Welcome to Kerrie Fraser

New Mercy Senior Staff

Sister Schools – SHCG welcome students from Yarapos PNG

Jubilee Garden Blessing – Mercy College Coburg

2014 Mercy Scholarships

Launch of Stage 2 Mercy Education Values

MERCY SECONDARY COLLEGE YARAPOS

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VISIT
Welcome to the first edition of Mercy Ed news in its 20th year of publication since its inaugural release by founding Executive Officer, Peter Molinari. It continues to be a most pleasurable assignment to bring the good news of the happenings within Mercy Education to our readers.

Much excitement was anticipated in November last year with the visit of students and staff from Mercy Secondary College Yarapas, PNG to Sacred Heart College Geelong. As you can imagine there was much planning and preparation to do at Yarapas and Geelong before the visit and, as is often the case with travel arrangements from PNG, many details were still up in the air before students and staff finally boarded their planes and landed in Melbourne at midnight on 19 November. However it was well worth the wait as the visit proved an exciting time for students of both colleges. An added bonus was the visit to Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy, a reunion with MYS past principal, Sr Agnes Murphy RSM, and a visit to the Melbourne Museum.

A warm welcome is extended to newly appointed Deputy Principals and the many senior staff appointed to leadership positions. An outstanding thirty-one students were recognized across the Mercy sponsored, co-sponsored and affiliated colleges as worthy recipients of the Mercy scholarship for 2014. While no doubt there are many more students in our colleges exhibiting such qualities, these 31 students stood out in their actions and promotion of compassion, commitment, courage and service to others.

Finally we join with the community of Mercy College, Colag as they celebrate their golden jubilee year commemorating fifty years since foundation. The Jubilee Garden was officially opened on the first day of term for students this year and later in February, it was a privilege to attend the Eucharistic Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral celebrated by Archbishop Denis Hart. We wish the college much joy as it marks this Patrick’s Cathedral celebrated by Archbishop Denis commemorating fifty years since foundation. The Coburg as they celebrate their golden jubilee year and promotion of compassion, commitment, courage and many more students in our colleges exhibiting such scholarship for 2014. While no doubt there are appointed to leadership positions. We also welcome newly appointed Deputy Principals and the many senior staff appointed to leadership positions.

The Board of Mercy Education extends a warm welcome to Kerrie Fraser, newly appointed Principal of Mercedes College Perth. Kerrie reflects on her passion for education and her focus on building strong relationships with students, staff and parents.

It is a privilege to join Mercedes College as Principal in 2015. I have a passion for educating young women to make a positive difference in the world and at Mercedes, the focus on the Mercy values of compassion, justice, excellence, integrity and service prepares students for that mission. Mercedes College is a faith community and a school of learning which enables young women to continue the Catholic tradition of its founder, Catherine McAuley, by walking the same path as Jesus and making a difference to their own lives and the lives of others.

I grew up in Tasmania where I received a Catholic education from the Sisters of St Joseph in a girls’ college. The sisters made a strong impact on me as a young woman. They were dedicated, incredibly hard-working and encouraged all students in their care to aim high and work hard to achieve set goals. There were not as many opportunities for women at that time and I continue to have never forgotten the sisters’ encouragement and advice about working hard and helping others. I taught in the state system for fourteen years before moving to Western Australia with my husband in 1992. I have been teaching in Catholic schools since 1992.

I have held a number of leadership roles in schools including Head of Department, Head of Middle School and Principal. These roles have included experience in all girls, all boys and co-educational schools. I also spent four years as a consultant for the Catholic Education Office in Perth, WA in the areas of English, English Literature and Literacy. During my working life I have always been aware of the importance of building strong relationships with students, staff and parents. Students learn about the teacher first and then the subject being taught so actions are vital to be an appropriate role model for students. Being a servant leader is critical in the formation of students and staff. Recognising the needs of the community and acting on that knowledge is very important.

I am committed to Catholic education and honoured to join in a Mercy school. It is the focus on service to others and empowering young people to be positive, risk-takers who will make a difference to the world that is so important to me about working in a Mercy school.

GERARD RAVEN
Deputy Principal
Learning and Teaching
Sacred Heart College, Geelong

Gerard began his current role as Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching at Sacred Heart College, Geelong mid way through 2014. “The College community has been very supportive and welcoming to me and my family in the true spirit of Mercy. I have a strong sense of homecoming as I was born in Geelong and have extended family members here”, states Gerard. Prior to his appointment to Geelong, Gerard was, since 2007, Deputy Principal at the Cathedral College, Rockhampton which is boarding school in the Mercy tradition. “There is a vibrant community of Mercy sisters in Rockhampton who are actively involved in the school and I often tapped into the wisdom of my good friends, Sr Margaret Dixon rsm and Sr Joanne Molley rsm.” Gerard has also had the benefit of studying his Masters of Ed Leadership under the guidance of Institute Vicar Sr Annette Schneider at ACU. From 1994 until 2006 Gerard taught at Catholic College Bendigo which at the time was a Mercy/Marat school under Principals, Sr Sylvia Williams rsm and Mr Darren McGregor and was mentored by the effervescent Michael Chaitley and the wily John Feris. When not at work Gerard enjoys watching his mighty Cats beat Essendon.

