

Edition 3, 2019

illuminare



Celebrating as a Community

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Celebrating Inspiring Alumni

The Aquinas College *Leading Lights* program seeks to recognise and acknowledge the outstanding achievements of our former students in their specific vocation.

Nominate your potential *Leading Light* by **Friday 27th March 2020**

Refer to [Leading Lights](#) for more information

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from the Principal

by Darren Atkinson - Principal

As another year draws to a close we celebrated the Valedictory Dinner with our graduating class and their parents/guardians at the Pullman on Albert Park at the end of October. This evening was an opportunity to gather the cohort for one last time and acknowledge that we are indeed blessed to call ourselves members of a truly wonderful community. It also serves as an opportunity for the parents, the first carers, to look upon their children with a great sense of pride in their formation as a young adult.

The graduating class of 2019 are a special group to me. It was six years ago that I arrived at Aquinas so they were my first Year 7s. Coming from a country town I didn't expect to find the close community that I found at Aquinas College in metropolitan Melbourne. It still amazes me how many past students continue an inter-generational association by sending their children to the College. To highlight this long partnership, there were 47 parents at the Valedictory Dinner who were also past students of Aquinas College.

In wishing the students "Good Luck", I also paused to reflect on some of the advice we offer. Countless times I've said to students "to go out in the world and pursue your passion". But an article by Stephanie Lee in the New York Times this year called "Why 'Find Your Passion' Is Such Terrible Advice" challenged my preconceptions.

Based on the research of Dr Paul O'Keefe, the notion that we will somehow "find a passion" is based on the presumption of a fixed mindset. In this theory, our real passion is "somewhere out there" - we just have to find it. Once we do, we expect to have boundless motivation and acquire all of the required skills fairly easily. Of course, we tend to find that we are pretty

bad at most things when we first try them and we quickly lose motivation. Dr O'Keefe describes it like this:

"Someone with a fixed mind-set of interest might begin their pursuit with lots of enthusiasm, but it might diminish once things get too challenging or tedious. Passion alone won't carry you through in the face of difficulty, he said, when overcoming those challenges actually counts."



"When you tone down your expectations and build failure into your plan, you are also more likely to recognize and celebrate small milestones along the way. Your passion becomes the process of building expertise and your motivation comes from the challenges each day holds."

The other consequence of having a fixed mindset is the inclination to lose interest in other things to focus on one goal. The researchers say: "Urging people to find their passion may lead them to put all their eggs in one basket but then to drop that basket when it becomes difficult to carry."

This seems to resonate with the stories of some of our graduates at their first reunion. They have either changed courses, deferred, or dropped out because their study was not what they were hoping for, or it wasn't as much fun as they had hoped. There appears to be a disconnect between expectations and reality.

I'm not suggesting it is wise to keep doing something that you are not finding fulfilling, especially when you are racking up a HECs debt. What I am encouraging is an alternative view - the "growth mindset". If we accept this notion we believe that our passions will change as we grow. We will understand that there is a process

we need to learn as we pursue our new passions and the steps you need to take are just as important as your end goal. When you tone down your expectations and build failure into your plan, you are also more likely to recognize and celebrate small milestones along the way. Your passion becomes the process of building expertise and your motivation comes from the challenges each day holds.

from the principal



The Valedictory Dinner is also a great opportunity to thank the Aquinas College staff who have committed themselves to the formation of our young people. Not just those who have taught Year 12, but those who laid the foundation stones in Years 7 and 8; witnessed the emergence of an independent mind in Year 9 and 10, and focused learning in Years 11 and 12. I also want to mention the staff who work in a support capacity and make a difference that sometimes goes unacknowledged. The staff of Aquinas College are education professionals of the highest calibre and their dedication to the students entrusted to them is generous.

The College also values this opportunity to extend a vote of thanks to the parents/guardians who have entrusted their children to our care. This year there were 104 families whose youngest or only child graduated on the evening and so their formal association with Aquinas College came to an end. I offer a special vote of thanks to these families for investing Aquinas with the education of their children and I hope they believe that it was a good decision. Most people continue to find out about Aquinas by word of mouth, so it is recommendations from those who know our College well that keeps sending families to our door and I am very grateful for your continued endorsement.

