A NEW LEGACY OF GIVING P3

MONTE WOMEN DON’T STAND BY, THEY STAND UP P5

WHAT ARE THE IB LEARNER PROFILES? P17

UNICEF WASH IN ZIMBABWE P17

TOUCH FOOTBALL – BEST OVERALL SCHOOL P21

MONTE ALUMNI – WHERE ARE THEY NOW? P29
I am a child
I am all the things of my past
I am my mum’s laugh
I am my dad’s eyes
I am all I see
Hockey balls speeding down the field
Piles of homework
Raindrops falling from the sky
Cats wanting to be fed
An endless slope
I am all I hear
‘Dinner’s ready!’
‘Why?’
‘Yes please!’
Sister singing in the shower
Music pulsing through the walls
I am all I feel and taste
Soft fur beneath my fingers
The rough pages of a book
Crunching carrots
Ice stuck to my tongue
Sugar crystals on sweet wrappers
I am all I remember
Water lapping at my feet while someone calls my name
A city disappearing into the sun
Ivy strangling a silver tree
I am all I have been taught
Never talk to strangers
If you don’t believe you don’t receive
I am all I think
Thoughts no one will ever know
Unless I tell them
I am all those things
I am like a caterpillar and these things are my cocoon
One day I will free myself
Because
I’m the woman of the future
Welcome to the Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016.

To commemorate this Jubilee Year of Mercy we are proud to launch a new legacy of giving, which will help build a better future for deserving young women - the Monte Blue Ribbon Bursary Appeal.

As Pope Francis proclaimed: ‘Mercy is the force that reawakens us for new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.’

A piece of history was created in June when the whole College united to form a human blue ribbon to celebrate the inaugural Monte Bursary Blue Ribbon Day.

The United Nations tells us that nothing is more important to humanity than the empowerment of women.

At Monte we stand for sisterhood. We stand beside every single girl. We stand for every deserving young woman who wants an education, who needs an education and where an education will make all the difference.

Together, we can make our community even stronger.

I am very proud of all our students, staff and community who have already embraced the Appeal and am excited about what the Blue Ribbon Appeal will do in the next hundred or two hundred years.

Mrs Nicole Christensen, Principal

The Blue Ribbon Appeal 2016 commenced in May with the Blue and Blue Lunch at NSW Parliament House and will conclude in August with the Blue Ribbon Rugby Lunch. Commemorative Blue Ribbon pins are available for purchase for students and community during the campaign. Alumni and the parent community have also been invited to donate via the Blue Ribbon Annual Appeal mail campaign.

To give a tax deductible gift please call 9409 6214 or to donate via our website at www.monte.nsw.edu.au
Excerpts from a speech given by Jessica Elliott (Blue and Blue Scholar, Class of 2012) at the Blue and Blue Scholarship Lunch, 13 May 2016

“It is with great pleasure that I have been asked to speak about the Blue and Blue scholarship, having been a recipient five years ago, and the impact a Monte education has on young women.

So, what exactly is this Blue and Blue scholarship? The Blue and Blue scholarship is about education. About recognising the advocates, the pioneer women, the women with a social conscience that are created from a Monte - Mercy - education.

Irrespective of what opportunities we take up within a Monte education, whether we are a member of Sr Carmel’s Mercy Action Group or not, or what our aspirations are, one thing is certain - women leave Monte with a deep social conviction. I believe it is this, coupled with the resolute belief and knowledge, that women can do anything, from being the captain of the AFL team, to excelling in the world of STEM, to being on a leadership team formed exclusively of women, that means that Monte women are change-makers.

It is clear from my own experiences, and those of my friends’, that many, many Monte women continue this mandate of service and advocacy in a very express way. Without consciously doing it, I don’t think I could have picked to study something that more reflects the values imbued in a Monte education – Human rights, gender, and international law. And how could I forget the good old maxim, that I’m sure many of you identify here with - that a Monte girl loves to talk, so of course I’ve incorporated a good dash of debating and courtroom advocacy on the side.

Leaving aside career choices or aspirations, what I believe is even more defining about a Monte woman, is how we act on a day to day basis, how we engage with those around us, and what we choose not to stand by.

Because Monte women don’t stand by, they stand up.

And I think it’s these things, that I’m sure we all encounter on a day-to-day basis, that means that a Monte education creates young women, who without hesitation, use their skills, convictions and deep-seated belief in what is right, to live out a life of mercy.

And it is exactly this, that the Blue and Blue scholarship celebrates. Women, empowered by a Monte education, to enact social change, to have a voice, and to be pioneers within their communities.”
When Catherine McAuley was preparing to teach the students who would come into her care, she went to France to study the educational system there and to observe the work of the Daughters of Charity in the slums of Paris. In the same spirit of care for our students, the ongoing professional learning of our teachers supports the quality of the work we do. At present, the College is participating in two important projects through commitment to our girls and students more broadly.

