One of the most significant shifts in 21st century education is the valuing of creativity and the acceptance that creativity can be taught. Historically, creativity has been seen as a tortured and mystical process, the province of geniuses, artists and eccentrics. However, today we know that creativity is recognised as essential for living, working and dealing with change in a constantly changing world.

Creativity is not limited to the ‘gifted few’ (the ‘creatives’), but is able to be learnt by all students through appropriate pedagogical practice and curriculum provision; the Arts and Culture Common (ACC) our new College building, is the physical metaphor, if you like, for the provision of creativity.

Creativity in the curriculum is well-delivered by subjects such as visual arts, music, dance, drama, and design – but can also be explored through activities such as experimentation, problem-solving, developing narratives and rigorous debate. The most internationally recognised champion of creativity in education and also of Arts in education is British educator and speaker, Sir Ken Robinson. He has unpacked the processes of having original ideas that have value. Creativity is alive in the teaching and learning of students at the College, across many subjects and in other ways, such as the IB MYP Personal Project laboratory, and in the video conference room whilst engaging with students and researchers internationally.

Some of the features of the Monte Arts and Cultural Common include:
- State of the art technology
- Exhibition spaces
- Acoustic music studios
- Video conference room
- Recording booth
- Staff facilities and offices
- Flexible learning spaces
- Outdoor education spaces

The design of the Arts and Cultural Common is future focused, it is state of the art and it is avant-garde. For your daughters it provides the platform to embrace creativity and provide the physical space for it to flourish.

I urge you to join in giving to the ACC Capital Campaign when your time comes. It is only through the collective participation of the community that we can achieve our fundraising targets.

Catherine Alcock
Our Principal Ms Catherine Alcock continues her long recovery from the stroke she suffered in her home on 11 April, 2013. Ms Alcock was rushed to hospital in a critical condition and subsequently underwent brain surgery. The Monte website (www.monte.nsw.edu.au) is regularly updated with news on Ms Alcock’s condition. Well wishes and messages of support have flooded into Monte from all corners of the globe. Although it is a difficult time, particularly for those close to Ms Alcock, we are buoyed by her daily rehabilitation efforts and progress.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Monte community for its encouragement and support over the past few months as I act in the Principal’s role. I look forward to continuing the outstanding direction set by Ms Alcock and the College Board to provide the very best learning environment for the students of Monte.

Nicole Christensen
Acting Principal

Mrs Christensen joined Monte in 2010 as Deputy Principal Curriculum. Mrs Christensen was previously at Stella Maris College Manly, an independent Catholic Girls’ Secondary School run by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan where she was Deputy Principal in 2009 and prior to that, Director of Teaching and Learning. During that time she was seconded to universities in NSW to conduct research into education and the impact of technology on student learning. She has been fortunate to have worked with educators and principals locally, nationally and internationally and was recognised by the Federal Government for her work in the education sector.

“The Mission at Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College is to provide girls with a quality education rich in diversity of opportunity within a nurturing community based on Mercy values. I will endeavor to encourage each student to realise her full potential, and to empower each student to make a positive contribution to our world. The core business of education is learning: it must be the driver of excellence, the learning architecture and student success. Motivation is an integral part of the learning process and to build the 21st century skills fundamental to the Melbourne Declaration’s Educational Goals for Young Australians (2008) the girls themselves must be engaged in their learning and aware of their learning journey. Teachers and students should be excited about the transformative nature of learning, inspired to accomplish things that might seem beyond their grasp, I believe in developing pedagogy that is relevant to today’s transformative society, and building the capacity of teachers and students to meet those challenges.” Mrs Christensen said.
The College Board meeting in March saw the end of an era, as it was the final meeting for Chairman, Mr John Wilcox. He was the last of the members remaining from the Board’s inauguration in 1995. Mr Wilcox served as Chairman from 2009. His outstanding legacy to the College was recognised by Sr Joanne Kirk RSM, the then Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Mercy of North Sydney, in her letter to the community on 20 March 2013:

“It is with regret, but with thanks, that the Congregation has received the resignation of Mr John Wilcox as Chairman of the College Board. John has provided long and distinguished service to the College and Congregation. He has been a member of the College Board and Finance Committee since 1995; this was the first Board formed under the College’s first Articles of Association. He was appointed Chairman in 2009.

“We also have teachers in the extended family so I love this profession and I understand their passion. Like the whole of the Board and the staff, our students’ needs and the educational environment will continue to be our highest priorities.”

Steven says he believes the Monte community is a family whose influence spreads far and wide.

“As my experience shows, I have a passion for Catholic Health and Catholic Education and I look forward to contributing to and supporting the Mission of Monte. I also have a strong interest in the long-term strategy of Monte and how the Mercy Values thrive for the next 100 years.”

“We also thank John’s family for their support, and for enabling him to be so much part of Monte Sant’ Angelo. The Congregation extends its deepest gratitude and blessings for his service to the College over 18 years.

Steven and his wife Megan have four children: Matthew (aged 22) and Daniel (aged 19) who both attended St Aloysius’ College and are currently at university, as well as Emma (Year 12 at Monte) and Maddison (aged 9 at St Mary’s North Sydney). Maddison will finish Monte with the Class of 2021.

Steven commenced in May 2012 as CEO & Managing Director of the I-MED Network, Australia’s largest corporate radiology group with businesses in every State and Territory of the country. Previously he was Group CEO of St Vincent’s & Mater Health Sydney and was responsible for a number of high profile facilities including St Vincent’s Hospital, Mater Hospital, St Vincent’s Private and the St Vincent’s Research Precinct housing the Victor Chang Cardiac Research and the UNSW Institute of Virology. He has more than 20 years experience in leadership roles in the Catholic health services sector including as the Executive Director of St Vincent’s Private Hospital and CEO of St Joseph’s Hospital and aged care services.

“As my experience shows, I have a passion for Catholic Health and Catholic Education and I look forward to contributing to and supporting the Mission of Monte. I also have a strong interest in the long-term strategy of Monte and how the Mercy Values thrive for the next 100 years.”
A TRIBUTE TO DEDICATION

At our annual Laureate Assembly in February, we celebrated the high achievers of the Class of 2012.

There were some exceptional results and their overall success is a tribute to the dedication of the teachers and the outstanding work ethic of the students.

Congratulations to Dominique Denniss, Jessica Elliott and Stella Graham who each received the highest possible ATAR of 99.95. 42% of the year group gained an ATAR of over 90.

Eight students achieved ATARs in excess of 99:
Dominique Denniss, Jessica Elliott, Lucy Fogarty, Stella Graham, Brigid Kennedy, Eleanor Raper, Sophie Sauerman, Isabella Wong.

A further seven students receiving ATARs of over 98:
Jennifer Chan, Abbey Chrimes, Gena O’Brien, Georgia Reid, Adriana Stefanatos, Erika Sullivan, Anna Tully.

Nine students achieved a Premier’s Award for All Round Achievement in the HSC:
Kiah Daly, Lucy Fogarty, Briana Giraldo, Gena O’Brien, Caitlin Ratcliffe, Georgia Reid, Sophie Sauerman, Adriana Stefanatos, Erika Sullivan.

