

# Lauramont



## College News

LAURAMONT

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Every edition of Lauramont will feature an image of this iconic building. We welcome your contributions of front cover artwork, whether it is a sketch, a mosaic, a montage or clever photographics. Please forward your creation to the Editor.

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All contributions to *Lauramont* are greatly appreciated.



## Leadership and Learning

John Fitzgerald Kennedy once said; "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other", and at the half way mark of 2015, we could not agree more! These first two terms have been a huge learning curve for us as College Co-Captains.

Beginning the year with little to no leadership experience and huge expectations, it was daunting to say the least. But as time has passed our confidence has grown and our goals for the year have solidified. Our leadership theme for this year is: Unity in Diversity. As a leadership team we want to enhance the school community in embracing and celebrating the differences of each individual and seeing these as a reason for bonding, not separation.

In coherence with this theme, some of our initiatives thus far have been centered on realising and celebrating students' interests and talents. The curriculum leaders have started a book club and organised a writing competition. We also saw the wellbeing leaders re-introduce the ICU award - awarding students for acting out the College's values. The mission leaders set up the Mission Sisters group and helped organise a tutoring arrangement with Warrane Primary. "Will you be my Eco Friend?" was introduced by our environment leaders and we raised an amazing \$1700 for Nepal on our "Dress for a Cause" day.

As College Co-Captains, our main goal is communication. With that in mind, we have set up an email address that allows everyone to have a say in the decisions that affect them. This email address is [speakup@mountcarmel.tas.edu.au](mailto:speakup@mountcarmel.tas.edu.au), and we encourage all members of the school community to take full advantage of this opportunity.

Overall, it has proved to be two terms of learning, opportunity and success and we have high hopes for the remainder of 2015.

**Zoë d'Orey and Megwyn Mosenthal**

## Lauramont College News

### What's in a name

"*Lauramont*" struck me as an obvious choice as the name for the new biannual magazine given it forms such an integral part of the College community, both in its physical infrastructure and its pertinence to the overall functioning of our College on a daily basis. It has poignance for me also, as it was the location of my first office when I started at MCC twenty years ago. Hence the name conjures a great sense of nostalgia and has immense sentimental value to me. Whilst steeped in history and tradition, I feel like the name reflects our connection with the past, but also symbolises its ongoing relevance to our College into the future.

**Melanie Sluyters**



# Welcome!

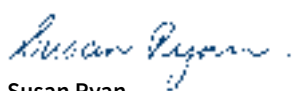
In this, our first ever *Lauramont* edition, our focus is on celebrating our community. Together, as members of Mount Carmel College, we share a rich and proud history, enabled first by the pioneering spirit of the founding Sisters of Charity, and built upon by generations of families committed to educational excellence and opportunity.

So many diverse components contribute to the rich tapestry we enjoy at this school; so many individual stories are interwoven to create a masterpiece of splendid proportions. Like a colour wheel which begins with five primary colours, when blended the range of hues is endless. Similarly, as a school community, we bring our individual gifts and talents, and it is in the sharing of these that we grow. At Mount Carmel we are enriched by our diversity within which there is beauty and strength. Rather than working to separate us, our College theme for this year, Unity in Diversity, urges us to recognise that this difference is the essence of our humanity.

Sister Mary Aikenhead is known to have said,  
“May our hearts be ever grateful  
and may each try to prove our  
gratefulness by deeds.”

In 2015, as we reflect on her bravery and wisdom, we can be sure that there is much to be grateful for within this community. For me, it is a privilege to walk in the footsteps of the original Sisters in leading this community; we share in the mission of educating our students in the Charity charism. To be part of the Mount Carmel community, a nurturing educational environment that supports students to achieve their personal best in all areas, is a great source of pride.

In this first issue of *Lauramont*, we endeavour to paint a portrait of who we are – a College with rich traditions and heritage, a vibrant present and a dynamic, bright future. We invite you to share in the stories of our community members and we very much look forward to receiving your feedback.



**Susan Ryan**

Principal, Mount Carmel College



# Following in Faith

The Mission Sisters idea grew out of the desire of students to form meaningful relationships with those in our society living on the margins.



Rather than being a distant group of people who students raised money for, a new direction was sought for something more deep and in line with the mission of the Sisters of Charity.

With the leadership of Jess Miller and Chelsie Auckland, the newly elected Mission Leaders for the students, a group was formed to generate ideas and put plans into action. An initial retreat afternoon was held with Andrew from Edmund Rice Camps, and Jayne from Vinnies, and from there ideas started to flow.

Already, Mount Carmel has run an Easter Egg Hunt for marginalised kids, set up a mentoring program for at-risk girls at Warrane Primary School, and an awareness project about food wastage, with many more plans in the pipeline. It is hoped that more and more students will get involved and see the Mission Sisters as a positive and meaningful way to live the Gospels in our modern world.

## Community Leaders

In 2015 under the guidance of Mr Anthony Chapman, the Mission Leaders at Mount Carmel have started up a group called Mission Sisters. The group involves girls from Years Seven to Ten, who all have the chance to take part in mission work, inside and outside of the College community.

We, as the Mission Leaders, want to encourage Mount Carmel students to all be leaders, and to bring forth their ideas, so together we can make them happen. We want every member of our Mission Sisters group to know that their ideas are valued and listened to.

All the mission work achieved so far this year has been brainstormed by the young and clever minds of Mount Carmel students, working together as a team so these ideas can be put into action.

In the first half of the year, the Mission Sisters group has had a lot to do with underprivileged children. In April the group ran Buddy Day, where children through Edmund Rice Camps Tasmania came to Mount Carmel and the Mission Sisters had the chance to be paired up with a child. The day involved lots of fun games, get to know you activities, bonding exercises and an Easter Egg hunt. This was a fun, exciting and rewarding day for both the children and the Mission Sisters.