To the Graduating Class of 2019; I offer thanks for the contribution that you have made to your College. You have helped to build a community of which we can all feel proud. Go confidently forward with our blessing and make a difference in our world.

embedding our core values

by Tania Grace - Assistant Principal Mission

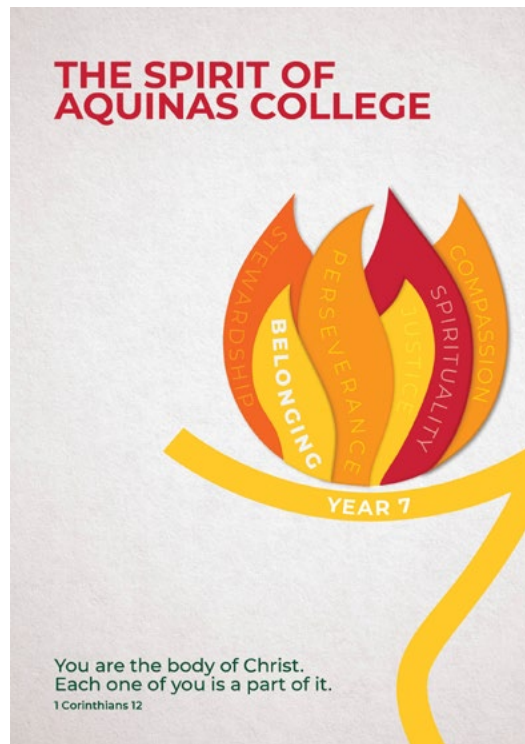
Our mission values of **Belonging, Stewardship, Perseverance, Justice, Compassion** and **Spirituality** are the basis to all we do at Aquinas College.

They are the foundation we use to develop the whole student, beyond academia. Currently, we celebrate one value a year so that by the end of a students' time with us they will have focused on each value at some point in their school life. In recent reviews it was recommended to explore ways we can better embed these values across the College.

In 2020 we will be changing our way of celebrating our values. Each value will be allocated to a year level, however we will also investigate how the other values support and nurture each other. The values will each have a relevant scripture quote and will be incorporated across the curriculum, and into our extracurricular activities.

Through discussion with a number of groups within the College, the values will be allocated as follows:

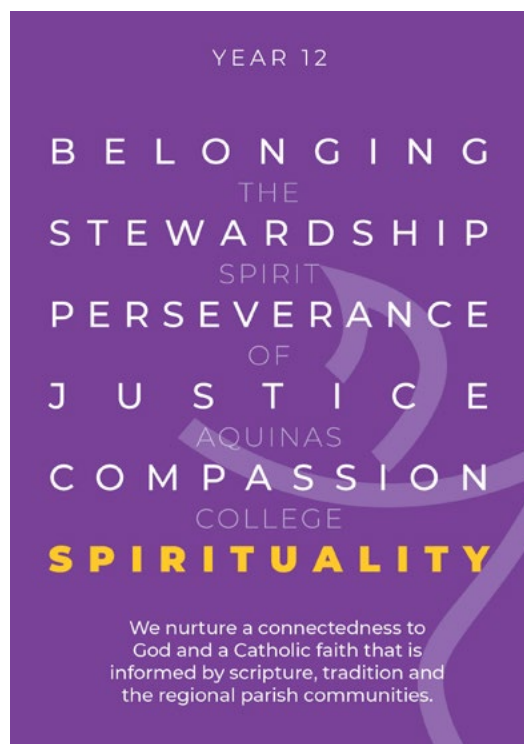
- Year 7 - Belonging
- Year 8 - Stewardship
- Year 9 - Perseverance
- Year 10 - Justice
- Year 11 - Compassion
- Year 12 - Spirituality



In addition to these changes, Aquinas College is introducing the Spirit of Aquinas program. It is an awards based system to encourage students to become more involved within and beyond the College community. Throughout the year, each student can gain points for participating in a range of activities, joining different groups, helping others, other commendations that they may receive and much more. The student in each year level with the most points will receive the Spirit of Aquinas award.

Student leadership has been involved in this discussion and are providing valuable input in regards to how the program should operate. They were also very positive about how the program provides every student an opportunity to succeed and feel like they belong to the Aquinas community. Students also said that the Spirit of Aquinas would help them to better understand the values and be able to connect them to our Attributes of an Aquinas student.

We look forward to sharing with our broader College community the many ways our values have been embedded deeper into our daily lives in 2020.



our students' voice

Meet our College Captains for 2020

“I want to make a positive impact on the College community”



Bridget Dale
College Captain

“As I entered my last year of high school, I began to realise all the opportunities that Aquinas had offered me throughout my education. Year 12 leadership was another opportunity to practice leadership skills whilst also giving back to the community which has

been a massive support. I also hoped that this position would allow me to make an impact on the College.

This year I was lucky to undertake the role of Year 11 Captain which was my first official leadership position throughout all my years of education. Before this position I was nominated for and participated in Lions Youth of the Year in addition to a Student Wellbeing Active Council a leadership program run by Maroonah City Council. Away from school, the role I am most passionate about is Coach of a local boxing gym, which I proudly train and volunteer at most days of the week.

Over the next year I hope to impact the College as a whole by trying to make year levels more cohesive and address any issue the students raise. I also hope that my cohort has an amazing and exciting final year of school.”



Nick Tellus
College Captain

“The main reason I chose to pursue a Year 12 leadership position was because I wanted to be involved in shaping College life. Coming into Year 12, I felt like it was important that I try to put myself out there and have an impact on our final year of secondary school.