RACHEL VALENTINE
Deputy Principal
St Aloysius College, North Melbourne

Education transforms, informs, delights, inspires, empowers individuals and can create a society that values inclusivity, equality, happiness and challenges students to influence young people and therefore the future. I thought attractive from a young age.

Commencing my teaching career in the government system was an apprenticeship that gave me more professional learning opportunities than I expected. As a first year teacher I was placed on Curriculum Committee, Equal Opportunity in Workplace Committee, Assessment Development and I listened, learned and witnessed the push, pull and compromise that occurs when teachers are planning curriculum or implementing government policy. I was concerned with policy changes that were not in the best interests of students and sought a system that married contemporary education with the pastoral care needed to support young people.

I moved to the Catholic Education system taking on various roles of leadership at Whiteribers College, a large secondary college for boys that was founded by the Carmelite Order. I enjoyed this experience, the focus on caring for students, emphasis on social justice and serving the greater community. I was Head of Performing Arts, Head of House, Director of Operations and served on multiple committees including Principal’s Executive and Leadership Team.

After further study and a family of three children growing in independence, I sought to achieve my career goal and successfully became Deputy Principal at St Aloysius College, North Melbourne. The Mercy Values, along with the story of Catherine McAuley connected strongly with my own educational philosophy. Creating access to education which ultimately improves the future for our students and society is of paramount importance to me. Continually searching for and designing curriculum and pedagogy that improves academic rigour in an increasingly competitive world, whilst connecting and accommodating individual students’ abilities can be a challenging balance. I believe faith, care and service build the foundation for students to feel confident and to grow. Supporting students’ wellbeing transformed them academically.

I sometimes ponder the challenges faced and the courage needed of the 19th century Sisters of Mercy as they developed strategies to transform young women and girls; providing safety and community, options and opportunities. Prejudice, poverty and exclusion still exist in the 21st century so a quality education that allows students to be skilled in identifying options, creating solutions and embracing change and challenge is highly valued. I am energised with the responsibility of my new role and I gain much satisfaction being part of the Leadership Team at St Aloysius. A college that continues to offer its students an innovative and transforming Mercy Education.

WelcometoKerrieFraser

Kerrie Fraser
Mercedes College Perth

Welcome to
New Mercy Deputy Principals

St Aloysius College, North Melbourne

Cover: Mercy Secondary School Yarapas (PNG) student, Clarissa Siaegin, with bronze sculpture at Academy of Mary Immaculate.
Outside work, one of my favourite places is the Athenaeum who inspire me, teach me and work generously for each other. I am grateful that I am able to work at OLMC with colleagues opportunity to keep learning, to keep experimenting and challenging quality teaching and learning programs. This work excites and challenges me; what do we do well, where can we improve and innovate? It brings me into contact with many teachers as we work together to identify the problems and issues and create and explore new learning.

In my time at OLMC, as a staff we have explored many new ways of doing – planning and framing curriculum, making thinking visible in our classrooms, embraces technology such as Google Apps for Education, Our Learning and Teaching Charter speaks to the dispositions and characteristics we seek for our students and teachers. Living this Charter gives me, as teacher and leader, the opportunity to keep learning, to keep experimenting and challenging myself. I am grateful that I am able to work at OLMC with colleagues who inspire me, teach me and work generously for each other.

Outside work, one of my favourite places is the Athenaeum Library in Collins Street where I can indulge my passion for crime novels, particularly Scandinavian crime, whilst watching the passing parade in the street. I am a keen walker around the inner suburbs and, like a true Melbournian, can spot a good café at a hundred paces!
I have always had an interest in where things come from and how things work. While this led me down the science pathway at school I have forever felt my connection to the land. Following this bond, I completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, with Honours at The University of Melbourne, and while there felt the pull of teaching, something I had considered while still at school, but had put to one side. I decided that while I was in the studying mode, I would head straight into my Graduate Diploma of Education, selecting Chemistry and Biology as my methods, supported by my studies in Agriculture. While applying for teaching positions, I worked over the summer as a crop technician, taking samples and monitoring a range of potato crops. It clarified the concept that without rich, life supporting soil, very little is able grow, and what can grow, struggles to reach its potential. Soon after, I accepted a position at Reservoir District Secondary College (RDSC) teaching mathematics and junior science. I value the time that I spent at RDSC as I had learnt so much, but when I received my appointment at St Aloysius, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to take myself back into the Catholic Education sector. Since coming to St Aloysius in 2003, I have taught at all the different year levels, mostly in science, and although moving from a year 7 science class to a year 12 Chemistry class requires a mental shift, the value of being at both ends of the secondary education journey is one of immense value; providing context and sequence throughout education journey. While at the college I have undertaken roles as both 9 and 10 Year Level Team Leaders, and Science Key Leader; work with the students in various sporting teams, science and pastoral activities and College Productions. During 2014, I was appointed to the role as College Learning Leader and have developed a keen interest in Mercy Education Values of Respect, Justice, Compassion, Service, Hospitality and Courage, continue to challenge and drive Brendan as he discerns the more practical aspects of his role.

