



VILLA'S WORLD MEDALIST'S

SEE PAGE 8



GRACE PRENDERGAST

Gold at The World Juniors
Rowing Championships.



RACHEL MCCANN

Bronze at Youth Olympics NZ
Junior Women's Hockey Team.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I have just returned from sabbatical leave which gave me a blessed chance to be part of a Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Paul and to attend the Oberammergau Passion Play.

Another special character opportunity in the last three weeks was my visit to Takuilau College in Tonga. Generations of Villa girls have raised funds to help the College with learning and teaching resources. It was a privilege to get to know staff and students of that College community and identify ways to focus our future fundraising.

In recent times Villa has had teachers serving in areas as diverse as Myanmar and the Philippines, as well as past students helping in Africa and in Samoa. Like each of those volunteers, I appreciate how my own life has been enriched; my understandings enhanced by sharing in the amazing work done by so many people in areas challenged with lack of basic resources and limited opportunities for people to strive for and achieve their dreams.

Social justice teaching and special character service opportunities are such an important part of learning and teaching in a Mercy school. With the earthquakes of early September there is plenty of scope for us to exercise our Mercy spirit here in Christchurch. As Term 4 begins we will seek ways in which our Villa girls can offer practical assistance to organisations, families and individuals.

While the College did not suffer damage, the homes and businesses of staff and students have been affected. We are greatly encouraged and deeply grateful for the letters, cards and donations received from Catholic schools all over New Zealand.

MARY LYNCH
PRINCIPAL



GRADUATION 2010

Graduation 2010 is just around the corner and we have never featured this unique Villa tradition which began in 1993.

The Villa Maria College Graduation begins with a Liturgy and ceremony that involves memories being retold, the presentation of leaving certificates and an inspirational guest speaker. After the formalities the Year 13's, staff and families are invited to a graduation ball.

As Catholics, we mark significant life transitions with liturgy – often birth with Baptism; age of reason with Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation; adult life choices with Marriage or Holy Orders; life's end with Anointing.

*"Collectively closing one chapter of our lives."
Ashleigh Kortegast*

Leaving school is a significant transition and we mark it with liturgy – a celebration of song, prayers, scripture, and the life stories of the girls who are leaving. Each Graduation is so different as another generation of Mercy Women move out to make a difference in the world. Parents, grandparents, siblings and friends are such an important part of that celebration.

Head Girl in 2009, Ashleigh Kortegast says that Graduation was about "collectively closing one chapter of our lives (our high school years) and looking toward opening a new chapter." Similar sentiments are shared by 2009 Deputy Head Girl Sarah Holmes, who says that "it was particularly special having family and staff at the Graduation sharing our final College event."

Ashleigh Kortegast found the Liturgy very moving. "It gave me a chance to focus on God and the role our faith has played in getting each of us to the final stage as Mercy Woman graduating from Villa," she says.

We look forward to this year's Villa Maria College Graduation which will be held on December 10th. The Liturgy will take place at the James Hay Theatre followed by the Graduation Ball at the Town Hall.





FOUNDATION CHAIR

Kevin and Antoinette Searle have been actively involved in the Villa Maria College community for many years. Antoinette is a past pupil and their two daughters, now 20 and 23, also attended the College. As the result of a life changing event in 1994, Kevin retired as a Solicitor and has generously given of his time and talents to many community causes.

Kevin is a passionate cyclist spending hundreds of hours coaching Villa Maria College pupils each year. The continued success of cycling at the College is testament to his steadfast involvement.

As the new Chair, Kevin feels privileged to have the opportunity to grow the Foundation. He sees the need to make it relevant with tangible results. He wants to impress upon our Villa community - past and present - the importance of securing the future of the College for generations to come. "The best phrase to describe this is: standing on shoulders," says Kevin. "We must shoulder the responsibility to honour the past and plan for the future."

His first task will be consulting with all stakeholders of the Villa Community and developing a 5 year plan. Kevin looks forward to meeting Villa Maria College supporters and listening to their hopes for the Foundation.



"The best phrase to describe this is: standing on shoulders."
Kevin Searle

BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR

Virginia's association with Villa Maria College began in 1990 when she entered the gates as a young Year 9 student. Now, a qualified lawyer and mother of two, Virginia has devoted many hours to her role on the Board of Trustees over the past eight years.

A chance visit to Catherine McAuley's first Mercy Sisters' home in Ireland made a huge impression on Virginia. "I recall the absolute delight of the Sister who greeted me at the front door and upon hearing I was a Villa girl exclaimed: 'ah, another Mercy woman.' Those words struck a chord and I felt a real desire to give something back to the College."