In my application, I primarily discussed my personal attributes that I thought would help me undertake the position of a leader. My experiences in public speaking and communication skills, The other qualities that I felt I possessed for a leadership role included perseverance, determination and using my initiative.

My past experiences in leadership at Aquinas include Year 9 Dominic House Captain and a member of the SRC in Year 7. Externally, I have been prominent in the Junior Leadership Team within the Eastern Football League Umpires this year.

In terms of my ‘legacy’, I would be content knowing that I made a positive impact on the College and the students in my year level. I hope that I can confidently say, at the end of Year 12, that I have been an influential member of the College.

My parents were thrilled when I told them of my appointment as a College Leader and I think most of Dad’s co-workers found out pretty quickly too, sending lots of encouragement my way!”



Anita Mugamu
College Vice Captain

“When my parents found out I got the Vice Captain role, my mum screamed (loudly!). My dad, who usually has a lot to say, could only say, “wow” - it was really funny. If you told Year 7 Anita that she was going to be a College leader, she probably would have laughed.

Being part of the Year 11 leadership team this year was a great experience and has prepared me to take the next step for Year 12. I'm very thankful to have received this role and am excited for 2020. The legacy I hope to leave is one where people are encouraged to try new things, challenge themselves and make the most of their high school experience.”



Jules Carboni
College Vice Captain

“I put my hand up for a Year 12 leadership role because I wanted to extend myself and make the most out of my final year. Being a part of the year level leadership team in 2018 and 2019 gave me a lot of experience and was very enjoyable.

I hope my legacy is that I was a supportive team member to Nick and Bridget in their roles as College Captains, the other leadership members, and of course the Aquinas College community.

Looking back at the end of the year I would like to have created many fun memories for everyone and hope to have had a positive impact on those around me. There are teachers at this school that have made a huge impact on me and there are friendships I've made that I know will be lasting—I've loved being part of Aquinas and I want to give back.

I cannot wait to work with the rest of the amazing leadership team.”

farewell Year 12

by Sharon Daley and Scott Buchanan, Year 12 Level Leaders

“Being a teacher is more than a job, it is an amazing career and vocation. We regularly say to each other that we are very lucky to belong to this amazing community.

When two people meet for the first time in a social situation, one of the first questions that is asked is “what school did you go to” and then “what year”. The answer immediately connects us to a time and a place...that is because we belong to our school community and we always will. We are connected in some way to all the students past and present. Year 12s, you will always be an Aquinas College student and the Class of 2019. This is very special and quite unique. Only 242 students can say they were the Class of 2019. You were the Year 12 students the year that Mr Griffin left Aquinas College and Old Town Road was a hit.

After telling someone you went to Aquinas, banter ensues about teachers, buildings, famous muffins and an even more famous school song. Past collegians have a shared experience, a connection because we belong to this community and we always will.

In 2019 we have celebrated the value of BELONGING, and what a beautiful word. What a beautiful value; one of our six core values. Belonging is an affinity for a place or situation. It is something we sense, we feel. Many argue it is a basic human need. One definition is “Belonging is a sense of fitting in or feeling like you are an important member of a group.” We hope that you have all had this sense this year, this feeling of fitting and being part of it, because be assured you have all been an important and integral member of the group. Every individual makes up the Class of 2019 and we hope you have all felt like you fitted just like the pieces of our puzzle that makes up our banner.

Our hope for you is that you now find the next community to belong to. A university or TAFE, a team of volunteers, a workplace or a group of travellers. We hope that you become an integral part of a new puzzle and that you fit just as well. In fact, our hope is that you fit even better. You are about to choose where you want to go, where you fit and where you belong. It is exciting that you all now get to choose your new community. You can belong to a community of artists, lawyers, carpenters, writers, teachers, engineers, designers, pilgrims or performers. You can surround yourselves with like-minded people who share the same passions as you, just as we are. We come to work everyday doing something we love and surrounded by people passionate about education. We belong, this is our community. It is no longer going to be yours on a daily basis but we are so excited that you are soon to discover your new tribe. But don't despair as you will always be the Class of 2019 and you will always be Alumni of Aquinas College. You will indeed always Belong. We express deep gratitude to you all for allowing us to play a significant role in your final year as your Year Level Leaders. Congratulations on your Graduation and all the very best for your futures.



a night of excellence

by Meredith Greenwood, Head Senior Years

On Monday December 9, we recognised the achievements of those students across the College who have excelled both academically but also in sport and the arts.

Seamlessly hosted by our incoming College leaders: Bridget, Nick, Jules, Anita, Charlotte and Luca, the evening was a night to celebrate so many notable group and particularly individual achievements.

There were four prizes awarded to graduating Year 12s and one to a current Year 11 student to recognise their love of and commitment to the Arts. Shared Stories is an annual anthology of creative works by students from 25 Catholic schools across Victoria and we were thrilled to announce that Ruby Dickson (Year 11) was awarded the Mercedes Waratah Award for her artwork in this collection.



