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# FLAME



OLSH Spirit

# From the Editor

People who meet members of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart community often comment on the incredibly warm welcome that is extended to them. I have heard this time and time again from families that come along to our Open Mornings. I also experienced this feeling when I started work at the College just last year. More recently, I felt the same kindness when I visited OLSH Kensington in Sydney, from the Sisters, the staff and the students. When you join the OLSH community you are offered unconditional support, care and encouragement in your endeavours. This is quite special and I believe unique, it is the OLSH Spirit.

This issue of *Flame* explores how the OLSH spirit is prevalent in so many areas of College life. No one embodies this spirit more than the first Superior General of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Sisters Marie Louise Hartzler. Following in her footsteps, is the 2017 Senior Australian of the Year, Sister Anne Gardiner, and the 2016 West Australian of the Year Anne Carey. You can read their stories on page 2.

OLSH College girls have really stepped up on the sporting field this year and they have recorded some fantastic successes, but just as importantly, the OLSH spirit has been on display for all to see. See page 3 for more details.

Providing a choice of education pathways is a hallmark at OLSH College and they are explained on page 4. There have been a variety of celebrations at the College recently and they are covered on page 5 of this edition. The Parents and Friends

Committee have had a very busy start to the year, see page 7 for more.

There are exciting times ahead with the opening of the redeveloped convent and the new OLSH Centre. In addition, work will soon commence on the refurbished Performing Arts Precinct and the new Senior Centre, there are more details on page 6.

Alumnae news, profiles and reunions, are covered from page 8 of the magazine. It is wonderful to see so many past students reconnecting with friends from days gone by. They still carry the OLSH spirit even after, in some cases, having left the College 50 years ago. Ramon Saheed is a teacher at OLSH and his story is on page 13.

The OLSH spirit may seem somewhat intangible and hard to quantify, but the stories in this magazine demonstrate it is alive and well at 111 Jasper Road Bentleigh and in the wider OLSH family.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this issue of *Flame* including:

Anne O'Loughlin, Annemarie Petering, Maureen Malone, Faye Valladares, Shane O'Neil, Carmen Miller, Christy Hatherley, Marie Soukis, Lisa Holmes, Annie Mirabile, Louise Hilton, Ramon Saheed, Yvonne David, Jacinta Moore and Jonathan Hewett.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Flame Magazine*.


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**Annie Opray**  
*Director of Development and Community*



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 Follow OLSH College

**Cover photo:** Sr Anne Gardiner being presented with her award for 2017 Senior Australian of the Year by the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

**Rear cover photo:** OLSH College and De La Salle College performed the musical the Addams Family to rave reviews, Morticia Addams was played by Sinead Fernandes and Gomez Addams was played by Eli Te Moni.

### Disclaimer

All care has been taken to verify that the information contained in this edition of *Flame* is correct. However, we apologise if any inadvertent discrepancies have occurred. Please contact the College if you would like to reproduce any of the material in this edition of the *Flame* magazine.

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# From the Principal

Since our beginnings in 1938 OLSH College Bentleigh has seen more than 10,000 girls educated in the OLSH Tradition. For these young women and their families there has been a deep connection to what we call our OLSH Spirit. This special and rather extraordinary Spirit finds its origins in the life of Jesus. It is Jesus “who lived for love and still more love” (Endo); who is at the centre of our story. For at the core of being a Heart person is living with a love that has no limits. For Fr Jules Chevalier msc and Mother Marie Louise Hartzler it was this Heart spirituality that fired their vision. OLSH College Bentleigh lives and breathes that vision today. The OLSH Spirit is part of who we are, we experience it in each other. In the words of Sr Mary Fyfe (OLSH Bentleigh Alumnae, Superior General OLSH Sisters 2005-2013) our OLSH Spirit

*... is a spirituality of the heart that the world is so much in need of today. We live it in practical ways through our everyday lives ... through compassion for others, forgiveness and mercy towards them, through kindness which has no limits, through acceptance of*



Anne O'Loughlin blesses Maya Blackman during Mass

*differences, and in care for each other's needs. We must carry forward the flame of our spirituality into our world, so that our lives and those of the people around us continue to be transformed by the conviction that God loves them and us with a human heart ... It is the knowledge and conviction of this love which will give to people's lives and to our own, the meaning and happiness for which everyone so much longs.*

There is no doubt that we are taken in by this OLSH Spirit that bonds us

together. We know how to celebrate life and all it offers, we rejoice in the gifts of others and we know that indeed there is something great happening at the College. This is the OLSH Spirit at work within and through us and it never stops. Importantly, as OLSH Bentleigh we must be a community where people with grateful hearts say yes more than no, we must push the boundaries of our capabilities, we must take the risk to put ourselves out there for others and because of others, we must pursue the very best that exists within us and most importantly we must love without limits and conditions. In the true sense of lifelong learning we will spend our lifetimes discovering, understanding and integrating what it means to be a person of heart and to find God in all things!