The Association of Independent Schools NSW, in partnership with the Innovation Unit UK, have created an initiative entitled ‘Elevate: Agile Design for High Potential Learners’. Utilising innovative design principles, the fifteen participating schools, from across the education sectors, are working as a Community of Practice. Agile design principles are being rigorously explored as the teams from each school seek to develop “next” practices in teaching and learning. These practices will seek to elevate the performance of high potential learners in each school, and when shared, drive change across and beyond the schools included. In order to develop something beyond best practice, it is clear that a methodology to support better thinking has to be employed.

Our team from Monte are confident that in time, through a focus on the current needs of high potential learners, much better practice will exist on scale and be diffused through all schools.

Our Principals as Leaders of Literacy project, led by Nicole Christensen, has enabled a group of our learning leaders to collaborate in a year long project involving Professor Tony Townsend (Griffith University and University of Tasmania) and Mrs Anne Bayetto (Flinders University). Participants from the five schools involved are reviewing the fundamentals of literacy acquisition so they can identify better strategies to embed into current practices. This project is assisting us to actively ensure students improve those skills which make them effective and efficient readers and able to acquire new literacies. We know that our graduates need to be people able to express their thoughts and ideas with confidence and clarity.

It is exciting work to be able to recognise macro trends and seek ways in which to respond that will have a positive impact on learning. The work in both projects has really benefited from building mixed teams of staff and working with other schools to incorporate a broader perspective. We feel confident that the needs and ambitions of different learners will be better addressed through the practices that will emerge. The inclusion of student insights into the projects, motivates our innovation and improvement, and has been most interesting. Our young women are thoughtful and articulate when it comes to their learning experiences and it is clear that staff at Monte are dedicated to improving the quality of student experience. The enthusiastic participation in these projects, to inform their work and the practice of teachers beyond our community, has been wonderful.

“We know that our graduates need to be people able to express their thoughts and ideas with confidence and clarity”
United Nations’ (UN) very powerful message this year for International Women's Day is that violence against women is never okay.

The World Health Organisation estimates that one in three women across the globe have experienced some form of violence, frequently by someone close to them. In Australia, one in two women seeking help are turned away from a refuge every day.

Violence against women is a significant violation of women's human rights and has a profound and devastating impact on women, their families and communities. There are mothers in our own local community who live in fear of domestic violence against themselves and their daughters and sons. No section of our society in Australia is immune.

Living free of violence and from the fear of violence is a basic human right. Violence against women is also a major obstacle to achieving development outcomes, including gender equality and economic empowerment.

At the International Women’s Day Breakfast, the UN called for us to “Champion Empowerment” against violence. Education is one of the most powerful ways we can champion change.

Our founder, Catherine McAuley believed that nothing was more important than the education of women. Catherine McAuley’s philosophy on education transcends time and generations, as it is truly about empowering women.

We must move from talk to purposeful action. Let us all lead and champion tangible actions to bring about the change we want to see as men and women working together as equal partners.

Mrs Nicole Christensen, Principal

“At Monte’s International Women’s Day Breakfast on Wednesday 9 March, Dr Michelle Sanson PhD (International and Humanitarian Lawyer and Senior Lecturer in Law at University of Western Sydney), spoke of this year’s theme - Pledge for Parity. Her message that we all should commit to do what we can, within our sphere of influence resonated with more than 370 guests who attended the breakfast. “We can all make a difference. Every time you step back and facilitate someone else, you lead from behind, you give some wind to the sails and maybe you have even given a boat, but it is the affected people who sail and decide on the destination.”

Audre Lorde.

“When I dare to be powerful - to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.”
BLUE AND BLUE SCHOLAR 2016-2017

Congratulations to Georgia Baines of Year 11 who was awarded the Blue and Blue Scholarship for 2016-2017.

The Blue and Blue Scholarship is awarded to a student who best exemplifies the College motto: Religio, Scientia, Cultus. Georgia has been recognised for her academic achievement, participation in College co-curricular activities as well as her contribution to the liturgical, justice and service life of the Community.

STAND FOR SISTERHOOD

Jordana Caravella, School Captain

Highlights from the Year 7 Welcome Mass and Dinner address, 21 February 2016

“Make Mercy a habit not just an action.”

“Be a voice for the voiceless and look outside our communities to work towards global injustices.”

“Be each other’s network of strength. Your sisters, parents and Monte community are here supporting you to be the best person you can be.”

“In 2016 we opened the doors to Monte’s new campaign, ‘Stand for Sisterhood’, where we encompass everyone regardless of gender, race, culture or beliefs.”

“Be the best person you can be.”

MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERS 2016

Ms Annalisa Ramund, Student Leadership – Middle School Coordinator

Congratulations to the Year 9 students elected as Middle School Leaders: Tamara Eide, Olivia Haley, Elizabeth Kells, Charlotte Leamon, Constance Nicolaou and Samirah Yip.