In addition to having published widely in the fields of religious education and spirituality, Brendan is the co-editor of the International Journal of Children’s Spirituality, an interdisciplinary journal that seeks to understand the nature of spirituality of children and young people as it is expressed in a contemporary and pluralistic world. A keen thespian in the world of amateur musical theatre, Brendan also enjoys playing guitar and taking part in regular cycling classes and social gazing on an effort to maintain fitness and provide a healthy work-life balance.

Catherine McAuley

I feel truly blessed to have had a career in Catholic Girls’ Education spanning almost 25 years. My first teaching appointment was at Ave Maria College – Aberfeldie, where I was on staff for 16 years. During this time, I taught English and Drama and I held a number of leadership roles. A defining moment for me was when over 15 years ago, I was appointed Year 12 Level Co-ordinator. This role helped me to understand the positive difference that can be made when the wellbeing of girls is central to the faith dimension, the teaching and learning, the policies, practices and the decision making that happens in a girls’ school. The importance of building relationships and treating each encounter with others certainly continues to underpin my educational philosophy and my leadership style. I believe students should be supported and encouraged to reach their full potential; within an environment where learning is embraced and valued and where the well-being of the student is central to this. I know that students learn best when they feel confident and comfortable to take risks, to make mistakes and to fully develop their ideas and skills.

Over my time both at Ave Maria College and later on atSacré Coeur – Glen Iris, I have enjoyed working with many girls and co-ordinating each year level from 7–12. For me, one of the joys of leadership is the opportunity to continue learning and I certainly a strong believer that learning is life-long and life-giving. In addition to a commitment to ongoing professional development, I have also completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Education – Student Welfare and a Master of Education at the University of Melbourne.

Outside of school, I enjoy running and whenever time permits I love getting lost in a great book. I have been happily married to Anthony for almost 20 years and we are blessed to have a wonderful daughter Maddison, who is currently in Year 10.

I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of the St Aloysius community and I continue to be very excited about my role and the opportunity to work with staff, students and their families.

Catherine McAuley
In November 2014, Sacred Heart College Geelong (SHCG) hosted eleven students and two staff members from Mercy Secondary School (MSS) Yarapos PNG. The visit to Australia provided SHCG the opportunity to return the hospitality extended to them in 2013 when fifteen SHCG girls and three staff visited MSS.

Sacred Heart College Geelong welcomed students from Mercy Secondary School Yarapos, Papua New Guinea. Sacred Heart College Geelong and Mercy Secondary School Yarapos, Papua New Guinea are very proud to be called “sister schools”. Our partnership with Mercy in PNG began in 2010 with a friendship started by staff member and REC, Mr Allan Ansell and facilitated by Catholic Missions. The immersion experience had a simple goal – to be in solidarity, through our Mercy family, with some of our brothers and sisters in PNG. This first experience for our students and staff was facilitated by the Sisters Mariska and Theresia rsm. We visited prisons, community education classes, settlements (slums), markets, schools, Sr Cathy and novices at the Coolock Mercy Formation House, enviro-friendly Aids support projects and much more. We embraced and were in turn embraced by many, many new friends. The one thing missing was a connection with a school. 2011 saw a meeting with Principal of Mercy Secondary School Yarapos, Mr Alex Marcus. He invited our group, who were scheduled to visit in 2012, to include a stay at Mercy Secondary School. This first experience for our students and staff was facilitated by the Sisters Mariska and Theresia rsm. We visited prisons, community education classes, settlements (slums), markets, schools, Sr Cathy and novices at the Coolock Mercy Formation House, enviro-friendly Aids support projects and much more. We embraced and were in turn embraced by many, many new friends. The one thing missing was a connection with a school. 2011 saw a meeting with Principal of Mercy Secondary School Yarapos, Mr Alex Marcus. He invited our group, who were scheduled to visit in 2012, to include a stay at Mercy Secondary School. The purpose of the experience was to provide our young women, from Yarapos and from Geelong, with the opportunity to connect in Mercy. The business of connection started almost immediately and rapidly grew into mutual empathy, understanding and eventually friendship.

The Mercy Secondary School motto is ‘Valiant Woman’. Valiant is very appropriate for the Yarapos girls. They are humble, courageous, generous, determined and beautiful; in fact they possess every positive aspect of the adjective, valiant. Some of them travel for days down rivers and along muddy tracks to get to school. Others arrive at school at the start of the year and then spend the entire year there because home is just too remote and difficult to get back to through-out the year. Some are day students that arrive on the school’s bus and at the end of each very busy school day return home to another full days work there. These realities weren’t lost on the Sacred Heart girls. As well as strong friendships they also developed an enormous respect for the Mercy Secondary girls.

We returned again in 2014 and were very excited and pleased to hear that our “sisters” would be coming out to stay with us in November. This was something we had always hoped would eventuate as it means that our partnership was truly reciprocated. We had the absolute pleasure of hosting 11 girls, 2 teachers and Principal Alex for 9 days. Home stays were arranged and their days were taken up with visits to local tourist destinations, surfing, foraging and cooking and time to spend with the families of their host sisters. We look forward to returning to visit our “sisters” again in 2016.

