melissa Munday, Katie Jones, Ellen Wiltshire and Eloise Monteiro (all Class of 2013) to visit the Mutitjulu community for the second time, after our previous visit with the College program in 2012.

Our first two stops were Uluru and Kata Tjuta where we reacquainted ourselves with the beauty of the vast desert, enormous rocks and plant life that form the living environment of the Mutitjulu community. We felt privileged to be given permission to visit and to be part of, and extend, the long-standing cultural exchanges between Monte and the Anangu people.

The experience was without the guiding hand of our teachers, but we dealt with the challenge of making decisions and acting independently. The process of organising the week was demanding because we wanted to assist the community as much as possible without spreading ourselves too thin. Each day was divided into volunteering at the Childcare Centre, the Respite Centre and the Maruku Arts warehouse.

Although we felt shy at first, we realised it was up to us to initiate connections. At the Maruku Market in Yulara, we saw the artists, Billy and Lulu Cooley, and Katie found the courage to sit down and re-introduce the group, which was very worthwhile as we all had great laughs attempting to learn Pitjantjatjara expressions.

Throughout the week, we formed and continued great friendships in community, which has strengthened the bond between Monte and Mutitjulu. Whilst we have always enjoyed getting to know the beautiful children in the Childcare Centre, this time we got to know their mothers as well. Equally, it felt great to support the staff at these organisations who are so dedicated to their work in community.

We were invited by Clive, from Maruku Arts, and his partner Tracey to camp out in their backyard. However this was not like any backyard in Sydney. We slept underneath a blanket of stars and the Milky Way, in swags around a campfire that kept us warm throughout the chilly desert night.

On our fifth day, the group went out bush with Senior Women from Mutitjulu. The women collected and shared their bush foods with us and we helped prepare malu wipu, kangaroo tail.

We would like to thank the Traditional Owners for welcoming us again to community, as well as those who live and work in Mutitjulu. We are also grateful for the support of Marshall Leaver and the Ex-Students’ Association for making this wonderful week possible.

Eloise Monteiro
Class of 2013
Where Are They Now?

Rebecca Campbell  
Class of 1999

Rebecca is a published author, intuitive life coach, Six Sensory teacher and Creative Director.

Since leaving Monte, Rebecca forged a successful career in advertising, becoming an award winning Creative Director in London by the time she was 30. During this time she traveled around the world twice as The Skype Nomad and making the world a brighter place through The Let’s Colour Project.

In 2011 after experiencing some significant personal losses, Rebecca decided to leave her career in advertising and follow her true passion: spirituality, consciousness, intuition and writing. She co-founded The Spirited Project and now teaches Spirited Sessions in London, USA, Asia and Australia.

Rebecca now guides women to listen to the callings of their soul and to light up the world by being themselves. Rebecca writes about the mind, body spirit connection every week on her website.

Rebecca says “I am so grateful for my time at Monte. It taught me to be of service, embrace my authentic spirit, the power of prayer and that girls can do anything if we set our mind to it!”


A gypsy spirit, Rebecca now lives in London, but heads back to the sunny shores of Sydney most summers for sunshine, salt water and to visit family.

Fiona Doyle  
(Pearse) Class of 1990

On finishing at Monte I headed to UNSW to complete an Arts degree. I also worked at the ABC hoping to be a journalist. In 1995 after persistent door knocking I was employed in PR by the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC). I worked for the AOC in PR and then Marketing, Sponsorship and Fundraising with the highlight being involved with the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

I completed a Master of Business during this period and after the 2000 Games worked for Westfield. However, I became frustrated and bored.

In 2002 I approached my father to see whether I could join the family business – Mail Call Couriers. I was lucky to spend six years learning from my father. Sadly he passed away in 2008 which was heart breaking.

My sister and I then had to take control of the business. The GFC had a huge impact on the transport industry but we focused on the detail. Importantly we knew the business would need to head in another direction to thrive.