Design & Technology
Eight students had their Major Design Projects nominated for the 2012 HSC DesignTECH Exhibition: Montana Agostino, Minou Blundell, Julia Bowdler, Madeline Bowers, Gabrielle Ingham, Emily Lanzillotti, Adriana Stefanatos and Hannah Tarlinton. Each girl is to be congratulated on this remarkable achievement.

Gabrielle Ingham had her project, ‘Deforestation Textile Garments’ accepted into the Exhibition. Gabrielle’s project was also included in the regional tour of ‘Selected Exemplars’ after the closing of the exhibition.

Visual Arts
Ariane Easton, Monica Silvio and Kathryn Smith had their HSC Bodies of Work pre-selected for ArtExpress, with Monica’s series of finely rendered coloured pencil drawings titled ‘The Monster in Us’ being selected for the exhibition at Broken Hill Regional Gallery. In a first for Monte, Stephanie Lambros also had her printmaking Body of Work purchased by the Department of Education for their permanent collection of Year 12 student artworks to be hung in the President’s Gallery.

Dance
Emily Lanzillotti and Felicity Light were nominated for inclusion in Callback, which is a selection of outstanding performances and projects from HSC Dance.

Excerpt from Sophie Sauerman’s Laureate Speech
I had no idea how I could represent 180 individuals in a three to five minute speech. We are all just too different. I thought about this until I came to realise exactly why we’re so different – Monte as a school actively fosters a culture which encourages us to find our voices and be individuals, while accepting others’ differences...

In general, everyone was pretty happy to let others be themselves without pressuring them into becoming someone else. Whether we realise this or not, Monte’s big lesson to us is one of acceptance and tolerance – and we are encouraged to take this message further, by not only tolerating the disadvantaged in society, but by actively helping them. This culture has had a significant impact in the way we treat each other, enabling us to be ourselves and in turn make rich and lasting friendships.

To all the current students, make the most of your time, because even if it feels like you have forever, it ends all too quickly.

Sophie Sauerman
On behalf of the Class of 2012

Photos courtesy of Anthony Khoury Photography
Touring Band Visits USA

For the first time, a band from Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College toured the west coast of the United States, performing in Disneyland, Los Angeles and Fisherman’s Wharf in San Francisco.

During the 2013 April holidays the Monte Band, consisting of 34 students and four teachers, travelled to the USA and as well as performing, the Band attend workshops and collaborated with US high schools and universities.

“It was an amazing opportunity and the students learnt so much from the many workshops they attended – the performance at Disneyland was definitely a highlight,” says Monte’s Head of Performing Arts, Miss Sarah Thompson.

Eliza Marks, Music Captain, Reports:

The Band performed and attended clinics throughout the tour. The first of these was a performance at Fisherman’s Wharf, followed by a performance at West Lake High School, where we mingled with boys and girls our age and performed for each other, and then in a combined item. In addition to performances, we attended two clinics at the San Francisco University, and the California State University. America is the concert band central of the world, and it was a great opportunity to work with so many experienced lecturers and conductors. These clinics were the most educational and musically enriching events on this tour. We will never forget this experience of a lifetime.

Kirra Jackson, Bands Captain, commented in the Band’s Blog:

Today was definitely the highlight of the tour. It was the day we have been waiting for, we performed at Disney California Adventure Park, next door to Disneyland. We got our instruments and were given a chance to warm up. Once we were ready, we lined up, ready to perform. Our first piece was “Disneyland Celebration” to get everyone into the spirit. The rest of the pieces we played included “Waltzing Matilda”, “Coldplay live on stage”, “Washington Post”, “Stevie Wonder in Concert”, “The Final Countdown” and “Pirates of the Caribbean”. There were many people who came to watch and support us, including some Australians and we received many compliments.

After a quick lunch, we attended a clinic planned by Disney. This involved us going into a studio to see music set up for us to sight-read, as well as having headphones, microphones and TVs set up. Our conductor, Bob, was an accomplished conductor and musician who has performed in many Disney soundtracks.

The first piece we played was from the movie “Tangled” which was a very new experience for everyone. We all had the headphones on which made us feel like professional musicians recording for Disney. We then watched the movie with us playing the music. If you looked around the room every one of us were beaming.
WCAS AS ONE

The generosity of Easter within the community was shown in the strong response to Project Compassion this year. Instead of the raft of fundraising activities, students were asked to donate to Project Compassion daily. The idea was that girls consider something to give up for Lent, and make the equivalent monetary donation to Project Compassion. Small amounts can grow into substantial amounts over the 40 days of Lent.

The campaign linked with the Caritas Project, “Walk as One with the World’s Indigenous People”. Each Tutor group was given a country and asked to research the Indigenous community of that country. Caritas provides financial support in several countries; students were able to link the fundraising activity while learning more about the needs of indigenous communities.

For every $2 raised, students were able to purchase a “foot” in their House colour. These “feet” were placed on the Holy Grass in the last week of Term 1. A College total of $14,700 was raised.

HEADS HELD HIGH FOR LITERACY

Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College broke the Guinness World Record for the largest number of people to simultaneously balance a book on their head and walk five metres.

Mercy Action Group (MAG) Captain, Ashley James, led the charge for the community to stand together with a book on their heads to be donated to children in the Northern Territory of Australia and parts of Africa.

“The aim was to raise awareness about the need to improve the literacy levels of indigenous children in Australia and to do something practical in providing books to communities who need them,” said Ashley.

Months of planning and communication between the Guinness Record office in London finally came off when 998 students, staff and office workers in North Sydney gently walked five metres to ensure their book stayed on their head.

Danielle Di-Masi, a business etiquette expert, and CommBank’s Women in Focus, who assisted with the coordination of the event, pitched the idea to Ashley who has won over the community in her energetic efforts to put social justice ideas into action.

SAY NO TO PLASTIC

GreenTeam students continued their campaign to reduce the impact of plastic on the environment with a NO PLASTIC DAY on Monday 25 March.

Environmental Captain, Beth Parsons, and her GreenTeam organised the College Canteen to stop the sale of products with plastics for the day.

“We are all fighting plastic together with this awareness-raising plastic-free day,” said Beth.

Beth told all students at a College Assembly, “South Australia, Italy, Rwanda and Bangladesh have banned plastic bags outright and Ireland is taxing plastic bags. This hasn’t started in NSW yet but we can all still play our own part, starting right here at Monte.”

Monte was the first school to ban the sale of plastic water bottles in July 2010, an initiative that spread to dozens of other schools in NSW.
Another ‘taking up action’ of MAG was the annual International Women’s Day Breakfast held on 8 March.

Guest speakers were Emily Hamilton from Australian Council of Social Service, speaking about climate change and its impact on poverty in Australia; and Natalie Isaccs, Founder/CEO 1Million Women Campaign, who is driving environmental sustainability change - through women.

The celebration of International Women’s Day recognises the gains women have made in achieving improved economic, social and political rights and equality. Certainly, in the Australian context, much has been gained over the last century; such as the right to vote, equal pay, improved access to education and employment, as well as benefits, such as childcare and maternity leave. But this is not the end for women in Australia; matters such as the ‘glass ceiling’ and the sexualisation of young girls continue to provoke concern by women for women and girls in Australian society. However, this concern is greater for women and girls in developing countries. In many countries, girls are often not entitled to education, and women are subjected to violence and abuse.

It is advocacy for the betterment of women who live in poverty and disempowerment that focus the campaigns of the Mercy Action Group.

