Mathematics

The Mathematics Department has had an exciting and fulfilling year in 2000.

A number of students were invited to sit for the Australian Mathematics Competition and once again the results were a credit to the school.

This year saw the introduction of the new Higher School Certificate courses in Mathematics. Four courses are now being offered, General Mathematics, Mathematics, Mathematics Extension 1 and Mathematics Extension 2. The new General Mathematics course is practical and relevant and is proving popular with students. The syllabi for the other courses remain unchanged.

At the end of Semester 1 we bade farewell to our Co-ordinator, Mrs Maclean. Mrs Maclean will be returning to the school in a part-time capacity in 2001, but we would like to pay tribute to her dedication to the students of Stella Maris College. She did much to promote the study of Mathematics in the school and her pursuit of excellence was an inspiration to both students and staff.

We welcomed two new members of staff, John Camilleri and Sean Daly. The whole Department has worked extremely hard this year and all are to be commended for their dedication.

The Mathematics Department aims to have each student reaching her full potential and feeling a sense of achievement at whatever level of study undertaken. We hope to equip students for life, whether that involves solving practical day to day problems or studying Mathematics at university. Students are encouraged to explore open-ended problems and to be able to communicate their ideas effectively. The skills learnt in the Mathematics classroom are invaluable tools in today’s society.

Rowena Wharton
Mathematics Co-ordinator
Mathematics Coaching

This year over one hundred and ten students attended after school mathematics classes. This initiative was born out of a desire by parents to have extra help for their daughters in the safety of the school premises. It has been an enormous success with results of regular participants improving significantly.

The coaching program supplements and revises the work studied by students in class. A focus on examination preparation and study was found to be of great help to many girls in providing them with a framework to prepare for their studies and revision.

Students from all years and of all abilities took advantage of the coaching and their feedback has been terrific. The coaching classes will continue in 2001.

Sebastian Puntillo and David Romagnolo
Mathematics Coaching Co-ordinators
Music

Siobhan James - Year 10
In the Year 10 Music class we compose our own music pieces, recognise instruments, complete assignments and learn about certain periods in history where music is now recognised worldwide and why it is recognised. We also read scores (our music sheets), perform music pieces for other class members and learn graphic notation. In general, Year 10 Music is very interesting.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE
Belinda Gaal - Year 10
This year the Jazz Ensemble acquired a new director, Mr Swan, and increased its repertoire to include music by Duke Ellington and Miles Davis. We performed at musical events such as Open Day, the Musicale which was held at the Manly Leagues Club and the Stella Performing Arts Night which was our finest performance, surrounded by fairy lights! We performed for Vanessa Coman’s HSC in August and also performed a piece called ‘The Sidewinder’ on the ‘Stella Live’ CD.

MADRIGAL GROUP
Victoria Cunningham - Year 10
The Madrigal Choir was asked to perform at the Independent Schools Expo at Sydney University. We were representing the College choirs and it was a most successful day.

The Madrigal Choir also performed at the Warringah Eisteddfod in May this year and was placed third. This proved to be the best way to farewell our director, Miss Hall. Miss Hall had been our Director since we were all in Year 7 and were asked to replace the Seniors who were leaving the College that year. We were sad to see Miss Hall leave, however, her replacement, Miss Gerrard, set about creating a new repertoire. Just as we had settled into a routine Miss Gerrard unexpectedly decided to leave and was replaced by Miss Gerber.

At present we are working towards small performances at the College.

SENIOR CHOIR
Julia Maroya - Year 10
This year the Senior Choir performed at the Warringah Eisteddfod. Although we were unsuccessful in the competition, we all enjoyed ourselves listening to the other schools. The standard was very high and it proved to be an excellent experience. The Senior Choir also performed at the Musicale in June.

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS
Bridget Rothwell - Year 10
This year, as in all other years, many girls took music lessons on a vast variety of instruments ranging from voice to drum. The teachers prepared many of the girls for their AMEB exams, which were held over August and September. All the girls did very well.
New Zealand Music Tour

Victoria Cunningham – Year 10
In December 1999 approximately 60 girls embarked on a one and a half week tour of the South Island of New Zealand under the supervision of Mrs Macaulay, Miss Hall, Miss Gerrard and a couple of helpful mothers. We performed at shopping centres, churches and schools, up and down both coasts of the island, gaining very positive feedback from each venue.