This semester’s focus for the Middle School SRC is based on the quote: “If it’s going to be, it’s up to me” – accredited to William H. Johnsen.

By exploring the elements of this quote in conjunction with the ten IB learner profiles, the Middle School Leaders and SRC Representatives are encouraging all students of the Middle Years to realise their own strengths and potentials.

HOUSE PLAYS

Congratulations to McQuoin, winners of the 2015 House Plays. Our biggest House Plays yet, over 800 students performed to the theme “If I Could”.

CADET PROMOTION

Congratulations to Lesley Spencer (Year 11), promoted to CUO (Cadet Under Officer) by the NSW AAC Brigade Commander COL Weir.

SHAPE

Mr Adrian Johnston, Head of Department TAS

Monte’s reputation for excellence in Design and Hospitality education was affirmed with the achievements of the Year 12 HSC and IB DP 2015 cohort.

Olivia Santopolo from HSC Design and Technology had her Major Design Project nominated for the SHAPE Exhibition (previously known as DesignTech) at the Powerhouse Museum. SHAPE continues as an annual recognition and display of exemplar works from around the State. Congratulations to both Olivia and the TAS staff on this outstanding result.
ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE TOUR
Ms Maria Gaudioso & Ms Annalisa Ramundi,
Languages Department
The third Italian Language and Culture Tour took place in January with 24 students and four teachers embarking on a journey of mangiare, macchiato and Michelangelo!
Students attended the Dante Alighieri Language School in Siena in order to further develop their Italian language and culinary skills.

DA VINCI DECATHLON - MONTE PLACES FIRST IN ENGINEERING
Ms Lauren James,
Gifted & Talented Coordinator
At the Da Vinci Decathlon on 25 May, over 60 schools competed in each division. Year 9 came first in Engineering and second in Art and Poetry, and Year 10 came second in General Knowledge. Teams of eight students from each year group from Years 7 to 10 applied their existing subject knowledge in areas such as English, Maths and Science in new and unfamiliar contexts, as well as tackled problems in areas such as Philosophy where they had little prior experience.

WHAT ARE THE IB LEARNER PROFILES?
Katie Richards, Niamh McAnulty, Annabel Oliveira,
Lena Mouatt, Katrina Milliner (Year 12)
As part of our IB Community and Service project, we created banners displaying the IB learner profiles, which are a set of values that define our attitudes towards our role as lifelong learners.
The profiles aim to develop students who are balanced, open-minded, knowledgeable, thinkers, risk-takers, communicators, caring, reflective, inquirers, and principled.
On each individual banner is a well-known person whom we believe best embodies each IB learner profile.

ART FOR MOLO FOR CHILDREN’S RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA
Ms Natalie Hendricks,
Library Content Manager
Students in Monte’s After Hours Art class took part in a collaborative project with students from the Children’s Art Centre in Cape Town, South Africa.
Under the guidance of Ms Kate Watson and Natalie Hendricks, they created a series of lino prints depicting the theme “Home”.
These creative and inspirational images, along with art works from Cape Town were for sale to raise funds for a child-rights organisation in South Africa called Molo Songololo. This organisation aims to motivate and empower young people of their rights and responsibilities, promote their participation in community actions, and build capacity of service providers to increase response for the care and protection of children in need.
COMMUNITY SPIRIT AT MONTE

YEAR 7 WELCOME MASS AND DINNER
Students and parents joined together at St Mary's Church for the Year 7 Welcome Mass, followed by a dinner at Monte's McQuoin Hall.

YEAR 12 MOTHER DAUGHTER HIGH TEA
Ellie Saffron (Class of 2007) spoke at the Year 12 Mother Daughter High Tea, a day where mothers and daughters celebrated their special relationship.

YEAR 12 FATHER DAUGHTER DINNER DANCE
Fathers and their daughters enjoyed the chance to spend an evening together, impressing each other with their dance skills.

YEAR 9 PARENTS' MORNING TEA
Parents and staff met for a chat and a cup of tea at the Year 9 Morning Tea.

MERCY PRINCIPALS
Monte organized and hosted the inaugural coming together of Mercy Principals from around Australia. Thirteen Mercy Principals joined our round table conversation with the focus on Mercy formation and establishing a stronger Australian Mercy network.

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CAREER INSIGHTS EVENING
Record numbers of students and parents enjoyed an evening with more than 30 Alumni at this year's Career Insights event.

YEAR 7 GRANDPARENTS DAY
On 27 February, as part of a small group of Australian representatives who successfully competed in a video making competition for the World Education Games, we departed Sydney for Zimbabwe accompanied by our mums and Ms Bernasconi.