In 2010 I encountered online shopping and was amazed by the poor shipping options. We decided to focus on giving local retailers the option to deliver a consumer’s online purchase the same day and it would deliver a growth avenue for the business and prove to be definitive. We called it WantItNow which now services over 150 well known Australian brands.

In June 2014 we sold Mail Call Couriers and WantItNow. Those businesses are part of my fabric and I will miss them immensely. I am excited about a gap year with my husband and four daughters and I’m already thinking about the next project.

Susan Fitzgerald  
Class of 1990

How can it be almost 25 years since I was in Year 12? After leaving Monte I spent the next six years at the Australian Catholic University (ACU), studying Human Movement (Education). Over the subsequent five years I worked in various positions in NSW Health and Local Government in the field of health promotion, research and community development before branching out into a corporate role with a market research firm. I also completed a degree in psychology by correspondence at UNE.

As I reached the end of my 20’s, I started to ask – was I passionate about what I was doing? I wanted to work in something that I really loved and felt passionate about, that allowed me to travel and work with other young people. I remember catching up for coffee with a couple of my Monte friends and they were having a great time working in the travel industry. So I took what seemed like a drastic step, left my job, and my industry to work as a travel consultant at Flight Centre at Warringah Mall.

That was more than twelve years ago now, and as I write this I am sitting in my apartment in New York City where my husband and I have lived for the past four years. I still work for Flight Centre and I have certainly had my fair share of travel and amazing experiences over the past decade. But the most important part is that I love what I do every day. I continue to value the friendships I made at Monte and it amazes me how many ex-students I meet in my travels. We really are everywhere! I feel that my education at Monte taught me that I should follow my passion and do what is important to me, and for that I am very grateful.
Lauren Fagan
Class of 2005

Sydney soprano Lauren Fagan never expected to win a place in the Royal Opera House's prestigious and highly competitive Jette Parker Young Artists Program. She never really took her singing seriously until 2011 when she was accepted into the Melba Trust, an Australian development program. Her singing coaches had warned her she would have only a slim chance of success should she audition. So it was a surprise to be accepted from 400 applicants to audition for the program in London, and a bigger surprise to make it to the final round.

The 26-year-old soprano was selected from among 70 finalists from around the world who travelled to London for the Jette Parker audition process, a week in which the numbers are first whittled down to 30, then to 12. They perform on the main stage of the Royal Opera House in front of a panel including music director Sir Antonio Pappano and artistic director David Gowland.

Lauren, the only soprano and girl chosen, sang Lia's aria from Debussy's L’enfant prodigue. Her heart sank when Pappano interrupted her mid-aria and he asked her to sing Mozart's Come scoglio from Cosi Fan Tutte. It turned out to be a blessing in disguise, showing off her voice and earning her a place.

Lauren is one of three Australians who will take up the majority of the five coveted singing places in the 2014-15 program.

Jennifer Davitt
Class of 1999

I left Monte as House Captain of McQuoin in 1999 and after taking an ‘unofficial’ gap year, embarked on a career as a Seaman Officer in the Royal Australian Navy. In this role, I was responsible for the navigation and safety of HMAS Manoora and HMAS Kanimbla by leading the bridge team of the war ships as an Officer of the Watch. I was deployed to two Areas of Operation including the Solomon Islands and the North Arabian Gulf in the wake of the 9/11 attacks as a part of Operation Slipper.

After completing a Bachelor of Arts (Economics) at UNSW’s ADFA campus in Canberra, I moved into a role managing construction and IT projects with the Australian Defence Force. I then went on to study a Master of Project Management at UNSW and in 2006 left the military to join Westpac as a Project Manager.

I began studying for my MBA at the University of New England and graduated in 2010. I then went on to hold a multitude of roles at a number of Australia’s leading financial services institutions. The most significant role I have had to date has been as the Project Director responsible for transitioning ANZ bank’s global Head Offices to Activity Based Working.

In 2012, I returned to Sydney to open a wine bar in Darlinghurst which gives me some much needed downtime from my role at Westpac’s Institutional Bank.

Outside of work, my partner Adrian and I have been renovating our house. I still catch up with my girlfriends from Monte and am so grateful for the friendships I formed at school.