Virginia believes her role on the Board of Trustees enables her to contribute to the education and nurture of young Mercy women. "Villa is such a unique College, and as a Board we strive to provide opportunities for all of our students to reach their potential. We want our girls to leave Villa with confidence in their own abilities, and we hope that the Mercy story will inspire them to make a difference." She pays credit to the past and present members of the Board, the Proprietor and the Foundation who give so generously of their time and expertise.

Virginia is also a Director of Villa Maria College Christchurch Limited and more recently, Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Manatu - Sisters of Mercy Ministries New Zealand Trust Board.



"We hope that the Mercy story will inspire them to make a difference."
Virginia Noonan

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is committed to providing a safe and effective learning environment for our students. As a result, the Board is excited to be finalising plans for new science laboratories. We believe the new facilities will assist our students' academic achievement by providing modern, purpose-built learning spaces. The Board would like to thank our College Proprietor, Villa Maria College Christchurch Limited, who has worked with the Board in designing and planning the development. It is also our Proprietor who is funding this major capital work, and we are grateful for their commitment to the continual improvement of the College.

As the Board is always looking for ways to improve College life, we are undertaking professional development this term to ensure that, as a Board, we are operating as effectively as possible to deliver a quality service to our College community. With new Trustees recently elected, this training is also helping us to get to know one another and to understand the strengths each Trustee brings to the Board.

In term three our Principal, Mary Lynch, was on sabbatical. Our Deputy Principal, John Schuers, became the Acting Principal, and we have enjoyed working with John in his new capacity. This has also allowed other staff members to 'step-up' into other management roles. It is wonderful that our College has such a depth of leadership, and we wish to thank our management team for their dedication and commitment.

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PROPRIETOR'S REPORT

Exciting News

After 12 months of planning and consultation the Company Board is delighted to confirm that the decision has been made to proceed with an exciting new building project at the College. The project involves the construction of a new building between McAuley and Ashby Blocks to create two new science laboratories, create two new laboratories upstairs in Ashby Block and substantially upgrade and refurbish two existing labs.

The Capital Development Committee made up of representatives of the Company Board and Board of Trustees has recently met to give approval for the final plans and specifications. Those plans are currently with the City Council for consideration of the building consent application. The project is to be offered to a selected number of builders for a tender process and we are very hopeful that a successful tender can be let very soon.

Our Project Manager has developed a project timeline that if all goes according to plan, should see the new facilities available very early in the 2011 school year. This will involve contractors working over the holiday break and all of the contractors who will be asked to tender have given a commitment that they will be able to make staff and sub-trades available so that our time target can be met.

"The new laboratories will play a major part in the continued ability of the College to deliver top quality teaching opportunities for our current and future pupils."

Michael O'Regan

We have undertaken the required consultation with the Board of the Sisters of Mercy New Zealand Ministries Trust which oversees all major building project work for properties owned by the Sisters of Mercy throughout New Zealand. The necessary approval has been given for us to proceed with the project.

One of the important contributions that the Company Board has available to assist with capital works (such as this new project) are the voluntary building contributions from families in the Villa Maria Community. The whole of the Villa Maria Community should be proud of the

support it has shown for the development of new facilities at the College. The new laboratories will play a major part in the continued ability of the College to deliver top quality teaching opportunities for our current and future pupils.

Another recent project which should not go unannounced is the decision of the Company Board to take up The Ministry of Education funding proposal to assist with the Broadband upgrade in schools throughout the country. This involves a contribution of at least one-third of the capital cost. Contractors have been working over the past several weeks throughout the College to lay new cable to ensure that we have the highest capacity Broadband speed and facilities to the majority of teaching spaces throughout the College. In the case of some of the temporary and older buildings, the Broadband capacity will be supported by Wireless networks within each building.

The Company Board is very grateful for the ongoing support of the senior College staff and management who work tirelessly to advocate for the very best for the College and its pupils.

You will all have the opportunity to join with the Proprietor's representatives and Board members and senior staff at the College at the blessing and opening of the new building early next year.



PROPRIETOR'S CHAIR MICHAEL O'REGAN

The O'Regan family has strong links with Villa Maria College and the Mercy Sisters. A close relation of Michael, Sister Pauline O'Regan, was Principal at Villa between 1950-1966; his Aunty taught at the College and a number of family members were pupils including Michael's own daughter.

These strong ties, along with a desire to share his many talents have kept Michael involved in the Governance of Villa Maria College for the past 15 years. Michael is a Lawyer and senior partner at Christchurch's Cameron and Company.

The Proprietor, Villa Maria College Christchurch Ltd, governs the capital development of the College. Michael believes the next ten years will see a number of modernisation programmes that ensure the College facilities are able to deliver the curriculum in the style that is required. "The contribution that the Villa Maria College Community

has made over the years to the building fund is crucial," says Michael. "Improvements, like the new science development are testament to the financial commitment our parents make each year."

"The contribution that the Villa Maria College Community has made over the years to the building fund is crucial."

