



THEN 1940...



NOW



FOR MORE ON OUR 2011 PRODUCTION SEE PAGE 9

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

It is with great excitement that we are able to formally open the new addition to Ashby Block. This means the College now has four science labs, providing additional facilities and much needed teaching and learning spaces for our students. The number of students studying sciences has been increasing for a number of years, and we hope that the exciting and stimulating environment that has been created will encourage even more students to consider a science based career. The Board wish to thank Villa Maria College Christchurch Limited for providing the funding for this significant capital project, and for working so closely with the Board and College staff to ensure a successful build.

The College Senior Leadership Team recently presented a report on academic achievement for 2010. This reporting provides quality information and data so the Board is able to assess how the College compares to similar schools nationally. This report also shows what difference Villa Maria is making - what value we are adding to a student's education. And importantly, this academic report identifies any areas for improvement. The Board is very proud of the academic achievements of our students, and we thank the College staff for all their efforts to teach and to engage our students in their learning.



"The Board is very proud of the academic achievements of our students, and we thank the College staff for all their efforts."

Virginia Noonan

PROPRIETOR'S REPORT

We had planned for the 15th August to be a day of special celebration for the College community when the new Science facilities were to be opened. Instead we experienced the heaviest snowfall in the City for many years. On reflection, that is simply an example of the difficulties we have continued to face over the past 12 months.

There have been considerable challenges for our City and everyone connected with the Villa Maria community within the last 12 months. All those who continue to face difficulties with family life, properties, and employment remain in our thoughts and our prayers.

Thankfully our College property escaped any major damage through all of the earthquake events. There was a delay in obtaining the necessary Council consents to commence the new Science facilities but once the contractors were on site they continued to work through difficult circumstances and have done a wonderful job.

On behalf of the College community we record very grateful thanks to our architectural team, the contractor and sub-contractors, our consultants and particularly the site foreman and site staff.

We now have new laboratory facilities and classrooms that are of the highest standard. I am sure the patience of the science staff is now rewarded with the superb new facilities in which they can work and teach.

The College has enjoyed a regular programme of new and refurbished buildings over the past 15 to 20 years. With the continued financial support of College families, the Proprietor and the Ministry of Education, I believe the College can look forward to an exciting and ongoing development of grounds and buildings so as to provide the best that we can for our students both present and future.

Michael O'Regan
Chair of Villa Maria College Christchurch Ltd



The new Science block was opened by Sr Mary Ashby and blessed by the Most Reverend Barry Jones, Bishop of Christchurch and Father Simon Eccleton.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROFILE

SARITA MCLEAN

Sarita was elected onto the Villa Maria College Board of Trustees in 2010. This is her first term on the Board at Villa after previously serving two terms on the Board of her daughter's primary school.

Sarita has one daughter who is a Year 10 student at Villa. She particularly likes the Gospel values which have been embedded into the fabric of the College. "These values definitely help our daughters make a difference to those around them," she says.

After a year on the Villa Board, Sarita is clear that the Board's role is a crucial one. "We have to provide the resources and a sound infrastructure so that the principal and her staff can provide the best possible education for our daughters," she says. Sarita has also been impressed with the dedication of the Villa staff. "Our staff face many challenges, which we as parents are sometimes not aware of. Despite this they still manage to go that extra mile and ensure the best possible learning outcomes for our daughters."

Sarita works as a health and safety consultant and enjoys reading, walking, gardening and collecting rose-patterned china. As a family they love boating and exploring the high country lakes and little bays around Canterbury.



HECTOR MATTHEWS

Kia ū tōu kawai tūpuna, kia mātauria ai, i ahu mai i hea, e anga ana koe kō hea

Trace out your ancestral stem, so that it may be known where you come from and in which direction you are going.

This is a proverb from my iwi, Te Rarawa

Hector Matthews was elected to the Villa Board of Trustees in 2010. His daughter Māia is in Year 10. Hector says that being on the Villa Board has reaffirmed his belief in the importance of values based education. "I have gained a great sense of whanaungatanga (family/fellowship) in becoming part of the Villa Maria College hāpori (community)."

Hector served in the army for more than a decade including a 13 month period in Israel, Syria and Lebanon where Māia was born (Tiberius, Israel). He left with the rank of Captain and has since worked in management and leadership positions in the Māori community, education and health.

Hector and his wife, Heather, love to support their children in their sports and cultural activities. Hector has trained in Seido karate for 14 years and Māia has shared this with him for the past 4 years. He also loves the beach, longboard surfing and gathering kaimoana (seafood) but admits he is probably more enthusiastic about this than the rest of his whānau!

Brandts-Giesen McCormick

Barristers, Solicitors and Notary Public

John Brandts-Giesen (Partner)
Andrew McCormick (Partner)
Anna Lloyd (Staff Solicitor)
Carol Dunn (Legal Executive)

All areas of general legal practice including
Property, Commercial and Family Law

Lawyers for your Community

*We appreciate our association with Villa Maria College.
We welcome new clients. Consultations at your home,
work or our office. After hours by arrangement.
Christchurch, Rangiora and outlying areas*

Telephone Christchurch 379 1303
Rangiora (03) 313 4010
After hours (03) 313 8862
Fax (03) 313 5096 • Email reception@bgmlawyers.co.nz

JOHN RUANE

John has lived within a kilometre of Villa Maria College most of his life; so when he was invited onto its Proprietor's Board in 1999, he felt a certain familiarity with the organisation.

As a chartered accountant with over 40 years of experience, including 2 years overseas and 18 years with the Ministry of Economic Development, John brings to the Board a wealth of financial expertise.

While John has not had family who have attended Villa Maria College, he has known numerous families whose daughters have benefitted greatly from Villa's Christian based education founded on the Mercy principles. John says "being on the Proprietor's Board has made me aware of the commitment of the Board members, College staff and supporters to providing a first class education for the pupils."

In his spare time John admits to being a keen golfer along with the odd excursion overseas. He is also actively engaged in a number of other charitable organisations including Faith & Light and Marralameda (organisations providing assistance for the intellectually disabled).

The Villa community is incredibly grateful for the work of all members of our voluntary governance boards who give so graciously of their time for the betterment of all our students.