Laura Good
Class of 2009

Laura Good finished first amongst her Honours cohort in the Business School's Discipline of Work and Organisational Studies.

Laura's thesis, Voicing their complaints: Students Working in Retail and Hospitality and Sexual Harassment by Customers, has been recommended for publication in an academic journal as it represents “an original contribution to the literature on employee voice”.

Laura, who now works as a researcher with the University of Melbourne’s Centre for Workplace Leadership, said she was “excited and honoured” by the University Medal.

In 2012 Laura was awarded the Maritime Union of Australia Eliot v Elliott Prize in Industrial Relations Policy, The Walter Reid Memorial Prize and the University of Sydney Academic Merit Prize. She was also the recipient of the Qantas Scholarship.

The Dean of the Business School, Professor Greg Whitwell, congratulated Laura on the University Medal saying that it was an “acknowledgement of her hard work and dedication to a vital area of national life”.

Laura left Monte in 2009 having received a NSW Premier’s Award for her academic ability across all subjects in her HSC. She then undertook studies at Sydney University where, in 2012, she completed her degree in Political Economy, continuing to an Honours level in 2103. In 2014 Laura graduated with a second degree with First Class Honours and being awarded the prestigious University of Sydney Medal for outstanding achievement in her Honours year.

Laura attributes much of her achievements to the quality and extent of the academic instruction, social development and tremendous overall support she received at Monte.

The following extracts are from the recent award ceremony at Sydney University.

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On Friday 17 October we held our 60 year reunion for the class of “1st Year 1950-Intermediate 1952 and Leaving Certificate 1954”.

The reunion was held in the Dining Room at the Grace Hotel. Over a smorgasbord lunch the eighteen of us delighted in our many reminiscences. We had several who had come from afar – Rosemary Hawkes (Ware), Judith Pidcock (Supple), Jill Du Rietz (Evans). Annette Tait (Harvey-Jackson) Coffs Harbour. Two nuns from our class were also present – Sister Rhonda Bast and Sister Terry McNamara. Some live permanently overseas, one of whom is Tina Sidari (Augimeri). We invited Gioconda (her sister) to attend for Tina, which was great, as she knows our classmates.

I would like to recognise the deceased members of our class: Sister Christine Mary RSM (Maureen Geraghty), Pat Watkins (Hannaway), Patty Dyke, Mary Keating (Broderick), Judith Kiehne (Brennan), Suzanne Stevens (Woodward), Robin Hendry (Bland), Natasha Daniels (Smykowsky) and Veronica Thompson (Downes).

We all agreed that the Monte training received from the nuns had stood us in good stead in our lives. May the spirit that is Monte continue to influence the lives of all who have the privilege to attend the school.

My thanks to my classmates Judith Power and Elaine Kelly (Quinsey) who assisted me in tracing classmates and organising this wonderful event.

Edith Collingridge

The annual lunch for ex-students celebrating 50+ years since leaving Monte was held on Wednesday 8 October. Close to 70 ex-students attended the luncheon held in the McQuoin Centre. Guest speaker was Ann James (Heywood, Class of 1955) who spoke about her book ‘Loss, Adoption & Love’ her personal experience of adoption which she calls a human and spiritual journey.

Edith Collingridge

More than 50 from the Intermediate Class of 1962 and the Leaving Certificate Class of 1964 gathered for this special reunion on Saturday 11 October. Many had travelled great distances to be there and it was a delightful occasion.

Mass was celebrated in the College Chapel by Father Paul Coleman SJ who was remembered as the newly ordained young assistant priest at North Sydney in 1964. We remembered particularly at Mass the deceased members of our Class.

Everyone was delighted to be taken on a guided tour of the school by Sister Carmel McDonough and Kate Anderson (Ford), the President of the Monte Ex-Students’ Association, who were our special guests for the occasion. We were all totally amazed at the transformation of the school but its integrity has been maintained and we were able to identify many of the favourite nooks and crannies from our schooldays.