In May, the group started the Warrane Primary Mentoring Program, which ran throughout Term Two and will continue throughout Term Three. The program involves a group of Year Ten Mission Sisters travelling to Warrane Primary School every Thursday morning before the school day commences to spend time with Warrane Primary School students and take part in fun games, bonding exercises, mentoring, as well as breakfast for the children. The idea behind this program is to make a

difference in the lives of these children, by donating our time, being compassionate and becoming mentors to them.

In June, our Year Eight Mission Sisters worked on a way to show our school how much food is wasted in our world, when so many go hungry every day. All rubbish bins within the school were removed and the Mission Sisters walked around during recess and lunch with plastic bags to collect the garbage. By doing this, the Mission Sisters could show the school just how much rubbish was actual rubbish and how much of it was wasted food.

The Mission Sisters is an amazing group to be a part of and it has already been such a rewarding experience to be able to make a difference in the lives of others. In the second half of the year, the Missions Sisters will continue to plan new ways to get involved and make a change in our community.

**Chelsie Auckland and Jessica Miller**  
Mission Leaders

# Sisters of Charity Scholarship Recipients



**Nicola Rose**

7 Navy

**When did you start your journey at Mount Carmel and what was your first impression?** I started at Mount Carmel in Grade 5 with Miss Sluyters as my teacher. My first impression was that I knew I was going to make some great friends.

**What have been some of the highlights of your first year in secondary school?** Some of the highlights would have to be sharing hilarious moments with my closest friends.

**Can you share a memorable moment from your time at Mount Carmel?** A memorable moment would have to be from the time we had the Grade 6 Assembly in 2014 when we re-enacted the Grade 5 Camp.

**What are your future aspirations?** My future aspirations would have to be a zoologist or a person who travels all over the country helping people.

**How are you implementing the qualities of the scholarship? Have you initiated a community project or been involved in a project that fulfils the mission of the Sisters of Charity?** I believe I have shown the qualities of the scholarship because I have been helping people in my year and I have also included a lot of the Sisters of Charity qualities in many of my projects.



**Molly Belbin**

7 Bronze

**When did you start your journey at Mount Carmel and what was your first impression?** I started at the beginning of the year. I thought the school was going to be great for me!

**What have been some of the highlights of your first year in secondary school?** Being organised, for example having an organised colour-coded locker and this makes my day easier.

**Can you share a memorable moment from your time at Mount Carmel?** Year 7 Camp, in particular the flying fox and encouraging my friends to have a go on it.

**What are your future aspirations?** I would like to become a vet to help animals and their owners. I would also like to teach people how to dance and how to play the drums.

**How are you implementing the qualities of the scholarship? Have you initiated a community project or been involved in a project that fulfils the mission of the Sisters of Charity?** On the first Sunday of every month, I go to the local farmers market and volunteer in the Dunalley Primary School hut. We raise valuable funds to be used to widen the education for the school's students.



**Patricia Clark**

7 Gold

**When did you start your journey at Mount Carmel and what was your first impression?** I started my journey in 2014 in Grade 6. My first impression was: "WOW! This is a big school". It certainly was compared to my former school of only 96 students.

**What have been some of the highlights of your first year in secondary school?** There have been a lot of highlights this year, but I think the Year 7 Camp surprised me the most.

**Can you share a memorable moment from your time at Mount Carmel?** Probably the first day of Year 7. It was the change from Primary to Secondary school.

**What are your future aspirations?** To grow up as a well-mannered and kind hearted person.



## Sainthood for Mary

If you studied Latin in school, you may have been waiting (very patiently) for many years for an occasion to use it, or indeed hear it! Well now is the time.

On March 18, 2015, Pope Francis delivered the following good news:

*Anuntio vobis noticia gaudium ....*

*Habemus servus de Deo!* (I announce to you news of great joy, we have a Servant of God.)

Mary Aikenhead (1787 – 1858), who founded the Religious Sisters of Charity in 1815 to provide services to "the suffering poor", has been declared Venerable. Being declared Venerable is the second of four steps in the Catholic Church's Canonisation process. A person is declared Venerable when it is established that the person had practised virtue (theological and cardinal) to a heroic degree.

Servant of God is the title given by the Pope when he gives permission for the opening of the cause of a person's Sainthood. Mary Aikenhead was given this title in 1921.

The next step for Mary will be Beatification. It is a decree permitting the public honouring at the level of the local church, of a Servant of God whose virtue to a heroic degree or martyrdom have been recognised. It is also a recognition that the person can intercede on behalf of people who pray in their name.

The fourth and final step is Canonisation. The person is admitted to the canon of saints and is publically honoured by the universal church.

Mary's life was not easy, but she never lost hope. Her life teaches and inspires us to dream courageous visions, to have compassion, to work with others to solve problems and to remain resolute in the face of hardship. Throughout the world today, Religious Sisters of Charity continue to work courageously and creatively with people who are poor in the areas of healthcare, education, pastoral and social work.

The Sisters of Charity Scholarships are one of three categories of scholarships that were introduced in 2015. All scholarships are for girls entering Year 7 and have been designed to provide new opportunities, foster passions and encourage excellence across areas of educational and spiritual growth. Applications are now being accepted for 2016 and both current and prospective students are encouraged to apply. Applicants need to explain in 500 words why they would be a worthy recipient of a scholarship. There are no tests involved, but candidates may be invited to have a chat with the Principal. Visit our website for full details.



# Learning Outside the Classroom



## A Grand Adventure

The month of February held many new experiences for the girls in the 4/5 classes, but none more exciting than the overnight trip to Far South Wilderness Lodge in Strathblane. All 81 girls and 5 teachers travelled south for two days of fun and fellowship.