Michael O'Regan

The Directors of the Villa Maria College Christchurch Ltd are selected by the Sisters of Mercy and include: Sister Anna Clarke, Kevin Ford, Barbara Te Me Miha, John Ruane, Jane Higgins, Virginia Noonan, Robin Vesty, Roger Knaggs, Philippa Worthington and Secretary Shelly Nicholson.



PTA REPORT

The PTA has been working hard raising money for many additional items around the College. Their recent Book Fair was a great success and raised funds for equipment in the new science facilities. Other funds have paid for four active whiteboards in classrooms.

The next project for the PTA is the upgrade of the sound system in the hall. "It is wonderful to be able to help fund things for the College that enhance learning experiences for our students," says Maarten Loeffen, PTA Chair.

There are plans for an educational evening for students and parents early in 2011 that focuses on the use and abuse of alcohol.

The PTA has lots of great ideas and would warmly welcome your help. Join their monthly meetings and enjoy getting to know other Villa parents. The PTA meets on the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30 pm in the College Meeting Room, near the Main Office.

PTA Chair
Maarten Loeffen
P: 355 7750
E: maarten@traiteur.co.nz



PTA members prepare for the Book Fair
Front Left to Right: Kate Trotter, Donna Monk, Jackie McCarthy
Back Left to Right: Gwynneth Tinkler, Nicky Bradley, Maarten Loeffen

AFS EXCHANGING LIVES

It takes a great deal of courage for teenagers to travel half way around the world and submerge themselves in a completely foreign culture – on their own! Villa Maria College recently farewelled two AFS exchange students: Gudmunda Jonsdottir from Iceland and Anais Dupont from Belgium.

Both girls spoke with great fondness about the past 12 months. "My year has been amazing," commented Gudmunda. "I have been constantly struck with the beauty of New Zealand and would have to say that bungy jumping was one of my highlights." A proud moment for Anais was when one of the Villa girls commented on how much of a 'Kiwi' she was becoming. "I just laughed at myself and the transformation I was making," she says.

For Gudmunda, her placement at Villa Maria College required many adjustments. She had only heard about girls' school in movies and uniforms are not worn in Iceland.

Anais was hosted by Siobhan Fauth and family who say they too have benefitted greatly from this experience. "We've learnt so much about the Belgium culture and made a special bond for life," says Siobhan. "It's not always easy to share your life with someone you've never met but it has all been well worth it!"

Both girls wish to sincerely thank the staff and students at Villa. "Everyone has just been so supportive and expressed the special character of mercy throughout our stay."



Left to Right:
Anais Dupont, Gudmunda Jonsdottir and Siobhan Fauth

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BRAINY BEES

Ellie Davison, Emma Barbafiera, Savannah Peck and Jessie Smith were buzzing when they received the news that they had qualified to compete in the 2010 South Island finals of Brain Bee in Dunedin.

The Brain Bee is a programme designed especially to encourage high school students to learn about neuroscience. It was founded by Dr Norbert Myslinski of the University of Maryland and today competitions take place worldwide. The winner of each Local Bee is invited to attend a National Brain Bee competition in his or her own country, and the winner of each National Bee is invited to compete in the International Brain Bee Championship.

The girls flew to Dunedin along with 85 other contestants and were treated to a night in the museum! A torch-light tour of the exhibits was definitely memorable. "It's amazing how much a torch banging on a railing scares you when you know there's a Mummy in one of the exhibits," commented Ellie.

Round one of the competition was an individual pursuit that covered students' knowledge of the regions of the brain and their effect on sleep, aging, movement and disease. Ellie Davison made it through to the top 20 students in this round.

The team round followed which saw the Villa Maria College girls win a place in the finals. Only six teams made it to this level and while they were disappointed not to secure a placing, they are extremely proud to be one of the best teams in the South Island.

Their trip also included a tour of the Anatomy Museum and a series of mini lectures from Otago University professors.



Left to Right:
Jessie Smith, Savannah Peck, Ellie Davison and Emma Barbafiera

Savannah believes that "attending the Brain Bee opened our eyes and gave us an insight into what the world of science has to offer."

The girls flew to Dunedin and were treated to a night in the museum!

Special thanks to Ms Cleary for accompanying the girls on this science adventure.

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SIR PETER BLAKE'S ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

Making a presentation to government officials in Parliament Building's Grand Hall didn't seem to faze Georgia Bellett one little bit!

She was part of a group of 47 young environmental leaders chosen to represent their region at the National Youth Environmental Leadership Forum. This annual event is run by The Sir Peter Blake Trust in partnership with the Ministry for the Environment. Students are hosted for four days of workshops and activities culminating in a presentation of their projects to invited guests at Parliament Building's Grand Hall.

"It really opened my eyes to the challenges that my generation are facing. Being part of a big group of like-minded young people with a single focus was incredibly motivating," says Georgia.