In Allan Ansell’s words, “Go and learn what mercy means Jesus instructed. We went to PNG, met some truly wondrous people and this is what we learned, “The tender mercy of our God has given us one another.” (Mercy’s Constitution) Mercy is our brother and sister embraced. Theologians might argue that Mercy means a lot more than this but just for now, for us, this is enough”.

We should be shining lamps giving light to all around us. Catherine McAuley

Sharon Gillett – Deputy Principal Mission, Staff and Middle Years

FUNDRAISING EFFORT

During 2014, Mercy colleges committed to raising funds for MSS to construct a communications tower to provide improved and reliable Internet access for students and staff. An amazing $39,000 was raised and has been forwarded to MercyWorks which has approved and will manage the project.

MSS students were delighted to meet former MSS Principal, Sr Agnes Murphy, at the Academy
JUBILEE GARDEN
Mercy College Coburg 50 Years Celebration

The opening of the school year for all of us at Mercy Coburg is the beginning of our 50th anniversary celebrations. Mercy College Coburg, established in 1965 under the first Principal, Sr. Mary Thecla Day, proudly continues a fine tradition of Mercy today. In our 50th year we have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to. Our jubilee is a most joyful celebration and there will be many opportunities to reconnect and remember days past as well as imagine the future.

The unveiling of our Jubilee Garden took place at the first whole school gathering on Monday 2nd February and was relocated indoors due to inclement weather, but none the less was still a reflective and festive occasion. The Jubilee Garden, resplendent in the sunshine is a place for each of our girls to reflect on what has come before and what will come in the future as they are “mercy” to each other and with each other today. The symbols and plaques that were unveiled represent a part of our school history, the joy we find in God's creation and the values we hope to share with others. We know the year that awaits us will be full of learning and new possibilities. From the wisdom of the past, we prayed for a passion to shape the future and a dedication to foster the best of our present as we bring Mercy to life.

We were very much blessed to be joined at the opening of the Jubilee Garden by Sr Mary Geason, on behalf of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG) who provided financial assistance to make our Jubilee Garden possible. Sr Lizzie Finnerty and Sr Maureen Lohrey from the North Coburg Convent and Sr Anna Duble from Champ Street were also able to attend. We recognise the Sisters of Mercy not only for the efforts they made in getting Mercy College off the ground 50 years ago, but also for the continuing support and guidance they give us today. Mr Eugene Lynch and Mr Joe Konynenberg from Mercy Education and Mr Andrew Wilson from PTA Landscapes also joined us.

Every Mercy girl present was invited to celebrate the creation of the Jubilee Garden for Mercy College. We asked God’s blessing on all those who will gather or walk through the environment; a place to share stories of our past, enjoy the present moment with friends, old and new, and dream of the future; a place where we may celebrate and be reminded of our Mercy Values of excellence, justice, compassion and hospitality. We recognise and give thanks for those who laboured to plant and create this garden for us to enjoy. In particular College Business Manager, Mrs Judy Sailors and Maintenance Manager, Mr Dennis Ball, without whose efforts the beautiful garden would not have been possible.

We warmly invite the wider Mercy family to come and spend some time in our garden if they are passing by our door. Spend some time amongst the greenery, reflecting on the story of creation captured in the ceramic tiles made by students on Mercy Day two years ago and enjoying the sounds of delight and joy of girls’ voices, the wind through the trees and the distant hum of traffic along Sydney Road. This place is our place of and for Mercy in this our Jubilee Year.

Dr Michelle Cotter – Principal

Sisters who attended the unveiling of the Jubilee Garden, from left, Sr Maureen Lohrey, Sr Mary Geason, Sr Lizzie Finnerty and Sr Anna Duble
2014 MERCY SCHOLARSHIPS

Mercedes College, Perth

CARISSA SOARES

Carissa strives in every way to walk the path of Mercy. She is an outstanding role model in student leadership, both as a Peer Mentor to the Year 7 girls and as a House leader. Carissa was awarded the Mercy Service Learning prize for Year 10, generously giving many hours of her own time in raising awareness of environmental issues and assisting at St Vincent de Paul. Her reflections and journaling exemplify a deep commitment to living our College values of compassion and justice. Carissa was also selected for and participated in the Seeds of Justice Program last year.

Carissa has generously participated in the musical life of Mercedes, dedicating herself to a number of ensembles and choirs, volunteering for recital events, including piano recitals in the Mercy Heritage Centre for Heritage Week and generally demonstrating the highest level of dedication and maturity. She shows leadership by ensuring everyone is supported, especially the less experienced performers.

What makes Carissa a worthy recipient of the Mercy Scholarship is that she receives in opportunities she gives back tenfold.

RUBY MARTIN

Ruby is the epitome of what it means to live our College values, especially those of Compassion, Justice and Service. She believes in serving others she grows into a wiser, more humble person. Ruby embraces every opportunity she is given, including participating in Inter-School and Inter-House events and attending the Leadership Excellence, Accelerating Potential (LEAP) program in the US sponsored by the City of Perth.

Most importantly, Ruby is a Young Mercy and gives many hours of service and leadership to the Street Soccer Ministry. This has involved preparation and distribution of over 120 meals each day to homeless and disadvantaged people at Wellington Square. Many of the people have come to know Ruby well and enjoy sharing laughter and friendship with her. Ruby’s peers have recognized her generosity of spirit and her wonderful leadership qualities by electing her to the Prefect Council for 2015, leading in the Service and Justice Ministry.