The Mercy Foundation is a work of the North Sydney Sisters of Mercy, set up to carry on the legacy of Catherine McAuley. The Mercy Foundation is committed to addressing and ending homelessness in our community. The Mercy Foundation believes this is an achievable ambition in a country as wealthy as Australia.

The latest initiative of the Mercy Foundation is the ‘Home in a Box’ project. ‘Home in a Box’ was designed to ensure that homeless people, when provided with housing, have the basic items needed to create a home and a safe and comfortable place.

‘Home in a Box’ has received tremendous support from Monte. Last year, a significant contribution of $30,000 was made to the Mercy Foundation by the students at Monte Sant’ Angelo. This very generous donation was a result of students’ fundraising efforts over the past three years. MAG students enthusiastically chipped in and helped pack 25 boxes. This contribution made a huge difference in facilitating the logistics to get the boxes ready for distribution.

Thanks to the support of the Monte community, we have funded a number of small grants, including the provision of interpreters for female asylum seekers, an art therapy program for disadvantaged women in Victoria and home tutoring for asylum seeker women who cannot attend classes due to family or health reasons.

The Mercy Foundation greatly appreciates the continued support from the Monte community.

If you wish to support the Mercy Foundation’s work please donate online at www.mercyfoundation.com.au or call 02 9911 7390.

Sr Carmel McDonough RSM
The College’s Commencement Liturgy held in February, asked God to direct and bless us in our endeavours for 2013. The Liturgy embraced the message of the Senior Leaders, who have used the concept of ‘Limitless’ – as a challenge for their leadership and for their student peers. The ritual included the rich symbolism of water as a source of life, and our blessing at Baptism. The Liturgy specifically welcomed all new students and staff to the Monte community – like water, new people bring us new life as a school community. The celebrant was Fr Edward Dooley SJ, the new Parish Priest of our local Parishes of Our Lady of the Way. Fr Dooley has previously ministered in the parish; we are delighted to welcome him back, and wish him every blessing in his spiritual and pastoral leadership of the Catholic community of North Sydney.

MYP GRADUATION

The College held the Third IB Middle Years Programme Awards Ceremony in February. The ceremony recognised the MYP students who completed the programme in 2012, with the majority starting as the Year 7 class of 2009. The guest speaker was Ms Briony Morath, the Manager Development for the International Baccalaureate in Australasia. All students who participated in the programme received a Record of Achievement, with the requirements for the MYP Certificate achieved by 150 eligible students.

The Dux of the 2012 MYP was Sophia Shatek who achieved an outstanding MYP score of 62/63. Congratulations to all the students who participated in the MYP in 2012; it is a significant undertaking that will be of ongoing academic value.

COMMENCEMENT LITURGY

WELCOME TO MONTE

The spirit of Mercy hospitality was clearly in evidence when 193 Year 7 students, along with their parents and teachers, attended the annual Year 7 Welcome Mass and Dinner. One highlight of the dinner was the welcome speech of College Captain Riley Cahill, who encouraged the girls to knock and open the numerous ‘doors of opportunity’ at Monte.

When I first came to Monte, I remember being completely and utterly overwhelmed. I confided in my dad, as dads always seem to know the right thing to say, and I remember him telling me that if I got involved in school life, I would meet people and make friends. There are nearly 200 girls in your year group, and I can guarantee you that you will find a great group of friends that you will probably keep for the rest of your life.

“That’s great!” you might be thinking, “but how do I get involved?” If there is one thing that I want you all to take away from tonight, it’s this. Say yes. Say yes to every opportunity that you’re presented with. Even if you’re unsure, or your friends aren’t doing it, just say yes.

I want you to imagine every opportunity at Monte as a door. Hundreds and hundreds of doors – just sitting there waiting for you to open them. Sporting doors, musical doors, debating doors, social justice, art, leadership; every type of door you can imagine.

By saying yes to all these opportunities, not only will you be meeting amazing people and having fun whilst doing it, but you will be making the most of your time at Monte, which is what every one of you should be aiming to achieve.

I cannot wait to see which doors you each choose to open.

Riley Cahill
College Captain
EVERY DAY IS MOTHERS’ DAY

A wonderful Liturgy and Mass for Year 8s and their mums was held at the College on Friday 10 May. Mother and daughter, Helen Corcoran and Siena Hamra gave us an insight into their special world during their reflection at the liturgy. The girls presented various symbols of their mothers, such as, a teddy bear symbolising a mother’s warmth, a laptop representing her organisation and multi-tasking skills and of course, a magic wand!

Olivia O’Rourke
Year 12

TRADITIONAL HIGH TEA

On Sunday 19 May, the Year 12 students and their mothers frocked up for a traditional high tea held at the historic Curzon Hall. Guest speakers were Margie Abbott and her daughter Bridget (Class of 2010) who spoke about the complexities of mother/daughter relationships and about the pressures and good times of the final year of schooling.

YEAR 12 FATHER DAUGHTER DINNER

Six years ago we were standing in the McQuoin Centre together at the Father Daughter Pizza Night, young and naive with our side fringes, out celebrating the first year of high school. Now with only months of schooling to go, we had an opportunity to celebrate the last year of school with the most significant men in our lives. Those men, our fathers, who have been there for us throughout. The Father Daughter Dinner was a fantastic night to spend with our dads and significant father figures in our lives. We had so much fun on the dance floor, with our Battle of the Colour Houses Dance-off partnered with dads being the highlight of the night. I had no idea my dad could let loose the way he did. Shout outs to Eliza Marks and her dad for winning the Dance-off, as well as to Miss Lizzio for her remarkable duet with Adele Gemmell.

Olivia O’Rourke
Year 12

ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

Led by History Teacher David McKinlay, this year’s Anzac Day Ceremony for the whole College was a solemn and very moving event. We saw images of soldiers and heard their stories and were asked to remember them as individuals. Students were given the challenge for next year, to research and remember one individual soldier and to display his image as part of the ceremony in 2014.

Monte Gazette | July 2013
**Staff Triathlon**

Congratulations to the nine Monte staff who braved the very fresh waters of Sydney Harbour and cycled and ran a hilly circuit around Mrs Macquarie’s Chair to complete the Nissan Corporate Triathlon. Well done to staff members: Sandra Bell, Joanne Cooper, Lauren Davidson, Ellie Ford, Karen Gair, Corey Googh, Katie Hogg, Nadia Nero and Paul Wacher.

**Blues Awards**

Great success for two Monte students in the sport arena, with Stephanie MacGougan (Year 12/2012) and Bernadette Flannery (Year 10/2012) receiving a Blue Award at the annual NSW Combined Catholic Colleges (CCC) Presentation.

Fifty five outstanding sportswomen and sportsmen from Catholic Colleges throughout NSW received a Blue in 2012. Stephanie was acknowledged for her CCC Netball representation, and being selected in the All Australian Netball Team; Bernadette, for participation and achievement in NSW All Schools Swimming Competition and the National School Sport Australia Championships. Stephanie and Bernadette are the two most recent Blue Awards for the College; previous Blue Awards have been made to Mathilda Carmichael in 2009 for Hockey and Cricket and Elizabeth Bornstein in 2005 for Netball.