Projects typically focus on important topical environmental issues such as e-waste, water conservation, sustainable households, climate change and invasive species. The Forum is hands on, student driven and is designed to inspire and build the capability of young environmental leaders.

Georgia and her team completed an energy audit of their hotel accommodation and presented their findings to the Hotel Manager. For their presentation at Parliament Building they were asked to consider practical applications of their findings in a school setting. Cleverly, Georgia's team researched the way in which schools are funded for their power usage and uncovered some interesting information. Currently, schools have an allocated budget for power. If the budget is under spent it is returned to the government; Georgia's team recommended that monetary incentives need to be put in place to reward schools who save on power.

On returning to their regions the young environmental leaders were encouraged to continue with their work and help lead other youth in the environmental stewardship.



"It really opened my eyes to the challenges that my generation are facing."
Georgia Bellett

OSKAR GERMAN COMPETITION

For the fourth consecutive year, Villa Maria Year 10 German classes have won the Christchurch Oskar German Competition. This year's competition was for all year groups. Students had to write and perform a short drama skit in German including the phrase "Nun sitzen wir aber in der Tinte!" (Now we are in trouble). One group based their skit on a robbery of the world's largest gingerbread house in the German Museum of Berlin with the title: "A Night in the Museum". The other group invented a skit about the history of the German flag. Students were commended for their innovative ideas, polished performances and speaking ability. The judges were representatives from the Goethe Institute in Wellington, the University of Canterbury and the National German Advisor.



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Villa Maria College pupils continue to excel in many sporting codes. We are extremely proud of their successes and wish to acknowledge the support they receive from their coaches, teachers, friends and families.

A WORLD GOLD FOR GRACE PRENDERGAST

Grace Prendergast (Year 13) rowed to Gold at the World Juniors Rowing Championships in the Czech Republic in August. The team spent three months preparing in Cambridge, Waikato's home of rowing. This is a magnificent achievement for Grace, her team and New Zealand.



Left to Right: Eve MacFarlane, Grace Prendergast, Jennifer Story, Beatrix Heaphy-Hall

Getty Images



Rachel McCann

A WORLD BRONZE FOR RACHEL MCCANN

Rachel McCann (Head Girl) has returned from the Youth Olympics in Singapore. Rachel was the Captain of the New Zealand Junior Women's Hockey Team who won a bronze medal. They won the 3rd/4th play-off against Korea in extra time.



Left to Right: Rachel Gaffaney, Caitlin Mercer, Chloe McCaughan, Emily Mercer, Olivia Wieblitz

CYCLING SUCCESS

Once again Villa Maria College has excelled in cycling at the South Island Secondary School Championships.

Individual Time Trial:

1st Under 16 – Chloe McCaughan

Road Race:

1st Under 14 – Caitlin Mercer

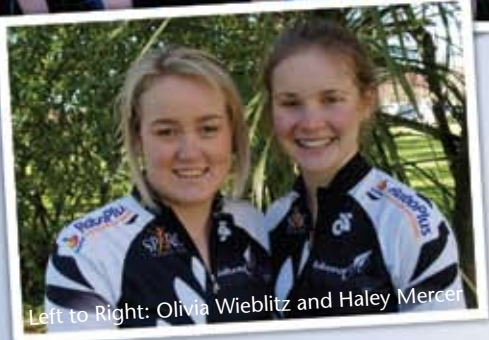
1st Under 19 – Olivia Wieblitz

Team Time Trial:

1st Chloe McCaughan, Rachel Gaffaney and Emily Mercer

Haley Mercer (Deputy Head Girl) had a fantastic 'DBR Australia Canberra Junior and Women's Tour' with the New Zealand Junior Cycling Team. Haley was placed 4th overall in the Under 19 section and 10th overall in the Open Women's event.

Olivia Wieblitz (Year 13) has recently been selected for the New Zealand Junior Cycling team; yet another great achievement for cycling at Villa.



Left to Right: Olivia Wieblitz and Haley Mercer

ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS

Congratulations to Courtney McGregor (Year 7) who has produced exceptional results this year. Courtney is a leading artistic gymnast for her age in the South Island and New Zealand. She was consistently placed 1st overall individual in the South Island Invitational, Top of The South, C.S.G Classic, Canterbury and South Island Championships. Over the last school holidays Courtney represented Canterbury at the Nationals in Hamilton winning 1st overall along with the Junior Cup for the highest average score over the three junior levels.



AIR NZ CEO FOR THE DAY

July 20th certainly wasn't your normal Tuesday for Shannon Hegarty of Villa Maria College. After writing a 250 word description outlining what she would do if she was Air New Zealand's CEO for a day, Shannon became one of 20 lucky teenagers chosen to meet Rob Fyfe and be guests of Air New Zealand for the day.