IN REMEMBRANCE

Ramari Brennan (Villa Maria College Kaumatua)

From her Family...

Ramari Brennan's family remember this very special woman who passed away earlier this year.

Ramari Brennan lived by the values of respect, discipline and manners. These were the three values that were passed on by her mother at a very young age. One of eleven children, Ramari grew up in Tuahiwi (North Canterbury) and Christchurch. She met Hori Brennan while touring and performing at Hui Aranga (Maori Catholic Gatherings) in the North Island with Uncle Te Ari Pitama. Eventually, Ramari and Hori married and parented seven children.

Ramari was involved in Maori culture from a very young age; she performed regionally, nationally and internationally with various kapahaka groups. Two of the groups that she founded and which distinguished themselves were Ngati Rangiwēhewē (Rotorua) from 1969 and Otautahi (Christchurch) during the late 1970s. These groups are well recognised having won three national competitions between them. Ramari toured internationally to China, Tahiti and accompanied the Te Maori Exhibition on its tour to San Francisco which at the time involved great pomp and ceremony. Ramari always remembered these as highlights in her performing career.

In the mid 1980s, Ramari and her family became involved in Nga Hau e Wha Marae. She became the leader of the weaving school which enabled Ramari to utilize her skills in training the youth. These young people would eventually produce the tukutuku panels that were required for the whareniui and whare-wananga. These works can still be seen to this day. Ramari went on to play an important role in the administration of Nga Hau e Wha Marae and along with her husband earned great respect in the local community. Ramari was a board-member of many Maori organisations and eventually gracefully adapted to the role of kaumatua providing advice and guidance when necessary.

After the loss of her husband in 1992, Ramari retired from a working life and enjoyed the company of her 30-odd mokopuna (grand-children) taking a special interest in 'dollyng-up' the little girls and turning them into 'dainty little angels'. She also worked on many 'projects'.

It was unfortunate that, Ramari's son Te Ari was horribly killed in late 2010 from which she never really recovered. A woman of strong character matched only by her firm religious beliefs within the Catholic faith, Ramari instilled these beliefs in her children and grandchildren. Ramari will be remembered fondly in our hearts and minds.

From the Villa Family...

Barbara Te Miha a Villa Maria College Proprietor reflects on Ramari's time as our College kaumatua.

Ramari Brennan was introduced as our College kaumatua on the 29th April 2004. She immediately became involved in the life of the College, attending events, mihimihi and presenting awards at Prize Giving. Whaea felt that as the kaumatua she should be more than just a figurehead so in her indomitable way, she set about learning how she could help the College and enhance the taha Māori component within it.

The opening of the Art Block with a dawn blessing led by her son, Te Ari, was a very moving and spiritual experience. Looking back, how very fortunate we were to have had Whaea and her whānau with us on that day.

Determined to open doors, she supported not just Villa Maria College, but all Catholic schools at training workshops at the School of Māori at the College of Education.

She opened more doors at the Ngai Tahu office in Hereford St helping to introduce Villa Maria to Te Tapuae o Rehua and the educational arm of Ngai Tahu. Through the courtesy paid to Te Kaiwhakahaere o Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, Mark Solomon, Villa Maria College now has a taonga, Iho Pāmanawa, to present annually to the highest academic Māori achiever.

Ramari loved the whānaungatanga huis, getting people together and making connections. Setting up a Villa whānau committee to connect people within the college was another of her many contributions. She felt most honoured to have a college boat named for her – Ramari Marina.

Ramari was a woman of strength, dignity, elegance and a good friend to our College.

Moe mai e whaea, moe mai i roto i te rangimarie o Hehu Karaiti.



Ramari Brennan lived by the values of respect, discipline and manners. These were the three values that were passed on by her mother at a very young age.

Setting up a Villa whānau committee to connect people within the college was another of her many contributions.

Barbara Te Miha

WORLD YOUTH DAY

“Rooted and Built Up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the Faith” (cf Col 2:7).

In the afternoon of the 5th of August 2001, 24 pilgrims (18 girls and 6 chaperones) departed from Christchurch International Airport to attend World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. World Youth Day, WYD for short, is a Catholic event gathering Catholic youth from around the world praising God hand in hand with the presence of the Papa, Pope Benedict XVI. For most of the students, this was their first time out of New Zealand and experiencing being in a foreign country. Our journey was rather a long and exhausting one; approximately 30 odd hours including transits in Sydney, Bangkok and Dubai. Our first destination of the pilgrimage was Rome, Italy.

Rome...

For some, Rome was their highlight of the trip. Setting foot in a foreign country, with a different culture was very exciting.

Rome was filled with ancient buildings. We visited breath-taking sites such as the Pantheon and placed our wishes in the Trevi Fountain. We acted like Roman Gladiators in the ancient Coliseum and Chariot Racing in Piazza Navona (not really Chariot Racing – just walking around and enjoying gelato!). Visiting St. Peter's Basilica was amazing! It is the centre of our faith, where St. Peter was laid and where Christianity flourished. When we visited underneath St. Peter's Basilica, also known as scavi, we were amazed at how deep Rome was as we discovered an ancient town beneath Rome. The Churches were majestic, all the Churches we went to were mostly golden with marbled floor and pillars.

It was difficult for most of the girls to absorb that they were in a completely different country; it was like a dream, just like being in the movies!

Dublin...

For most, Dublin was like home; green, cool, English speaking but in a completely different accent. We attended the Mercy International Young Leaders' Conference with delegates from around the world. Those three days were inspiring. The focus of this conference was to learn what Mercy truly meant, through the actions of Catherine McAuley the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. The conference took place in the centre that Catherine McAuley built. The Sisters organised our three days full of activities, workshops and a tour of the centre. The works of Catherine McAuley were simple, to serve the lowly and the unfortunate. She had lived her life by the Gospel values, the Christian way of life.

Spain...

It was time for World Youth Day and the crescendo of our pilgrimage. The week started out with Catechesis every morning lead by Bishops and religious leaders. Throughout the days, there were organised activities such as talks and musical entertainment. In between some activities, there was Adoration, Confessions and daily Masses. On Friday there were Stations of the Cross which were represented by huge sculptures from around Spain and gathered in Madrid for the event. In a moving gesture, the WYD Cross was carried by different groups to each station. On Saturday 19th of August, pilgrims walked enmasse from numerous locations to the airfield, where the Vigil and Sunday Mass were to be held.