Ruby’s outstanding qualities are her empathy for others and her capacity to walk in the shoes of another. She is an outstanding young Mercy woman.

Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy

TAYLOR MERCIECA

Much like those of Catherine McAuley, Taylor’s qualities encapsulate what it means to be Mercy. Hard working and focussed, she is someone who strives to do her very best and achieve her full potential, but it is through her every day actions and interactions with people that we see the Mercy Values shine through. Taylor is a warm, compassionate, caring and genuine member of our community. She is always polite and shows great respect to staff members and to her peers.

With a constant smile on her face, Taylor is eager to help whenever and wherever she can with such sensitivity, respect and dependability, and if someone is in need, you can rely on her to be there. It is these acts of kindness that set her apart.

This year Taylor was involved in the planning and execution her class’s Mercy fundraising, putting on an excitingly humorous event for the college, Academy MQ1. The event was testament to her fun loving, kind nature. With such spirit, strength of character and pride in all that she does, it has been a pleasure watching Taylor blossom into a Woman of Mercy and we are truly lucky to have her as a member of our college community.

MICHELLE FRANCIS

Michelle has been an admirable student throughout her time at the Academy who has consistently set a fine example to her peers and been very supportive of the staff and her teachers. She has worked tirelessly for the Justice Committee through her fundraising and her efforts in publicising for certain causes. Social justice is a large part of her life and she can be found contributing to efforts in the outside community as well. She has also been a part of the Alive in Mercy committee and been a part of the shaping of the religious and justice direction of the Academy.

Michelle’s teachers have described her as a committed student who has learnt very early the effort that is required to be successful in her studies. She is focussed and determined in all her studies and the evidence of this is borne out in the results she has achieved. She has involved herself in many extra-curricular activities and she has given time and effort willingly and selflessly. She has been involved in the College Choir, helped in the preparation of various Masses and liturgies and participated in the Mercy Day dance.

Her maturity and willingness to be a supportive friend to her peers has been noted by the staff. She has been of much value to the Academy throughout her time here and it is anticipated she will develop into a fine young woman in the Mercy tradition.

ALEXANDRIA MCGILVRAY

Like one of her favourite literary characters, Jay Gatsby, Alex has a heightened sensitivity for the needs and feelings of others. She is an advocate for those in need in her community working tirelessly not just at a local level but for Indigenous Australians and asylum seekers, raising awareness and funds. She is a true woman of Mercy who is passionate about her school and the staff and students in it. Alex is a very welcoming person and can be relied upon to greet visitors at the College such as replacement teachers, new students and special guests with a smile and friendly disposition. She embodies all that the Academy has to offer in performing arts, sports, social justice and the classroom. Alex is a very worthy recipient.

Sacred Heart College, Geelong

SARAH KENWORTHY

Sarah lives the Mercy Values of Compassion, Respect, Courage, Service, Hospitality and Justice. She is a compassionate and caring young woman who is always respectful of the needs of others, humble and modest, never searching for praise or accolade for the work she does.

She has demonstrated courage and justice by being a voice for those who often are unable to speak up. She has been instrumental in both raising awareness and funds for a small community in Southern Sudan. Sarah has raised more than $6000 to bring solar lighting to the people of Mannya. These lights will assist in breaking the cycle of poverty by allowing students an opportunity to study at night improving education and future employment opportunities. Her goal is to light up Mannya.

Sarah has shown service and hospitality through her outreach work, including tutoring refugees and serving meals at Christ Church. Sarah will be spending her Christmas holidays volunteering in Mannya, working at the local school and health centre. Sarah is a very worthy recipient of the 2014 Mercy Award.

Catholic College Bendigo, Bendigo

QUINTIN MURPHY

Quintin is an exceptional young man with an enormous heart and strong faith. He believes in the goodness of people and that each person is worthy of our care and support. He is a very active member of the College Faith and Justice team and has been involved in raising awareness of social justice as well as mental health issues.

Quintin attended our Samoa Immersion which he described as ‘An amazing experience which taught me a lot about myself, as well as how I can grow spiritually. In Samoa I saw how much respect the people had for each other and their openness to me; how they welcomed us into their homes was something I will never forget.’

Quintin has recently completed the Queen Scout award, which has provided him with leadership opportunities. Scouting has also taught him to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, cheerful, considerate and respectful; some of the values Quintin displays in daily life at Catholic College Bendigo. He is a very active member of the Bendigo community and has participated in many programs that support the youth. His involvement as a leader in the Sandhurst Catholic Education Office camp that is hosted for children with special needs and their families, as well as leading a school holiday program with his local church, are just some examples of the influence he has in the local community. Quintin also finds time to work as a leader with the ‘Stronger’ youth group in Bendigo.

Quintin’s faith has further been strengthened by his attendance at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne. We at Catholic College Bendigo are very proud of the young man Quintin has become. His kind and compassionate spirit is to be admired and on a school level his efforts has resulted in him being awarded Mercy Day awards as well as our prestigious Seeds of Justice award for social justice.
Quintin displays all the Mercy values of compassion, justice, service, hospitality, respect and courage. He is making the most of his God given talents and assists others to do the same. Quintin is a very worthy recipient of the 2014 Mercy Scholarship.