**ANZAC Scholarship**

Congratulations to Isobel McDonald, Year 11, on winning a 2013 NSW Premier’s ANZAC Scholarship. Each year, students from Years 10 and 11 travel to sites of historical wartime significance for Australia. This July, Isobel will be travelling with a group to Singapore and south east Asia. Isobel had to go through a rigorous application and selection process, showing her commitment to ANZAC heritage.

Isobel was selected by the Premier’s office to present a speech of thanks on behalf of the other scholarship winners to the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, Victor Dominello, as part of the annual RSL ANZAC Ceremony at the Hyde Park War Memorial. We wish Isobel the very best for her tour.

**Hair Today – gone tomorrow**

Year 11 student Eugenie Dale watched her long locks be cut from her hair to raise money and awareness for the Leukaemia Foundation.

“Over the years I have lost many family members to cancer and it has been a great struggle to witness,” Eugenie says. “I wanted to create awareness about cancer by shaving off my hair. I love my hair, however, cancer is much more important”

Eugenie charged students a gold coin entry fee to watch the lunchtime shave and raised over $5,000 for the cause.

**Middle School Leaders**

During our March Assembly the College inaugurated the Middle School Leaders for 2013. The election process required candidates to present a speech to the cohort, with election by secret ballot of peers and the staff. The process is intended to involve active citizenship and model democratic processes.

Congratulations to the Year 9 elected leaders:

Eliza Cahill  
Jordana Carvella  
Grace Morahan  
Angela Smith
YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Emma Gavaghan of Year 12 was recently awarded the prestigious Ku-ring-gai Council Young Citizen of the Year Award. For the past three years Emma has volunteered at the Lindfield East Before and After School Care by cooking, coordinating craft classes and organising games for children aged five to 12.

Emma received the award in recognition for her tireless work, generous spirit and leadership qualities.

Emma is an enthusiastic and highly regarded member of the Monte student body. Emma plays and coaches netball, is a member of the Chamber Winds and Wind Ensembles, is one of Monte’s representative tennis players, she is working toward her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and was in the College Musical, Beauty and the Beast. Emma was also recently elected McQuoin House Captain for 2012/13 and is a member of the Student Representative Council.

Emma comments:
“I felt honoured to receive this award; however more important was the sense of giving back to my community and becoming involved with those around me both younger and older. It was also amazing to hear the stories of the other award recipients, who are continuing to volunteer throughout their lives – setting examples for the younger citizens to follow.

“Community and Service makes me feel happy as I am doing something for others; no matter how big or small the action is, it makes a difference and that’s what matters. It gives you a sense of joy to know that you are really helping others around you.

“My advice to anyone who is involved or looking to be involved in community service is to step up to the challenge; try something new and make the most of any opportunity that comes your way – as the smallest action can make the biggest difference.”

SILVER DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

To achieve a Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, participants must complete a minimum of six months of volunteering, learning a skill and physical activity. They must also successfully complete two expeditions of three days and two nights for their Adventurous Journey, which involves canoeing, campcraft, navigation, teamwork, leadership and initiative activities.

Congratulations to the following girls who have recently achieved a Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award: Shayla Chedid, Emma Gavaghan, Elizabeth Gerber, Lucy Mathias, Isobel McDonald, Emily McPhee, Caitlin Risk, Eleanor Smith, Kiya Siutz, Alana Walsh, Yasmin Warner.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS AMBASSADORS

Each year, Year 10 students are invited by Rotary International to attend a Model United Nations Assembly. This year, five Year 10 students, Phoebe Hamra, Victoria Chmiel, Odile Cameron, Isabel Dixon-Wrathall and Siena Crisafi spent a weekend in March, debating, negotiating and voting on six different resolutions, imitating a United Nations General Assembly session.

The girls formed teams representing Mongolia and Italy. They dressed for the part, argued for their country and formed global alliances on issues such as the threat to the planet’s ecosystems through deforestation, the Israel-Palestine conflict, the consequences of the Arab Spring uprising and the power of the permanent members of the Security Council in their right to ‘veto’. These students broadened their global perspective, liaised with students representing other countries and developed team skills.

BLUE AND BLUE SCHOLAR

Congratulations to Carly O’Sullivan of Year 11 who was awarded the 2013-14 Blue & Blue Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to a student who exemplifies the College’s motto: Religio, Scientia, Cultus. Carly was awarded the scholarship in recognition of her all-round abilities in the academic arena, across co-curricular activities and her contribution to the liturgical life of the College.

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At Monte Sant’ Angelo, May is the month of House Plays. Around the College there was a feeling of great excitement and anticipation amongst the 800 student participants across Years 7 to 11. For 2013 the theme was: *The door to....*

MCs, Phoebe Chester, Madeleine Damo and Rachael Callister were on top of their game during the performances, with all Houses providing great entertainment and adventure for everyone.

McGuirk was the winner of House Plays 2013 with their theme *The Door to .... Door Salesman*
TOUCH FOOTBALL's HOLY GRAIL

The CGSSSA Senior Championships trophy has surely been Monte's Holy Grail. I am happy to report that it now proudly stands in the Sports Office after the senior girls best GSLK Kensington in the final in March. This was a fitting reward for all of the players involved and coach Matt Rowan. They have all been involved in Touch Football since they were in Year 7.

The Monte 1 girls also reclaimed the Harbour Cup from Kambala at the end of Term 1. In a thrilling game where our girls scored in the first minute the teams finished up tied at 1-1 after 40 minutes. This meant the game went to 'Drop Off', the first team to score during this period wins. After about nine minutes of play, Sportswoman Ariane Diametriou (who played the entire nine minutes of extra time) broke away to score in the corner for a Monte win.

MONTE SWIMMERS ‘HOT’ IN THE POOL

The SwiMonte team has produced some outstanding results this year. The team finished 5th out of 27 schools at the IGSSA Championships. This is the best result Monte has achieved at an IGSSA Swimming Carnival. The girls then went on to wipe the floor with their rivals at the CGSSSA Carnival, winning the event by over 200 points. Their performances at this event meant that a staggering 20 Monte students qualified to represent the association at the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Carnival.

At the NSWCCC Carnival the Senior and Intermediate 4 x 50m Relay Team won Gold Medals. The Senior and Intermediate 4 x 50m Medley Relay Teams both won Gold Medals and broke meet records. The 6 x 50m All Age Relay won a Silver Medal. A number of girls were also outstanding in medalling in individual efforts and as such joined the relay teams in qualifying to represent NSWCCC at the NSW All Schools Swimming Carnival.

Monte had 14 students qualify to represent the school and the Catholic System at the All Schools Carnival and success rolled on. Ainslie Scott (Year 9) won Gold in the 14yrs 50m Freestyle. Nina Baker (Year 10) won Gold in both the 50m and 100m 15yrs Breaststroke breaking the record in the 100m event. Jacqui Schafer placed 3rd in the 50m and 100m 16yrs Backstroke and Bernadette Flannery won the 16+yrs SWD 50m Breaststroke.

The Monte Intermediate Team became the fastest in NSW when they took out the 4 x 50m Medley Relay. The team of Jacqui Schafer, Nina Baker, Kate Biviano and Clare Hopkins backed up the win with a second placing in the 4 x 50m Freestyle event.

The Senior Team of Tessa O’Shea, Charlotte McKewen, Kelsey Aquilina and Amy Baker won a bronze medal finishing 3rd in the 4 x 50m Medley Relay.