Hastings Caves and the Thermal Pools were the first stop and a welcome respite from the cold wind and rain the day offered. Geocaching, a delicious pasta dinner, a visit from Paddy Prosser, star gazing and a bonfire filled the schedule for the rest of Day 1. However, the favourite activity, by a long call, was the epic game of ultimate flags on Day 2 organised by Miss Palfrey. The smiles from the two days say it all.

## New Faces and New Adventures

On Monday 30th March, an energetic group of Year 7 students and staff gathered to travel to Spring Beach, Orford for a three day camp. This was a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to intermingle during beautiful weather each day that put a spring in everyone's step.

Over the course of the camp students participated in a range of activities. These included the flying fox, beach activities, archery, friendship bracelet making, bush walking, skipping, elastics and the epic 'Hill Run'. They also had the opportunity to sit and reflect about their thoughts and feelings, as well as what qualities make a good friend.

Sadly, the three days of this amazing camp were up and it was time to pack up and head home, but not before stopping at Scorchers by the River Pizza Cafe for some fabulous pizza for lunch. The girls had a marvellous time and have certainly created lasting memories of their new adventures in high school at Mount Carmel College.



## Challenge, Resilience and Perseverance

In the last week of March, Year 8 students and staff headed off for a 2 night camp at Maria Island. The camp provided many benefits including the development of social skills and independence, team building and leadership skills, and the encouragement of physical fitness and an active lifestyle. The students were challenged in many ways and this will help foster resilience and perseverance, while also strengthening the bond with their teachers.

## A Time to Reflect

The first week of Term Two saw Year 9 English students (and several dedicated teachers), spend two days and one night at Port Arthur on the Tasman Peninsula.

Students soaked up the historic atmosphere, toured the Port Arthur site by lamp light (with interesting results), and saw some fabulous artefacts, usually seen only by visiting academics: the personal journal of James Boyd, the lower leg of an extinct Tasmanian Emu (yes, Tasmanian Emu) and other interesting pieces that got the girls questioning the past...especially the courting habits of Boyd after the death of his first wife!

Using the atmosphere and Port Arthur's many layers of memory, students created individual pieces of work, recording their thoughts and feelings in a journal and attempting to put themselves in the shoes of someone from the convict era. Point Puer and Isle of the Dead were fascinating for the girls, as they were led by very knowledgeable guides around these empty but evocative places.

At the end of the trip, some new historical minds began to make an appearance and a lot of tired bodies piled onto the buses. What a wonderful experience despite the cold and little sleep. It is hoped that this can be a regular excursion for Year 9 students.



# All the Fun of the Fair

What a wonderful success the  
2015 Twilight Fair was!

Although it threatened to rain and there was a slight drizzle at times, most outdoor activities continued as planned and we made the most of our College Hall and Art Room for the main events, keeping everyone warm and dry.

In total, a massive \$15,457 was raised...a fantastic result! Equally significant was the opportunity to come together as a community and celebrate our sense of belonging and it was terrific to see so many of our Old Scholars return and support the school.

With the money raised, it is now time to directly finance projects and initiatives that support our students' learning. Projects that the Parents and Friends have committed to support include:

- Alumni Honour Boards for the College Hall
- Three Music Scholarships for Year 7 students in 2016
- Contribution towards guest speakers Susan McLean, Melinda Tankard Reist and Book Week Writer-in-Residence
- Burn Bright student leadership sessions
- Robot purchases for SCRATCH program
- Playground enhancement, such as painted designs for hopscotch, snakes & ladders, counting wheels and more
- Start with your Heart guided reading series for Primary RE classes
- Coffee/tea facilities for KidsMatter parents resource room

The Parents and Friends Association are looking to host new fundraising events and are keen to hear your ideas. If you, or a group of fellow parents, have an idea for a dinner, a fashion parade, a guest speaker or something else, please make contact with Jodi Willcox at:

**[jodi.willcox@internode.on.net](mailto:jodi.willcox@internode.on.net)**

## Committee Members

<b>President</b>	Jodi Willcox
<b>Vice President</b>	Daniel Zeeman
<b>Secretary</b>	Carla Mingari
<b>Treasurer</b>	Anne Haward
<b>Committee</b>	Martin Sullivan and Suzie Bennetto

**Jodi Willcox**  
President







## Upcoming Event

Blue Illusion Sandy Bay and the Parents & Friends Association will be teaming up again to bring you a night of fun and fashion.

A parade featuring the latest Spring Season fashion will be held in the Sandy Bay Boutique on Wednesday 9th September.

You will have an opportunity to purchase from the latest collection and 20% of proceeds will be donated to the Parents & Friends Association. More details to come in Term Three.

# Mums are Special

## Dear Mum

No matter how old I become, I will always be your little one.

The child you raise from baby to girl, when I'm in trouble, I'm still your precious pearl.

Whether your journeys are long or small, you'll always be there for me, you were never late at all.

There are some hard times between me and you, but at the end we knew what to do.

I love you mum, I don't want you to go! Who will help me with my homework and who will help me to grow?

Your hugs are so unique, but in a very good way, every time I look at you, you're a good mum I say.

Thank you God for the mum I will never forget, you are the most kind, loving, well organised mum I have ever met.

No matter how old I am, the three words I'll always say to you is I Love You.



## My Mum

My mum's the house hero  
She has the strength of many  
She is the love of my life

## YVETTE

You've cared and loved for me  
Very often you would kiss me goodnight  
Every morning you hug me and send me off to school  
Together we're the mature twins of the family  
Til the day I die I will never stop loving you  
Every time you're sad, I'm sad and when  
you're happy, I'm happy.

Here at Mount Carmel, all our mums, step-mums, grandmothers and important female role models are special, so it was lovely to celebrate Mothers' Day with 100 of them in May and re-affirm the incredible work they do.