**ELIZABETH HAIGH**

Elizabeth is a gentle, compassionate student who has a genuine concern for the wellbeing of other people and actively seeks to help those in need. Elizabeth is interested in human rights and is keen to pursue a career in journalism. She is active in supporting fundraising within the school community and has been involved in Mercy Day celebrations as well as helping prepare Christmas Hampers for the Catholic College Bendigo community.

Elizabeth is a proud member of Mackillop House, and involves herself in all college activities with enthusiasm. She is an excellent role model and encourages other students to become involved in both house and school activities.

She attended the Mary Mackillop Centre with other members of the Mackillop leadership group in 2012 – where she was inspired by Mary’s story. This experience reinforced Elizabeth’s understanding of the spirit of Mary Mackillop and inspired her to live out the message “Never see a need without doing something about it”.

Elizabeth is very passionate about improving environmental sustainability in our community and is also a member of the Bendigo Sustainability group. She enjoys participating in community events such as National Tree Day and believes in the importance of a sustainable world. Elizabeth would like to see Catholic College Bendigo further enhance its commitment to the environment.

**PHILIPPA GOOD**

Philippa Good has been attending St Aloysius College since 2010 and in that time has been very involved in the school community. Philippa has been her class Student Council Representative every year from 2010 to 2015. In 2014 she took on a new position as Social Justice Leader, an opportunity which gave her many exciting and eye-opening experiences and opportunities. Philippa has grasped these opportunities and learnt and grown as a result of them. She was chosen to represent St Aloysius College, with Grace Monaghan, at the AMSSA Student Conference with 75 other Mercy students from around Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea in October 2014. Philippa found the experience to be rewarding and thoroughly enjoyed her time at the conference, and came away with new ideas and happy memories. Her position as Social Justice Leader has also given her the opportunity to get to know people from outside her year level, and work with them on a regular basis. The girls have worked well together in order to raise awareness and funds for various Mercy works in the Adelaide area and have led campaigns with many of our younger students in the Justice and Mercy (JaM) Group.

**GRACE MONAGHAN**

Grace Monaghan is currently in year 12 at St Aloysius College. She started at the school in 2011 as a year 8 student. Over the past five years, Grace has been an active member of the St Aloysius community. She has taken part in events such as school musicals, peer support program, choir and French language exchange. At the start of year 11, Grace became a social justice leader. Since then, she has helped organise banners for national Sony Day, a campaign to bring back the Nigerian school girls which was covered by SA TV channels and a school wide Pink Day to promote breast cancer awareness. Grace was also given the opportunity to attend the Australian Mercy Secondary Schools Association (AMSSA) Conference in 2014 with another SAC social justice leader. Here, she met with 74 other young students from Mercy Schools around Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. It was a great experience that she feels very privileged to have attended. After finishing school, Grace hopes to continue with volunteering and Mercy works around Australia.

**AMBER SINDONI – YEAR 7 2014**

Amber is a model student who is well respected by her peers. She was elected as Class Captain and in coming out her role; she operated as a shining role model for others. She is an excellent ambassador for our College and has participated in many activities and events including a wide range of social justice and community building activities. Amber embodies what it is to be a Mercy Leader by her willingness to reach out to others and to put the needs of others before her own.

**NATASHA BIGGINS – YEAR 9 2014**

In 2014, Natasha was the Year 9 Social Justice Portfolio Captain. Natasha carried this role out with energy, passion and commitment. She has been a very active member of the Social Justice Group and as such has involved herself fully in a wide range of social justice activities, conferences and fund raising events. Natasha is well known for her commitment to taking a stand on social justice and human rights issues.

**KARINA UŁLOA – YEAR 9 2014**

In 2014, Karina has maintained her commitment to a wide range wide range of social justice activities, conferences and fund raising events. She is always willing to support others in the community by generously giving of her time to organise and attend many events. Karina has also been a valued and active member of the Social Justice Group at St Aloysius College; she is known for her enthusiasm and for her ability to engage other members of the community in social justice meetings and initiatives.

**ZACHARIAH DETTMANN**

Zachariah has been an active and involved member of the Sacred Heart College community for many years. He has worked alongside those experiencing vulnerability in both his local community and in overseas contexts. Zachariah makes open connections between the Christian faith and the ongoing challenge to work towards a world of peace and justice. He is aware of the many issues of social injustice that face our world today and shows positivity, enthusiasm and creativity when working with others to respond to these.

Zachariah has been an active member of the school based ‘Look Out!’ group and has taken part in school based Justice and Service events. Recently, he presented a plan to school leadership to imbed the Mercy Education Values within the school calendar, which has since been taken up.

**SHARDEE WORROLL**

Shardee is an energetic young lady who is a delight to be around. She is always willing to assist whenever asked. She had displayed strong leadership in various roles throughout the school.