Finally, the All Age Team turned in a great performance to also claim a bronze medal. The All Age Relay is a 6 x 50m event that includes a swimmer from each age from 12-17. The race is swum in age order and the Monte team was made up of Caitlin Beilby, Jami Prowse, Ainslie Scott, Nina Baker, Jacqui Schafer and Charlotte McKewen.

SOFTBALL GRAND FINAL

In March, Monte 1 competed in the Grand Final of the MWSSA competition at Curl Curl. The team started off leading 4-1 but soon enough it became 7-5 with the Pittwater team overtaking us. At this point we had already seen a magnificent foul ball catch by Ms Alcock herself.

We were all pumped to go out and hit 7 home. First batter takes the plate - Out. Second batter - Out. Third batter - Safe. Fourth Batter - Out. Safe to say, no one thought that was going to happen. The suspense was building and the cheers that were supporting us at the beginning from our parents, were becoming more and more frantic.

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The score became 10-9 in the bottom of the last innings. We were fielding with a player on 2nd and 3rd base, 2 out, full count (2 strikes, 3 balls) on the batter and a few minutes left. The suspense and pressure was enormous. I was pitching and if I pitched a strike we would win. If not, the player on 3rd could get home, bring the score to 10 all and take the game into extra time. I took a deep breath, there was dead silence could get home, bring the score to 10 all and take the game into extra time. I took a deep breath, there was dead silence.

It was a strike. We had won. Everyone went insane and it was the best game of softball I have ever played in.

Annabel McGrath
Softball Captain 2012-13

TENNIS

This year Monte had its first tennis player in many years qualify to play in the NSWCCC Championships. Jacinta Milenkoski of Year 8 has reduced her Australian ranking from 1100 to around 600 over the past 12 months and this was enough to have her included in the match up of the top 32 female tennis players in the NSW Catholic System. Jacinta progressed through to the final 16, but was eliminated there by some stronger older players. The top eight players progress through to the NSW All Schools Championships. However, one of those eight became injured so Jacinta was invited to take her spot as a result of how much she impressed the selectors in the initial tournament.
McGuirk House overwhelmingly won the day – winning both the Carnival Championship and the all-important Cheering Competition. The McGuirk House Captains, Chelsea Riddington and Rebecca Szabo were naturally proud of their team’s effort and results. McGuirk’s 5th swimming carnival victory in a row.

The individual swimming champions for 2013 were:

12 Years  Caitlin Beilby (McGuirk)
13 Years  Jami Prowse (Rankin)
14 Years  Ainslie Scott (McAuley)
15 Years  Nina Baker (McGuirk)
16 Years  Jacqueline Schafer (McGuirk)
17 Years  Amy Baker (McGuirk)
100 Metres Champion  Nina Baker

Twelve records broken on the day out of a possible 29 events. A great reflection of the hard work undertaken by all of the girls in the swim program and that of their coaches Jon Bell and Paul Brookes.

Nina Baker (Year 10) broke five records – the 100m Open Freestyle, 15 Years 50m Freestyle, 15 Years 50m Breaststroke, 15 Years 50m Butterfly and the Open 200m Individual Medley.

Congratulations also go to the other records breakers:
• Ainslie Scott – 14 Years 50m Freestyle and 14 Years 50m Breaststroke
• Charlotte McKewen – 17+ Years 50m Backstroke
• Jacqui Schafer – 16 Years 50m Backstroke
• Kelsey Aquilina – 17+ Years 50m Breaststroke

We were blessed with a perfect summer’s day on Friday 8 February for the 2013 Monte Swimming Carnival. Congratulations to all students who participated – as swimmers and House supporters; we had terrific student support, with an overall attendance of 94%.
“One of the most significant shifts in 21st century education is the centrality of creativity; that is the way in which the whole curriculum enables the creative talents of all students to find expression.” (Catherine Alcock, Monte Gazette, November 2009)

A new capital works project, years in the making, is now starting to take shape at Monte. The Arts & Cultural Common (ACC) is being built on and around the site of the O’Regan Building and 40 acres. It is a multi-level, multi-purpose learning facility that will house a 300-seat theatre and a range of other small and large studios, classrooms and performance spaces, including a recording studio. The project also includes a new Chapel courtyard area and will provide the Congregation with better access to the Chapel.

The ACC represents the establishment of a centre that embraces and celebrates creative excellence and diversity. Monte recognises the need to prepare students for a future of jobs that do not yet exist, technologies that are not yet created, and problems we don’t yet know will arise. The need to be creative and flexible in problem solving and decision making is increasingly being recognised as essential to deal with change in a constantly changing, face-paced world.

The ACC will transform the Monte campus, just as previous capital projects such as the McQuoin Centre and Catherine McAuley Place, have done. The ACC and associated works will cost in the order of $20 million. To assist us in making this dream a reality a Capital Campaign has been launched to raise $2 million from the Monte community.

Over the following six months, we will be asking the whole Monte community to consider a tax-deductible donation to the ACC Capital Campaign. We hope you can consider a gift to the Campaign to ensure we continue to provide our students with the very best of facilities and that Monte continues to advance as an educator of choice.

To view plans of the ACC or for more information regarding the ACC Capital Campaign please contact Karen Gair, Director of Development & Community Relations on (02) 9409 6240 or kgair@monte.nsw.edu.au
2013 began, as it always does at Monte, with a smorgasbord of P&F events aimed at giving parents the chance to get together, have fun and enjoy the great sense of community that exists at our College.

As we embarked on another school year, particular emphasis was placed on ensuring all new families to the school, across all year groups, felt welcome from day one.

The Annual Welcome Drinks Party was moved from a Friday night to a Saturday evening this year in response to parent feedback, a move that saw record numbers attend the event – around 300 in total. For some parents it was their first such function at Monte, for many Year 12 parents it was their last. Prior to this event, a small welcome function was held off site for parents of new students in Year 8 through to Year 11. Our thanks to the Upfold family for hosting this important gathering and giving these parents the chance to meet some Monte families early in the term.

The P&F Presidents were also pleased to address the Year 7 Welcome Mass and Dinner held in early February.

During late March, we held the 2nd annual Father & Daughter “Under the Stars Movie Night”. More than 340 dads and their daughters turned up with their beanbags, camping chairs and picnic rugs to enjoy a ‘night at the ficks’. While a late thunderstorm forced the event indoors at the last minute, we were very grateful to have McQuoin Centre as a wet weather venue. With building works underway for the new Arts & Cultural Common, it was a timely reminder of the wonderful facilities that our daughters now enjoy as the result of the fundraising efforts of families who have preceded our time at the College.

As the school year progressed, a series of year group morning teas were held in the Generalate Courtyard, a secluded area tucked away behind the Masalou Building. In Term 2, individual Year Cocktail Functions were held for parents in Years 7, 8 and 9 while Year 10 and 11 held their functions in outside venues.

Other events supported by the parent body in the first half of 2013 included the Year 8 Mothers’ Day Morning Tea, House Plays, the Year 12 Mother & Daughter High Tea and the Year 12 Father & Daughter Dinner Dance. Thank you to the many parents involved in supporting and organising these important Monte events.

Parent forums also continued in 2013 in tandem with the P&F General meetings. Parents were provided with a comprehensive report on the academic results from 2012, including the HSC, IB, MYP and NAPLAN results as well as a presentation by Maureen Callister on helping create the best environment for daughters to succeed.