While it may have been wet and grey outside, the College Hall was filled with the aroma of lilies and roses and plenty of chatter. Guests were treated to delicacies of éclairs, tarts, scones and cakes, while listening to a number of students sharing the compositions they entered in the Mums Are Special poetry competition. Thank you to all the students who took the time to write about their relationship with someone special.



# The Principal's Perspective

Each edition of Lauramont will shine the spotlight on a staff member at Mount Carmel. In this inaugural edition, we sit down with the Principal, **Mrs Susan Ryan**, and ask her about her first 18 months at Mount Carmel and why she is so passionate about education.

**Q: You have now been at Mount Carmel for 18 months. What was your first impression of the community when you arrived and what stands out now, in your second year at the College?**

When I first visited Mount Carmel, I was struck by its calmness. I had been working in a large co-educational college of 1500 students for five years, and I immediately sensed an atmosphere of calmness, happiness and welcome here. Having a go and doing your best is very much the norm here, and what I love to see is that students support one another in that process. Everyone is encouraged to get involved and discover their talents.

Eighteen months later, I still have the impression of friendliness and inclusion. On any given morning, I know I will be greeted warmly by students, staff and parents. There is a real sense of community here.

**Q: What makes you smile at work?**

Almost everything! Last year a parent said to me, "You're always smiling" and my response was, "There's so much to be happy about." I love seeing the community alive with energy; I love students stopping to say hello or to show me their work. It's really satisfying being a part of the journey of a young person's education.

**Q: What do you love most about working in education?**

I'm one of those lucky people who always loved school. I loved it from my first day – I lived four houses away from my primary school and I even went there on weekends to play when I could – and I always dreamed of being a teacher. I can't think of a more dynamic job – every day is different; every day you learn something else, and most of all I love being surrounded by young people. Most kids have a naturally positive spin on life and I find that energising.

**Q: How long have you been a school leader? What/where was your first appointment?**

I began my career in education in Geelong, Victoria, where I held a number of different leadership roles, primarily in the areas of student wellbeing and pastoral care, then undertook an adventure moving to Launceston, Tasmania, where I was Deputy Principal: Pastoral Care for five years.



I've learned how much influence – good or bad – a teacher or leader can have.

**Q: When, and why, did you originally want to become a school leader?**

I've been inspired in my teaching journey by some amazing role models, and through those people, I've learned how much influence – good or bad – a teacher or leader can have. When I was based in the classroom, I wanted to be the best teacher I could possibly be; I think that's a journey that you never stop travelling – there is always more to learn and improve upon. For me, leadership means being part of a community, and being in a position to empower other members of the team to work to their strengths. I also think it is important as a leader to maintain my own profile as a lifelong learner, and I am reaching the final stages of my Doctorate in the area of cyberbullying, which is another area I'm passionate about.

**Q: In your opinion, what is one of the top issues facing educators of girls' today?**

Mental health issues affect one in five young adults, so a designated focus on wellbeing in schools is an essential investment in long term health. I believe that we need to train young women to be resilient. Structured pastoral programs, opportunities for reflection and meditation, a dedicated attention to teaching the skills and knowledge for intellectual and moral growth should all be integrated into the curriculum, in order to build confidence and positive attitudes. My strong conviction is that student learning cannot be separated from student welfare.

**Q: Who should girls look to as role models for leadership?**

Life is just full of role models for our girls, and they learn from the virtues of many amazing women who have come before them: their mothers, their grandmothers, their teachers, and of course contemporary women of courage such as Malala Yousafza. They study inspirational women like Mother Teresa, whose life was one of service in the slums of Calcutta, or Mary Aikenhead, who founded the Sisters of Charity, and pioneered work in education and health. There is no lack of incredible role models in society for our girls; what we have to ensure is that these 'real people', these women of courage and strength, are the models our girls are exposed to, rather than another type of 'model' that some forms of media would have us assume are more worthy. And to do this, we need to promote the amazing contributions of women of character and maintain the conversation with girls, encouraging them to be critical and discerning thinkers.

# Time flies...



Anzac Day



Surf Life Saving



Secondary Athletics Carnival



Autumn Concert





Beach Day



Opening Mass





...when you're having fun!



Relay  
for Life



Primary  
Swimming  
Carnival



Nepal  
Fundraiser



SSATIS  
Swimming  
Carnival

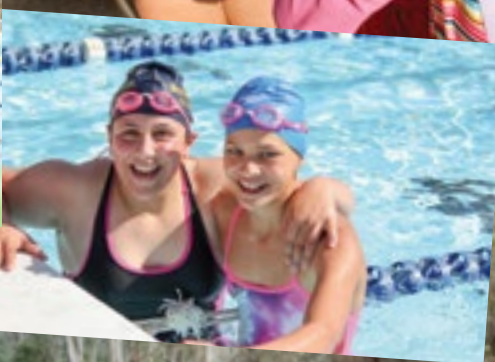


Mothers' Day  
High Tea





Field Day



Outdoor Education



Primary Learn to Swim



# A Message from the President

The Old Scholars have held several events over the last 12 months and it has been lovely to catch up with many past students and we hope to see more of you attending our events over the ensuing months.

I would like to thank our Principal, Mrs Susan Ryan. She has been very supportive of the Old Scholars Association and the events we hold and also regularly attends our meetings.

## AGM and Annual Mass

Our Annual Mass and AGM for 2014 was held on Sunday 17th August, 2014. The day commenced at St Joseph's Church celebrating Mass which was then followed by morning tea and the AGM at the Mount Carmel College Art and Technology Building. As many of you are aware, the Old Scholars always celebrate Mass for the AGM at Holy Spirit, Sandy Bay. In 2014 the Archbishop celebrated Mass on this day at Holy Spirit with many young children being confirmed. We were very fortunate to be able to move our Mass to St Joseph's and I would like to thank all the parishioners at St Joseph's Church for making us feel so welcome.