It was estimated that two million people from around the world were present at the Vigil and for the Mass that night, making it one of the largest events of WYD. Standing shoulder to shoulder with millions of people who had gathered together with the same belief deepened our faith and we certainly felt “Rooted and Built Up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the Faith.”

Darlene Adrian



THANKS PTA

The PTA organised a hugely successful Rugby Night and auction. Guests watched the All Blacks play France on large screens and were treated to continuous food by Traiteur of Merivale.

The event raised over \$9,000 which will be spent on projects that enhance our school environment and learning outcomes for our students.

We are most grateful for the enormous amount of time the PTA give to the College. Thank you from us all.

If you would like to be part of the PTA team and get to know other parents, they meet on the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30pm in the College Meeting Room, near the Main Reception. Alternatively, give the PTA Chair a call, new faces are always welcome.

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

Villa Maria College

RUGBY'S BIG NIGHT
SATURDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

ALL BLACKS VS FRANCE

Come along for a fun night, watch the game on the BIG screen's and support the College. It's going to be a black and white theme evening with a fundraising Auction. A beer and wine bar service will be available, eftpos or cash.

Tickets are \$25 pp or table of 8 for \$160. Tickets include a complimentary drink on arrival, sumptuous nibbles and music and dancing after the game. Don't miss out - get your tickets from the Student Office or Traiteur of Merivale.

Doors open at 6:30pm in the Villa Maria College Hall.

SO ORGANISE YOUR FRIENDS AND COME ALONG!

RUGBY 2011

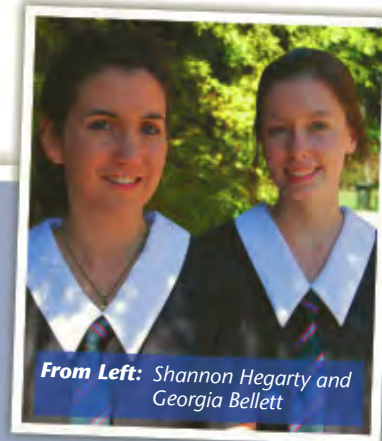
GIFTED & TALENTED

It is rare for a school to celebrate two first places in a national competition with over 1,200 competitors. However, that's exactly what Villa Maria is doing!

We are extremely proud to announce the success of Georgia Bellett and Shannon Hegarty (Year 13) who competed in The New Zealand Association for Gifted Children's national competition. Georgia gained first place in the Awareness Art section while Shannon penned her way to first place in the Writing category.

The competition was designed to celebrate gifted kids, their families and professional educators. This year's finalists and winners came from all over New Zealand, from Invercargill to Whangarei. More than 1200 entries were received from over 90 schools - a record number in the three years the competition has been running.

Of particular note were the judges' accolades for those Christchurch students who, through all the trials of 2011, were still able to enter their work. Competition organiser Rachel Pound said: "Some Christchurch teachers had gone to extraordinary lengths to ensure their pupils' work was entered following three large aftershocks just before the competition closed."



From Left: Shannon Hegarty and Georgia Bellett

ROTARY SUPPORTS SCIENCE

I had read about and heard about the Rotary National Science and Technology Forum in Villa Year Books for years, and finally it was my turn to seize the valuable and unique opportunity!

We lived at O'Rorke, a hall of residence of the University of Auckland. It was humming with the 160 students who had come from all over New Zealand and Australia, all sharing one common interest- science.

We did not know each other, so meeting peers was the first mission, which turned out to be the most rewarding one! The companionship, camaraderie and atmosphere at O'Rorke were incredible. Every week day we had two sessions working in a particular area at the University of Auckland, Massey University or the Auckland University of Technology.

I covered a broad range of topics including molecular biology, geology, psychology, biomedical engineering, sports science, computer design, nutrition and robotics. For me, the highlights were biomedical science where we did a full dissection of a sheep's heart and lungs. The physics session was also a standout- we saw a Kiwi satellite, almost ready for launch and a variety of experiments, including one with marshmallows, which were all so diverse and novel.

As I was told, If your dreams don't scare you, they aren't big enough.

Salome Lennon



Salome Lennon

CEO FOR THE DAY

Sarah Hudson (Year 12) was selected as the only South Island student for the Air New Zealand CEO for The Day competition. With nine other students, she spent a day as guests of Air New Zealand's CEO Rob Fyfe.

The group took part in a range of activities, including a leadership session with Rob Fyfe, a talk with the airline's chief pilot, lunch with the Warriors rugby league players and a social media challenge at the Air NZ design lab. "I assumed that CEOs were really serious people but Mr Fyfe was very relaxed," said Sarah. She was also impressed with his leadership style. "He knows everyone's names and likes his employees to know he is on their level."

Sarah penned the following poem to win a place in the competition.



Sarah with Air NZ CEO, Rob Fyfe.

Why I should be The CEO for the day?

Do you want to make a difference?
Need a hand or a little assistance?
Then fear no more you flying kiwis,
Sarah's here to make it easy.

I'm ready to step up to the game,
And I'm full of ideas to make a change.
Budget flights for university peeps,
Will gain you customers you'll have for keeps.
Eco fuel is the way to go,
To keep the carbon emissions low.
And even though the technology is great,
Keep it friendly and be the customers mate.

I guess you could say I'm one of those gal's,
Who gets on with the job and makes lots of pals.
Striving for excellence is just what I do,
And I hope that my efforts will impress you too.
I'm sporty, I'm spice and I'm everything nice,
So with an option like me there's no need to think twice.

My dad is an accountant at PWC,
And his business traits have rubbed off on me,
They've helped me to think, analyse and act,
Which are key for a CEO, and that is a fact!
I am an aspiring young businesswoman who is ready to make her mark,
And all of these reasons are why I am perfect for the part.

My name is Sarah Hudson and I'm happy to say,
That if you hire me Air New Zealand,
I'll be the best CEO of the day.