We then proceeded to the Cammeray Golf Club for a most delightful and relaxed cocktail party. We left, feeling much gratitude for the education that had been ours so many years ago and for the wonderful friendships that we made during our school days.
Class of 1978
– 36 Year Reunion

A dozen or so from the Class of 1978 met for a casual get together and to celebrate 36 years out at The Oaks on Saturday 13 September. Special guest Noelann Davies flew in from NZ and Sharon Webber drove down from Bathurst to catch up.

Class of 1994
– 20 Year Reunion

When the class of 1994 got together it was a reminder of what a lovely group of girls we went to school with. People flew in from overseas and interstate; others came despite having brand new babies; some brought high school memorabilia, and many lovely messages flowed in from those who couldn’t make it.

Canberra Reunion

A reunion for ex-students living, working or visiting Canberra was held on Wednesday 27 August at University House, ANU. 24 ex-students gathered from leaving years spanning 1960 – 2012. As usual the group mingled freely and enjoyed hearing news of Monte, particularly Jessica Elliott’s (2012) experiences from her recent trip to the Mutitjulu Community. Everyone is keen to keep in touch. The group is particularly keen for more of the younger ex-students who are studying in Canberra to attend next year. Special thanks to Bernadette Rayner (Watts 1981) and Tracey Cootes (Morton 1981) who will be assisting with the 2015 event.

Kryptonite
– Theatre Group

A fabulous evening was had by all who attended Sue Smith’s (Class of 1976) latest play Kryptonite, starring Ursula Mills (2000) at the Wharf Theatre on Wednesday 24 September. Sue and Ursula joined the group for a drink after the performance and shared some insights into the world of performing arts. It was a privilege for the group to meet such talented Monte women!

Simone Young
Conducts Harp Legends

On 25 July a group of Monte ex-students, Mercy Sisters and current parents attended Harp Legends at the Opera House Concert Hall, which was conducted by Simone Young (Class of 1978). After the performance Simone met the group at the stage door and was happy to chat and reminisce about her time at Monte.
XMonte Netball Report

It has been a fantastic and exciting season for the XMonte Netball Club with four teams playing in the Northern Suburbs Netball Association. Team 4 successfully made it to the Grand Finals where they played their hearts out in the pouring rain. Unfortunately they missed out on a win but put on a great show and some tough competition. A highlight of the Club’s season was the XMonte 1 win over Monte 1. The atmosphere on the sideline was amazing, with supporters from current students, ex-students and many parents and friends turning up to watch the spectacle. Although XMonte 1 came out with a win Monte 1 didn’t loose without a fight.

A big thank you to the Ex-Students’ Association for their ongoing support and advice. Preparations for next years season are already underway and registration will open in early January. Any ex-students and girls from the wider Monte community are more than welcome to join us next year and get involved in either a recreational or competitive team. We would love to have you join the club!!

Contact Caitlin and Hannah on: exmontenetball@gmail.com and like XMonte Netball Club on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/exstudentsnetballclub

2014 XMonte Netball Members

Katie Eastment Abbey Chrimes (2012)
Lauren Moroney Dominique Denniss (2012)

HELP A YOUNG WOMAN RECEIVE A MERCY EDUCATION

2014 Annual Appeal Acknowledgement of Donors

Thank you to all our ex-students, parents, friends and staff who have responded to our call for donations to the Annual Appeal 2014. Donations are directed to the Monte’s Bursary Fund or the Building Fund as requested.