Regnet Christus.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart pray for us.

Anne O'Loughlin  
Principal



# The OLSH Tradition Continues

Despite being separated by nearly two centuries Mother Marie Louise Hartzler has much in common with some of the women who belong to the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart community today. Brave, loyal, selfless, kind and courageous are some of the characteristics that come to mind.

Marie Louise Hartzler was married and had two sons. Tragedy struck when her husband died and she was left a widow at just 45 years old. Marie Louise's inner strength saw her through the toughest of times. It was this fortitude that led her to accept the challenge from Jules Chevalier msc to become the first Superior General of the OLSH Sisters. During the next 26 years Marie Louise guided the Sisters and she was instrumental in realising their vision to help those in need across the globe.

The tradition continues today as Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Sisters currently work in 27 countries across five continents. Sister Anne Gardiner AM was named the 2017 Senior Australian of the Year by the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. She was described as a



*Sr Anne Gardiner teaching in the Tiwi Islands*

“Community champion, connecting cultures and celebrating aboriginal heritage.” For over 50 years Sister Anne has lived on Bathurst Island supporting the Tiwi people. She has been the Principal of the local primary school, run regular prayer meetings, founded the Op Shop and established a coffee shop. She is a fierce supporter of the Tiwi culture and people and her labour of love is establishing the Patakajiyali Museum where Tiwi history, culture and language can be preserved for future generations. Sister Anne has shown by example how one person can make a huge difference in the lives of others. In the award citation it says, “Sister Anne is much loved and respected by the Tiwi people and has earned an enduring place in their hearts.”

To hear Anne Carey speak is to understand and appreciate the term selfless and in 2016 she was announced as the West Australian of the Year. After 18 years as an OLSH Sister, Anne left the order to continue to work in health care. She was one of the first nurses to

volunteer to fight the Ebola virus in Sierra Leone and she returned two more times to nurse those afflicted with the deadly disease. The television show 60 Minutes named Anne the Ebola Saint in their story which covered her devotion to helping others despite the great personal risk. Anne's current crusade is to fight bullying in the workplace and she is currently working with many organisations to help reduce the occurrence of this insidious practice. It is a cause very close to her heart as she experienced the devastating effects of bullying herself.

Just like Mother Marie Louise Hartzler, Sister Anne and Anne don't regard themselves as extraordinary and they share the same humble view that they are simply carrying out God's work. This is a view shared by OLSH Sisters working throughout the world to help those less fortunate. They have been referred to as inspiring role models and OLSH College Bentleigh students of today need not look far to see how to touch the hearts of others.



*Anne Carey in Sierra Leone*



# Stepping Up

Michael Phelps, the greatest swimmer of all time said, “You can’t put a limit on anything. The more you dream the farther you get.” This sentiment has been embraced by OLSH College students in their many sporting endeavours.

Sports Coordinator Annemarie Petering commented, “The number of students who enthusiastically signed up to trial for triathlon, swimming, diving, tennis, futsal, badminton, basketball, and athletics teams has been steadily increasing each year. Coaches have reported excellent attendance at training sessions, and very good sportsmanship displayed by all OLSH representatives at inter school tournaments.”

Competitions are held regularly at school as well as the interschool events off-campus. So far this year OLSH College sporting teams and individuals have delivered impressive performances which have resulted in many PBs, ribbons and trophies.

An OLSH College team of 20 competed in the SCSA Triathlon in February in Geelong and Chloe Gorman won the Junior Section, Jarrah Martin came 4<sup>th</sup> and Hayley Gorman 8<sup>th</sup> in the Intermediate Division, all outstanding efforts in such a tough competition.

OLSH College entered a golf team in the Independent Schools Cup and, despite the challenging weather, the team played very well and Katya Adkin played a great round to win the Years 7 to 9 Section.