The objective of this trip to Africa was to travel with local African and Australian UNICEF staff to visit programs established by UNICEF and supported by the proceeds of the World Education Games. During this trip we visited three satellite primary schools in Masvingo to see the early results of UNICEF WASH initiative that has been established in a number of Zimbabwean schools. This aims to increase school attendance, promote good hygiene and reduce incidences of diarrhea and other diseases. UNICEF WASH stands for Water and Sanitation Hygiene and aims to educate the students and spread the message to the students’ families and therefore across the wider school community.

It was an eye opening experience that showed us how we can sometimes take things for granted, such as having immediate access to water and an education. There were two girls we met at one school that we will never forget. Like us, these girls were 14 years of age, but contrary to us they had no shoes and walked eight kilometres each way every day to attend school. Their school had no roof and can be best described as a hut, and in one instance was simply a piece of sheet metal nailed to a tree. Six months ago, UNICEF, with the help of the World Education Games, implemented the WASH program providing them with a water bore and toilets. This has significantly reduced the spread of diseases and allowed them to continue attending school.

We encourage everyone to take part in the World Education Games in 2017 in order to help raise funds for UNICEF. Because, as we know, education, water and sanitation are basic human rights. Together we must stand up, speak out and act on behalf of the poor and those who need our voice.

HARMONY DAY
21 March, 2016
Bienvenue. Добро пожаловать. Willkommen.

This year’s Harmony Day celebrated cultural diversity and respect for everyone who calls Australia home. Monte supported the Harmony Day Project: The Welcome, initiated by North Sydney Council.

MEMORIES OF THE STRUGGLE

Natalie Hendricks, our Library Content Manager co-curated the current Memories of the Struggle – Australian Against Apartheid exhibition in the Museum of Australian Democracy (Old Parliament House), Canberra.

“Co-curating the Memories of the Struggle exhibition has been an amazing experience and brought back so many happy memories, re-kindled old friendships and built new ones. Working with the rest of the committee and other contributors has made me realise how many people have been committed to the cause of human rights and social justice and what huge sacrifices have been made. It has been an honour and a pleasure to be part of this team.”
PARENTS AND FRIENDS

“IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD” IS AN AFRICAN PROVERB THAT WAS BROUGHT INTO THE MODERN LEXICON BY HILLARY CLINTON WHILE SHE WAS THE FIRST LADY OF THE US AND NEATLY SUMMARISES THE CORE OBJECTIVE OF THE P&F – TO CREATE, SUSTAIN AND GROW A COMMUNITY WHICH WILL IN TURN SUPPORT, NOURISH AND EXTEND THE STUDENTS OF MONTE – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

Every parent and carer of a Monte girl is automatically a member of the P&F and is welcome to participate in whatever ways, and to whatever degree, they wish to. Whether it is through attending events, acting as a Class Parent or being a member of the P&F Executive, everyone is welcome and has something to bring to the Monte community.

Of course, it is not by accident that many of the Mercy values – including Service, Human Dignity and Mercy – are realised through the community-building events and initiatives that the P&F run.

Some highlights of recent events include:

• Welcome drinks for new parents to the College
• Guest speakers discussing topics relevant to parenting teenagers in the 21st century
• Class and year events including morning teas, evening gatherings, movie nights and the Mother Daughter High Tea

These events are designed to allow parents from across the entire College to come together in a relaxed, social environment, so as to build relationships and foster a sense of Community.

Being a parent of a teenager is rarely easy and even less often, appreciated. Aristotle clearly wasn’t having a great day when he said, “Young people’s lives are regulated more by feeling than by reasoning – all their mistakes are in the direction of doing things excessively and vehemently. They overdo everything – they love too much, hate too much, and the same with everything else.”

I imagine many of us have harboured not dissimilar feelings at some point!

A supportive community with shared experiences, common goals and a collective ability to learn is at the centre of a village. That same sense of community underpins how the P&F helps Monte girls and their families not just survive the teenage years but to thrive and fully realise the potential that every girl has within them.

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

Peter De Vries is our new Director of Staff Services and has more than ten years generalist human resources experience including most recently at Gilbert and Tobin as Human Resources Manager. Peter is focused on the efficient and effective management of Human Resource systems, processes and practices within the College.

Alice Priest has joined Monte from St Scholastica’s College, Glebe, as our new Head of Faith Formation and Liturgy. Alice is an experienced Religious Education teacher and in her role Alice will have key responsibility for the faith and liturgical life of the College. We wish Alice well in this important role.

Nathanael Primrose-Heaney has joined Monte from MLC Burwood as the Head of Music Performance. Nathanael is an extremely accomplished cellist having performed around the world (Tokyo, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago and Indiana) and has collaborated with a number of renowned performers including Yo-Yo Ma (Boston), Leon Fleischer (New York) and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Nathanael brings a great energy to the College and will allow us to fully utilise the wonderful facilities of the Arts and Cultural Common.

Lisa Patterson has joined Monte from Queenwood as our new Head of Mathematics. Lisa has previously worked as the Director of Studies, Dean of Students and the Assistant Director of Curriculum at Queenwood and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the College. We look forward to Lisa’s contributions to the College.