GREAT TALKERS

Villa Maria College students are becoming well known for their skilful oratory. There have been some fantastic successes in the public speaking field over the past few months to celebrate.

Riccarton Rotary Club Speech Finals

In the 2011 Riccarton Rotary Club Speech Finals, both the Year 7 and Year 8 categories were won by Villa girls - Anna Reese-Jones (Year 7) and Lauren Parnell (Year 8).

Anna Reese-Jones used the recent earthquakes as the basis for her speech entitled 'My Dreams for Christchurch'. She spoke of the type of city young people would like to see and the exciting prospect of her generation being the ones to truly enjoy the rebuild of Christchurch. Here's a taste of Anna's dreams...

"There will be opportunities for new companies to be run solely by kids. Imagine if Christchurch had its own Willy Wonka chocolate factory with oompah loompahs and everything! No adult could run a company like that as well as a kid could."

Lauren Parnell tackled the interesting topic of 'Becoming a Teenager'. She outlined the good and the bad; leaving her audience with this gem...

"Teenagers are always too tired to hold a tea towel but they are never too tired to hold a cell phone. Becoming a teenager is the best time in your life so embrace it and enjoy it."

The Youth Committee of Riccarton Rotary Club has been organising speech competitions for the past 15 years. As a result of the girls' wins, they were asked to deliver their speeches to the entire Riccarton Club and receive prizes for themselves and the College.



Left: Lauren Parnell & Anna Reese-Jones

Canterbury Lion's Young Speechmaker Competition

Briana Lonsdale has talked her way into winning the Canterbury Lion's Young Speechmaker Competition - beating seven fellow competitors from regional universities and schools.

"Being a good talker has its benefits," says Briana. "I get really nervous but I enjoy composing speeches and then getting that feeling of success when I present it." Brianna's oratorical talent has been encouraged by staff at Villa Maria College. Head of English, Dawn Willets coached Briana to a win in the 2010 Bishop Lyons Competition. "She is a talented young speaker with a natural flair for constructing and executing great speeches."

Briana's winning speech highlighted the confusing and sometimes ridiculous nature of the English language. "Noses that run" is a classic example," says Briana. "I suggested, instead, that we should embrace a universal means of communication like body language. That way we'd reduce confusion and help make the world a more peaceful place."

To really test the talent of Canterbury's young orators, the Lion's Young Speechmaker Competition also included an impromptu section. Briana had just minutes to prepare a talk on 'patches.' "My mind went blank," she says. "In the end I wrote down three key types of patches and then stood up and talked - it worked!"

Briana was flown to Napier in August to compete against 20 other regional finalists for the coveted prize of a trip to Canada and the US. Sadly, she did not win a prize at the finals but said the experience was fantastic.



Briana Lonsdale

SINGING SUCCESS

Joanna Casey (Year 13) is one of just 54 talented New Zealand singers to be chosen for the New Zealand Secondary Schools Students' Choir.

The choir was established in 1986 to provide a training ground for talented young secondary school singers. During their two year membership, the students gather each school holidays for rehearsals and public performances, at the end of which, funding permitting, the choir attends an international choir competition.

It is a great honour that will see Joanna singing her way around New Zealand and Greece! The choir is attending the International Society of Music Education (ISME) World Conference in Greece next July.

Joanna says she has been singing most of her life, starting with choirs as a young girl at the Christchurch School of Music and the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. "I love singing because I love to make music and express myself in this way," says Joanna. "For me, the voice is the most expressive, versatile and beautiful instrument in the world." Joanna pays tribute to Villa Maria's Choir Director, Rosemary Turnbull. "She has guided and inspired me over the years; I am very grateful."

At this stage Joanna plans to continue her passion and study voice at Canterbury University next year.



ST JOHNS HONOUR

Years of hard work have led to Emma Maslin (Year 12) gaining the highest award possible for St John youth cadets.

Emma received the Grand Prior's Award after completing 12 badges in subjects such as first aid, leadership, animal care and childcare.

"It takes a lot of work and dedication," she says. "I have volunteered for St John for many years and recently gained the 500-hour shield for helping in the community." Not one to shy away from helping those in need, Emma volunteered at welfare centres after the September earthquake and swung into action again after the February quake cleaning up the St John headquarters.

With such skill and dedication, Emma hopes to use her talents to become a paramedic or a doctor.



Emma Maslin

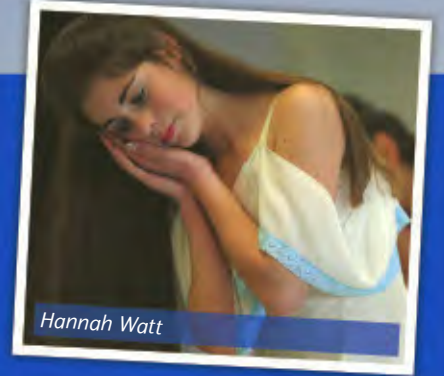
DANCING IN PRAGUE

Hannah Watt (Year 9) never dreamt she'd be ballet dancing in Prague at the age of just 13.

Hannah's ballet school, Canterbury Ballet, was invited to the prestigious Prague Dance Festival and Competition in July. After a gruelling audition of 70 hopefuls, Hannah was chosen along with nine other students - eight of whom were full-time dance students. She was the youngest member of the dance crew that ranged in age from 13 to 21.

About 700 dancers from round the world took part in the week-long event which also included classes and three days of performances. The Canterbury Ballet troupe had real success at the Prague Festival gaining second place for Choreographic Excellence and the Director's Award.

It was a great honour and one that Hannah cherishes. "I've been dancing since I was four years old and this trip was like a dream come true," she says. "I dance six nights a week for four hours and just love it. It's my hobby so it doesn't feel like a chore at all."



Hannah Watt

A TOUCH OF IRELAND

Each year, the Consulate General of Ireland offers senior school pupils throughout New Zealand the opportunity to enter the Ireland Essay Competition; the purpose being to further strengthen the links between Ireland and New Zealand by creating a greater awareness of Ireland's history and culture.

