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CELEBRATING 2015  
CHRISTMAS  
AND 2016



ACADEMY  
OF MARY IMMACULATE

# ALUMNAE 2015 HIGHLIGHTS



ACADEMY STUDENTS' 60<sup>th</sup> YEAR 10  
Mollie Fennessy, Anna Crowe, Eileen Gody, Eileen O'Grady, May Murphy & Nialla Jack, Florence Smith

To illustrate the impact of the war on the girls at the Academy, current students heard the stories of seven (out of a class of ten) Intermediate students (Yr 10) in 1917 whose brothers or fathers were fighting in the war.



WOMEN OF THE FUTURE NOMINATION



AUSTRALIAN HONORS LIST

ISSUE 12 2015

## 100 YEARS OF ANZACS

As 2015 comes to a close, and with it, Australia's commemorations of a century since the ANZAC landing in Gallipoli, it is an ideal moment to reflect on how war impacted on the lives of Academy girls. Looking back through the archives, many students during World War I had brothers, fathers and uncles at war. Some of their parents would have been opposed to conscription during the 1916 and 1917 referenda. The tragic loss of life and injury inflicted during both the first and second World Wars, according to the Academy archivist Maureen McAuley, was also felt 'by a good number of girls from the 1920s to the 1960s whose fathers were dead or suffering the horrendous effects of ongoing war injuries and shell shock from both WWI and WWII'. The Vietnam War also mobilised a number of conscientious objectors and motivated some to join the anti-conscription and peace movements after leaving school. Many Catholic schools in the 1980s offered peace studies programs during the Cold War period with the heightened tensions around nuclear proliferation.

Few history books have recorded or indeed celebrated the wartime efforts of women and the women who served heroically as nurses on the frontlines and at repatriation hospitals in Australia, witnessing horrific trauma and injuries that had never been seen on such scale.

One of these brave women was alumnae **Alice Ross King**, whose story was depicted cont'd on page 2

## 2015 WOMEN OF THE FUTURE: ELANA MONTAGNER

This year **Elana Montagner** (Class of 2010), a Masters student in Nanotechnology, was selected by the Women's Weekly and Qantas as a semi-finalist in the Women of the Future competition. The nomination was in recognition of Elana's research into assistive cancer treatments and therapeutic devices, particularly developing sensing technologies to help people living with Leukemia.

"Working in research to help improve the lives of people living with cancer is dear to me, and is an important part of bettering the lives of many. To be a semi-finalist for this award meant so much to me, and showed me how important this work is. To be nominated helped spread the word about the research I was helping to do, and hopefully encouraged more young scientists to realise all branches of Science", said Elana, who has spent the past five years studying an accelerated double degree program at La Trobe University.

While undertaking research, Elana has also been mentoring Year 10 students in the University's inaugural Growing Tall Poppies Science Immersion Program run through the Science Faculty. She is now working as an outreach coordinator for the program, which aims to encourage cont'd on page 2

## 2015 AUSTRALIAN DAY HONOURS

Earlier in the year, two Academy Alumnae were honoured through the 2015 Australia Day Awards: **Ms Elaine Cauty** and **Dr Wendy Cahill**.

Elaine was awarded with an AM (Member of the Order of Australia) for her significant service through roles with botanic, health, business and sporting organisations, and as a radio broadcaster. Wendy received an AM (Member of the Order of Australia) for her service to education, to professional standards development, and to improved outcomes for students.

These remarkable women were not only recognised as breakthrough leaders in their professional lives but for their long history of service to others and the community, driven by their respective passion and commitment.

They serve as role models and leaders for Academy girls and exemplify the Mercy values. The College is proud to have been part of Elaine and Wendy's formal education. **A**



## [ PRESIDENT'S REPORT ]



Dear Alumnae,

Welcome to this Christmas edition of the Academy Alumnae newsletter. It was wonderful to see some of you at this year's reunion and hope you will be able to join us for the next Annual Alumnae Reunion to be held on Sunday 28 February, 2016. It will be a great opportunity to welcome the new 2015 Alumnae, renew friendships and share memories of your Alma Mater with family members as well.

Congratulations to Sister Mary Moloney RSM, Principal, and the Staff for another outstanding year which is reflected in the significant college achievements as well as the Year 12 class of 2015 results.

May the peace and joy of Christ be with you and your family this Christmas.