STAFF NEWS

STAFF LEARNING JOURNEY TO GULAGA SACRED SITE

In the first days of the April break Monte staff and some of their family travelled to South Coast NSW to experience the Yuin culture and teaching lead by Yuin Elder and Loreman, Uncle Max Dulamunnum Harrison and his grandson Max III.

It seems evident that water, land and sky are, together with all living things, the Spirit. There is more certainty now that Spirit is everywhere. I felt the comforting wisdom of nature and realised how much there is to learn from it. Not always with words or explicit teaching but with the certainty that observing, listening and feeling will make the clues evident.

Katie Varela Batista

Silence allows us to consider the ‘ripple effect’ in our lives. The journey enabled a connection to the living land – being able to take medicine off trees after seeking permission in order for my daughter to start feeling better. It reinforced the concept for me that we look all the time but we rarely see what is in front of us – just as we hear but often do not listen to how we are called to act.

Tara Egger
TOUCH FOOTBALL – MONTE WINS BEST OVERALL SCHOOL AWARD

Monte won six grand finals at the Easts Term 1 Touch Football competition with another four teams finishing as runners up. This stellar performance saw Monte claim the trophy for overall school champions for the second year running and for the second time since joining the competition in 2008. Congratulations to all 27 teams. Congratulations also go to the following students who received ‘Best and Fairest’ honours for their respective division:

- Olivia Ingram (Senior E)
- Kate Ryan (Junior A)
- Casey Bartholomeusz (Junior G)

Touch Football is easily Monte’s fastest growing sport with over 300 students playing in Term 1. Some 90 Year 7 girls played touch as their first foray into sport at Monte.

SWIMMING

Monte won both 1st Division and Overall School Awards at this year’s CGSSSA Swimming Championships.

Congratulations to the following girls on their impressive swims:

- Paris Wong: 1st 13yrs 50m breaststroke
- Lucy Egerton: 1st 15yrs 50m butterfly
- Angela Tremain: 1st 15yrs 50m backstroke
- Jami Prowse: 1st 16yrs 50m freestyle, 1st 16yrs 50m butterfly, 1st Intermediate 200m freestyle, 1st 16yrs 100m freestyle
- Angelica Roth: 1st 17yrs & Over 50m breaststroke

NSWCCC BLUE AWARDS

Three Monte students received a NSWCCC Blue Award at the NSWCCC Blue Awards Ceremony. Awards are presented for accomplishments in 2015. The winners were:

- Emma Tuite (Class of 2015) – Water Polo. Emma was also selected in the Australian Schoolgirls Water Polo team that toured South Africa in December.
- Bree Delaney (Year 12) – Basketball. Bree was named tournament MVP and selected in the Australian Schools Team after her performances at the Pacific School Games in November last year.
- Jacqui Schafer (Class of 2015) was nominated for her second ‘Blue’ award having received one for the sport of swimming in 2014. Jacqui was awarded again in 2015. A second award is termed a ‘Bar’ award and Jacqui was presented with this – only the second Monte student to achieve such an honour in the 20 year history of the NSWCCC Sports Association. Jacqui also competed at the Pacific School Games Swimming Championships in November last year and won gold medals in the 100m backstroke, 200m Medley Relay and 400m Medley Relay as well as a silver medal in the 200m backstroke and a bronze in the 50m backstroke.

FOOTBALL

In response to an overwhelming number of requests in the 2015 student and parents sports surveys, Monte has introduced a ‘Pilot’ Football program in 2016. Over 100 students have formed seven teams and are playing in the Northern Suburbs Football Association competition on Sundays in winter.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Revenue: $12,000,000
- Expenses: $9,500,000
- Profit: $2,500,000

MONTE SWIMMING CARNIVAL RESULTS

Age Champions:
- 12 Year Age Champion: Natasha Hill, McAuley
- 13 Year Age Champion: Paris Wong, McAuley
- 14 Year Age Champion: Taylah Thompson, McQuoin
- 15 Year Age Champion: Angela Tremain, Rankin
- 16 Year Age Champion: Jami Prowse, Rankin
- 17+ Year Age Champion: Ainslie Scott, McAuley

MONTE SWIMMING CARNIVAL RESULTS - Age Champions:

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SOFTBALL

Monte won the CGSSSA Softball tournament for the first time in ten years, having defeated Marist Sister’s Woolwich 14-2 in the Grand Final.
I would like to welcome our new Monte Alumni Executive Officer, Stella Graham. Stella graduated from Monte in 2012 and is currently enrolled in her fourth year of Arts/Medicine (BA/BMed/MD) at the University of New South Wales. Stella is passionate about connecting with the Alumni and enlivening and growing our Monte Alumni Community. Please contact her at – S.Graham@monte.nsw.edu.au with any queries you may have about the association or events.