The annual Monte Open Day was also an outstanding event, showcasing the wonderful facilities, fabulous learning environment and outstanding sense of community that we enjoy at Monte. Thanks must be extended to the many parents and families involved in running the Year 7 café and the Year 10 BBQ at the Open Day. It was a major effort that contributed to the great atmosphere on the day.

We would also like to recognise the support of our P&F Executive and the many parents who have volunteered to be Year Co-ordinators and Class Parents in 2013, helping us to connect and communicate across the parent network.

We finish by thanking the Acting Principal Nicole Christensen, Karen Gair, Pat Clarke and Ann Buchanan in the Development Office and all the staff and teachers, for their ongoing support and engagement with the parent body.

We particularly wish to acknowledge our Principal, Catherine Alcock, whose constant support has played such a pivotal role in creating a strong, united and connected Monte community. It is the strength of this community that has sustained all of us during what can only be described as “challenging times”.

We miss Catherine Alcock’s familiar presence at our P&F events and she is constantly in our prayers.

Sue Boudakin & Anna Willis
MSAMC
P&F Presidents
2013 so far has been a busy year for the Monte Ex-Students’ Association. Over the past few years the Association has been focusing on engaging ex-students in the many events and activities that take place at the College and it has been great to see the numbers increase.

The Annual Reunion and AGM was held on Sunday 24 February, followed by lunch in the Generalate Courtyard. It was great to see many new faces amongst the ‘regulars’! We would love to see more of our younger ex-students attend in the future, as one of the most enjoyable parts of this day is getting together with our older ex-students and sharing memories of Monte.

We are seeing an increase in connections through our online Ex-Students’ community and even ran an online ‘Pick the Oscars Competition’ which was won by Catherine Young (2001) with Carol Marchei (1957) and Sarah Kim (2010) coming second and third. Thanks to the following ex-students for donating prizes: Katie Bryant (1970) www.katieb.com.au; Alison Carr (Breen 1990) www.treatsfromhome.com.au; Madeleine Tuckfield-Carrano (1975) www.artsite.com.au; Melissa Ashcroft (Macalyk) www.leonaedmiston.com.au; Jacqueline Dossor (Class of 1999) is based in London and performs with a group called the Haydn Ensemble who toured Australia in early March.

Jacqueline has been keeping us updated on her career and we were thrilled that we were able to organise a group of 17 ex-students and friends to see Jacqueline perform at the Sydney Opera House on Sunday 2 March. We hope to be able to arrange more of these activities in the future. Please let us know if you, or an ex-student you know, is involved in anything you feel may be of interest.

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The International Women’s Day Breakfast held on Friday 8 March, is always a popular event at Monte and this year we had over 20 ex-students join the breakfast. It’s an early start but those who attended were motivated by the speakers’ passion on the subject of environmental sustainability and how we can take action and make an impact even through small changes. We hope to see more of you at this event next year.

Over the past six months, a group of ex-students and friends have been knitting blanket squares to support the Mercy Foundation’s Home in a Box Project. The Home in a Box Project was developed to help formerly homeless people sustain their new housing, by providing items to create a home. There is nothing more homely than a hand-made knitted blanket and we are thrilled to report that we now have squares to complete two large adult blankets, two small children’s blankets, plus a completed large blanket, two gorgeous dolls and five teddy bears. Thanks to all those who have supported this most worthy cause with special thanks to Margaret Smith (Rae 1959), Janice Tompsett (Carragher 1956), Lorraine Jensen (Durant 1965), Lorraine Wheeler (past parent), Jan O’Donnell (friend of Monte), Gemma Metzker (1983) and Annette Benaud (1974). More knitters are needed, if you are interested in knitting, please let us know.

Back to Monte Day held in conjunction with Monte’s Annual Open Day was once again a great success. It was fantastic to see so many ex-students young and old visiting the College and catching up with old friends. This is a great day for ex-students to see the College at its vibrant best and find out what the Monte girls of today are all about.

The Association continues to support the MAGnet group (Mercy Action Group Network) in their fundraising endeavours. MAGnet is a group of ex-students from Sydney’s five Mercy Schools, the group has adopted local and international initiatives, involving the ministry of Mercy Sisters and others. Most recently the group held a High Tea at Stormaston House on Sunday 5 May, to raise vital funds to provide birthing kits to mothers in remote areas of Papua New Guinea. Thank you to all the ex-students who attended, we raised $3,500.

I look forward to reporting on the results of the Monte Ex-Students Strategic Directions Review in the December issue of the Monte Gazette. Thank you to all those ex-students who have been or are involved in organising anniversary reunions in 2013!

Kate Anderson (Ford, Class of 1992) President
Not many Year 7s can say their grandfather is a Monte old boy! Julia Sheedy commenced at Monte this year. Her aunt Fiona Sheedy also attended Monte (Class of 1978), along with her grandmother Angela Sheedy (Pile, Class of 1951) and her grandfather, John Sheedy (who was at Monte in 1940).

Julia’s grandfather, John, was at Monte for one year only in 1940 when he was in Year 2. He caught the train to school by himself every day, with the butcher at Lindfield and a policeman in North Sydney helping him to cross the highway at each end of his daily trip. Year 2 was a co-ed class taught by Sister Columkille. John made his First Holy Communion at the Monte chapel that year and was in a percussion band. John went on to become a dentist in private practice, then in public practice at Westmead hospital – teaching final year Sydney University dentistry students. He is now a retired, fit and healthy 79 year old.

Julia’s grandmother, Angela, began at Monte in Year 8, she has been lifelong friends with her Monte classmates and in the 1970s was President of the Monte Ex-Students’ Association. Julia’s aunt, Fiona also went to Monte in 1977 and 1978 for Years 11 and 12. She is now a primary school teacher – specialising in teaching blind children.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MARGARET O’BRIEN (CLASS OF 1995)

Margaret O’Brien left Australia at the end of 2011 bound for a six-week volunteering placement in Colombia. After just three weeks, she realised she had found her passion. She is now the instigator of two new education projects in Columbia, working with the local community; Literacy & Numeracy, and University Readiness and Leadership.

“In the areas in which I work, the gaps in education are too obvious. For example, 18 out of the first 40 children I tested couldn’t read and write. Out of the 200 students who graduated from the local high school, 35 sat the Public University entrance exam but only four passed. These children want to be engineers, doctors, accountants and why shouldn’t they?”

Margaret’s goal is to offer 10 university scholarships of $600 a year including Margaret said.

Call for Volunteers

Margaret is also looking for 10 international volunteers to help on the summer Leadership Camp program in December and January 2013/14. A great way to take what you have learnt at Monte and put that into practice on an international scale. Spanish is desirable but not essential. Volunteers are based in Cartagena. Minimum commitment of two weeks is required and volunteers pay for their own living expenses.

If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring a girl’s university scholarship please email Margaret for further information at volunteeringcolombia@gmail.com.

Fellow Monte girl Samantha Coras (Class of 1995) joined Margaret last year to raise money for an IT Literacy program.

.ArrayList of POWERFUL IMPACT PROJECTS

- Scholarship
- Literacy & Numeracy
- University Readiness & Leadership

EX-STUDENTS

ALLEGRA GIAGU (CLASS OF 2003)

As quoted in the Monte Gazette of 1999: “Congratulations to Allegra Giagu (Year 8) who successfully auditioned for a role in the Opera Australia production of ‘Turandot’. Allegra, whose ambition is to be an Opera Singer, is a member of Australia’s national children’s choir, Gondwana Voices, and travelled with the choir recently to the World Symposium on Choral Music in Rotterdam.”