Our very own Molly Lyons (Year 13) won a Special Certificate of Merit in this year's competition. Molly based her writing around the well-known Irish Blessing (see insert) and its significance to the 22nd February earthquake. As Molly so aptly says: "The Irish blessing invites you to understand the journey of life. It takes you into a way of seeing the world beyond your normal way of seeing. Sometimes in life not everything is all that it seems, there are faults and obstacles in our journey. The blessing invites you out of any sense of disheartenment."



Traditional Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you
 May the wind be always at your back
 May the sun shine warm upon your face
 And rains fall soft upon your fields
 And until we meet again
 May God hold you in the palm of his hands

TE PUNA WANAKA AWARDS

Villa Maria College students have once again made us proud in the Te Puna Wanaka Rakatahi Awards for Maori student excellence.

The awards are organised by the CPIT Maori Faculty - Te Puna Wanaka. They aim to encourage and recognise outstanding achievement of Maori students and to encourage positive engagement of Maori learners in education.

Each term, Years 7-13 students are nominated for outstanding achievements with the top student from each age grouping presented with the Poutama Award. All Poutama Award recipients are then eligible for the Rakatahi Awards presented at an awards dinner in November.

Villa Maria students, Eliza King (Year 12), Beth Wyatt (Year 13) and Maia Matthews (Year 10) were recognised at the July awards. Maia was also presented with the Poutama Award for her academic excellence for her year level. She is now eligible for the Rakatahi Awards at the end of the year.



Eliza King



Beth Wyatt



Maia Matthews

ANNIE GET YOUR GUN!

In May this year, Villa Maria College and St Thomas' of Canterbury College joined forces to produce a stunning piece of musical theatre. Lead roles were played by Tim Earl and Kate Oorschot.

In amongst many earth moving disruptions, the cast worked tirelessly to produce the 1946 Broadway classic - Annie Get Your Gun. Audiences were in awe of the talent of the young actors as they sang their way through the iconic toe-tapping tunes that have made Annie Get Your Gun such a popular piece of theatre.

The show was directed by Linda Gordon, Head of the Arts Faculty at Villa Maria College. She knew from the very beginning that this cast was special. "They just seemed to gel and had a collective determination from the word go," she says. "I'd also like to pay tribute to Kerry Fitzgerald whose choreography bought the production to a whole new level. Thanks must also go to our wonderful students; we really did have a lot of fun producing Annie Get Your Gun!"



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

The Sister Pauline O'Regan Library Information Resource Centre is 10 year old! On Friday 9th September the staff and students of Villa Maria College celebrated this milestone.

Sister Pauline (now 89 years old), was the guest of honour and joined in the celebrations. As Villa Maria College's Principal from 1950 to 1967 she played a significant part in the College's history. Sister Pauline is also an avid reader and has authored a number of books.



Sister Pauline and Danielle Robb share a quiet moment together.

In 2001, Sister Pauline became a distinguished companion of the NZ Order of Merit for her services to education and the community. Our Library Information Resource Centre proudly carries her name.

CANTAMATH 2011

Each year, the Canterbury Mathematical Association organises the 'Cantamath' mathematics competition for students in Years 6 to 10.

Students can enter either a team or a project section. Villa Maria students entered a number of project categories in 2011 as well as the interschool competition.

We congratulate all students who took part and particularly those who were rewarded with Highly Commended and Excellence certificates.

Our particular congratulations go to Isabelle Lynch (Year 10) whose 2010 publicity motif entry was used as this year's logo on the Cantamath posters all around Canterbury.

Highly Commended

Esha Dickson, Stephanie Watson and Samantha Brown (Publicity Motif) and Emily McCulloch (Mathematical Poster)

Excellence

Amelia McLuskie and Mollie McGeorge (Publicity Motif), Amy Inwood (Games and Puzzles) and Claire McSweeney, Sinead Biggs, Isabella Walsh, Laura Hamilton, Kate Challis and Paige Kenny (Wearable Maths) and Isabelle Lynch (Year 10) won the Publicity Motif category.



NUMBER CRUNCHING

The 2011 University of Otago Maths Competition attracts 10,000 entries from about 250 participating schools each year. Villa Maria College is extremely proud to have three of its students make the top 200 mathematicians in the competition. We congratulate Year 9 students Georgiana Gall and Isabella Walsh and Year 10 student Elizabeth McGeorge.

The University of Otago initiated the competition in 1985. Students have one hour to answer up to five questions. Emphasis is placed on their ability to write down good mathematical explanations for their answers.



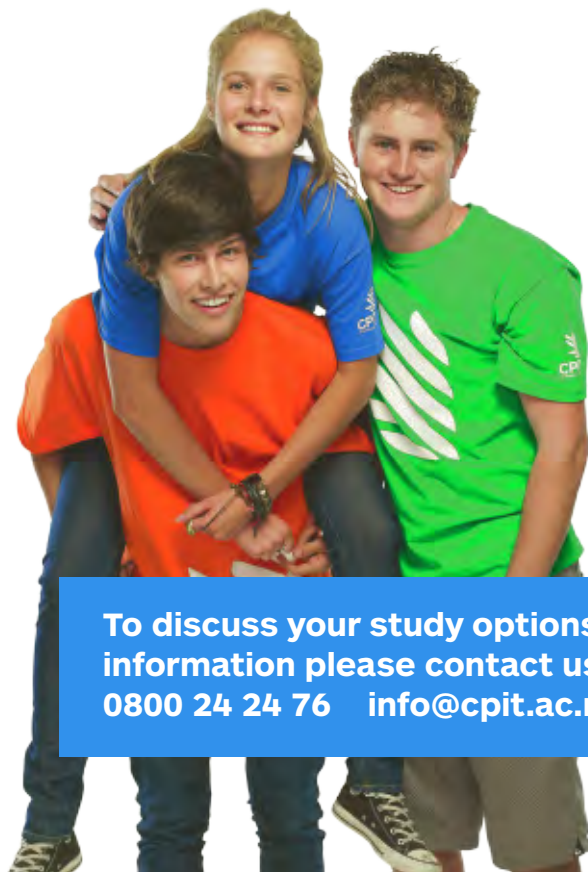
Georgiana Gall



Isabella Walsh



Elizabeth McGeorge



Now more than ever your future starts here

- Learn with our industry expert tutors
- Fast track your career with real workplace projects or placements
- Study programmes created to meet industry needs
- Degree, Diploma and Certificate programmes

To discuss your study options or for more information please contact us on
0800 24 24 76 info@cpit.ac.nz www.cpit.ac.nz



SPORTING SUCCESS

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



Madaline Davidson

Trampoline

Madaline Davidson (Year 8). Madaline competed at the 2011 New Zealand Trampoline Nationals and won 2nd place in the Sub- Junior Women's International, achieving her personal best score. Madaline and her partner from Auckland also won 3rd place in the Sub-Junior Women's International Synchro. As a result of her success, Madaline has been named in the Gymsport New Zealand team to compete at Australian Nationals later this year.