**Christina Staunton-Burke, President**

## ARCHIVE

**Maureen McAuley,**  
College Archivist



**Essie Moore** was Dux in Fifth Division (Yr 8), in 1908 and won prizes for English, Arithmetic and Algebra. In 1909 (Sixth Division) and in 1910 Sub-Junior (Yr 10) she won prizes in RE, French, English, History and Geography.

Mother M Augustine Lynch was Superior and presented her with a book *Fabiola*, a book the nuns used to read to the boarders - *Fabiola* being a martyr for the Faith. "Indeed on the 21st December 1908, *Fabiola* was performed by the girls as the 'Annual Dramatic Entertainment' according to the Academian." says Archivist, Maureen McAuley. Esther was 9 in 1905. **A**

in the recent tele-movie *Anzac Girls*. Alice enrolled as a boarder at Academy in 1902 and after finishing her schooling at PLC, commenced nurse training. At the outbreak of war, Sister Alice King enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service and served with the 1st Australian General Hospital in Egypt. After returning to Australia aboard a hospital ship carrying wounded from Gallipoli, Alice was transferred to the Western Front and it was here that she learned that her fiancé Lt Harry Moffitt had been killed at Fromelles. In 1917 Alice was working in a front-line casualty clearing station when it was shelled by the enemy; as a result of her actions on that day, Alice became one of only seven Australian nurses awarded the Military Medal for their courage under fire during WWI. A year later she was appointed Head Sister of the 1st AGH and recognised with an Associate Royal Red Cross (ARRC).

Alice later married Dr Sydney Appleford and raised a family in country Victoria. With the outbreak of the Second World War, she once again became involved and was later honoured with the Royal Red Cross and the prestigious Florence Nightingale Medal for her work during WWII.

Many other Academy Alumnae have made significant contributions to the Australian wartime effort dating back to alumnae from the 1880s, such as **Mary Parker** who served as a nurse in 1917-18. As one of the Academy's most celebrated nurses and former head of the Australian Nurses Federation, **Ged Kearney** highlights: 'Since Florence Nightingale emerged in the Crimean war, nurses have been crucial to military operations. They of course tend the wounded but also have a strategic role in things like repatriation, general hygiene and infection control, immunisations, counselling, and cultural awareness'.



**ELANA MONTAGNER** cont'd from page 1

young people, particularly women, to pursue education and careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Elana also has a clear message to new Academy graduates, urging them to follow their real desires. "It doesn't matter if you want to cure cancer, be an artist, travel the world, or be a baker. If you enjoy doing something, everything else will work out fine. So make sure that the path you choose is the path you think you will enjoy," she encourages.

As this celebrated alumnae looks to the future, Elana's passion for medical research is clear:

## STORIES

Successive World Wars have also impacted on daily life at the Academy. **Mary Wallis** who was a student in the 1940s recalls the regular air raid practice. 'We did not know when the alarm would sound, but when it did, we had to pick up a rubber on a pencil, and proceed, very calmly, two by two across Nicholson St to the Exhibition Gardens. There we put the rubber on the pencil between our teeth, (to stop us biting our tongues if there was a blast from a bomb) and lie face down on the grass', remembers Mary, who thankfully never had to experience an actual raid.

**Elisabeth Callander de Ross** also recalls the many regulations issued to schools to cover evacuation in case of invasion. While her parents refused to sign any forms and had clear instructions for her to return home with his sister, she remembers that 'We all had little knapsacks, which were kept under the commercial room stairs with the basketballs. We wore corks round our necks on a string - to keep our mouths open and stop our ears being damaged' in the case of a blast.

This year as Australia looks back on its contribution to the wartime effort, with one Academy student having the life changing experience of standing on the very same soil where ANZAC soldiers met their fate on the shores of Gallipoli. Staff and students at the Academy also came together to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign this year on 23 April, honouring the sacrifices made by service women and men, and reflecting on the complexities of war that have shaped the Australian nation. "Ultimately the ANZAC story helps us to define how we saw ourselves and how we related to the rest of the world," said Academy Head of Humanities, Mr Alan Tomassini.

The Academy honours the incredible bravery and the commitment of its many alumnae who have served through successive wars and endured hardships associated with growing up in a time of war, as well as the often forgotten contributions that women have made to the wartime effort. **A**

**Wreath layed by the State Government Student Delegation at Gallipoli, 2015.**

"In five years, I hope to be working in the medical research industry, focusing on ways to improve the lives of people living with terminal or debilitating conditions. If I can help improve even one person's quality of life within the next five years, I would be happier than ever".