In our last newsletter we published the photo below (supplied by Louise Whitehead) taken on the verandah near the front door of *Lauramont* in 1958. It shows the third year (Grade 9) students. We asked old scholars to assist with naming the students. We had a fantastic response and we are now able to name all the students.

## Puddleduck Vineyard

On Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2014 the Mount Carmel and St Joseph's Old Scholars and friends enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at Puddle Duck Vineyard in Richmond.

It has become a tradition for the Old Scholars to hold this yearly event at Puddleduck and each year we are warmly welcomed by the owners and staff at the vineyard.

We had a great turnout and the sun shone all day. We all enjoyed a wide range of wines and cheeses.

## College Twilight Fair

The Old Scholars held their annual stall at the College Twilight Fair on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2015. Unlike last year, the sun was shining and we enjoyed the many past and present students who visited our stall to buy raffle tickets. It was so lovely to meet many past students with some taking the time to join the Old Scholars.

1. Some of the old scholars committee at the AGM, (L-R) Catherine Lennard (Connolly), Frances Jackson (Chen), Libby Peisse (Behrens) and Isabella Attwood (Wojtas)

2. L-R: Susan Foster (Haig), Yvonne Chaperon and Anne Haward (Woodhouse)

3. Back row L-R: Judith Sullivan, Mary Smith, Helen Donnelly, Jan Dwyer, Renate Marossy, Geraldine King. Front row L-R: Louise Whitehead, Therese Vermey, Susan Harrold and Mary Foly

4. At Puddleduck Vineyard L to R: Margaret Bird (Pegler) with cousins Roly Murphy (Dwyer), Jan Palfreyman (Dwyer) and Aileen Chaffey (Dwyer)





# Forthcoming Events

## Save the Date

### AGM and Mass – 16 August 2015

Our Annual Mass and AGM for 2015 will be held on Sunday 16th August. The day will commence at Holy Spirit Church celebrating Mass with the Parish of Sandy Bay at 10 am followed by morning tea and the AGM at the Mount Carmel College Art and Technology Building. All Old Scholars are warmly welcome – come along and see what the Old Scholars Association does.

Our end of year function is yet to be organised. So please keep an eye on the Old Scholars page on the College website for all details.

### It is time to become an Old Scholar

If you are not receiving our emails or newsletter it means we do not have you on the Old Scholars data base. If you would like to receive the newsletter twice a year and be kept informed of forthcoming functions, please register your name and details on the Old Scholars page on the College website at [www.mountcarmel.tas.edu.au](http://www.mountcarmel.tas.edu.au)

We would love to hear from you and what you have been doing since leaving Mount Carmel.

### Committee Members

<b>President</b>	Yvonne Chaperon
<b>Vice President</b>	Maureen Fasnacht
<b>Secretary</b>	Barbara Berkery
<b>Treasurer</b>	Liz Jordan,
<b>Committee</b>	Louise Whitehead Libby Piesse Isabella Attwood Anne Haward Gerardine Borghesi Frances Jackson Catherine Lennard

Yvonne Chaperon

### Class of 1977 40 Year Reunion

Although no date has been set, talk has begun for this significant reunion. If you graduated from Mount Carmel in either Year 10, 1975 or Year 12, 1977, please make contact with Anne Haward (Woodhouse) [anne.haward@mountcarmel.tas.edu.au](mailto:anne.haward@mountcarmel.tas.edu.au) or Karen Cupit.

## Where are they now?

School reunions are a fantastic way to catch up with your old classmates and find out what they have been doing since leaving Mount Carmel.

Mount Carmel encourages the organisation of school reunions and suggests that any Old Scholars planning a reunion make contact with the Community Relations and Development Director. The College will assist, where possible, in providing details of Old Scholars and is happy to help with the promotion of the event through our weekly school bulletin and the College website and Facebook page. To keep our database and archives up-to-date, it would be gratefully appreciated if any photos taken at the reunion, along with contact details of past students and teachers that are found by the reunion organisers, be passed onto the College.

### Class of 2005 – 10 Year Reunion

The date has been set – block out Saturday 31st October in your diaries and calendars.

The reunion will commence at 6pm at Mount Carmel and you'll be able to see how the school has changed in the past decade. For more details, keep in touch with Clare Scallon at: [clare.scallon@mountcarmel.tas.edu.au](mailto:clare.scallon@mountcarmel.tas.edu.au) and also join the Facebook page for updates.



# A Concrete Reserve

Sally Atherton: 1997 – 2008

I was fortunate enough to start my journey at Mount Carmel as a member of the very first Kindergarten class in 1997. As soon as I hit the desk I found myself developing a thirst for knowledge and a love of learning as I thrived in my schooling environment. I fondly recall the close College community, the unwavering school spirit, the friendly and dedicated staff and teachers, and the beautiful facilities overlooking the scenic River Derwent.

Some of my happiest memories at Mount Carmel were in Grade 10, my final year (2008). I vividly remember the closeness of our year group as we excitedly prepared for life outside MCC. Over the years I was lucky enough to be involved in so many aspects of College life; as a student leader and College Co-Captain in Grade 10, participating in the school production, performing a stand-up routine in Class Clowns, joining the school Science Club, dominating in the Science and Engineering Challenge, and getting caught up in the buzz of house events (go Lourdes!) and extra-curricular activities such as the school choir, debating, softball and table tennis.

Through experiences in the classroom and extra-curricular activities such as Numbers Club, the Science Club, Tournament of Minds and the Science and Engineering Challenge, I soon developed a love for maths, science and creative thinking. My passion and interest in these areas led me to enrol in a Bachelor of Civil Engineering in 2011. It was one of the best decisions of my life.