Gymnastics

Amelia Coleman (Year 10) is a talented Rhythmic Gymnast. She was placed 7th at the Australian Nationals in Perth this year qualifying for all four finals in every apparatus – only one other Australian gymnast achieved this! She also won a bronze medal for her ball routine at the Australian Nationals. She arrived back in New Zealand and competed for Canterbury at the New Zealand Nationals in Auckland. Here she won the Junior International grade so is now the National Champion for this grade. To add to her success, she was presented with "Gymnast of the Competition" - a huge honour usually only awarded to a senior gymnast.



Amelia Coleman

Swimming

New Zealand Secondary Schools' Swimming Championships. We have two new National Champions and a number of fantastic results...



Caitlin Rennell (Year 11)

National Champion
Girls 15 Years 100m Butterfly
Girls 15 Years 50m Butterfly
Girls 15 Years 200m Butterfly

Silver

Girls 15 Years 200 Individual Medley
Girls 15 & Under 200 Medley Relay

Bronze

Girls 15 Years 100m Freestyle
Girls 15 Years 200m Freestyle
Girls 15 & Under 200 Freestyle Relay



Charlotte Anderson (Year 11)

National Champion
Girls 15 Years 200m Breaststroke

Silver

Girls 15 Years 100m Breaststroke
Girls 15 & Under 200 Medley Relay

Bronze

Girls 15 Years 400m Freestyle
Girls 15 & Under 200 Freestyle Relay



Emily Rennell (Year 9)

Silver

Girls 15 & Under 200 Medley Relay

Bronze

Girls 15 & Under 200 Freestyle Relay



Laura Sugrue (Year 11)

Silver

50m Breaststroke
Girls 15 & Under 200 Medley Relay

Bronze

100 Breaststroke
Girls 15 & Under 200 Freestyle Relay

Cycling

Villa Maria College cyclists triumphed once again at the South Island Secondary Schools' Championships, winning the Hayden Godfrey Challenge Trophy for the fourth consecutive year!

Individual Team Trial:

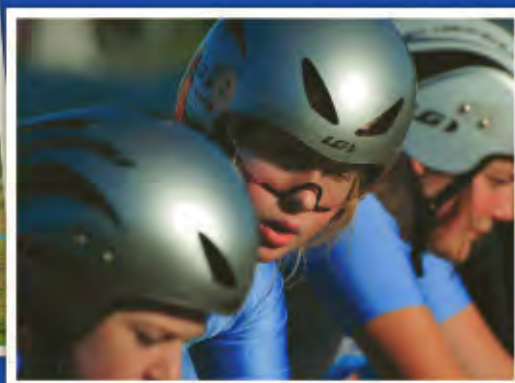
3rd U13 Emma Smith
2nd U14 Phoebe McCaughan
1st U15 Caitlin Mercer
2nd U17 Chole McCaughan
3rd U17 Holly Luxton-Russell

Team Time Trial:

1st U14 Emma Smith, Zoe Small, Sarah McLeod
1st U16 Phoebe McCaughan, Caitlin Mercer, Lucy Crooks
1st Open Chole McCaughan, Holly Luxton-Russell, Emily Mercer

Road Race:

3rd U13 Emma Smith
1st U14 Phoebe McCaughan
1st U15 Caitlin Mercer
2nd U17 Chole McCaughan
1st U20 Victoria Steel



VILLA FOR WORLD CHANGE



- Myanmar** (Formerly Burma)
- Location:** Southeast Asia, bordering the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.
- Population:** 50 Million
- Poverty:** One of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia and the world. With poverty and government corruption very common.
- Religion:** 89% Buddhist and only 4% are Christians, who are often persecuted for their belief.

A little piece of Myanmar will always be in the heart of Villa Maria languages teacher Beate Dix. Beate spent the April school holidays volunteering at Yangon Bible College. Her trip was planned through Leadership Development International (LDI); an organisation that supports Christian leadership training in underdeveloped countries.

Beate shares some of her experiences with us for this edition of Vmail.

THE WORK...

I taught in an inter-denominational graduate Bible college in Yangon. My students had already completed an undergraduate theological degree. The school runs a four month Summer English School to prepare them for their Masters studies.

At Masters level all seminars are held in English as students have to be able to cope with English Theological literature. I was part of a team of four teachers from New Zealand who taught these students for four weeks with a focus on essay writing skills.

My students came from mainly tribal areas in the north of Myanmar from quite poor peasant backgrounds. They are sponsored by LDI, their own churches and friends. They value education tremendously.

One of my students, as a 9 year old boy, ran away from home and walked for 4 days through the jungle to cross the border to India, because he had heard from a visitor to his village that anyone can be educated in India as long as they are hard-working.

Fortunately, an old lady took him as a servant into her home, and allowed him to go to school. He continued with secondary school, became a Christian and studied Theology and returned to his village to start a church. He now studies at the Bible College because he wants to help people in a similar situation and start a ministry in his tribal area.

IMPRESSIONS OF MYANMAR

In Yangon there is a huge gap between the rich and the poor. One can see opulent mansions guarded by barbed-wire fences while right beside them are tiny bamboo shacks with plastic tarpaulin roofs and families eking out an existence. I found people very friendly. They always smiled at you when you walk passed them in the streets and I never felt unsafe.

Early in the mornings, the only time it was cool enough, I often wandered through the back streets and local markets. Some children picked up tiny scented flowers that had fallen to the ground and threaded them onto string to sell them to women for their hair. There are just so many fascinating scenes in a different world and culture.