Music is such an integral part of Aquinas life. The instrumental music program provided a number of items on the night. It was most pleasing to see the performances of some of the younger musicians: Year 8 vocalist Ella Leavey; fellow Year 8 jazz pianist, Cassie Wynne; Year 9 trombonist James McLeod; and the wonderful Junior Harmony also made up of students from Middle Years. The Arts Learning Area put together a beautiful collage of works from their respective subjects plus a wonderful slide show celebrated the achievements of our VCAL program and provided insight into the many varied, hands-on experiences these students have enjoyed this year. The other very popular film was Cameron's award winning entry: *Distant*.

What a wonderful way to end 2019.

Individual Awards

Most Outstanding VCAL student:	Oliver Willgoose
The Music Award:	Lauren Ridler
Visual Arts Prize:	Chantel Klep
The Mark Campbell Award:	Cameron Ficinus
Film Fest People's Choice Award:	Cameron Ficinus
Australian Defence Force Award:	Flynn Wilkinson
Kwong Lee Dow Award:	Chelle Wynne
Mercedes Waratah Award:	Ruby Dickson

Top Performing Student in 3 subjects

Year 11:	Nicholas Tellus
Year 10:	Tanisha Wu
Year 9:	Darcy Young Sydney Callanan

Student Athletes of the Year

Sportsperson of the Year:	Shannon Fraser
Year 11:	Claire Hurley
Year 10:	Goerge Sajive
Year 9:	Jesse Meikle

Sports Awards

Senior Swimmer (Male):	Miguel Cortes-Gama
Senior Swimmer (Female):	Maggie McKellar
Junior Swimmer (Male):	Joshua Nester
Junior Swimmer (Female):	Lexie Quinn
Senior Athlete (Male):	Nicholas Antonino
Senior Athlete (Female):	Shannon Fraser
Junior Athlete (Male):	Jesse Meikle
Junior Athlete (Female):	Sophie Stokes
Senior Cross Country (Male):	Max Smiles
Senior Cross Country (Female):	Ruby Crisp
Junior Cross Country (Male):	Tom Vardy
Junior Cross Country (Female):	Sophie Stokes

a night of excellence

Top Achievers

Year 11

Elyse Blythe
Harriet Braat
Jules Carboni
Lucas Clarke
Isobel Faktor
Jessica Heng
Caitlin Jones
Jade Leonard
Tiana Mumford
April Smith
Nicholas Tellus
Leon Walshe

Year 10

Stefanie Etchells
Shanae Fantin
Tianyi Mei
Simran Sahota
Emilia Santoro
Reuben Steen
Mikaela Tenney
Samara Terpstra
Emily Waryszczuk
Tanisha Wu
Michelle Wynne

Year 9

Benjamin Beattie
Kaelan Boundy
Emily Bratten
Matilda Brennan
Georga Carusi
Matthew Chaston
Rosie Doerty
Isabelle Kuyken
Georgina Ladd
Danea Lazarus
Sam Leonard
Natasha Montigue
David Mu
Emily Pote
Millar Richardson,
Alexander Robinson
Gabrielle Steen
Abbey Walsh
Grace Walsh

Year 8

Jackson Boundy
Molly Campbell
Matilda Dring
Alannah Leech
Marc Magpantay
Jayson Nestic
Chloe North-Coombes
Aaron Steer
Jay Tolentino
Cassandra Wynne

Year 7

Monique Bambery
Ruby Bishop
Mya Burrige
Charlotte Callanan
Chloe Chambers
Michael Clarke
Alice Edwards
Ashley Enright
Ashley Gimena
Connor Haughie
Jack Jemmeson
Lucas Mandaliti

Learning Area Awards

Year 11

Jacob Bahtagic
Daniel Barber
Jules Carboni
Paris Constantinou
Charlotte Dring
Isobel Faktor
Breeana Henry
Caitlin Jones
Anita Mugamu
Claire Hurley
Maggie McKellar
Michael Morena
Johanna O'Keeffe
Mia Simpkins,
April Smith
Leon Walshe
Grace Walter
Amelia Walton

Year 10

Sarah Crosbie
Christina Doan
Jack Edwards
Shanae Fantin
Jamie Hanrahan
Luxue Hong
Ben Mancarella
Tianyi Mei
Ethan Nugent
Rory O'Brien
Damien Pelosi
Laura Peterson
Simran Sahota
Emilia Santoro
Reuben Steen
Mikaela Tenney
Samara Terpstra
Zara Toet
Jeremy White
Charli Woods
Chelle Wynne

Year 9

Kimberley Baker
Benjamin Beattie
Madeline Brown
Georga Carusi
Matthew Chaston
Joshua Jones
Isabelle Kuyken
Natasha Ladd
Sam Leonard
Sam Moulden
David Mu
Chloe Paxton
Nicholas Peppas
Milla Richardson
Alexander Robinson
Gabriella Steen
Abbey Walsh
Gabrielle Walshe
Ryan Webster