### Your dream Christmas?

One day I want to celebrate a snowy Christmas. I love the idea of the traditional "White Christmas" with snowmen and candlelit Christmas dinner. I've never seen it snow, and to experience that during such a happy and loving time would be amazing. **A**

# FACE OF ALUMNAE

Rima Tawil (Class of 2005)

**Rima graduated from a Bachelor of Law at Deakin University in 2010, and following a traineeship with TressCox Lawyers, she was admitted as an Australian Lawyer two years later. She is currently working with the Rail Tram Bus Union pursuing her passion for standing up for justice and worker's rights.**

## **What has been your journey since leaving the Academy?**

Straight out of high school I went to study at Deakin University in Burwood. During my university years, I worked for various Members of Parliament and was an active member in the Labour movement. Politics is a big passion of mine. A big highlight for me was being present during the National Apology where I was honoured to meet the late Gough Whitlam who is an inspirational figure to me.

As part of my studies I did intensive Chinese Commercial Law in Beijing, China and spent a few weeks in Syria as part of a Community Development Program through La Trobe University in 2006, visiting orphanages and historic sites. I managed to squeeze a bit of extra travel between graduating and starting full time work: Southeast Asia, China, Russia, Syria and Jordan.

I currently work for the Rail Tram Bus Union as a practising lawyer and industrial officer, where I act for the Union and its members in a wide range of employment and industrial issues and disputes.

## **What attracted you to your current industry?**

Politics, law and advocacy in the one gig! The law is so big! I wanted to be someone who stood up for the little guy. I love being an advocate for social justice and for me that extends to your workplace. Protecting

the rights of workers is something I am passionate about and I am proud of being part of the broader union movement.

## **Where would you like to be in five years' time?**

Through creating my own opportunities and staying true to what I am most passionate about. In five years' time I want to be able to stand proud and be able to make this same claim. For me, this means making a genuine contribution to the lives of those around me. I would also eventually like to start my own family and have not ruled out further study or work abroad.

## **What's your advice to new Academy graduates?**

Despite popular belief your ATAR will NOT dictate who you become and where you go in life, but what happens here is up to you. It is completely okay if you don't know what you want to be. In 10 years from now, 'who' you have become as a person will matter a whole lot more than 'what' you are. Make a commitment to that journey.

For me it has come down to creating your own opportunities and doing what you are passionate about. You have to take initiative and put yourself out there. You will be amazed how the small things you put your hand up to do in your life open the door to bigger opportunities. There is also a reason why we excel at the things we love - why wouldn't you want to be doing something that makes you happy and that you truly believe in?

You come to appreciate the years that you spent at the Academy. For the friends you have made and for the teachers who have supported and nurtured you, and your



parents who have put up with the very common psychotic episodes that occur during year 12 exams!

## **What's your most cherished memory from Academy days?**

Mercy Day. Who does not like dress up and dancing? It was that time of the year where the whole school community came together to celebrate. The day was always filled with fun and laughter and you walked away feeling more appreciative and closer towards those around you. **A**



# WORK EXPERIENCE

The Academy Work Experience Program continues to expand due to the support of Academy Alumnae, and our central city location puts us in close proximity of many businesses. Anna Nguyen who is an architect at *Architecture Architecture* in nearby Fitzroy is one such alumnae who has opened her doors to current students. After leaving the Academy, Anna completed her Masters of Architecture with Distinction from RMIT University in 2010.

Anna then went on to explore and gain experience ranging from bespoke residential projects to urban design and planning in metropolitan and regional Victoria. She has developed specialist experience through working on resorts, chalets and boutique

hotels; in both the Alpine region of Victoria and internationally in Bali and Lombok.

Anna maintains an ongoing interest in architectural exhibitions, research and education. She was a key team member for 'How does it make you feel', a speculative proposal exhibited in the Australian Pavilion at the 2010 Venice Architecture Biennale; and also lead creative consultant for the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery's seminal 'Out Of The Square' exhibition in 2008. Anna regularly acts as a panel critic for design studios at the RMIT School of Architecture; and was a speaker at the 2010 Inspirational Designer seminar at Academy of Mary Immaculate. **A**

**Anna with Academy year 10 work experience student. We welcome any enquiries regarding offers for work experience placements. Please contact Anne Marie Allen on: 03 9412 7100**

# AN UNCONVENTIONAL LIFE

Sr Felicia and Sr Rosina from the Academy Convent are regular visitors to the Junior Textile class.