Some children picked up tiny scented flowers that had fallen to the ground and threaded them onto string to sell them to women for their hair. There are just so many fascinating scenes in a different world and culture.

I admire the strong Christian faith of the people I got to know and loved the whole-hearted worship every morning with all students and faculty members. Many of them are very brave and risk a lot for being involved in Christian work. Even though we are from two opposite ends of the world, I felt at home and accepted by these people as my brothers and sisters in Christ.

THE HIGHLIGHTS...

One of the highlights for me was a visit to a Christian pre-school and a girls' orphanage. The pre-school was in a tiny concrete building not bigger than a single garage. The girls' orphanage is run by one of the former students of the Bible College. There are many orphaned children in Yangon because of the many people who died when cyclone Nargis hit four years ago. They don't have much at all. One room that serves as a living area and another that serves as a sleeping area. The children each have a mat and a box with their belongings. The shower is a bucket with a hose in it.

I think whenever one visits a poor country one gets overwhelmed with the huge need. It puts a lot of things into perspective. I know some people have suffered hugely because of the earthquake in Christchurch this year but maybe we forget sometimes that people live in worse conditions all of their lives, all over the world.

I know what I did was only a tiny drop in a bucket. I am not a doctor or a nurse, or have training in development work – but I am a language teacher. Hopefully I was useful in some small way. I now have a connection with Myanmar and its people, a country I hardly knew existed, and can stand with my persecuted Burmese brothers and sisters in prayer.

I thoroughly enjoyed my four weeks in Yangon and am very thankful that I was granted leave from Villa Maria College. It was one of the most enriching times in my life!



PAST PUPILS

Catherine Grueber (VMC 1995-1999)

Biology was Catherine's favourite subject at Villa, so after finishing Year 13 she travelled to Dunedin and the University of Otago to enrol in Health Sciences First Year (the prerequisite for medicine). After only a few months however, lectures in genetics and evolution caught her interest and she transferred to a BSc in Zoology and Genetics.

After graduation, the combination of skills obtained at undergraduate led on perfectly to an MSc in the Zoology department, where Catherine applied her genetics knowledge to learn about the problems affecting the conservation of the endangered takahe. Her MSc was awarded with distinction and, after spending a year working in a London high school's science department, Catherine returned to Otago to embark on a PhD. The focus of which was the effect of inbreeding when threatened species get down to very small population sizes.

The broader conclusions of Catherine's thesis, applicable to many species, have been published in several internationally-regarded journals. As a consequence of these achievements, Catherine's PhD thesis was recognised by the University as being of "Exceptional Quality": in the top 10% of theses, and was also awarded the DG Catcheside prize by the Genetics Society of Australasia for the top PhD thesis in genetics. Now Catherine has a great job at Otago as a post-doctoral research fellow. She has also come full circle to supervise other postgraduate students, and gives lectures in evolutionary biology.



Anthea Ibell (VMC 2001-2005)

Anthea has recently been selected the 2011/2012 Our World Underwater Scholar for Australasia. The Scholarship has been offered in Australasia since 2007. Anthea is the first female recipient and the second University of Otago student. Scholars are given the opportunity to travel within their own region and around the world volunteering their time to research and gain training within the underwater world.

Prior to the scholarship Anthea completed her PADI Open Water Instructor Diploma at Dive Otago, Dunedin in 2008. Since then she has been instructing part time while studying toward a Bachelor of Science in Zoology at Otago University, with a Minor in Archaeology. Anthea has a passion for marine science and is interested in species distribution, physiology and behaviour, population studies and has a strong focus on conservation. Anthea says "The Our World Underwater Scholarship will allow me to bring all my interests together through marine research, SCUBA diving, archaeology, photography and travel. I aim to contribute to conservation work around the world and increase public awareness about threats facing the oceans today."



Anna-Louisa Yanes (VMC 2002-2008)

Anna-Louise now lives in Estepona, Malaga Spain. She travelled to Spain to pursue her great passion of horse-riding and to perfect her Spanish.

The Spanish riding school which she attends specialises in Alto Escuela which is a Spanish form of dressage, typical in the famous Spanish riding schools.

Anna-Louisa also attends regular Spanish classes and has fully immersed herself in the Spanish language; she says she even thinks in Spanish now. "Spain is a vibrant fun country full of history and culture and is a melting pot of many cultures and religions. We can see Africa and Gibraltar from our house and can easily visit within an hour both of these places."



Haley Mercer (VMC 2006 - 2010 Deputy Head Girl)

I started studying Commerce at the University of Canterbury this year. University life is very different from school, it is a lot more relaxed and definitely up to you to decide how much work you put into your studies. It is a very enjoyable lifestyle; there are always students around and I've met some interesting people. I'm still cycling competitively and have joined the University gym as well. I've learnt that the girls you meet while at Villa are the ones that you'll always keep in touch with!



Rachel McCann (VMC 2006-2010 Head Girl)

It's been an interesting first year away from Villa. The February earthquake made attending the University of Canterbury extremely difficult. I decided to take the first semester off to work and further my hockey training. I am now attending the second semester and studying toward a BA. Yes, hockey is still my passion and this year has been a very successful one, winning the under 21 National Hockey tournament and being selected in both the Under 21 and Under 18 New Zealand hockey squads. Hockey keeps me very busy and a lot of my time is spent training for competitions. For the later part of this year I will be working extremely hard to try and gain selection into the New Zealand age groups teams. If selected, this would mean competing in international competitions overseas which would be very exciting!

PAST PUPILS

Jenny Harper – MNZM (VMC 1963-67)

Jenny is the Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu Director. She was recently awarded membership of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) after more than two decades of leadership in the cultural sector.

Jenny's contribution to the arts in New Zealand started on her return from Australia in the mid-1980s to become senior curator of international art at New Zealand's National Art Gallery. She contributed to early conceptual plans for the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, and became director of the National Art Gallery in 1990. Following legislative amalgamation of the former National Art Gallery and Museum in 1992, she spent a further two years as director of art and history at the museum.

Jenny says the Queen's Birthday recognition is an honour in all senses. "I have worked in the arts most of my working life and I am convinced of all that the visual arts in particular has to offer. I have always been privileged to work with high-performing teams and the staff at Christchurch Art Gallery are no exception. I share this award with them."