Shannon was flown to Auckland where she was greeted by Rob Fyfe and given a personalised tour of Auckland Airport's operations. The group was then whisked in to town for lunch with Richie McCaw and Richard Kahui, before being escorted by Rob Fyfe through the Hanger 9 Centre; Air New Zealand's design, development and exhibition hub.

Shannon says the day was like a dream come true. "I like to grasp opportunities so when the competition was announced at our College assembly I decided to have a go!"



Shannon Hegarty (front left) in the cockpit with other would-be CEO's.

OLIVIA IS SPEECH KING

'What If You Could Choose Your Parents' is not your average speech topic. However, for Year 8 student Olivia King, it wowed the audience and judges at the 2010 Riccarton Rotary Club Speech Finals.

"Her content and delivery certainly gave it a point of difference," said Riccarton Rotary President, Greg Husband. "It also contained quite a bit of humour which always engages an audience." Offering opportunities for youth to excel is a significant focus for Rotary clubs world-wide. The Youth Committee of Riccarton Rotary Club has been organising speech competitions for the past 15 years.

As a result of Olivia's win, she was asked to deliver her speech to the entire Riccarton Club and received prizes for herself and the College.

Another Villa Maria College Student, Lauren Parnell (Year 7) was one of the speech finalists with her topic: The Day in the Life of a Policeman.

It is impressive to hear such young, talented public speakers. We look forward to watching their speech-making skills grow in the years to come.



Left to Right: Olivia King and Lauren Parnell

CHESS MATE

The Villa Maria College Chess Team recently competed in the 2010 Girls' 11th Annual Chess Competition. Schools from around the Canterbury region are invited to compete.

Alice Clarkson, Lucy Rossie, Samantha Brown and Emily Cox played staunchly at Selwyn House Girls' School and came third in the A Grade Intermediate section team event. The next day, Alice Clarkson, Lucy Rossie, Samantha Brown played in the individual events with Alice and Samantha achieving runner-up for Year 8 and Year 7 respectively.



Left to Right: Lucy Rossie, Samantha Brown, Alice Clarkson, Emily Cox.

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MUSIC TO OUR EARS

There are always beautiful sounds drifting from of the music department at Villa Maria College. This busy hub of musical talent is well known for its ability to consistently produce great results. And 2010 is no different.

The year began with an invitation for the Senior Orchestra to perform at the Celebration of Music in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. The Orchestra accompanied the Catholic Primary Schools' Choir and performed 'Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring' along with the processional piece 'I Vow To Thee My Country'.

In June, the regional Big Sing Competition was held in the Town Hall. Whilst most secondary schools managed to enter one choir, Villa Maria College entered three choirs. The Jazz Band took part in the annual Jazz Quest in July. The competition that showcases secondary school jazz bands and is hosted by the CPIT Jazz School.

The Villa community was treated to a Showcase Concert in August with performances from the College's four choirs, two saxophone groups, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Kappa Haka group. "The Showcase Concerts highlight how much we have to offer Villa pupils," says Music Department Head Sean McCabe. "For the size of our College, we have an extraordinary range of musical opportunities," he says.

"For the size of our College, we have an extraordinary range of musical opportunities,"

Sean McCabe

The Christchurch Orchestra Festival in September provided the Villa Maria College Orchestra with another opportunity to showcase their work. This is an annual fixture that draws together dozens of schools from around the city. In addition to performing as individual schools, they practise a mass item for performance at an evening concert held in the town hall. "It is quite an experience for our pupils to be immersed in an orchestra totalling 300 musicians," says Sean McCabe.

One of the highlights for the Con Brio and Harmonia Choirs was their appearance on the TV programme 'Praise Be' in September. Under the direction of Ms Turnbull they

performed numerous items from their repertoire. In the same month, Con Brio joined forces with the Christchurch City Choir and Christchurch Symphony Orchestra to perform choral masters such as the Faure Requiem, Gloria by Poulenc, and Te Deum by Charpentier; all under the expert direction of Brian Law.

"We have some very talented musicians here at Villa Maria College," says Sean McCabe. "It would be my hope that through their time with us, they develop a life-long love of music."



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A TASTE OF SHAKESPEARE



Year 13 Drama Students recently performed Shakespeare's Twelfth Night as part of their course assessment. "It's a rigorous task," says Head of Drama Linda Gordon. "The girls were required to interpret the text and learn a huge number of lines while also keeping a reflective progress log over a three month period. Their work is marked, filmed and externally moderated."

Like many of Shakespeare's comedies, Twelfth Night centres on mistaken identity. It is believed to have been written around 1601-02 as a Twelfth Night's entertainment for the close of the Christmas season.

Set in the mythical land of Illyria, this fast moving plot sees the protagonist Viola, falling in love with Orsino, who is in love with Olivia, who is in love with Viola's male disguise, Cesario! This love triangle is complicated by the fact that neither Orsino nor Olivia knows that Viola is really a woman!