Studying engineering at the University of Tasmania from 2011 to 2014 was both challenging and rewarding; the maths was complex, there were so many new concepts, and I found it difficult to lead a life outside my university studies. In many respects I think my time at Mount Carmel prepared me well for the challenges I faced. I was self-driven, motivated and I had a well-developed sense of time management, leadership and teamwork. I brought to university the same commitment and dedication I developed from my time at Mount Carmel, and as a result I was thrilled to receive two scholarships, six engineering prizes, and a place on the Dean's Roll of Excellence during the course of my degree. In my final year of study I was awarded my Bachelor's Degree with First Class Honours, and a University Medal upon graduation. In the same year I was humbled to receive one of the



From Mount Carmel Kindergarten in 1997 to receiving the Rod McGee Medal at the University of Tasmania in 2014

I brought to university the same commitment and dedication I developed from my time at Mount Carmel.



most prestigious national awards for Australian civil engineering students, the Rod McGee Medal, for my academic achievements and Honours research project regarding the use of glass fibre reinforced concrete rainwater tanks.

I feel so fortunate to have achieved so much over the course of my academic life, and after eighteen years in the education system, I embarked on a new journey in February this year working as a graduate civil engineer in the Jacobs Hobart office. I believe a lot of the grit and determination I applied to my studies, and to my work as an engineer in the workforce, stemmed from my schooling at Mount Carmel. The MCC community spirit and capacity to “nurture, challenge and care” have shone through in many other aspects of my life through tutoring College level students in maths, becoming a STEM outreach ambassador at university, teaching English as a second language in Northern Thailand, and volunteering with St Vincent de Paul's ‘Loui's Van.’

One of the things I loved most about Mount Carmel was the support frameworks in place to help students in any endeavour they wished to pursue, whether it was academic, creative, sporting or spiritual. Never have I felt so accepted, welcomed and nurtured by a community. On a personal level, I felt that the College instilled in me a strong sense of pride, motivation, thirst for knowledge and a spiritual awareness that would be challenging to find elsewhere. The twelve years I spent at Mount Carmel College were easily some of the best years of my life. It's no surprise that the experiences and qualities I developed during my time at Mount Carmel shaped me into the person I have become today.



# My Memories of a Trailblazer

Robyn Bessell (Doyle): 1965 –1976

Everyone has a favorite teacher, someone who inspired her to achieve her best. Sister Eileen Kean was mine. She was a dynamo; an innovative educator who valued independence of spirit, creativity and determination.

My life has been deeply affected through my interaction with this woman and my memory is filled with experiences that guided me to academic exploration and to faith formation. At Mount Carmel College, under Sister Eileen's principalship, fortitude and backbone were upheld as womanly virtues and modelled by the sisters who were high-minded and cultured; Sr. Eileen Francis opened my eyes to literature and poetry, Sr. Jean to theatre and performance, Sr. Martha to orchestral music and Sr. Angela to Latin and Ancient History.

It was, however, Sister Eileen Kean who introduced me to feminist ideals; that girls could determine their own life course through education and a wide choice of careers. She inspired me to invest time and purpose in my learning and challenged me to make a difference in another's life; even if it were only the life of one other person. She impressed on me the immense variability of the human condition; not to judge others and to value diversity.

I believe that the Sisters of Charity should be included in the canon of feminism, certainly when it comes to the education of girls. Germaine Greer has pointed out that if Irish nuns hadn't arrived in Australia in the 19th century, young women would have had no formal education. Since then, the Sisters of Charity have educated generations of girls, nurturing their talents and instilling universal values of tolerance, patience, determination, honesty and humility. I have noticed among many women of my own generation: even when we rebelled against the strictures of the Catholic Church, or dropped the faith altogether, we have continued to value the sisters who educated us and encouraged our ambition.

From my first moments at Mount Carmel College in Grade Two until my last Speech Night, the sisters and lay teachers challenged me, guided me, affirmed me and corrected me; gently at times and firmly at others. In my years as a student I cannot remember a day in the classroom that didn't begin or end with a prayer asking for forgiveness and guidance. Sr. Eileen's

She never missed an opportunity to laugh with her students and at herself. She also was aware of her own failings; her pride in our achievements and her love of stylish court shoes and matching leather handbags.



educational philosophy was based on these two principles. She never criticised the person, just the poor choice of action, and a visit to her office would always end with supportive references to 'a lesson learnt', 'character building' or 'an invaluable life experience'.

Sr. Eileen helped me not to simply achieve my goals but to enjoy the journey. She never missed an opportunity to laugh with her students and at herself. She also was aware of her own failings; her pride in our achievements and her love of stylish court shoes and matching leather handbags. Her unparalleled joy at our leavers' gift to her, an Italian leather handbag, still brings tears to my eyes.

These life enriching and formative experiences, now memories of my past, deeply influence my pedagogy. In the first six months of teaching at my alma mater I have relived many happy memories. I have laughed to myself when on Quorn Street bus duty that some things never change: skirts below our knees, when we were too lazy to rebel, rolled skirts when we wanted to express our 'individualism'. I hear her words in my voice when admonishing the 'individualists'.

Mount Carmel College is proud of the achievements of so many of its alumnae. These may be in their professional careers, in the sporting arena, in philanthropy, or in acts of outstanding courage and compassion.

In future editions of *Lauramont*, we will continue to celebrate and applaud a number of women and their achievements.

We would love to hear from you about other women of significance from Mount Carmel or about your own achievements. Please email Caroline Jager, Community Relations and Development Director at [caroline.jager@mountcarmel.tas.edu.au](mailto:caroline.jager@mountcarmel.tas.edu.au) or telephone 03 6216 7924.