More success followed in the SCSA Swimming and Diving Carnival held at MSAC. The Swim Team was the overall winner in Division 2 and the Diving Team drew for 1<sup>st</sup> place overall. There was more success in the pool in April with talented Year 8 swimmer Aimee Grella beating her best time by 4 seconds to win the bronze medal in the 200 metre butterfly event at the National Championships in Brisbane.

It was an exciting day on the court for the OLSH tennis teams at the SCSA competition. The Seniors won, the Intermediates drew but came 2<sup>nd</sup> on a countback and the Juniors were runners up.

Mia Tulloch from Issoudun did herself and the College proud when she won the Year 9 Scull C final at the Head of the School Girls Regatta at the Barwon River.



*Aimee Grella with her bronze medal for the 200 metres butterfly at the National Swimming Championships*

These successes are a testament to the students commitment, dedication and hard work and to the support and encouragement of the PE staff and specialist coaches. Students have been inspired by the championship netball team, Vic Fury, who have used OLSH College as a training venue in 2017. Seeing past OLSH students succeed at the highest level in sport is also a great motivator. Annie Mirabile umpired the first ever AFLW match and Alana King is starring in the WBBL Cricket Team and representing her country with distinction.

But it is not just the students who are performing at elite levels who are celebrated. Intrinsic to the OLSH ethos is to encourage all students to ‘have a go’ and then to acknowledge their best efforts, irrespective of whether they make the podium.

Perhaps even more important than results is the spirit in which the girls compete. OLSH teams support and encourage each other at all times and they are gracious in victory or defeat. As Grantland Rice, the American sportswriter said, “It’s not whether you win or lose, it’s how you play the game.”



*Sporting success on the athletics track with the relay team of Tadi Kahonde, Penelope Papahatzis, Jarrah Martin and Jada Daly*

# Covering the Bases

When considering options for secondary education, many parents are not sure which field their primary school daughters will be interested in pursuing when they are older. “Will they be academic or will they prefer a more practical, hands on course to study in their senior years?” The key to solving this dilemma is to find a school that offers choices and OLSH College has the bases covered.

Students wanting to study VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) are well catered for at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College in terms of subject offerings and after completing VCE most students go on to further study at tertiary level. In addition, students completing their VCE may be awarded a VCE Baccalaureate if they achieve a minimum score of 33 in their English subject and pass a Unit 3–4 language and higher level Mathematics. OLSH College students achieve consistently excellent VCE results. Last year 36% of students scored an ATAR score of 80 and above. The Dux of the College in 2016 was Gabrielle O’Hagan who achieved an ATAR score of 98.65 with a perfect study score of 50 for Legal Studies. Gabby enrolled at Monash University and is studying Secondary Education (Honours)/Arts.

Transitioning to tertiary study can be a challenge and Faye Valladares from the Class of 2016 who is now studying a Bachelor of Science Degree at Melbourne University said, “For me, the transition from OLSH to university was a relatively easy one. Despite not knowing many others, I quickly made friends and began enjoying life as a university student. OLSH was a major contributor to this successful transition. The College’s emphasis on furthering our education prepared me for life after secondary school and encouraged me to explore my interests and

potential career pathways. From attending career expo’s and university open days as well as participating in work experience and pathway counselling, OLSH prepared me well for the transition.”

Some students prefer a more practical approach and they may choose a VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) pathway. It most commonly leads to further training at a TAFE, and an apprenticeship or employment after finishing school. Twenty students from Years 10, 11 and 12 undertook VCAL at OLSH last year.

VET (Victorian Education and Training) is also offered at OLSH College and it can be completed in conjunction with VCE and VCAL. VET provides nationally accredited training programs in a range of industries including applied fashion design, business, health and beauty, sport and recreation and community service amongst others.

Each year the local councils of Bayside, Glen Eira and Kingston announce the winners of the Applied Learning Awards. In 2016, OLSH College Bentleigh was proud to have received the two most prestigious awards, firstly the Applied Learning School of the Year and secondly the Applied Learning Student of the Year who was Michaela Hum.

Mrs Maureen Malone, Head of Department Pathways and VCAL



2016 Dux Gabrielle O’Hagan

at OLSH College places a lot of emphasis on preparing the students for life after school. “It is critically important the girls are equipped with the skills and maturity to cope with life after OLSH. We feel we have done a good job when the girls come back and tell us how happy they are with the direction they have taken and how quickly they have settled into their new routines.”