Shardee is a special and hard working contributor. She is a quiet and diligent worker who is keen to assist those less fortunate. Shardee attended ‘Mercy Justice Conference’ in New Zealand in 2013 where she was an active participant and reported back to her Year 10 cohort. She also volunteered to be trained as a Yellow Ribbon Ambassador (our internal Youth Suicide prevention Program). Shardee is a superb contributor to raising awareness that ‘It’s OK to Ask For Help’ through peer workshops and helping raise funds for Lifeline. She also attended our Outreach work for ‘Lasses’ by helping at Ozaman House & Soup Van on a Friday night till late.

Outside school Shardee is an active member with her Church group. She regularly prepares and serves lunch to elderly members after Church service. Also she assists with the church ‘Soup Kitchen’ on Friday nights and the ‘Christmas in a Box’ activities for the disadvantaged in the Warburton area. Shardee also video tapes her Church service and distributes it to those in the retirement home and unable to attend personally.

Shardee generously donates a percentage of her income to The Smith Family.

**GABRIELLE SAVARIS**

Gabby has a poise and charm about her that people love to be around. She has been able to encourage staff and students to be involved in many fundraising activities and she is always ready to be involved in improving the plight of those less fortunate. Gabby is a super student who always displays a caring and sensitive attitude to all she meets. She is always keen to ‘lend a hand’ to anyone in need and has been involved in a range of social justice causes throughout her secondary education.

Gabby has been involved in many stalls and school activities to raise funds and awareness for different social justice causes. She is also a great role model using her musical talents to enhance our liturgical celebrations.

Throughout Years 9–11 Gabby has been an active member and then leader of the CSYMA group – assisting with tasks
Lauren Springer

Lauren is an outstanding young woman who has shown generosity and leadership throughout her time at St Brigid’s College. There are numerous significant examples which highlight her qualities. In the area of genuine concern for others and active involvement in fundraising, Lauren made an exceptional contribution to this year’s St Brigid’s Cambodia Immersion Tour which raised over $15,000 to support Cambodian schools and communities. She was recognised by Ministry Assistant, Debbie O’Hara, and other organising staff for her dedicated commitment to the considerable dimensions of fundraising for the tour and her positive leadership when the group was in Cambodia.

Lauren’s passion for service for others is also exemplified over the past two years by her assistance to residents at the Villa Maria Retirement Home where she has provided entertainment by playing the piano. Lauren is in the RAD Reader Programme, assisting Junior School students with their development of reading skills. She tutors younger students in different learning areas and beyond the College environment she is a member and advocate of the Sea Shepherd programme. She also promotes awareness for tiger conservation including fundraising from home.

Lauren shows leadership and makes a valuable contribution to school life in a variety of other areas. This year she made an excellent contribution to the College’s Optimind team which won the West Australian Championship, and represented the College and Western Australia in Brisbane at the national titles.

Lauren is indeed a very worthy recipient of the Mercy Scholarship.

St Brigid’s College, Lesmurdie

Grace Ferraz

Grace is a warm, energetic and compassionate young woman. She is always willing to be of service in all areas of school life. Her commitment to Young Vinnies is outstanding as is her strong sense of social justice. In 2014, she took part in the annual Indigenous Immersion Program to the Pilbara region of WA.

In addition to her outstanding commitment to the service program at the college, Grace was a member of the student leadership council in 2014, represented the college in swimming and cross country and took part in public speaking competitions. In all areas she took on leadership roles, displaying strong mercy values in the manner in which she interacted with her peers. Her tireless commitment to the College community makes her a worthy recipient of this award.

Kirstie O’Connor

Kirstie is a caring, compassionate and mature young woman who achieves in all areas of college life to an exceptional level. Her leadership and care of younger girls is very much appreciated. She participated, coached and mentored younger students in cheerleading, always going out of her way to make all those she encounters feel welcome. She regularly works at a soup kitchen for the homeless and started a cheerleading program for disabled children. Her hospitality and compassion make her a worthy recipient of this award.

Emmanuel College, Warnambool

Olivia Niddrie

Olivia is an outstanding student demonstrating the Mercy values with her involvement in many community and social justice activities. In 2014 Olivia won the Warnambool Young Citizen of the Year Award and attended the Mercy Seeds of Justice Conference in Anglesea, where she said it was a privilege to hear inspirational guest speakers, Sr Karon Donnellon and Shane Howard. Olivia is a member of the Young Vinnies group at Emmanuel College whose work includes fundraising and helping out at the soup kitchens in Melbourne. She also participated in the World Challenge program in Borneo where the teams raised almost $10,000 towards community projects.

Staff and students elected Olivia as a Year 12 leader in 2015. Olivia loves playing netball, spending time with family and friends, and enjoying giving back to the community and helping others.
Natalie El Bazounni, Year 10

Natalie participates wholeheartedly in College life in all she does. She immerses herself in activities, sharing her gifts and talents generously with others and always being open to the ideas and suggestions of others. Natalie is a strong witness to the Mercy values of excellence and compassion in particular. She is a very positive influence within the pastoral care group and they have a strong regard and respect for her because of her helpfulness and dependability. Mary consistently demonstrates School Wide Positive Behaviours inside and outside the classroom.