Year 8

Jackson Boundy
Imogen Burg
Charles Cooper
Shaelee Donohue
Matilda Dring
Leonor Fernandes
Joe Green
Tyson Langsdon
Marc Magpantay
Ella Motteram
Chloe North-Coombes
Ivan Tato-Guo
Mary Ventura
Winchester Walsh
Cassandra Wynne

Year 7

Lachlan Bruni
Michael Clarke
Alice Edwards
Ella Enright
Olivia Evans
Aidan Fry
Ashley Gimena
Connor Haughie
Archer Haun
Sienna O'Brien
Caitlin Sharp

student experiences

Singing on ABC Radio, Grand Final Day at the MCG

"The opportunity to perform on ABC Radio with the Aquinas Choir, A Cappella, was absolutely amazing! We caught the train early in the morning and gathered between the doors in the middle of the carriage, there we began rehearsing. A few people sitting in seats not too far from our crowd had taken out their phones to record us stumbling through our set pieces, making the situation rather amusing. The amusement didn't end there, as we arrived at the MCG and found the little station set up just for us, with a microphone and a small area to stand. We buzzed quietly as we waited with anticipation for our introduction, and when it came time to sing, everything seemed so surreal. A crowd had gathered in front of us, decked head to toe in well, mostly Richmond gear, and they clapped along cheerfully to our songs. The most adored number by far was our mash-up of the two team anthems, which garnered so much appreciation and fascination that we were asked to sing it many, many times, it was a real crowd-pleaser!"

The hours flew by too fast, and before we knew it, our time on the air was over. I'm so glad Aquinas got this magnificent opportunity, and despite the rather unexciting game, this was a Grand Final that we will remember proudly."

Georgia Keane
Year 12



Representing the College, STEM MAD Showcase

In October, two of our Global Green teams were selected to represent Aquinas College at the STEM MAD Showcase held by Catholic Education Melbourne.

STEM MAD is designed to acknowledge and promote STEM learning initiatives that address real world problems and demonstrate how students in Catholic schools take action that matters.

One team presented their sustainable solution to address infrastructure problems impacting earthquake affected regions in Nepal. While the other provided a solution to aid disabled persons in India - these team specifically focused on deaf and hearing impaired.

Both teams answered questions about their ideas and displays from a number of interested guests at the Showcase. They were also interviewed on LIVE FM about Global Green and the projects they had undertaken.

In an impressive recognition of their hard work and effort, the team of Ella Leavey, Seth Thompson, Ethan Troiani and Sherard Wimalasena were awarded the Archbishop's Award for Social Justice for their Indian Sign Language Translator Application.

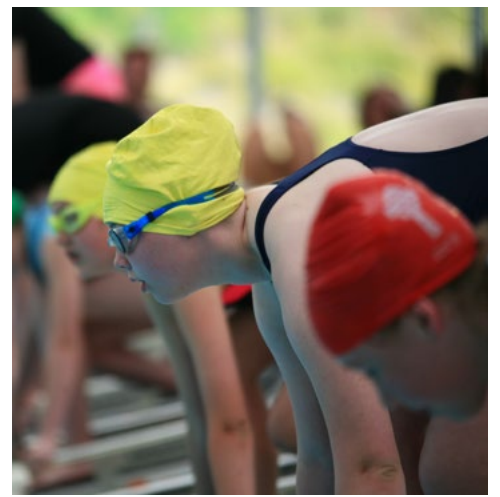




snapshots of Aquinas life







thank you and farewell

We say farewell to some of our team and thank them for being an integral part of our Community.



Pam Fulton Retiring after 28 years
 Martin Walker Retiring after 17 years
 Mick Sheehy Retiring after 7 years



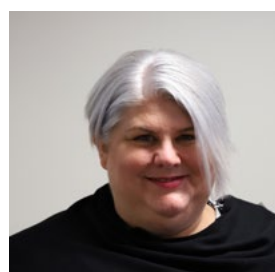
Peter Griffin 17 years of service
 Jon Astbury 13 years of service
 Jamie Davin 8 years of service
 Erin Checkley 7 years of service
 Crystal Delosa 6 years of service
 Craig Bentley 2 years of service



Adam Dean 2 years of service
 Sarah Dragwidge 2 years of service
 Jen Mitchell 2 years of service
 Carolyn Nugent 2 years of service
 Megan Orrin 2 years of service
 Sally Younes 2 years of service
 Maxim Sheko 18 months of service



Elena Bai 1 year of service
 Chris Blain 1 year of service
 Michael Wilcock 1 year of service
 Catherine Witcher 1 year of service
 Julia Barr GAP Year
 Jai Melchiorre GAP Year



Heidi Vandenberg GAP Year
 Karen Johnson 3 terms of service
 Paul Neeson 3 terms (full time) of service
 Collette Lark 6 month of service



thank you and farewell



Michael Wilcock joined the College as Assistant Principal - Staff for the 2019 year having been a leader in Catholic education in South Australia for many years. He has added great value to the College this year with the recruitment of both teaching and non-teaching staff for short and ongoing placements. He has also overseen the accreditation process for graduate teachers with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. Michael has overhauled the staff appraisal system and developed a comprehensive review process to be implemented in 2020. For personal reasons, Michael has decided to return to South Australia and will take up a Deputy Principal role at St Columba College, Andrew's Farm. We thank Michael for the strong leadership that he has shown in the short time he has been with us and wish him well for the future.