At OLSH College each student is valued and celebrated for their unique gifts and we feel fortunate to be able to offer a range of courses that allows all students to achieve their best in their chosen field.



# OLSH Celebrates

At Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College there are certain events on the school calendar which everyone looks forward to enjoying each year. They are special occasions when the community gathers to celebrate together. Recent events at the College have included OLSH Stars, the Performing Arts Spectacular (PAS) and Sacred Heart Day.

OLSH Stars is a night of wonderful entertainment provided by current and past members of OLSH College. Held in the Hall to a sell-out audience there is a variety of drama, music and singing acts performed throughout the evening.

Sacred Heart Day is a very special date on the calendar and the community has the opportunity to celebrate as Heart people, grateful for our special Heart spirit. The day began with a Mass in the morning. Students enjoyed a BBQ lunch which was followed in the afternoon by the Performing Arts Spectacular (PAS). The four Houses competed for the coveted trophy. Each House created an item that showcased their creativity, musical, drama and dance ability. Much time and effort went into each House performance so they could claim the victory in the hotly contested competition. This year the theme was 'Fractured Fairytales' and the girls were very creative in their interpretations. The winning House was Hartzler with a fantastic performance.

## OLSH Stars



Lauren Quintal



Allanah Burt, Keely Jamieson, Willow Ofosu-Amaah, Lauren Quintal and Charli Yanko

## Sacred Heart Day



## Performing Arts Spectacular



Hartzler House was declared the 2017 Performing Arts Spectacular winner

# Building for the Future

There are exciting times ahead at OLSH College as one major building project has just been completed and two new ones are about to commence.



## OLSH Centre and Convent Redevelopment

During Semester 2, we will move into the new OLSH Centre and redeveloped Convent.

The OLSH Centre is a state of the art building which will provide open and flexible learning and presentation spaces. The staff will also be accommodated in the building and there will be a new student Café and alfresco deck.

The Convent is being redeveloped to be the main entrance and administration area. The Chapel is also being redesigned and it will become the spiritual centre of the

site. It will provide a sanctuary for quiet reflection and prayer. We are hoping to be able to have baptisms, weddings and funeral liturgies for Alumnae in the Chapel in the future.

## New Arts Precinct

Construction is starting on two new major building projects at OLSH College. The first is the new Performing Arts Precinct which will provide a wonderful performance space. The redevelopment of the Theatrette will be partially funded by a State Government grant and the College needs to finance a further \$800,000 for the project. We would be most grateful for the support of generous donors to help fund the building.

## New Senior Centre

A new Senior Centre will be built at OLSH College to provide a dedicated study area for senior students. The Library will also be renovated as part of this project, which will be of benefit to all students. Some of the funding required will be provided by the College but donations will be needed from the community to see the project to fruition.



## Donations

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the OLSH College Building Fund to support the building of the new Arts Precinct, Chapel and the Senior Centre please contact the Business Manager, Mr Mario Marinelli, on 98520 9200 or email [mmarinelli@olsh.vic.edu.au](mailto:mmarinelli@olsh.vic.edu.au). Thanking you in advance for considering this request and for your kind generosity.





# Parents and Friends Association

It has been a very busy start to the year for the Parents and Friends Association. There are now 20 parents actively involved in organising events and activities to strengthen ties in the OLSH community and raise some funds along the way.

'Raising Amazing Girls' was a presentation hosted at OLSH College on 28 March by Dannielle Miller one of Australia's foremost educators, authors and media commentators on teenagers. The session was sold out and both parents and students came along. Dannielle provided some helpful strategies about how to raise confident, happy girls. She also discussed the pressure young girls are under today in terms of unrealistic body image as portrayed by the media.



*Dannielle Miller presentation*

Anne Carey is a West Australian of the Year and she recently joined us for a talk entitled 'The Courage to be Kind.' Anne was one of the first volunteer nurses to go to Sierra Leone to help people afflicted with the terrible Ebola virus. Her story inspired and moved the audience and the message to put others first was key to Anne's presentation.

Our parent community had a wonderful night on Friday 5 May when BABBA came to OLSH College. It was a great night full of fun and dancing, not to mention some amazing costumes. The P&F organised a number of fund raising games and the proceeds raised from the evening will assist with the purchase of furniture for the new student Café.