Hamish Rayner

Hamish is an Emmanuel College School Captain in 2015 and a high achieving student demonstrating the Mercy values through his active involvement in the school and wider community. He has been nominated for the 2015 Warrnambool and Moyne City Council Youth Achiever Awards and he participated in the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment. Hamish has been involved in a variety of activities with the Young Vinnies group at Emmanuel College including fundraising for the installation of an internet tower at Yanapora Mercy School in PNG. He also visited the homeless in Melbourne to hear their stories and provide food through the soup kitchen.

Hamish participated in the World Challenge trip to Borneo where he stayed in local villages, trekked through dense jungle and undertook a concreting project at the Long Alip Village Church to aid with flood relief.

Hamish loves photography, films and filmmaking, screen printing and collecting t-shirts, and hopes to pursue a career in film and television after studying at university. His passion in this area is evident through his media studies – his work was short-listed at the 2014 International Youth Silent Film Festival and is short-listed for the student 2015 Top Designs.

Mercy Regional College

Martinique McKenzie

Martinique is a worthy joint winner of the first Mercy Scholarship to be awarded at Mercy Regional College. Throughout her five years at Mercy, Martinique has displayed care, compassion and empathy in her relationships with students and staff. She has a very strong commitment to supporting those who are in circumstances less fortunate than herself. She has been an active member of the Mercy Regional College Social Justice team. This commitment was recognized recently when Martinique was elected as a Year 12 Social Justice Captain for 2015.

Cara Dooley-Heath

Cara is recognised for consistently demonstrating the guiding values of faith, spirituality, community, excellence and justice at Notre Dame College. Cara is currently in Year 10 and has achieved an average of A+ across nearly all subjects this year. Since Year 7 Cara has received numerous citizenship and academic awards mostly in English, RE and Science. In 2014, she achieved third place at State level of a nationwide public speaking competition. Cara is also actively mentoring junior Notre Dame College students.

May God bless and animate you with His own divine spirit, that you may prove it is Jesus Christ you love and serve with your whole heart.

More recently, Cara participated in the UN Voice public speaking competition. Cara has also been involved in our school and wider community and is committed to making a difference. At school she regularly volunteers for Alter serving, readings at Mass and is always willing to actively help others through Seeds of Justice and Remark. Cara has also been involved in a range of interschool sport. On a wider stage, Cara has participated in the Melbourne Soup Van experience and is especially interested in social justice. In 2014 she was selected as a team member in an immersion experience to East Timor. She voluntarily followed this trip up with a bold, entertaining and passionate address to staff on human rights and the political history of East Timor. Not only do we congratulate Cara on her involvement in life inside and outside of our College, we also recognise her recent prestigious award as a recipient of the Melbourne University Swong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program for 2015 and 2016. Cara is a very worthy recipient of the Notre Dame College Mercy scholarship.

Kate Boyd

Kate has a genuine passion for Social Justice and shows a keen interest in helping people in need. This has been demonstrated by her commitment and involvement with the Notre Dame Seeds of Justice Group. Kate has been keenly involved in the various Seeds of Justice fund raising and awareness raising activities for those less fortunate. She also participated in an Immersion camp to India with Shepparton High School prior to coming to Notre Dame College. Kate is passionate about human rights and social justice and has assisted in running a variety of awareness-raising campaigns for a variety of issues including equal rights for women and the promotion of fair-trade products.

Amy McKenzie

Amy is a warm, generous and open young lady whose personality and values closely reflect those synonymous with Mercy. As the joint winner of the first Mercy Scholarship awarded at Mercy Regional College, she has displayed care, compassion, tolerance and hospitality when dealing with students and staff alike. Amy is a quiet achiever but harbours a deep and passionate regard for those less fortunate than herself. She has been a member of the College’s Social Justice team for the last two years and during that time has supported a number of initiatives including fundraising for Cantas, Shave for a Cure, Malala Day and the Christmas Hamper drive for local St Vincent de Paul conferences.

Amy has been a significant contributor to the College social action programs including the Year 11 Street Retreat in Melbourne, local Christian Outreach opportunities and last year’s Regional Seeds of Justice Conference in Anglesea. Amy’s capacity for leadership and commitment to social justice was recognized in her election as a Year 12 Social Justice Captain for 2015.

AMY MCKENZIE

Amy McKenzie, Cara Dooley-Heath and Kate Boyd are recipients of the Melbourne University Swong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program for 2015 and 2016. These students are very worthy recipients of the Notre Dame College Mercy scholarship.
Launched Phase 2 of Mercy Ed Values project

Stage 2 of the Mercy Education Values project is about to be launched across the Mercy colleges and will see the release of beautifully written and designed brochures which further articulate the six Mercy Education values of Compassion, Justice, Respect, Hospitality, Service and Courage.

The brochures deepen our understanding of the Mercy values and are grounded in Scripture. They have been carefully prepared by Mercy Theologian and scriptural scholar, Sr Veronica Lawson RSM, and supplemented with a series of questions by some of our leading Faith and Mission leaders in our schools. The questions are posed within the Mercy Ethos Office’s framework of Engaging, Reflecting, Acting and Growing and we acknowledge Coordinator, Carmel Crawford, for her valuable contribution and support. It is hoped the brochures will be a valued resource for students, staff and those new to Mercy Education.

Beyond the Mercy Education Values Project...