Anonymous (3), Anonymous (Class of 1937), Anonymous (Class of 1941), Anonymous (Class of 1959), Anonymous (Class of 1960), Anonymous (2) (Class of 1962), Anonymous (2) (Class of 1971), Anonymous (Class of 1976), Anonymous (Class of 1981), Anonymous (Class of 1983), Anonymous (Class of 1990), Ms G Augimeri (Class 1956), Joan Benaud (Class of 1942), Sonia Brennan (Antico, Class of 1983), Belinda Brooks (Class of 1976), Judith Bryant (Class of 1947), Belinda Clark (Class of 1991), Edith Collingridge (Class of 1954), Winsome Collingridge (Class of 1950), Veronica Connelly (nee Cooper Class of 1945), Robert & Jane Cusack, Mary V Doughty AM (Class of 1947), Eleanor M Drew (Class of 1967), Helen Easson (Class of 1950), Finnane Family (Class of 1963), Zita Farrell (Class of 1952), Stephen Flannery, The Fussell Family Foundation, Claire E Henkes (Class of 1948), Laura Henschke (Class of 2003), Mary Frances Ingall (Class of 1946), John & Carolyn Laker, Anna F Lau (Class of 2001), Mrs D Lound, Doreen McKay (Class of 1929) & Timmins Family, Michelle McNamara (Class of 1995), Dolour Mary Meagher (Class of 1956), Maryrose & Michael Morgan, C.A. Milne (Class of 1958), Barbara Morrison (Class of 1949), Mrs Margaret O’Donnell (Class of 1948), Helen O’Neil (Class of 1961/63), Mrs Julienne Petchell (Class of 1959), Linda Steinborn-Richter (Class of 1969), Gabrielle Small (Class of 1948), Gai Smith (nee Kennedy, Class of 1958), M Stackpool (Class of 1943), Sue Taylor (nee Dickey, Class of 1967), Mrs G A Thackray (Class of 1988), Mary-Lou Thorpe (Class of 1971)
2015 Dates for Your Diary

Members of the year groups celebrating anniversaries are encouraged to update their contact details via the Monte Online Community (this will greatly assist the organisers with issuing invitations). If you are available to assist with the planning of the following reunions, please contact the organisers.

**Annual Reunion/AGM**
In conjunction with the College Open Day. Sunday 15 March 2015, Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College, 12.00pm. Mass in the Chapel followed by the AGM and refreshments in the Generalate Courtyard.

**Masalou Lunch – 50+ Years**
Wednesday 7 October 2015
Monte McQuoin Centre 12.00pm
Contact: Annette Benaud
benauda@optusnet.com.au

**Class of 1974 – 40 Years (2014)**
Date and venue – TBC
Contact: Denise Tay
0412 396 380 / 02 4841 0888
dedeetay@bigpond.com

**Class of 1955 – 60 Years**
Contact: Denise Tay
0412 396 380 / 02 4841 0888
dedeetay@bigpond.com

**Class of 1985 – 30 Years**
Contact: Katja Jefferys (Sidoti)
0411 013 437
noosaville@optusnet.com.au

**Class of 1995 – 20 Years**
Contact: Ellie Ford
eford@monte.nsw.edu.au

**Class of 2010 – 5 Years**
Contact: Fiona Burke assisted by
Anna Mohen and Taous Davies
0401 307 296
fiona.burke@hotmail.com.au

**Canberra Reunion**
Wednesday 19 August 2015 – venue to be confirmed
Canberra contacts: Bernadette Rayner (Watts 1981) and Tracy Cootes (Morton 1981); Sydney: Nicole O’Donnell
nodonnell@monte.nsw.edu.au

2015 Career Program and Career Insights Evening
Ex-students are invited to share their experiences with current students during Year 11 Higher Education and Career Sessions (held daytime during school terms) and also at the Career Insights Evening (Wednesday 20 May 2015, from 5.00pm–8.00pm).

The purpose of these talks is to inspire current Monte students with real life stories of Monte ex-students. Ex-students from a wide variety of industries are invited to share their advice and career experiences, with the aim to inform, inspire and shape career and study choices.

If you are interested in being involved as a guest speaker, please contact Nicole O’Donnell
nodonnell@monte.nsw.edu.au


**Farewell**
Our community is saddened to announce the passing of the following Monte Ex-Students and send our heartfelt condolences to their family and friends.