Goodbye Peter Griffin



"Mr Griffin has dedicated a lifetime of service to Catholic education. He has been Deputy Principal at Aquinas College for the last 16 years, and this year the Homeroom teacher for 8 Blue. Being in his Homeroom, the class have recognised many valuable qualities, some of which being his selflessness, humour, sense of care, commitment to the wellbeing of the College and patience because for a solid month he listened to our thoughts on the latest episode of the Bachelor. He is a highly valued and relied upon member of the community and we wish Mr Griffin the best as he moves on from Aquinas College."

Chloe North-Coombes, Year 8

"...It gives me a great honour as well as sadness to the Aquinas community that we are saying goodbye to Mr Peter Griffin. Mr Griffin began teaching at Aquinas College in 1981 after graduating as a student years before, which is the same year as the famous game of cricket between Australia and New Zealand where Trevor Chappell did an underarm delivery off the last ball of the game to win. Mr Griffin was a pivotal part to the culture at Aquinas, making friends with everyone he came into contact with, before heading to Mercy College in Camperdown and Emmanuel College in Warnambool for Principal stints. However, he couldn't resist his love for the College and come back in 2003. My old man knew Peter well, before I had begun school and I'll never forget the look Mr Griffin gave me on my first day of Year 7 after I called him Peter, before he told me "probably Mr Griffin from now on". I was lucky enough to go with him on a Kakadu trip. Between his unbelievable dancing to all the incredible stories and insight he gave the laughs and wisdom he shared with us. For some people Mr Griffin might be the "scary" Deputy Principal who is always in a perfect suit and everyone's shirts become tucked in and hair gets tied back just through his presence, but above all he's a fair and trustworthy man who really does put everyone ahead of himself. The College is going to miss you Mr Griffin, and I hope your next school treats you well and the people in the next chapter of your life are as good as the ones here."

Harry Box, Year 12



honouring our alumni

On the evening of Friday 18th October, the Aquinas College Board welcomed our 2019 Honour Roll inductees. Dr Dan Norton AO, and Mr Peter Griffin were acknowledged for their outstanding achievements and contribution, and celebrated as Aquinas College alumni.



Dr Dan Norton
Peer Year 1969

After graduating from Aquinas College, Dr Daniel Norton AO achieved a number of qualifications including a Ph. D from the School of Economics and Business, North Carolina State University. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Daniel is an experienced Chairman and CEO who has worked in the transport and electricity industries, central government agencies and international commodity marketing. He has made a significant contribution to the Tasmanian community, serving as Chairman of a number of large Government business enterprises, as well as the Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment Executive Steering Committee, and the Menzies Research Institute.

In 2014, Dr Norton was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to business and finance, the energy sector particularly in the area of infrastructure development, and to medical research. The following year he was awarded the Australian Institute of Company Directors' Tasmanian Gold Medal Award in recognition of his many years as a company director and outstanding commitment to Tasmania.

Peter Griffin
Peer Year 1975



Peter Griffin has played a significant role in Aquinas College's history. Initially as a student, then as a teacher with positions of leadership from 1981 to 1990; and returning in 2003 to take on the role of Year 7 and 8 Coordinator, and later as Deputy Principal – Students, and the dual role of Deputy Principal – Staff/Students (2009-2015).

Beyond his time at Aquinas College, Peter has been dedicated to Catholic education in both rural and regional schools. As College Principal of Mercy Regional College, Camperdown (1991-1998), Peter was the youngest principal in the state to be appointed to a Catholic secondary school, taking a financially crippled school and building enrolments by 30%. In 1999, Peter took on the role of College Principal at Emmanuel College, Warrnambool, increasing enrolment and reversing the loss of community confidence and support for the College.

At Aquinas College, as Deputy Principal – Students, Peter has been part of the Senior Executive Leadership team, responsible for student wellbeing, pastoral care and discipline.



alumni reunions

"For many of us the thought of walking into a room of people that most likely we had not seen in 20 years or even spoken to ever was very daunting and very much out of our comfort zone. But as you can see from the photos, it was such a great night.

I personally caught up with heaps of old friends that disappeared from my life throughout the last 20 years but also with people that I hardly spoke to at school. The mix of old friendship groups all seemed to merge together, removing any barriers that were there all those years ago."

Adam D'Atri



1999



"All the nerves melted away soon after seeing huge smiles, exchanging hugs, a few puzzled glances while trying to recognise each other, followed by curiosity and then sincere contentment and joy for each other's health, happiness and accomplishments.