Allegra reflects:

“It’s been quite a journey since my days at Monte! After leaving, I worked as a young soloist with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and in 2005 fronted the Massed Pipes & Drums as the Featured Soprano for Leo Schofield’s ‘Edinburgh Military Tattoo – Salute to Australia’. This was really the point where I realised that I wanted to move overseas. I commenced my studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in mid-2005, and went on to graduate in 2010 from the Royal College of Music, specialising in Opera.

Since that time, I have filled my career with a balance of Concert Recital, Staged Opera and Oratorio. I’ve even dabbled in Film and Soundtrack; most notably a Duet on the recently Oscar Nominated Soundtrack by Dario Marianelli, for Director, Joe Wright’s version of Tolsotoy’s ‘Anna Karenina’ starring Keira Knightly and Jude Law. It was quite an experience on set.

I go on tour as often as possible, and love working in Germany, Austria and of course, Australia. Along the way, I have been lucky enough to perform for the Dalai Lama and at St Peter’s in the Vatican City. I hope my next stop will be a contract with a good UK or European Opera House.

My years at Monte gave me an opportunity to shine as a young performer. I sang regularly for services in the Monte Chapel, appeared in competitions with The Monte Singers and School Choir, and in Year 8, I played the supporting lead, Lady Thiang, in the 1999 Monte production of ‘The King and I’. The following year I played the lead role in the Monte/Loreto/Aloyisius’ production of ‘How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying’.

JULIE OCKERBY (TA, CLASS OF 1991)

Julie is the Creative Director of highly respected interior design firm, Meli Studio. Prior to acquiring Meli Studio, Julie established renowned Northern Beaches interior design firm, Style Space Colour, of which she still owns.

Julie has worked alongside some of the most innovative hoteliers and designers around the world. With a background in marketing boutique hotels, designing avant-garde and functional commercial spaces, plus a love for fabrics, decorative arts, colours and textures, this combination has given Julie a unique insight into a world where one dreams of, and has been dynamic in developing these concepts into the residential arena.

Her influences have been through the various people she has met, places she has travelled too, and her fascination with cultural arts, food and wine. A graduate of the University of Technology, Julie is also a member of Colourways Australia, and the Design Institute of Australia, and is a Lecturer at the International School of Colour & Design (ISCD).
JENNIFER HARRISON (CLASS OF 1973)

Jennifer updates us on her career:

“I am a Neuropsychiatrist specialising in children’s developmental disorders. I run the Developmental Assessment Program and Neuropsychiatry Clinic for Children and Youth at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne. I am passionate about the welfare of children with disability and their parents. My career has spanned nearly 20 years and I am still learning from the extraordinary children I meet every day. I believe that literature, visual art and music have also enriched my life. I know that my Monte education has helped shape these ideas and made more possible my love of poetry. Since graduating I have published five poetry collections and was recently awarded the Christopher Brennan Award for lifetime achievement in Australian poetry. A year ago I was invited to curate poetry for the Dax Centre, the Australian collection of mental health art, housed at the University of Melbourne. The Dax Centre Poetry Collection seeks to educate others and stimulate discussion about mental health, trauma, and artistic expression. I find this work particularly stimulating as it brings together poetry, mental health, arts and science: it’s as though all strands of my working life have finally come together.”

2013 REUNIONS 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).

MASALOUP LUNCH – 50+ YEARS
Date: Wednesday 23 October, Midday
Venue: Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College Chapel
Contact: Pat Clarke, Monte Development Office 9409 6242 pclarke@monte.nsw.edu.au

CLASS OF 1973 – 40 YEARS
Date: Sunday 13 October, Midday
Venue: McQuin Foyer
Contact: Maggie Bowden-Smith maggiebowdensmith@yahoo.com

CLASS OF 1978 – 35 YEARS
Date: Saturday 17 August, 7:30pm
Venue: Garden Brasserie, Grosvenor St, Neutral Bay $45.00
Contact: Julie Summerville (Grezoux) jasummer@bigpond.net.au or 0413 800 300

CLASS OF 1988 – 25 YEARS
Date: Friday 15 November, 7.00 pm
Venue: Terrace Room, The Union Hotel
Contact: Christina Arnett (Tremain) ctremain@optusnet.com.au

CLASS OF 1993 – 20 YEARS
Date: Saturday 12 October, 7.00 pm
Venue: Mercy Hall, Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College, $60
Contact: Patricia Rowling (Otter) trishrowling@gmail.com 0414 906 734

CLASS OF 2003 – 10 YEARS
Date: Saturday 24 August, 7.00 pm
Venue: To be confirmed
Contact: Bernadette Gennell monte2003reunion@hotmail.com.au 0450 303 837

CLASS OF 2012 – YEAR 13 REUNION
Date: Wednesday 27 November, 6.00 pm
Venue: Terrace Hotel, Mount Street, North Sydney
Contact: Pat Clarke 9409 6242 pclarke@monte.nsw.edu.au

CANBERRA REUNION – FOR ALL EX-STUDENTS LIVING, WORKING, STUDYING OR VISITING CANBERRA
Date: Thursday 29 August, 6.30 pm
Venue: Cream Cafe & Bar, Canberra Centre Shop FG10, Bundab St, Canberra, $30.00
Contact: Nicole O’Donnell nodonnell@monte.nsw.edu.au

CAN YOU HELP?

We are seeking volunteers to assist with organising the 2013

CLASS OF 2008 – 5 YEARS REUNION
If you are interested in forming a committee please contact Pat Clarke, Monte Development Office, 9409 6242 pclarke@monte.nsw.edu.au for a copy of the ‘How to Plan a Successful Reunion’. We would love the opportunity to meet with you and explain how we can assist you to plan your reunion using the Monte Ex-Students Online Community.

REUNION REPORTS
50 YEAR REUNION – CLASS OF 1963

On 9 March 2013, 58 members from the Intermediate Certificate of 1961 and Leaving Certificate of 1963 met at the College for their 50 year reunion. Twelve had never returned to the College in that time at all and were delighted and surprised to see the present campus. They came from as far as Washington, NZ, WA, QLD, VIC and many country towns in NSW.

40 YEAR REUNION – CLASS OF 1972

On Saturday 3 November the Class of 1972 held their 40-year reunion at Mona Vale – it was time to celebrate a milestone, renew friendships, share life experiences and reminisce about days gone by.

30 YEAR REUNION – CLASS OF 1983

My how time flies. On Saturday 23 March 2013, the Class of 1983 held their 30 Year school reunion. Sixty five excited ladies met on the Circular Drive for a quick tour of the school, followed by drinks and canapés in the Generalate Courtyard. There were lots of laughs and stories shared amongst the group and we all decided that we wouldn’t wait 10 years until the next reunion.

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FAREWELL

Our Community is saddened to announce the deaths of the following Monte Ex-Students and send our heartfelt condolences to family and friends.

KATHARINE NATTRASS
(Class of 2009)
Katie passed away on 4 February 2013, aged 21 years. Loving daughter of Glenn and Sally (deceased). So dearly loved, so dearly missed.