The P&F has also been busy on the fundraising front with a Hot Cross Bun Drive and a Mother's Day offer



*Four Nonna's pasta offer sampling*

to purchase some Four Nonna's Pasta to give Mum the night off cooking on Mother's Day.

Thank you to all of the generous OLSH families who have supported these initiatives.

Sincere thanks also go to the busy parents who are members of the OLSH College Parents and Friends Association, the time and effort they devote to helping the College is very much appreciated.



*BABBA parent evening*

# Alumnae Profiles



## Annie Mirabile, 2011

**Favourite subject:** Specialist Maths.

**Occupation:** Student (Physiotherapy at University of Melbourne), Football umpire (VFL).

**Career highlight:** Umpiring the first ever AFLW match and having the honour of starting the game with the first ball-up in front of 24,500 people.

**Family:** Mum (Trish) and Dad (Mario).

**Lives in:** Bentleigh.

**Hobbies:** Umpiring, basketball, netball.

**Fondest OLSH memory:** The Italy (March 2009) and Kiribati (July 2009) trips I participated in during Year 10 were both great. Being completely immersed in different cultures was an incredible experience.

**What's your personal philosophy and what motivates you?** I hate regretting that I could have done something better if I had put in more effort, so I'm motivated by giving things the best shot I can and trusting that good things will happen if I do.

**Best advice to your younger self:** Don't stress too much about what other people think.



## Carmen Miller, 2003

**Favourite subject:** Textiles.

**Career goal at OLSH:** Fashion designer.

**Occupation:** Fashion designer and artist.

**Career highlight:** Creating my own silk painting label called Antigua Love and appearing on the front cover of "Maracas", a magazine showcasing creative movers and shakers.

**Family:** My father Darren and brother Alex and my mother and her sisters who also went to OLSH: Marita Larkin, Jennifer Allen, Rosemary Larkin.

**Lives in:** English Harbour, Antigua, West Indies, Caribbean.

**Hobbies:** Tennis, ukulele, sailing, painting and gardening.

**Fondest OLSH memory:** My best friends who are still there for me!

**What's your personal philosophy and what motivates you?** This quote is by Bob Marley, which is fitting since I live in the Caribbean. He said, "Live the life you love, and love the life you live."

**Best advice to your younger self:** Be yourself and trust your instincts. Everything will work out.



## Christy Hatherley, 2006

**Favourite subject:** English and Sciences.

**Occupation:** Radiation therapist at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

**Career highlight:** Working in London, then travelling through Europe.

**Family:** Co-parent to a Flemish Giant rabbit called Steven.

**Lives in:** Bentleigh.

**Hobbies:** Travelling, eating out, sewing and quilting.

**Fondest OLSH memory:** My trip to Kiribati. It was an experience which opened my eyes and my heart and put me in touch with my passions for seeing the world and working to help people in need.

**What's your personal philosophy and what motivates you?** This came from a poster in the Year 12 study hall..."Positive thoughts influence positive actions." I try to say 'yes' to any reasonable opportunity that comes by. I am motivated to work towards goals and new adventures and to find enjoyment in whatever I am doing.

**Best advice to your younger self:** Be brave and confident and not afraid to try new things or be an individual. Value and respect your relationship with friends and family. Trust yourself and your skills and look forward to what is to come.





## Lisa (Mahmoud) Holmes, 1995

**Favourite subject:** English.

**Career Goal at OLSH:** To strive towards my best, making the most of every opportunity provided.

**Occupation:** Paediatric speech pathologist.

**Career highlight:** It's a fulfilling job watching children make progress and improve their ability to communicate and socialise with their peers, a skill many of us take for granted. The rewards are plentiful and I often don't even realise I am going to work, rather just to play!

**Family:** Married with two energetic boys, Ryan (8 years) and Liam (6 years).

**Lives in:** Hampton East.

**Hobbies:** Gym classes, tennis, reading, travel and socialising with family and friends.

**Fondest OLSH memory:** Year 12 Formal.

**What's your personal philosophy and what motivates you?** To live, laugh and enjoy each and every moment, looking forwards not backwards. I am intrinsically motivated by the love and support of my amazing family and friends.

**Best advice to your younger self:** Live each day to the fullest, tackle new challenges with optimism and have no regrets.



## Louise Hilton, 1994

**Favourite subject:** Biology and Chemistry.

**Occupation:** Laboratory technician at OLSH College. I did a Biomedical Science degree followed by Honours in Microbiology and then a PhD in the field of chicken immunology. I took up a research post at Oxford University where I was investigating patients with HIV and then worked at Monash University in the Biochemistry Department.