It was great to see everyone there, reminiscing about our school days, reconnecting, recalling memories that made me laugh, catching up on the last two decades, sharing new stories and celebrating our successes. I hope we continue to share more memories from the past and create new ones for many more years to come!!!"

Veronique Yatsin



alumni reunions



2018



where are they now?

The Gridley Family

Peer Year 2004, 2006 and 2009

My name is Sally Gridley and I was in the Class of 2004. Both my sisters Liz (PY 2006) and Victoria (PY2009) also Aquinas College, and both of my parents also attended the College. Our Dad, Dennis Gridley was also on the College Board for 13 years, including as Chairman for a couple of years.

Sally Gridley - *I am a Science and IT Teacher at St Bede's College in Mentone, and have enjoyed being on six TV quiz shows in the past six years. These have been Hot Seat (2014); Million Dollar Minute (2015); The Chase (2016) where I won \$25,500; Hard Quiz (2017) where I won with my special topic of the Harry Potter books; Think Tank (2018) when I beat my competitors, but couldn't answer the Impossible Question; and Mastermind (2019), - I won an episode with my topic of The IT Crowd.*

Liz Gridley is a professional Artist, who specialises in figurative oil paintings exploring emotion in the human form. Her prizes and accomplishments are listed on her website here: <https://lizgridley.com.au/>. Earlier this year she got married to Dr Jonathan Clarke, who is a medical doctor training to be a surgeon. They married at MONA in Tasmania.



Victoria Gridley received a full scholarship to complete a diploma in costume construction at Toi Whakaari in Wellington, NZ in 2015. She has since created costumes for movies and TV in both Australia and NZ, and also at the Royal New Zealand Ballet company and Weta Workshop. She is currently working for both Weta Workshop and the RNZ Ballet. Most notably she has worked on blockbuster movies Ghost in the Shell, Mortal Engines and the upcoming live-action Mulan.

Karon Mihat (Hollis)

Peer Year 1972

I completed my Year 11 in 1971 at Aquinas College. I have three children who are now in their 30's and 40's and two grandchildren, who will be going to Aquinas in the next few years. My memories of the first year at Aquinas are of the one little building that we all squeezed into comprising three classrooms and one utility room where, if I remember correctly we had our Art lessons. Girls came from St John's, Mitcham, St. Edmund's, Croydon, Our Ladies, Ringwood and Mooroolbark. Each feeder school provided a nun as a teacher and our first Principal was Sr Carmel. (I think she later changed her name to Sr Gabriel.)

The Boys school was separated by a large ravine and because we were such a novelty to the boys there was always a flock of boys at the edge of the cliff peering over to the girls side and vice versa. In the Senior Years if girls wanted to do Maths or Science subjects they went to the Boys' school to do them. Girls had more limited expectations for their careers in those days but a couple of girls broke through the barriers and studied Law etc which was great. Most girls expected to be teachers, office secretaries, bank workers or shop assistants and often married and had children in the early 20's.

I remember being voted Captain of Chisholm, I think in Year 7 and was responsible for organising House Sport practises for the Annual Sports for Chisholm girls. It's great to hear how the school has evolved to becoming a highly respected school in the district. My son and his wife are looking forward to their children starting at Aquinas College.

where are they now?

Dan & Sean Fox Peer Year 2005 and 2009

Since leaving Aquinas College over a decade ago, brothers Dan (PY 2005) and Sean (2009) have further developed their passion for film and television. Dan has a degree in Film and Television from Swinburne, and studied character animation and motion graphics; and Sean studied Film and Television at Deakin.

After a significant fall in 2016, Dan spent 11 weeks in hospital, and eight months learning to walk again. He was inspired to write and make a short film, and teamed up with his brother Sean to bring it to life. Almost three years later **“God in the Sky”** is at the end of post production. According to Dan and Sean the storyline of the short film is not easy to put into words, it is best described as *“trying to reconcile personal tragedies and your own spirituality”*.

Dan and Sean called on their Aquinas College alumni to help them bring their film to life, including Rima Chamoun for makeup; and ex College Captains Mahala Fox and James Sheppard appeared in the film. Much of “God in the Sky” was filmed in and around the grounds of the College, from the Forum to the Mahon Theatre.

The Fox brothers will send out their film to the 2020/21 “festival circuit” with the aim that it will get shown across the 100+ film festivals. They hope to use it as a calling card to take their passion further into a feature length film, or TV shows.

A special thank you from Dan and Sean to Maryanne Leavey for being a superstar



Lauren Mikkor Peer Year 2011



I've been working in the music industry since graduating, and am now running my own business as an Artist Manager. My artists are very well known both within Australia and around the world, playing some of the biggest festivals on the planet (Tomorrowland, Coachella, Ultra music festival, Splendour in the Grass). My artist [George Alice](#), who I have been working with since she was 12, recently won Triple J's "Unearthed High". She is now being flown around the world by the biggest record labels in the world, working with the biggest agents around the world and will be touring internationally all next year!