2016 is starting off to be a big year for reunions. In the planning are reunions for the leaving years of 1996, 1991, 1986, and 1976. We also had a reunion for 1991 earlier in the year. There are also plans to host another reunion in Canberra where there is a large number of Monte Alumni in attendance at the Australian National University. We thank the representatives from individual years who have taken on the organisation of these reunions.

Our Career Insights Evening was again a big draw-card for current Monte students to connect with Alumni from diverse backgrounds and careers. The evening was a huge success attended by close to 400 students and their parents, and over 30 Monte Alumni speakers sharing their insights and experience.

Thank you to those former students for giving up their time to inspire and inform current Monte students about their career journeys.

Monte Alumni continues to be a highly engaged community in the Mercy networks at home and abroad. The organisation sponsored the Peru trip by donating funds for paint and other hardware to repair items in the Kindergarten attached to Catherine McAuley House.

The Alumni are also pleased to be able to support the Alumni Netball and Alumni Touch teams with funds to subsidise their uniform costs and thank Caitlin Richards (2007), Hannah McDonald (2009), and Sarah Antico (2012) for a great season.

The Blue and Blue Lunch was held at Parliament House on Friday 13 May. Margaret O’Brien (1995 Year 10) gave an inspirational address about her life since leaving Monte and the development of libraries to help disadvantaged students in Colombia. We also thank Jessica Elliott (2012) for her speech on the effects of a Monte education on young women.

The Association’s Annual General Meeting will be held at 6pm on 10 October in the Generalete Dining Room at Monte Sant’Angelo. All Alumni are welcome to attend. We are seeking new members to join our Alumni Committee and nominate for executive roles. If you are interested in being involved please contact Stella Graham (S.Graham@monte.nsw.edu.au). Committee meetings are held once a term.

The Vis Moot attracts thousands of law students, academics, and legal practitioners from around the globe to compete in a ‘moot’, an advocacy competition, which is similar to a mock trial and debate.

Caroline and Rebecca both currently attend the University of Notre Dame, and are in their final year of studying law. They both are former Monte debaters, and Caroline currently coaches debating at Monte.

MONTE ALUMNI WIN WORLD MOOT COMPETITION IN VIENNA

Ex-students Rebecca Lennard (2009) and Caroline Michel (2011) recently travelled to Vienna to compete in the 23rd Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

The competition was incredibly successful, with Rebecca winning the prize for best individual oralist in the competition.

XMonte netball has been competing in the Northern Suburbs Netball Association competitions since its inception eight years ago.

The netball club has had a fantastic start to the 2016 winter season, played each Saturday at Willoughby Leisure Centre. This year we have registered a record nine teams ranging from the extremely competitive A1 division to teams in the fun and social C or D divisions.

We are now in Round 4 of the NSNA winter competition and the club is looking forward to the annual students versus old girls games that will take place in future rounds, and hopefully some teams will make it all the way to the finals.

Like the club’s facebook page facebook.com/exstudentsnetballclub, or email the committee at - exmontenetball@gmail.com.au for updates regarding upcoming netball competitions. The club welcomes not only Monte Alumni, but also anyone who have all thoroughly enjoyed getting back into playing some competitive touch football. The team has come up against tough opposition including the very talented current Monte 1 Touch team. Matches were played with tenacity and spirit, with the Alumni recently losing a narrow 6-5.

The Club would like to continue its involvement in the Northern Suburbs Touch Competition with the spring competition commencing in August. We would love you to join our club! If any Alumni are interested in joining or forming their own social team, please email xmontetouch@gmail.com

XMonte Touch

After much planning and preparation, the inaugural XMonte Touch Football Club was established in 2016 and is currently playing in the Women’s division, Autumn Competition at Northern Suburbs Touch Association on Wednesdays at 6.30pm.

The team consists of ex Monte 1 and 2 Touch players from the past five years who have all thoroughly enjoyed getting back into playing some competitive touch football. The team has come up against tough opposition including the very talented current Monte 1 Touch team. Matches were played with tenacity and spirit, with the Alumni recently losing a narrow 6-5.

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The Club would like to continue its involvement in the Northern Suburbs Touch Competition with the spring competition commencing in August. We would love you to join our club! If any Alumni are interested in joining or forming their own social team, please email xmontetouch@gmail.com

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ALUMNI VISIT TO PERU
Jennifer Parker

“My life changed the day I met the Sisters of Mercy”. This was a sentence we heard many times when our group of Monte Alumni immersed ourselves into the community of Cerro Candela in Lima, Peru in November 2015. Carla Fitzgerald (2004), Jacqueline Dossor (1999), Lisa Cash (1990) and Jennifer Parker (Devaney, 1990) were lucky to be joined by Mary Rajca, Mission Educator for the Sisters of Mercy North Sydney.