# A Healthy Career

Yvonne Chaperon: 1969 –1981

I started my education at Mount Carmel College in Prep in 1969 and completed Year 12 in 1981. Sometimes it feels like a lifetime ago and other times it feels just like yesterday. I would have to say that it was a very happy 13 years of my life and I remain good friends with many girls I went to school with.

I do remember my last day of Year 12 and feeling a sense of excitement about what would be my next step in life, but I also felt sad that this was the last day I would ever be at Mount Carmel.

The things I remember that still make me smile are: The last day of each term in primary school, we removed all the desks and chairs from the classroom, we took off our uniforms, and we put on our smocks. We were given a big can of polish and we stuck our rulers into the polish, flicked it onto the wooden floors and one girl had the responsible job of managing the runaway polisher. We polished the classroom floors in preparation for the beginning of the next term! It was such fun to skid across the classroom on the excessive polish that hit the floor boards.

I also recall the dreaded beach swim – we walked down to the little beach in front of the casino in full uniform. We then changed from our uniforms into our bathers to have our swim. We would then get back into our uniforms for the trip home... I can recall being mortified and embarrassed at wearing my wet bathers under my uniform all the way home... I was soaked.

Mount Carmel taught me many things. I felt protected, cared for and valued.

When I was a student at Mount Carmel I really wanted to be a nurse. I would have to say my grades were average, but I plodded away. I left Mount Carmel and commenced my working life undertaking administration jobs for a few years. I then commenced my nursing training at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and became a registered nurse. A few years later I undertook a law degree at the University of Tasmania and then joined a legal firm

Mount Carmel taught me many things. I felt protected, cared for and valued.



where I represented nurses for many years before the Nurses Board, the Coroners Court, the Federal Court and Magistrates Court.

It was whilst I was undertaking this role that I identified that many of the issues facing nurses before the courts were systemic problems in the workplace. In order to be able address these issues I commenced working with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation where I was a Union Official until very recently. In undertaking this role I was able to represent nurses and midwives nationally and make real change in their workplaces through change in policy.

I am now President of the Mental Health Tribunal. The Tribunal authorises treatment for a person who has a mental illness when that the person is too unwell to make treatment decisions for himself or herself. This is a position where I utilise both my nursing and legal skills.

What has influenced and motivated me to achieve my goals? Looking back over my career path for the last 30 years it has been varied, but what has been a constant is my goal to achieve change



where I see that change is necessary. Whether it is a change in health policy, a change in professional career structures, or a change in the way health services are delivered, I have been motivated to get involved, be active and not to sit on the fence and talk about what something should be or should look like.

I recognised very early on in my adult life that I am the only master of my destiny. You must work for what you would like to achieve. Of course this may take many years to do.

I have been influenced over many years by women in positions who have effected change. My first experience of a very strong and intelligent woman was Sister Eileen Keane. She was Principal of Mount Carmel for nine of my 13 years at school. She made many important changes to the running of the school during those years. Another woman of influence was former Prime Minister Julia Gillard. Whether or not you liked her policies or politics, you would have to agree she was a strong woman, the first female Prime Minister who effected change during her terms.

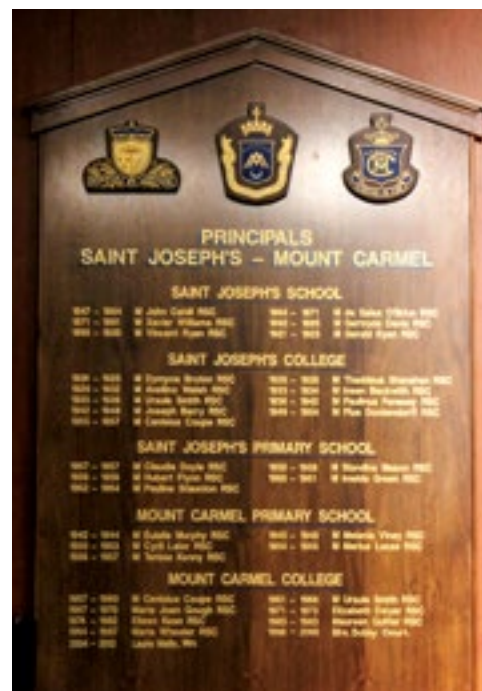
Of course, it would be remiss of me to talk about influential strong women without mentioning Mother Theresa who founded the Missionaries of Charity which in 2012 consisted of over 4,500 sisters and is active in 133 countries. Mother Teresa was awarded the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize.

I was slow to start my ongoing education after leaving school. I undertook my nursing qualifications at 25, my law degree at 30 and I am currently undertaking my MBA.

During my working life my employment focus has changed as I have matured. One thing that has not changed is my connection with Mount Carmel College. Since 1983 I have been involved in some way with the Mount Carmel and St Joseph's Old Scholars Association. I have been the President of the old scholars Association for the last few years.

We are a group of women with a strong bond forged by our memories of school days past. As stated in our Constitution, the object of the Association is to 'foster amongst the ex-students a greater spirit of pride and patriotism towards the College'.

I recognised very early on in my adult life that I am the only master of my destiny. You must work for what you would like to achieve. Of course this may take many years to do.



## Honouring our Students

In fostering a connection between past and present students, Mount Carmel is currently undertaking a project of creating a set of Honour Boards. These boards are a gift to the College from the Parents and Friends Association and once complete, will be mounted on the walls of the College Hall.

The series of boards will list those students who were bestowed with the honour of being the Head Prefect, Vice Head Prefect, College Captain, Dux of the School and the recipients of the Sisters of Charity Award as far back as 1957.

Records at Mount Carmel have been kept in many different ways across the decades and while we are fortunate that for the past 16 years we have complete digital files, we are relying on the memories of past and present staff and students to ensure our archives are accurate prior to 1999.