"If music be the food of love, play on."

Orsino - Twelfth Night



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PAST PUPILS' RECONNECTING...

It's wonderful to reconnect with old friends and past pupils. We're keen to hear about what's been happening in your world since leaving Villa Maria College. Please keep in touch and let us know if you have something to share. It's as easy as emailing us on development@villa.school.nz.

AIMEE GULLIVER (VILLA 2000 - 2005) is in her 5th year studying toward a double degree, LLB (Hons) and BA (Hons). Aimee is currently on exchange in Canada, studying at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. She was recently awarded runner-up in the prestigious Latin Moot Corp Competition in Sao Paolo, Brazil. The Moot Corp is one of the most renowned business plan competitions in the world. It simulates the real-world process of raising venture capital with aspiring entrepreneurs attempting to solicit start-up funds from experienced investors. The Latin Competition is a feeder competition for the Global Moot Corp held annually by the University of Texas at Austin. In addition to achieving runner-up status, Aimee and her Canadian team mate also received the Outstanding Presentation Award.



Left to Right: Jennifer, Latin Moot Judge and Aimee Gulliver.

LAURA MCGUIRE (VILLA 1998 - 2001) has been awarded New Zealand's Young Florist of the Year 2009/2010. She has established her own business in Christchurch called Harakeke Flowers. Judges commented that the award reflects Laura's desire to experiment and step outside the box of traditional florists.

FRANCESCA CHAPMAN (VILLA 2005 - 2009) is in her first year at Canterbury University studying Law; she was awarded a Law Scholarship to the value of \$1,000. The University Of Canterbury School Of Law offers scholarships and bursaries to high school students with good academic performance who have contributed to their school and community.

SARAH HOLMES (VILLA 2005 - 2009 DEPUTY HEAD GIRL) has been awarded an Emerging Leaders' Scholarship from the University of Canterbury. These scholarships were established to recognise and support top achieving students commencing an undergraduate degree programme. University of Canterbury Emerging Leaders' Scholarships recognise not only academic achievement, but potential leadership and sporting/cultural involvement amongst those top students attending the University of Canterbury. The scholarship was worth \$5000 towards tuition fees for the first year and access to \$4000 worth of leadership programmes. Sarah says "the weekend before University started we had an awards ceremony and retreat which was fun! Throughout the year there have been forums with speakers (Steve Gurney was the most recent) and we have been doing a Service Project in groups of about 5."

LEAVERS 1996: 14 years after leaving Villa, these past pupils met in Wales, UK for Kelly's wedding to Richard Roberts. All girls live and work in the UK except for Cushla who has recently moved to New Jersey in the US with her husband and son. Kelly's mother is Patricia Smith who was President of the Past Pupils Association during the 1990s. Caroline's mother is Maria Handisides who is our current Homestay Co-ordinator for International Students.



From Left to Right: Ayla McLaughlin, Tessa Whittle (nee Smith), Bridget Compain (nee Bergman), Kelly Roberts (nee Smith), Caroline Handisides, Cushla Hall (nee McKenzie).

PAST PUPILS'

SARAH VAN BALLEKOM (VILLA 2000 - 2006 & DEPUTY HEAD GIRL) is in her fourth year studying towards a double degree in Physical Education and Law at Otago University. She has recently returned from Ancient Olympia in Greece, where she was the New Zealand delegate for the 50th International Session for Young Participants, a conference organised by the International Olympic Academy (IOA). This year, 160 delegates participated from 93 different countries. Needless to say, it was a diverse group drawn together by their passion for the Olympic Movement and its values. For this edition of VMail, Sarah explains more about her trip.

"This was truly the experience of a lifetime! For two weeks I was able to learn about Olympism and the Olympic Movement, literally down the road from the Ancient Olympic Stadium where the first Olympic Games took place. This year the theme of the 50th Session was "The Olympic Movement as a platform for peace".

We were fortunate to attend lectures held by a number of amazing speakers. A lot of our time was arranged so that we could exchange ideas and teach others about our different cultures through poetry, dance and sport workshops, discussion groups, social evenings and art happenings.

The IOA feels a sense of responsibility towards the future generations; they sincerely believe that through their Young Participants' sessions they can instil the Olympic ideals to all the delegates involved in this amazing program. I strongly encourage anyone interested to apply next year."



KYLIE ROCHFORD (VILLA 1997 - 2000) has recently been awarded the Guardian Trust Master Scholarship in Commerce. We caught up with Kylie via email and asked her to tell us what she has been up to since leaving Villa Maria College.