When the Sisters of Mercy arrived in Cerro Candela 20 years ago, they met women who were poor, isolated and lacked basic health and education services. The Sisters worked alongside the women and the first ‘Women’s House’ was born (there were soon four), and a preschool and medical centre followed. The work the Sisters of Mercy started (and the Sisters of the Sacred Heart are continuing) to empower women and support the health and education of their children, is bringing hope that the poverty cycle can be broken.

Some of the shy young children the Sisters met when they first arrived in Cerro Candela are now confident young people studying law, medicine, engineering, IT and other degrees. This is made possible by support from Australia, including scholarships from Monte Alumni. The pride their mothers had in telling us about their children’s achievements brought tears to our eyes many times over.

We formed strong bonds with many of the women of Cerro Candela and felt very lucky to spend a weekend staying with local families, experiencing everyday life with them and discovering how much we had in common. We helped out at the preschool, freshening up classroom furniture with a new coat of paint, and visited a number of local schools where we made the kids laugh with our singing of ‘Waltzing Matilda’ and ‘Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes’.

The immersion was an incredible, life-changing experience for our group and terrific bonds were formed within our group and with the women of Cerro Candela. Each time a Monte girl wears her school scarf or receives her Year 7 doll, she is strengthening these bonds and empowering these amazing women of Peru.
What a wonderful night we had at our 35 year school reunion! A small group of us kicked off with a tour of the school on Saturday afternoon, then the evening continued at the Norths Club in Cammeray where we were honoured to have our guest speaker Naomi Steer, Director of Australia for UNHCR. We also enjoyed trivia, sang and danced (to ABBA of course!) and shared many laughs, stories, photos and memories. Those who couldn’t make it were sadly missed, but were certainly there in spirit and we are already looking forward to our next get-together!

Erin Shields (2006) to Rory Coyle on 5 December 2015

Michelle Mizzi (1981) to Andrew Hollis on 12 March 2016
Gemma Gibson (Kieran, 1981) was bridesmaid and guests Tracey-Ann Palmer (Reid), Jeannine Thompson, Simone Sailer, Nadia Williams (Costa), Kathy Bonadian (all 1981) were in attendance.

Erin Shields (2006) to Rory Coyle on 5 December 2015


Hayley Eves (Year 11, 2003) to Bret Quintan to 3 January 2016
Hayley’s sister Christina Eves (2005) was Maid of Honour, and Kathryn Eales (Year 11, 2003) was bridesmaid. Her mother Maureen Eves (Langley, 1967), cousin Michaela Langley (1996), and Aunty Sue Langley (Nicol, Year 11, 1964) also attended.


Jennifer Davitt (1999) to Adrian Lee on 7 February 2016
Mary Davitt (2001) was Maid of Honour, Ailsa Koch (Robertson), Jacki Bresic, Terri Macri (Glynn), Naomi Welsh (Dunn), Sarah O’Beirne (McDonald), Samantha Clubbe (Harrold), Jacklyn Derrin (Smith) (all 1999) were in attendance.
ALEX DELANEY
CLASS OF 2013

I am on a sports scholarship for basketball at St Francis College Brooklyn. I live in Brooklyn Heights in New York City and I love being in such an amazing city where there is always something to do. I live with my 15 teammates and my best friend is my roommate, which is great!

I love that I am able to play the sport I love and get an education at the same time. I am challenged to be my best every day and excels in both basketball and school as our team is ranked 2nd in the country for GPA average for all NCAA Womens Basketball Teams. During the season from November to March my weeks are pretty busy with practice and class. We play two games a week and have only one day off to recover. There is also Pre Season and Post Season training throughout the year.

It isn’t easy living away from home and I often get very homesick. But the various obstacles and challenges I have had to face whilst being here has definitely reinforced my motivation to continue facing whilst being here has definitely reinforced my motivation to continue

CATHLEEN PFAFFLIN
BREWER 1996

The teachers and experiences that I had at Monte very much formed the person that I am today, going into education and becoming a teacher was not a surprise for those that knew me.

On leaving school I completed a Bachelor of Arts in Human Movement and a Diploma of Education at UTS. My first teaching role was with the Parramatta Sisters of Mercy working at OLMC.

I moved to London in 2007 and took a teaching role at Queen’s College London. It was whilst in London I completed a Masters in Educational Leadership through the Australian Catholic University. The Masters degree reinforced my motivation to continue working in education, particularly in the area of religion and social justice. It was also in London that my husband Chris and I had our first son James. On returning to Sydney we had two more sons, Henry and Jack.

I am currently working with the Sisters of Mercy, North Sydney and Parramatta as a Mercy S Coordinator. This role has brought me back to Monte, which has been wonderful. My position involves working with the five Sydney Mercy High Schools to support staff and student formation and to provide opportunities for collaboration and connections amongst the five schools.

Working with the Sisters of Mercy is a real privilege – their humility and service is very inspiring.