Aquinas College created such an incredible foundation for my values and work ethic, and I'll be forever grateful for having been given the opportunity to learn at such an amazing school and be part of such a beautiful community!



our history

from the College archives

Recently the archives have been in touch with Sister Gabrielle (OP) founding Principal of the Aquinas Girls' School from 1967, known at the time by her religious name of Sister Mary Basil. Sister's initial three-year appointment in 1967 was extended to cover the rapid expansion of the College, and she eventually left in 1972. Sister Gabrielle is a member of the Dominican Order.

As our pioneer students will remember, the Aquinas Girls School was officially first opened on 13th Feb 1967, when Bishop Moran blessed the first Girls' college. It started with 84 students and four full time staff: Sister Gabrielle, Sister Veronica, Sister Mel, and Mrs.

Anna Cox. There were only three classrooms individually dedicated to Needlework, Art and Commerce, and a five room weatherboard cottage which functioned as Principal's Office, Sick Bay, Staff Room, and at times an extra classroom.

Sister Gabrielle has kindly provided us with several treasures. This included a beautiful class group photograph of the first year of matriculating girls, who started at Aquinas in 1967 and



graduated in 1972. Also in the photo are Sister Gabrielle herself, and Sister Helen Reed (RSJ). This important photograph was sadly missing from the Aquinas Archives until now.



The first girls class to matriculate. 1972



“the Bloods”



2019 was an incredibly emotional year for the Aquinas Old Collegians Football Club. The tragic loss of our teammate in July rocked the entire group to the very core. Throughout this horrific episode the College community was nothing short of amazing in the way they supported the players, supporters and membership base. We thank the entire College community for their assistance and compassion during this time.

On field, 2019 saw another successful season with the Senior Men's team winning the Division 3 premiership and automatic promotion to Division 2 for 2020. A two point victory over Manningham in the Grand Final was the epitome of teamwork, courage and desire. Former Club Captain and Aquinas student (PY2007) Lachy Barnes played the game of his life and was awarded the BOG medal. Our Reserves side unfortunately lost the Grand Final by 10 points to old rival Emmaus but the clear depth of senior ranks at the club will put us in good stead for next season.

After a premiership in 2018 our Under 19's were promoted and were once again highly successful, with 15 current

Aquinas College students on the list it was amazing to see the quality of football that this group of mates produced week after week. As a testament to the quality of the graduates from the U19s that Craig Glennie coached there were five players in the senior premiership team and nine in the reserves grand final side who had played U19's in either 2018 or 2017. There were also six from this years crop who got a taste of senior football this season. This just goes to show the opportunities for regular senior football that our U19 players can achieve at our club.

Our Women's side had another successful season on and off the field. Early in pre-season we welcomed a host of new players, primarily ex students of the College. Finishing just one kick off third spot the girls will be hungry for more success in 2020. The VAFA is undoubtedly the strongest local women's competition with 10 divisions and over 80 teams and we are excited for what the future holds.

We train Monday and Wednesday nights from 6pm at the College over pre-season and new players are always welcome for any of our four teams. More details can be found on Facebook or Instagram.

Join the Club

If you are considering becoming involved with a progressive, family oriented Local Suburban Football Club, please contact:

Jack McDonald
Secretary
secretary@aquinas.com.au
0430 130 520

Were you a past participant of 2000 stories?

In 1992, a group of about 2000 Year 9 students were selected to participate in **2000 Stories: The Victorian Adolescent Health Cohort study**, including a number of students from Aquinas College which was one of the 44 schools that originally took part in the study. This collaboration with the Royal Children's Hospital was investigating the health and wellbeing of adolescents.

The participants completed six interviews at school age (from Years 9 - 12), and four interviews in adulthood (aged around 21, 24, 29 and 35). **The study has recently received funding to return to the participants an eleventh time in 2020, as they enter in their early 40s.**

The first six surveys created one of the most comprehensive pictures of adolescent development in the world to date, looking at many aspects of teenage health and behaviour, including mental health, personality and behaviour, school, family, and drug and alcohol use. This information has been used to improve the health of future generations by influencing policy and informing prevention programs. You can find more information about the study and our research here: <https://www.mcricri.edu.au/research/projects/2000-stories>

MCRI are calling out for 'lost' participants to get in touch with them to participate in this next stage of the study. If you were a past participant, please contact 2000stories@mcricri.edu.au, or (03) 9936 6358



Share your news

We would love to hear from our Aquinas College Alumni. Share your news about births, engagements, marriages, in memoriam or outstanding achievements to feature in upcoming editions of Illuminare.

If you have any historical information for our archives, we would love to take copies for our archives.

Email your news, photos and information with your contact details to:

illuminare@aquinas.vic.edu.au

Our Website

www.aquinas.vic.edu.au

Would you like to be added to the mailing list to ensure you get every future copy of Illuminare?

Register on the [Alumni section](#) of the College website.

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