"I left Villa half way through 7th form to follow the winters work as a ski instructor. The novelty of the instructor lifestyle soon wore off and I decided that I should really get an education. At this time I also decided to return to karate and was in the NZ National team from 2003-2008. I received the Prime Minister's Athlete Scholarship for my undergraduate studies, graduating first in class in 2009 with a Bachelor of Commerce (1st class honours). I was fortunate enough to be awarded the Guardian Trust

Master Scholarship to fund my Masters thesis, which I am currently completing. I plan to start a PhD in September

next year, and am currently visiting universities in the United States, including Harvard, Stanford, and University of Michigan. It wasn't always easy to get high grades and maintain extra-curricular activities throughout university; however it was worth every late night as now I have so many doors open to me. If I could offer one piece of advice to current Villa girls it would be to go to university when you are ready to put in the effort to do it properly and get the grades you are capable of. If that means taking a year off after school, then do it. People tell you that your grades don't matter, and that may be true for many people. However I have learned that hard work through your undergraduate years can pay dividends should you wish to pursue further study or set yourself apart in the current labour market."

"...go to university when you are ready to put in the effort to do it properly."

Kylie Rochford



Kylie receiving a Bronze medal World University Championships 2008.

COLLECTIVE MEMORIES...

The memories of Villa Maria College tumble from the lips of 84 year old Pat Murphy (nee Batchelor). Her memory of names, faces, dates and detail would put many half her age to shame!

Pat and her daughter Tricia were both 'Villa girls' in different eras of College history. They generously agreed to share their recollections for this edition of VMail.

Pat entered Villa Maria College as a boarder in 1935 at the age of 10. She affectionately recalls many happy times and pays tribute to the women who shaped her early years. She makes special mention of her Boarders' Mistress, Mother Therese, and recalls wonderful moments spent in the company of Sister Raphael. "She was such a generous, motherly and cheery person. We all loved her, which helped ease our initial tears of homesickness." Pat's school days began with Mass every morning before breakfast; once their beds were made and uniforms checked they would dash across the paddock to the 'little school across the meadow' as it was affectionately called. There was just enough time to swish through the dozens of white sheets floating aimlessly on the extensive clothes line recalls Pat. After school, the boarding house sprung to life. "I loved the hive of activity after school; we always had sandwiches for afternoon tea and then the girls would begin playing their musical instruments, dancing, taking elocution lessons or practising with the choir. The whole building was filled with noise and energy." Pat makes particular mention of Sister Chanel, the music and choir mistress who helped instil a life-long love of music.

Looking back, Pat often marvels at the tireless work of the Sisters. Not only did they teach, they also cooked beautiful meals on coal ranges, washed quantities of clothes and sheets by hand and managed to keep a beautiful garden. "We grew all our own vegetables and even had a cow," says Pat. "I recall one year the cow became very ill. Sister Borgia took us out to pray for wellness and we placed a medal of Saint Roch, the Patron Saint of wellness, around its neck. To our delight, the cow recovered!"

The funniest memory Pat recalls was her first (and last) attempt to ride a canoe in the Villa Maria pond. One of the boys had built a rudimentary canoe from corrugated iron. Sister Raphael suggested Pat might like to have a turn. No sooner had she relinquished the safety of the shore when she lost complete balance and rolled into the murky waters. Amidst shrieks of laughter she made her way back to the edge covered in watery dirt. Sister Raphael secretly washed and dried her clothes before anyone could discover their hilarious adventure.

After four years at Villa Maria, Pat attended Digbys Commercial College and later pursued her talent for art, attending the Christchurch School of Art.

Tricia Munro (nee Murphy), followed in her Mother's footsteps and started in the primers at Villa Maria in 1964 under the loving eye of Sister Scholastica. A great deal had changed; paddocks had been built on to accommodate a growing roll, and some classes were now being taught by lay teachers. Tricia distinctly remembers the impracticality of five year olds wearing a uniform that included white gloves and panama hat. "It was impossible to keep our hands away from dirty surfaces!" She remembers too the introduction of the new uniform in 1967 which Tricia says was stylish and ahead of its time.

Unlike many of her counterparts, Tricia completed her entire schooling at Villa Maria College from Primer 1 to Form 7. "I literally grew up at Villa, from a small child to a young woman." She makes special mention of a number of Mercy Sisters and College staff who had a huge influence on the person she has become. "I will always be grateful for the teaching, mentorship and role modelling of Sister Enid, Sister Marie and Sister Mary Hanrahan. The lay teachers in my Secondary years also played a significant role in my life; I recall with fondness Mrs Tregear, Mrs Anderson, Mrs Turner, Mrs Berry and Mrs Eathorne."

"We grew all our own vegetables and even had a COW,"

Pat Murphy

Tricia had a talent for English and History; she took part in many drama productions and was a member of the Bishop Lyon's Shield Team. These skills formed the foundation stones for her career in marketing and communication. Tricia spent 18 years living overseas working in public relations and marketing in Australia, and in Foreign Affairs at the New Zealand High Commission in London before returning home to live and work.