I would just want to say how much I appreciate being invited by Marianthi to be present at her Textiles Class. The opportunity to move among the students, to share their interest and creativity was life-giving and brought back lots of memories from yesteryear.

## Your Dream Christmas?

My dream for Christmas would be that the true message of 'Peace on Earth' would become a deep, lived reality. *'Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.'*

Christmas for me will be centred around my faith, family and friends. It will be celebrated with my Mercy Community. Central will be midnight Mass and Community Prayer, sharing of Kris-kringle, Christmas dinner amid much thanksgiving and joy.

Sr Felicia



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## POSTCARD

*Italia*

Sabrina Salva  
Class of 1986

### What have you been doing since the Academy?

I left the Academy in August 1985 in Year 11. It was a very sad day. My mother worked at the Italian Consulate in St Kilda Road as a passports officer and was transferred to Spain. I was blessed with the opportunity to travel the world thanks to my mother's job, to learn and appreciate other customs, food, people and to learn five languages: Italian, Spanish, English, French and Portuguese. You appreciate all of this when you grow up and you finally realise that parents make sacrifices too.

### What is it like living and working in Europe at the moment?

I currently work as an importer/exporter for a Sunglasses Company. I work in Rome but was in Paris back in July this year and in September for work, so I can't tell you how lucky I feel. What happened goes beyond imagination. The attack was unexpected, but the French won't allow the terrorists to win the battle. Here in Rome with the upcoming Jubilee, security measures

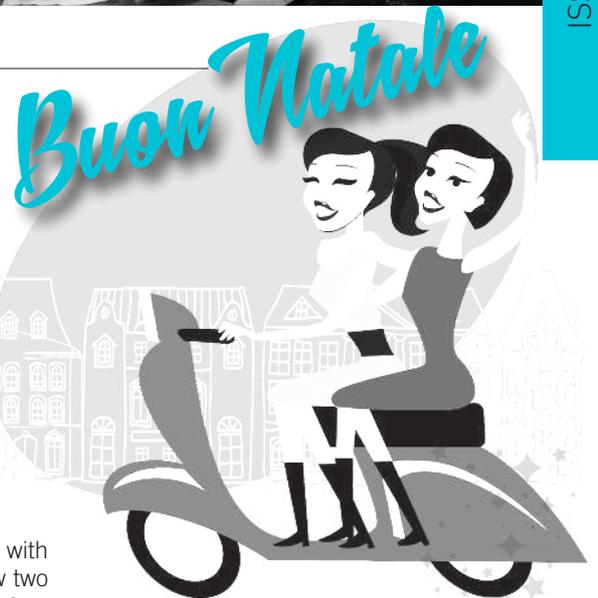
have been increased especially in the Vatican and the Colosseum. We are used to seeing police and soldiers but not as many. Nobody feels safe but we must carry on and live our lives.

**You know you are in Italy when...** you consider as normal getting on a scooter with three people. Last Italian summer, I saw two parents and two small children on one of those big scooters...only in Italy!

**You know you are in Australia when...** you call McDonalds "Maccas" or when you can pronounce Aboriginal street names without any problem.

### Australian vs Italian Christmas

The main difference between an Australian and an Italian Christmas would be the weather. In Rome it rarely snows but it gets cold so with the weather the food changes as well. Christmas in Australia coincides with the summer holidays so it brings the beach, light clothes and cold drinks. What I love about Australia are the Christmas decorations a lot of houses have.



### Your Italian Christmas?

In Italy the festivities go from December 24th through January 6th. To me it means big family gatherings, lots of food and a lot of traffic for the last minute purchases. The family member with the biggest table and house usually hosts the party. Three meals are associated with Christmas. Christmas Eve, Christmas Day (it can last a few hours) and on December 26th, Santo Stefano's Lunch. After this lunch I usually take a drive to the Vatican down town or go for a long walk - who wouldn't after all that food! **A**

TIME  
TRAVEL

ACADEMY CREST



1901



2005



2015



ACADEMY  
OF MARY IMMACULATE

# 12

issue



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YEAR 12 CLASS OF 2015 ON THEIR OUTSTANDING VCE RESULTS

### College DUX

**Aimee Altermatt 99.25**

10% of students received an ATAR score greater than 95

17% of students received an ATAR score greater than 90

42% of students received an ATAR score greater than 80

### DIGITAL UPDATE!

Academy has been listed in the Top 10 of Catholic Schools results in Victoria for 2015 - in good company with two other Mercy schools.