**Michelle Wademan**
(Stapleton, Class of 1981)
Michelle was married to Peter for nearly 25 years and had two wonderful children, Kirstie and Liam. After a 5-year battle with Ovarian Cancer, Michelle passed away on 10 June 2014 she was just 50. Her friends, Jeannine Thompson, Donna Hodrian, Tracey-Ann Reid and Gemma Keiran all flew to Perth where Michelle and her family lived to attend her funeral. Michelle was inspirational in her battle with cancer and will be greatly missed.

**Maria McNally**
(Karageorge, Class of 1965)
Maria passed away suddenly at RNSH on 1 February 2014, aged 66, after suffering a burst aorta followed by a stroke. She attended Monte from 1960 to 1965 and subsequently graduated BA DipEd from UNSW, before proceeding to a career in teaching and school counselling with the NSW Department of Education. She met regularly with several of her class mates up to the time of her death and is survived by her husband, Greg McNally.
When it came to choosing our first guest for Conversation Corner I immediately thought of Mary Doughty. When I first met Mary I felt an instant admiration for this beautiful, gracious Monte woman and her passionate dedication to the College.

For the past 41 years Mary has been assisting the Monte Community with cross-referencing and checking more than 15,000 student records from 1875 to 2013.

Mary’s portrait hangs proudly in the “Hall of Honour” together with many other extraordinary Monte women.

I hope you enjoy our conversation.

Mary Doughty AM (Leonard)
Monte Student 1936 – 1947

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Mary: My grandmother came from Cork in Ireland in a sailing ship at the age of 14. We understand she had a primary education with the Mercy Sisters as her daughters were educated by the Parramatta Mercies and she insisted her granddaughters be enrolled at Monte. My parents had come from a general store in Gunning to run the newsagency at Crows Nest in January 1936, so I began at Monte in the February. My sister Jean followed me in 1938. I had a wonderful family life and I was also surrounded by the wonderful love and care of the nuns.

What was Monte like when you were here?

Mary: Much smaller of course. In 1947 there were only 364 girls in the whole school; the seniors knew the juniors and the juniors knew the seniors. The only external teachers were involved in senior music, speech, physical education/dance and tennis.

...and what was your uniform like?

The uniform was a finely pleated serge tunic and cream blouse, very hot and heavy, blazer, gloves and a hat. In 1946 Mother Baptista, brought in a summer uniform for the very first time and we were all very grateful for that.

What opportunities did a Monte Mercy education give you?

Mary: Tremendous opportunities. The Mercy Sisters were ahead of their time in believing in tertiary education for girls, encouraging them to stay on for the Leaving Certificate and to look at university, nursing and business studies at the top level. This was Catherine McAuley’s philosophy – well-educated woman to help others.

“You can’t go into the future if you can’t see the past.”

What aspirations did you have as a young woman growing up?

Mary: Initially all I wanted to do was to go to Business College, however I also loved my singing and music. I heard Mary Lewis talk about social work and that really interested me. Soon after I obtained a Commonwealth Scholarship to Sydney University commencing in 1951, and Social Work became my career.

My singing really meant a great deal to me. I did a lot of singing and won several prestigious singing awards and am still singing to an acceptable standard at the age of 84.

Why are these historical records so significant and important for all of us at Monte today?

Mary: You can’t go into the future if you can’t see the past. You need to know what’s happened before you, what people have done, so you can continue to carry on their work – for the greater good of people around you.

What are the Mercy values and principles that guide your life?

Mary: You need to be non-judgemental. I guess it comes back to justice, mercy, love and the “Religio, Scienta and Cultus”. You need to be able to do whatever’s asked of you and do it graciously and generously.

How do you build resilience to cope with life’s challenges?

Mary: I do have a great faith. If you have faith that things will work out, you can cope.

What is one piece of advice you would have for today’s Monte woman?

Mary: Be willing to listen to other people, to accept them and help them as you can.

Do you have a favourite pray?

Mary: The Rosary, the Memorare and of course our Suscipe.

Thank you so much Mary, you are an inspiration and we are very grateful for all that you have done and continue to do here at Monte.

Deanne and Mary’s conversation was held on 8/10/14

Deanne O’Shea is the Director of Development & Community Relations at Monte.