PAULINE KEARNEY
(Class of 1960)
Sadly, Pauline passed away 18 January 2013.

ROSEMARY LAMB
(Lee, Class of 1965)
Rosemary Lamb died on 23 July 2012, aged 63. Rosemary was preceded at Monte by her mother, Moira Lee (Anderson, Class of 1936), and followed by her daughter, Fiona (Class of 2005). Rosemary went on to study piano at the Conservatory of Music then to train as a primary school teacher. She married Sandy (in the Monte Chapel) in 1982. Together they raised two children.

NATASHA MACKAY/DANIELS
(Symkowsky, Class of 1954)
Natasha Mackay/Daniels passed away on 6 December 2012 after a brave battle with cancer. Natasha was a boarder at Monte for many years and reminisced often about all the antics the boarders got up to. One evening, Natasha and the choir performed at St Mary’s Cathedral. The boarders were back late to school – and the sisters had locked the gate. The boarders had to give each other boost-ups to climb Monte’s high brick wall to get back into the school. The girls always imagined climbing the brick wall to get out of Monte but not to get in! Excelling in music at Monte, Natasha played the piano, violin and conducted the orchestra for many years. Natasha has fond memories of Sr. Madeleine, her piano teacher. Natasha remembers whenever she was sick Sr. Madeleine was always so kind and would bring her a tasty morsel from the kitchen. Natasha went on to study commerce and singing; singing in a quartet with Dame Joan Sutherland at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Natasha is survived by her husband, Daniel, son, Bede, daughter, Larissa Mackay (Class of 1980) and grandchildren, Lucas and James.

GENIA QUICK
(Symkowski, Class of 1943)
Genia passed away on 9 August 2012. Wife to Vivian, mother of Jenny (Class of 1977), Kate (Class of 1984), Matthew, Gregory and Philip. Genia lived most of her life in Cremorne. Exceptionally talented both in singing and piano, she achieved her (AMusA) in Piano at Monte. Genia performed in numerous concerts and held the lead role in the yearly senior-school musical. In 1943, her debating team brought home the First ever Senior Cup for Monte. Genia spoke fluent Russian and in her leaving Certificate, her accomplishments were outstanding where she achieved first-class Honours, was runner-up to the Dux and was awarded third in the state for Music.

After school, Genia attended Sydney University, then proceeded to study singing and piano at the NSW Conservatorium of Music and Sydney Teachers College, where she graduated with a Diploma of Music Education. This began her Music Teaching career which spanned a period of over 30 years. Genia was highly respected in her chosen field and many of her students have also followed careers in music. Her last teaching position was at James Ruse Agricultural High School, where she taught for nine years. Genia, an incredibly gifted and inspirational lady with the voice of an angel.

MARIE THERESE ‘TERRY’ HALL
(Mooy, Class of 1957)
Passed away on 30 December 2012. Terry loved Monte and always kept in touch with her close classmates, as well as hardly ever missing a reunion.

SUSANNE HENRY
(Reilly, Class of 1962)
The Class of 1960/62 would like to pay a special tribute to their much loved classmate Sue Henry (Reilly) who passed away suddenly on 14 March 2013 after battling cancer for some years. Sue remembered her days at Monte with much fondness, particularly in the sporting area where she excelled. Sue maintained many friendships from those days and will be sadly missed. A Requiem Mass was held for her at St Mary’s Church. Sue is survived by husband Geoff, three children and 13 grandchildren.
ASHLEIGH BOND  
(Class of 2001)  
married Peter Hiilkenberg  
on Sunday 7 April 2013.  
Ashleigh’s mother is  
Margaret Bond  
(Waldron, Class of 1971).

ANGELE TITMUSS  
(Class of 1999)  
married Stephen Versteegh  
on 5 January 2013  
in the Monte Chapel.

CATHERINE DARCY  
(Class of 1999)  
married Nicholas Cloudsdale  
on Saturday 9 February 2013.  
Left to right are ex Monte girls Holly Bray,  
Brani Simonovska, Jennifer Bradstreet  
(all class of 2000), and on the right is  
current Monte year 12 student Olivia Doyle.

REBECCA GREGG  
(Class of 1999)  
married Charlie Molina  
on Saturday 20 April 2013.  
Pictured here with her bridesmaids,  
sisters Daniela Minns (Gregg, Class of 1960)  
and Alicia Gregg.

REBECCA SHAKESPEARE  
(Class of 2005)  
married James Hayes  
on Saturday 23 March 2013.

REBECCA GREGG  
(Class of 1999)  
married Charlie Molina  
on Saturday 20 April 2013.  
Pictured here with her bridesmaids,  
sisters Daniela Minns (Gregg, Class of 1960)  
and Alicia Gregg.

ANGELA TITMUSS  
(Class of 1999)  
married Stephen Versteegh  
on 5 January 2013  
in the Monte Chapel.
Masalou was a fine house located in Miller Street North Sydney. In 1877-78 it was the home of the Hon. Francis Lord and named after his daughters – Mary, Sarah and Louisa. At this time Mr Lord was looking for a buyer to purchase his home.

“It was a large house, colonial in design, with wooden shuttered French windows opening onto verandahs and balconies adorned with wrought iron. The grounds in which the house was set were extensive, and besides the magnificent trees – Oaks, the Bunya, Moreton Bay Figs and Camphorlaurels – there were flower beds, an orchard and a kitchen garden. However, the owner of Masalou made it clear that he did not wish to sell to anyone planning to use the property as a school or religious institution.” Sr M. Baptista Rankin (1975). The History of Monte Sant’ Angelo Mercy College. William H Homer, Australia p.8.

In 1877 Mother Ignatius had been looking to purchase a new property due to the growth of her school, a timber cottage and various wooden buildings, on the northern corner of West and Carlow Sts, St Leonards (as it was called then), which she and three sisters, opened towards the end of 1875.

Mother Ignatius had originally moved to the North Shore from St Patrick’s in the city, in order for the Sisters to enjoy fresh country air away from the dust and noise of the city, to rest and recuperate. However, there had been no rest, as they became fully occupied running a day and boarding school, giving instructions and carrying out visitations to the wider community. The school grew.

It was at this time that a gentleman, Mr George Whiting met Mother Ignatius. He was to become the greatest friend and benefactor for the school. George Whiting agreed to act on behalf of the Sisters and purchase Masalou in his own name from the unsuspecting Francis Lord in 1878 for £7,000. And on 6 November the same year he sold it, at the same price, to Mother Ignatius and the Sisters.

The name was changed to Monte Sant’ Angelo and on 1 April 1879 the Sisters took possession of the property. They remained in the West Street property until various alterations could be carried out at Monte Sant’ Angelo to provide classrooms and sleeping accommodation for the boarders. It was not until July 1879 that the new school opened on the present site. At this time Mother Ignatius transferred the Novitiate from St Patrick’s and Monte became the Mother House of the Congregation.

It was with great reception that we welcomed Mrs Beryl Mitchell, George Whiting’s great, great, granddaughter to the College in March this year. She came to continue her research into her family history and to meet with staff and students, and with the College Archivist Ms Ng.

We can see subtle reminders of the Whiting name and legacy in the school architecture; from the Whiting name on the main reception building, to the picture of the whiting fish and the initials G.R.W and L.M.W embedded in the stained-glass windows of the Chapel.