GROUP CAPTAIN CATHERINE WALLIS O’BRIEN 1992

After finishing at Monte in 1992, I studied Arts/Law at ANU. Corporate law work was not for me, so I joined the Air Force in 1997 as a Legal Officer and served at Bases in the NT and QLD.

I worked in Australia and at the Pentagon in Washington DC, mainly in international law, administrative law and criminal law. In 2004 I deployed to Iraq and in 2013 to Afghanistan where I audited the Australian-run detention facility and conducted a number of investigations. But probably the most professionally difficult role I have had was as Counsel Assisting the Inquiry into the Navy helicopter crash in Indonesia in 2005 which killed nine personnel and injured two others.

Since 2013 I have moved to a management role within Air Force as the Director of Corporate and Community Relations – Air Force. I am responsible for the promotion of Air Force through special events, community engagement and public relations, as well as the management of incidents, ministerial advice and freedom of information. I am also the Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees of the RAAF Welfare Trust Fund.

I married my husband Mark in 1997 and we have three children: Jack (15), Jessica (12) and Isabella (9).

MADELINE ACHURCH
CLASS OF 2009

After graduating from Monte in 2009, I spent a gap year working in a boarding school in West Sussex, England. In 2011, I commenced a Bachelor of International and Global Studies at the University of Sydney, majoring in Government and International Relations and History.

I undertook a six month internship with UNICEF Australia, in which I helped run an advocacy campaign encouraging both major political parties to commit to an increase in Australia's foreign aid budget. Hoping to continue a career addressing social and political issues, I undertook a Master of Public Policy at the University of Sydney, graduating in 2015.

I am now working as a Volunteer Coordinator at Habitat for Humanity Australia. My job is to plan, recruit, market and organise for teams of Australians to volunteer overseas and build homes for communities in need. I have been to Cambodia, where I worked on a project for families living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and to the Philippines, where I assisted and worked alongside communities displaced by Typhoon Haiyan.

In August I’ll be moving to New York City to further my studies in International Development at Columbia University. Looking forward, I hope to continue a career where I can travel, see the world and contribute in some small way to addressing global problems such as poverty, hunger and inequality.

KARLIE BRAND
CLASS OF 1997

I graduated from Monte in 1997 and headed off to do a Commerce/Arts degree at New South Wales University. After studying finance, marketing, German and history I spent a year on exchange at the Universitat Tuebingen, Germany.

Almost by mistake I applied for the Graduate Program at The Department of Defence. This incredible program gave me the opportunity to work at Parliament House, Air Force Headquarters where on week two I met my husband Peter.

From a career in Defence I moved to Austrade and worked in Thailand and Hong Kong, finishing a Masters in International Business from Sydney University.

After marrying Peter in 2008 and relocating to Brisbane I moved into management consulting with KPMG followed by a move to Canberra also with KPMG. It was here I was asked to be the liaison point for a new charity ‘Soldier On’ supporting serving and ex-serving soldiers. While on maternity leave with my daughter Scarlett, I essentially worked all available hours helping run and develop ‘Soldier On’, after which I took on the role of Chief Operations Officer. I have since had a baby boy, Daniel, and grown ‘Soldier On’ from half a paid staff member in 2012 to 37 staff in 2016.

Contact: sgraham@monte.nsw.edu.au

2016 ALUMNI DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AGM
10 October
To express interest in executive positions, please email sgraham@monte.nsw.edu.au

UNION
Class of 2011 - 5 years
Contact: Rosemary Costi
rose.costi@gmail.com

Class of 2006 - 10 years
Contact: Monica Heafey
monheafey@gmail.com

Class of 1996 - 20 years
Contact: Caitlin Pfafflin
monteclassof1996@gmail.com

Class of 1991 - 25 years
Contact: Rebecca Hunt (Field)
bechunt73@gmail.com

Class of 1986 - 30 years
Contact: Michele Vanest
monteclassof1986@gmail.com

Canberra Reunion
Contact: sgraham@monte.nsw.edu.au

Masalou Lunch
Saturday 8 October 2016 7pm,
Cammeray Golf Club
Contact: Stella Graham
sgraham@monte.nsw.edu.au
(02)9409 6246

To keep up to date on Monte Alumni News and Events join Monte Alumni on LinkedIn or Facebook, or email development@monte.nsw.edu.au
“No work of charity can be more productive or good to society than the careful instruction of women.”

- Catherine McAuley

The Monte Bursary Blue Ribbon Appeal raises funds to provide a Mercy education for deserving young women

Your tax deductible gift means more young women will benefit from a Mercy education. By being a donor you are one of many who are making our community stronger by ‘paying it forward’. Your generosity provides a growing body of gifts, where each gift adds up with the others to build a vitally important fund that keeps on giving year after year after year.

TO GIVE A TAX DEDUCTABLE GIFT PLEASE VISIT WWW.MONTE.NSW.EDU.AU OR CALL 02 9409 6246