Rosemary Banks (VMC 1960-66)

Rosemary Banks has had a long career in New Zealand's diplomatic service and is currently Ambassador to France after previously serving as Ambassador to the United Nations in New York.

She recalls that when she joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1975, women were in the minority and the environment was (and remains) highly competitive.

She muses over the role of the Sisters in preparing her well for her career. Looking back, she recalls a busy and cheerful school. "The unflinching energy of the Sisters swept us along, taught us the value of our own time and how to use it productively".

"They showed us how women could be strong and opinionated, but, at the same time, caring and supportive of each other. They made us laugh. They reinforced in us the value of good diet and exercise".

"Could today's girls imagine games of hockey with the referee running around the field clad in the old-style long-skirted habit and wimple, rosary beads rattling and veils flying?"

"It was a different world but one that left its imprint and that shaped a certain character. To this day, I can recognise a convent girl from anywhere before she says a word!"



**GREAT CAREER
GREAT PAY
TAKE CONTROL**

Become an Air Traffic Controller!

It'll take a fair bit of practice, but trust us, getting that first jumbo jet off the ground will be a great feeling. And it's just one big moment you can look forward to as an Air Traffic Controller. It's an exciting, rewarding career for which attitude and aptitude are important and we'll give you the qualifications.

For more info text **TRYATC** to 515. Check out our website now for videos, tests and games, and all the info on what's involved and how to apply to become an ATC. www.airways.co.nz/atccareers

AIRWAYS
making your world possible

MINISTRY @ VILLA

Many of you will already know Clare Bell who is our Campus Ministry Team Leader. Clare was appointed in late 2010. Her role complements the formal Religious Studies and Special Character programmes at Villa Maria College. Clare's focus will be on establishing a campus ministry team to support students in their personal faith journeys. She will work closely with the College's Service Captains seeking practical ways to enrich students' faith through promoting the works of Mercy through action, prayer and reflection. Clare will also be involved in the running of Sacramental programmes and student retreats.

As a trained primary school teacher with extensive experience in youth ministry, both in New Zealand and Australia, Clare says: "Seeing young people grow in faith is a constant motivator for me as I venture into this new role at Villa Maria College."

Principal, Mary Lynch is excited by the appointment of a Campus Ministry Team Leader. She says: "Growing faith and seeking Mercy in action is a significant part of life at Villa Maria College. With Clare Bell's appointment and God's will, we hope to further enrich our students understanding of the living Christ."



Clare Bell - Villa Maria College Campus Ministry Team Leader with Villa Service Captain - Emily Maguire (left) and Mercy House Service Captain - Marina Awadalla.

NEW HOME FOR ARCHIVES

After many years of storage in a small room at the back of the Villa Hall, our precious archived material now has a purpose built home. The new Science block upgrade incorporates a room with huge modular shelving units and special insulation. Archive Manager Sister Maureen George says she is delighted with the new space and the security it offers the years of archival history that has been collected.

CAN YOU HELP?

There are ways that the wider community of Villa Maria College may like to help build the College archives. 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 and put on the website.

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.



Sister Maureen George in the new archive room.



PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION

DEAR PAST PUPILS

The V Mail is a wonderful 'tool', if you are missing out, just contact your old College, still the same address; villa@villa.school.nz we really want every Villa Past Pupil to attend the 100 yr Jubilee, so girls and partners start organising yourselves, contact any other past pupils you can think of and check your subs too!

We have had a lovely letter from Amy Monohan thanking us for her Study Grant – 2009 (Leavers' Dinner). Amy studied Health, Science at Otago University last year and this year is doing Chiropractic in Auckland. It is just super to hear from you girls. Thank you and good luck Amy.

Sister Mary Hanrahan has been able to tell us lovely news of some Past Pupils and their wonderful deeds post- Earthquake. Paula Thompson with her lovely idea, the Red Crosses, a great fundraiser for Earthquake funds, here at Christchurch Hospital. Bronwyn Horton in London and her Big Concert for the Earthquake victims in Christchurch.

Rosemary Banks (1966-1969) sends Birthday wishes to Sister M Leonie. Rosemary is NZ Ambassador in Paris and has just hosted a reception for the launch of the first biography in French of Suzanne Aubert. If we are heard and seen in Paris, who knows how far we can go! Viva, Villa Girls.

Mid-Winter luncheon at the Casino was a lovely event, we do thank the Casino for opening for us, it was so special and our meal and venue were just super. A lovely turn out, 33 Mercy Women, the hugs and chatter make these occasions so nice, please keep coming.

Mercy Celebration Top of the South – Nelson 17th-18th September will have been by the time this goes to print. Girls are coming from Blenheim, Nelson, Kaikoura, Motueka and the College Mini bus with some brave Christchurch girls, should make for a lovely time. Our Leavers Breakfast is due 27th October and the Committee has this well in hand, please mark your diaries.

We, living outside of Canterbury cannot comprehend the effect these Earthquakes have on our people, but know you are in our thoughts and prayers daily. Our homes are always open anytime. Our love and sympathy to all who have lost loved ones.

Many of our Mercy Sisters have had sad times with their houses in the community, please know we are concerned and remembering you all in our prayers.

God bless
Madeleine



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

2011/12 DATES TO REMEMBER

Please include these dates into your diaries.

Leavers' Dinner for 2010 Pupils

Wednesday 23 November 7pm

Robbie's Riccarton

Christchurch

\$5 cover charge plus meal costs

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

A study grant will be awarded to one of our leavers at the dinner.

Committee Meetings 2012

College Main Office

29th February, 23rd May, 29th August, 24th October

All members welcome.

Fifth Fridays at Chateau on the Park 2012

5pm onwards, a time to catch up with old friends, partners welcome.

Dates: 30th March, 29th June, 31st August, 30th November.

Mid Winter Luncheon 2012

Mid-Winter Luncheon 2012

Venue: Rosebank

Date: 17th June.



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. Our thoughts are with the Sisters as they mourn the deaths of Sister Mary Agatha, Sister Margaret Anne Agrtnon (Fabian) and Sister Anne Cullen (Dominic).

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