These results are a reflection of the hard work and commitment to study from the girls, the expertise of our teachers - and the invaluable support from families. There have been many student achievements, both individual and collective, during 2015. We are very proud of all our students from our Year 7's through to our seniors who have made the most of the opportunities at the Academy and contributed to the life of the College. We look forward to the excitement and challenges of 2016.

**Sr Mary Moloney.**

### [ FROM THE PRINCIPAL ]

## 2015

### Embrace the Day

In true Academy spirit there was united support for the 2015 theme.

From the year 7 students who settled in so well, thrived on the challenges of the year and celebrated with enthusiasm 100 days as Academy girls, to the year 9 students who embraced the inquiry based Synergy program with maturity and determination and whose projects were inspirational and spoke of their deep learnings, to our wonderful Year 12 students who rose to the demands of Year 12 but did not let the pressures of study stand in the way of their participation in all aspects of Academy life - yes, we at the Academy, did 'Embrace the Day', embrace the year and lived it purposefully and joyfully, with a keen awareness of how fortunate we all are.

As we move into 2016, the year designated by Pope Francis as the 'Year of Mercy' I know that we will build on the work of this year and find new ways of 'Making Mercy a verb' (theme of the 2015 AMSSA staff conference). It is a powerful challenge for 2016 and one that will be embraced by the Academy.

I wish you all the joy and peace that this special time of year brings,

**Christmas Blessings, Sr Mary Moloney**

## GALLIPOLI LINKS

Standing on the same soil that Australia's Anzac soldiers stepped onto exactly 100 years earlier is something **Michaela Bugara** will never forget. Part of the State Government's school delegation, the Academy of Mary Immaculate sports captain shared her life-changing experience with her school and local community. Michaela, 18, was among 80 Victorian students who travelled to Turkey for the Dawn Service to commemorate 100 years since the Gallipoli campaign started. She says the peninsula was so green it was hard to imagine what had happened there to soldiers her age. But the chilly dawn service, with ships and planes on the horizon, certainly brought it all home.

"It was very dark and cold," she says. "I just had to stand there and close my eyes and really imagine that where I was standing ... literally 100 years ago people were fighting that were my age, dying."

Michaela says the trip underlined the magnitude of the Anzacs' spirit, tenacity, loyalty and sacrifice. On returning the year 12 student discussed her experiences with fellow students and community groups. "I want to voice that to our generation," she says.

Her own family's World War II experiences in Poland and Ukraine added a poignancy to Michaela's trip. "My great grandmother had a gun held to her head," she says. "She was trying to take some food somewhere but wasn't meant to be out. Somehow the gun wasn't working so he (the soldier) just ended up letting her go." **A**

### MY DREAM CHRISTMAS...

#### YEAR 7: Sasha Concollato,

My cousin and a close friend are in London so the thought of a snowy white Christmas is literally a dream! *My Christmas*, with four generations getting together over two days, is all about fun, food, stories and family.

#### TEACHER: Mark Hyland, Head of Teaching & Learning

*Dream Christmas* would be to have all my family together at Doyles Restaurant in Sydney - sun, sand and seafood!

*Reality Christmas*: A traditional suburban Christmas Dinner with my brother. Skyping my adult children. Long distance calls to the grand children...and a nice glass of red.

# WHOWHATWHEN&WHERE

## 2015 ACADEMY REUNION

Alumnae Liaison: Anne Marie Allan (03) 9412 7100 [alumnae@academy.vic.edu.au](mailto:alumnae@academy.vic.edu.au)



**A MODEL STUDENT**  
Even though Jessica Bogglis's (Class of 2009) likeness was captured beautifully in a lab coat for the Murray Room windows, Jessica pursued a career in Psychology.

# SAVE THE DATE!

# REUNION

# 2016

Sunday, February 28th 2016  
1pm - 4pm, Academy Hall.

Please RSVP for catering purposes on 9412 7100 or register online at [lovethisschool.com.au](http://lovethisschool.com.au)