**Career highlight:** My research at Oxford was part of a larger contribution to research that was published in the prestigious scientific journal 'Nature'.

**Family:** I am married with a 6 year old daughter and 4 year old son.

**Lives in:** Dingley.

**Hobbies:** Cooking, doing road trips and camping holidays with my family.

**Fondest OLSH memory:** Dancing around the hall for our final Year 12 assembly to our theme song.

**What's your personal philosophy and what motivates you?** To make every day count. You only get one chance at this life so make the most of it.

**Best advice to your younger self:** Don't stress the small things as in a few years' time you will have forgotten all about it. Oh... and stop dyeing your hair as it is amazing just how it is.



## Marie Sioukas, 2011

**Favourite subject:** Art.

**Career goal at OLSH:** Join the military as I had been an RAAF cadet while at school.

**Occupation:** Manufacturing jeweller.

**Career highlight:** Making my first piece of jewellery for a client. Actually it was a secret engagement ring for one of my workmates at Bentleigh Jewellery. Gorgeous thing with a parti-sapphire. It was a privilege to be able to contribute to her surprise.

**Family:** Mum Louise, Dad Thomas, sisters Alexandra (twin) and Olivia, brother Ari.

**Lives in:** Bentleigh.

**Hobbies:** Shopping, drawing, movies and catching up with friends.

**Fondest OLSH memory:** All the friendships I made and continue to have.

**What's your personal philosophy and what motivates you?** My personal philosophy in life is to learn; whether that is through education, work, life or leisure. Let every lesson guide you and teach you, inspire you and heal you. And through life's lessons, I'm motivated to learn, explore, challenge, dream, focus and act.

**Best advice to your younger self:** Don't give up. Sometimes your mum just might be right. Save your money. Live, love and laugh.



# Reunions

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*Class of 1967, 50 year reunion*



*Class of 1977, 40 year reunion*



*Class of 1997, 20 year reunion*



# Alumnae Visits

From time to time, Alumnae travelling from interstate or overseas contact the College and ask to visit and take a tour. We are always very happy to welcome back past students to the College, especially those who have not been in the neighbourhood for many years, sometimes decades. We thank our wonderful Alumnae for sharing their stories and enriching our Archive collection.



## Class of 1949 and 1954

Sisters Pat (Ashworth) Spencer from the Class of 1949 and Beverley (Ashworth) Faulkner from the Class of 1954 who lives in Oregon USA (College Captain, 1954) came to the College accompanied by Sr Elaine Cochrane who had been Bev's classmate. All were fascinated by the Archives display, especially when they found pictures of their younger selves. From L-R: Bev, Sr Elaine, Pat.



## Class of 1956

Mary (Timbrell) Beverley from the Class of 1956 was travelling from her Wynnum West home in Queensland to join a cruise when she visited. She was delighted to see the collection of dolls dressed in miniature copies of the habits worn by the OLSH sisters over their years at the College. These dolls will find a home in the Heritage Rooms of the new OLSH Centre, which incorporates a refurbished chapel as well as other facilities. L-R: Maureen (Wilson) Malone, Head of Department for Pathways/VCAL and Mary in the Archives room.



## Alumnae Visits



### Class of 1952

Lynn Marshall and Tammy Price came to donate a lovely photo of their mother, Mary (Dowker) Sparey (recently deceased) who is pictured wearing one of the very first brown and gold uniforms introduced in 1950. Mary's mother, Nina, was the tailoress who made many of the OLSH girls' uniforms at this time.



### Class of 1968

Gerrie McNamara visited with her friend, Verion Stroud, 1968, and both kindly donated items to the Archives. Verion is holding one of her Form 1 workbooks for Christian Courtesy while Gerrie displays her blazer pocket showing she was House Captain for Regina Pacis (Green) in 1962 and 1963, as well as College Dux in 1963. L-R: Verion and Gerrie.

## Alumnae News

### Welcome

Maya Knight from the Class of 1997 and Paul Foster welcomed Georgia Grace Foster-Knight into the world on 29 November 2016. Georgia, known as Gigi, was born in London, but recently had many play dates with children of other 1997 alumnae when Maya came back to Melbourne in February to attend her 20<sup>th</sup> reunion.