If you can assist with providing any of these details from your time at Mount Carmel, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Caroline Jager, Community Relations and Development Director at [caroline.jager@mountcarmel.tas.edu.au](mailto:caroline.jager@mountcarmel.tas.edu.au) or by calling 6216 7900

The boards will be a visible connection between the past and present and are likely to create a real interest for current students. Who knows, they may even give some students a goal to aim towards.

# Science and Engineering Competition

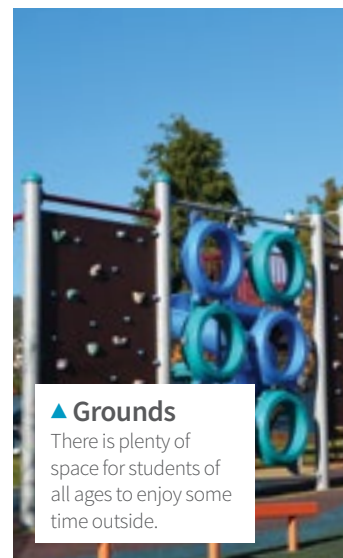
In late May, 2015, two teams of Mount Carmel students headed to Launceston to compete in the Science and Engineering Challenge regional finals.

The students had qualified for the finals earlier in the month and were now hoping to be the State champions for the third year in a row.

The challenges were issued on the day of competition – either a full-day challenge or two half-day challenges. At the end of the day, all teams were given a half way score before testing the bridge in the all Bridge challenge. At this point in the competition, Mount Carmel was placed 4th, so needed to make a comeback. This challenge seems to be the one task year-after-year, that makes or breaks a team and Mount Carmel has had mixed results in years gone by.

After the bridge was tested, holding the super ingot, the team was eager to find out final scores. The announcement was made - Mount Carmel placed 2nd overall, behind Launceston Christian School by a mere 20 points.

A big congratulations to our students on their performance and the determination and commitment shown. What has been achieved by our staff and students over the last three years proves that Mount Carmel are leaders in the field of Science and Engineering.







## Haven't visited lately?

If it has been a while since you were last at Mount Carmel, a lot has probably changed in and out of the classrooms. You don't have to wait for your reunion or an Open Day to have look around the school – we warmly welcome Old Scholars during term time and are happy to take you on a tour of our outstanding facilities.



### ◀ Art

The Art Room is an inspiration for creativity with its incredible outlook over the Derwent River.

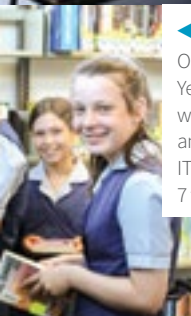
### ▼ Kinder

Kindergarten students have their own dedicated learning and playing areas.



### ◀ Library

Our Kinder to Year 6 students enjoy weekly Library classes and it is also provides IT resources for Years 7 to 10 students.



### ◀ Music

Participating in the Music Program at Mount Carmel uniquely contributes to a students' emotional, physical, social and cognitive growth.



### ▲ Sport & Hall

The College Hall hosts all-school assemblies and masses, and then can easily convert for PE lessons and Drama performances.

### ▼ Science

The up-to-date resources and equipment in our Science Labs has helped Mount Carmel develop a reputation for excellence in Science and Engineering.



### ▲ Hospitality

Mount Carmel is part of the Southern Tasmanian Catholic College Trade Training Centre and students can gain their Certificate I in Hospitality, the first step into working in the hospitality industry.

## Stay in contact

We hope you have enjoyed the inaugural edition of *Lauramont*.

Please continue to stay in touch – visit us online for the weekly bulletin and all our news and like us on Facebook so you can remain up-to-date with the many aspects of Mount Carmel College.

Remember to let us know your contact details: name, postal address, email and phone numbers plus the years you attended Mount Carmel College. Keep us informed of your celebrations and special occasions for our Old Scholar news.



**Mount  
Carmel  
College**

We nurture.  
We challenge.  
We care.

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## For your Diary

### TERM 3

Term 3 Commences	Tuesday 21 July
Parents & Friends Association Meeting (7pm)	Thursday 30 July
Year 10 Formal	Saturday 15 August
Year 7 Reflection Day	Friday 21 August
Book Week	Monday 24 – Friday 28 August
Arts Evening	Wednesday 2 September
Fathers' Day Breakfast	Friday 4 September
Year 10 Reflection Day	Friday 4 September
Parents & Friends Fashion Parade	Wednesday 9 September
Primary Athletics Carnival	Friday 18 September
Footy Colours Day	Wednesday 23 September
House Drama	Thursday 24 September
Term 3 Concludes	Friday 25 September

### TERM 4

Term 4 Commences	Monday 12 October
Parents & Friends Association Meeting (7pm)	Thursday 15 October
College Open Morning (9.15am)	Tuesday 20 October
Royal Hobart Show Holiday	Thursday 22 October
Staff and Student Free Day	Friday 23 October
Grandparents Morning	Tuesday 10 November
Year 10 Exams	Thursday 19 – Wednesday 25 November
K – 6 Orientation Day	Thursday 26 November
Year 10 Community Service	Thursday 26 – Friday 27 November
Appreciation Supper	Monday 30 November
Year 7 Orientation Day	Tuesday 1 December
Grade 6 Assembly	Wednesday 2 December
Year 10 Thanksgiving Mass	Thursday 3 December
Year 10 Farewell Assembly	Friday 4 December
Grade 4 – Year 10 Celebration Evening	Thursday 10 December
Primary Nativity Play	Friday 11 December
Activities Day	Friday 11 December
End of Year Liturgy	Monday 14 December
Year 10 Farewell Dinner	Monday 14 December
Term 4 Concludes	Tuesday 15 December