Both women agree that their schooling at Villa Maria was instrumental in shaping the people they have become. "We were part of a community which engendered a spirit of mercy and a genuine empathy for others," says Tricia. "You never lose that spirit, and the women we grew up with at Villa Maria are still part of our lives."

When asked what their message to current students of Villa Maria College would be, they quickly reply: "Learn the values of mercy, cherish your friends and hold dear to your Christian values."



Left: Tricia Munro and Pat Murphy

"It was impossible to keep our hands away from dirty surfaces!"

Tricia Munro

PRESERVING HISTORY

CAN YOU HELP?

Sister Maureen George continues to build the College archives. There are ways that the wider community of Villa Maria College may like to help. Perhaps you have memorabilia in the form of old uniforms, badges, magazines, or formal photos (with names if possible) that you would be prepared to donate to the College. We can scan photos and return them if you'd prefer. We'd also appreciate your help in identifying past pupils in photos that we print in each addition of VMail.

You may also like to tell other past pupils about the archive project and the VMail newsletter. Please encourage them to make contact with the College.

If you know the names and the approximate date of these photos we'd love to hear from you. Sister Maureen can be contacted by email – mge@villa.school.nz or by phoning the school office – (03) 348 4165.

Visit our website for more photos we need help with. www.villa.school.nz



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PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION

DEAR PAST PUPILS

Since the last VMail we have received a number of letters and subs from past pupils who left Villa in 1936, 1939, 1940 and 1949. It is wonderful to reconnect with Villa girls after so many years; the bonds of friendship are still as strong as ever. It's also great to see Villa girls from the class of 1980 holding a reunion at Labour weekend. We wish Leanne Brooks and her team all the best for this event. We'd encourage others who receive VMail to join the Past Pupils Association and stay up-to-date with College events and news.

Our annual Mid-Winter Luncheon on June 13th at the Christchurch Casino was a most enjoyable occasion. Thank you to those who made the time to join us.

The Biennial meeting of the Past Pupils' Association is coming up on October 27th. We will be meeting in the Pauline O'Regan Library at Villa Maria College. The formal business is brief allowing for plenty of time to find out about the work of the Association and socialise with other members.

Another important date to remember is our Leavers' Breakfast on October 28th. The Past Pupils Association prepares and serves a sumptuous breakfast for the leavers to enjoy. It's an opportunity to farewell young Mercy women from the College and encourage them to keep in touch. We welcome your help at this event; please make contact with one of our Office Holders if you can lend a hand.

Finally, I wish to thank my committee who have served for the last two years and beyond.

God Bless you all,
Madeleine Hoadley-Currie

CLASS OF '59

Villa Maria College is grateful for the contributions that groups of past pupils make.

Members of the class who started at Villa Maria College in 1959 arranged a 50th reunion in 2009. Many had not seen each other since their school days. "The laughter, tears and memories flowed," says Lesley Lawry. "During the weekend we decided, that as a class, we wanted to give something back to the College - we donated toward the new College Honours Board."



Left to Right: Sally Clemens, Lesley Lawry and Kathryn Clemens.



PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION

President - Madeleine Hoadley-Currie (03) 548 1331
Treasurer - Mary O'Brien (03) 332 1582
Secretary - Joan-Maria Peoples (03) 339 4161
Address for all correspondence:
c/- 21 Peer St, Upper Riccarton, Christchurch 8041
E-mail: villa@villa.school.nz

2010 DATES TO REMEMBER

Please include these dates into your diaries.

Past Pupils' Association Biennial Meeting

Wednesday 27th October, 7pm

Pauline O'Regan Library
Christchurch

Please join us and find out about the business of the Association. It is time to think and plan for centennial.

5th Fridays

Chateau on the Park

October 29th 2010, April 29th 2011, 5pm onwards

A time to catch up with old friends; partners welcome. Come for a drink or stay for dinner.

2010 Leavers' Breakfast

28th October, 7:30am

Villa Maria College Hall

All helpers welcome.

2009 Leavers' Dinner

25th November, 7:00pm

Filadelfio's in Beckenham, cost \$20-25.

Email: villa@villa.school.nz to book your place.

OBITUARIES



Please remember those who have lost loved ones and pray for our sick, especially our Sisters of Mercy who have been associated with Villa Maria through the years.

In each issue we will be honouring those who have died. To make it possible for us to include these Past Pupils, we would appreciate if you could let us know of any deaths that have occurred within our College community.

Subscription for Villa Maria Past Pupils' Association

Surname: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Christian Names: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____ Started College: _____ Finished College: _____

SEND TO: The Treasurer, VMPPA, 21 Peer Street, Christchurch 8041 | ENCLOSE: Annual subscription: \$15 • 10 years: \$70 • Life Membership: \$130