### Vale

#### We remember in prayer

Mary (Dowker) Sparey, 1952  
Dorothy (Davis) Nolan, 1955  
Kathy (Munro) Wilson, 1965  
Nancy Taranto, 1990  
Gabrielle Minieri, 1990

*May Our Lady of the Sacred Heart hold them gently in her care and may their souls rest in peace.*

### Congratulations

On 30 October 2016, Fr Bob Maguire married Bianca Hoban and Trent Collie at The Deck at Circa in St Kilda. The bridesmaids were all OLSH College girls: Danielle Hoban, 2007; Caitlin (Malone) Casey, Kate Newey and Michelle Worrell, from the Class of 2002.



### With Thanks for Donations

We are grateful for the generosity of the following donors to the *Flame* Scholarship Fund:

Joan (Worrell) Shiel-Ough, Class of 1952

Linda (Henderson) Bruce, 1966;  
Anonymous, Class of 1970 Class of 1972 and Class of 1977.

Donations to *Flame* Scholarship Fund are tax deductible. Please contact Annie Opray, Director of Development and Community, on 03 8520 9200 if you are interested in making a contribution to the education of current and future OLSH College students.



# Citizen of the World

Some people are content to live their entire life in the same location but this is not in Ramon Saheed's DNA.

Perhaps Ramon's family heritage goes some way to explaining his love of adventure and travel. Ramon's father fled from Sri Lanka to Germany during the insurgence of the Tamil Tigers. Ramon's mother, Heidi was from a small town in Germany where she met Ramon's dad Nico who was driving a taxi. Despite them being from very different worlds the rest, as they say, is history.

The family migrated to Australia when Ramon was just five years old. Speaking no English Ramon started Prep at Thomastown Primary School and then moved to St Oliver Plunkett Primary School in Grade 2. He was soon fluent in English but he cites German as his first language. Ramon enjoyed school and made friends easily, but fair to say he was more interested in the social aspect than study.

Growing up Ramon had a great work ethic, he started his first job in a bookshop when he was 14. Ramon went to Strathmore Secondary school where he quickly became involved with the backstage crew mastering the technical aspects for all of their performances and productions. Ramon decided he wanted to study Bachelor of Business (Tourism and Hospitality) at Latrobe which he really enjoyed. However, jobs were scarce and so he took a job in Accounts Receivable in a large company and began to contemplate a career in accounting.

Ramon travelled for all of 2003 backpacking through Europe. Upon his return he had a part

time job in a retail outlet selling tabletop games. It was here Ramon discovered his love of teaching as he helped his young customers master their hobbies. This revelation made him reassess his future and he decided teaching was the career for him. Ramon applied to do a Graduate Diploma at RMIT in 2004. He anxiously waited for an offer and, taking matters into his own hands, Ramon knocked on the door of the Enrolment Coordinator every day for two weeks. His persistence paid off when, much to his delight, he was offered a place. In 2005, Ramon married Katherine who he met in Year 10. Romance blossomed when they became more than just good friends at Schoolies. They have two sons, Oliver who is 5 and Elliot who is 3.

Ramon has enjoyed teaching from the first day, he has worked predominantly in primary schools, in boys, girls and coeducational settings and he has also worked in the TAFE and University sectors. He and Katherine also took an overseas posting in China where they taught at a University. Whilst there they took the opportunity to travel for four months in Asia and Russia, after which time they moved to London to teach.

Ramon joined OLSH College in 2015 and he has remarked that of all the many places he has worked he has never experienced such a warm and welcoming place, in fact he says "Nothing compares to it." Ramon teaches Year 9 Humanities, is a Homeroom Teacher and also is the Director of Education and



*Ramon Saheed*

Information Services. Ramon's speciality is technology, he happily calls himself a nerd and loves nothing better than immersing himself in the latest trends and devices. He has supported and guided staff through the implementation of the CANVAS Learning Management System. Another string to Ramon's bow is that he is a Microsoft Innovative Expert which means he is a member of a network who exchange best practice ideas, attends professional development conferences and is fully informed about the fast paced technological world.

Ramon's greatest wish for his students is that they can self-manage, think critically and have transferable skills which will help them thrive in a rapidly changing workplace.

At last count Ramon has visited over 60 countries including a recent trip to Iceland and he plans to see many more. Ramon's knowledge and extensive travel experience helps him show his students that the world can indeed be their oyster.



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