We saw many beautiful waterfalls and glaciers and quite a few sheep along the way. It was decidedly cold near Queenstown, the Franz Joseph Glacier and especially on the Morton Sound ferry ride. Everyone had lots of fun especially on the shot-over jet ride but we couldn’t get Miss Hall to go bungey jumping.

It was a very enjoyable experience for all and many friendships were made throughout the year groups. We have returned with memories that will remain with us for many years to come.

Thank you to all people who helped make the tour possible. It was an important experience for all of the budding performers at Stella Maris.
Religion

Religious Studies at Stella Maris College caters to students of all faiths and backgrounds. Our courses in Years 7 - 10 allow for all interests and provide a variety of activities within a Christian theme. Students in Years 9 and 10 study Religion for their School Certificate, as a Board of Studies Endorsed Course. The senior course for Years 11 and 12, Studies of Religion, continues strongly in the College, with an additional 2 Unit class each year.

This year saw the introduction of meditation in the Chapel for each class from Years 7 - 10. These classes were taken by their teachers and on Thursdays by Mrs Lyn Dee, a qualified yoga teacher. The students enjoyed these quiet times of reflection and I particularly thank Mrs Dee for her work here.

There were a number of liturgies throughout the year, some small and others for the whole College. The highlight for the College was the Jubilee celebration held at the Superdome, Homebush Bay on the June 21. We joined with the other primary and secondary schools of the Broken Bay Diocese to celebrate in song, dance and prayer, the Great Jubilee of the birth of Jesus 2000 years ago. This was a wonderful occasion for our College, enjoyed by the students and one which will be remembered for many years to come. The school liturgies were held at St Kieran’s, Manly Vale. Thank you to Father Tony Banks, Bishop David Walker and Father Gerry McCormack for celebrating Mass with us this year.

The Retreats for 2000 were very successful days of reflection, discussion, fun and time out of study. These days were led by our experienced leaders - Father Kevin Bates and Chris Doyle.

For Lent this year we held services in the Chapel and participated in Project Compassion fundraising, as well as our Easter Egg Drive for the Children of the Royal Far West Scheme in Manly, the Sunnyfield Association and the St Vincent de Paul Society. A special mention to 10.2 who did very well with Project Compassion raising over $95.00. The Easter Liturgy was held outdoors this year. It was a fitting commemoration of the events of Holy Week incorporating drama, music, song, dance, prayer and reflection. Thank you to those who participated and organised the Liturgy - Year 8 Celebrate classes and their teachers, Mrs Evans, Mrs Mascarenhas, the choir, Ms Hall, Mrs Macaulay, Year 7 Dance, Mrs Dennis, Year 11 students and Cobi Woodman of Year 12.

Fundraising also took place in Term Four with the Year 9 ‘Who Cares’ class at the helm. They raised $500.00 for the Good Samaritan Mission in the Philippines with their ‘buy a leaf’ tree. This was a wonderful example of living out the Good Samaritan message of caring for others. Well done Year 9 and thank you to Mr Romagnolo for his organisation of this appeal.

At the end of the year our Christmas appeals were embraced with enthusiasm by the students. This year gifts were bought for teenagers and non-perishable food for hampers. These were packaged and sent to the Mullawa Prisons Ministry and the St Vincent de Paul Society. Thank you to everyone for your generosity to these appeals.

As this report draws to a close, I would like to thank all the Religion teachers in this very large department within the College, the Year Co-ordinators for their assistance on the Retreat days and Mrs Wharton, Mrs Macaulay and their assistants for their continued work with the Christian Fellowship group, which is enjoyed by the students.
A special thank you goes to the Music Department, Mrs Macaulay, Ms Hall, Ms Gerrard, Ms Gerber and Mrs Augustyniak, for all they continually do in the Religion Department to make our liturgies so meaningful and to Mrs Macaulay, Ms Gerrard and Ms Kerl for training the choir and dance students and attending the many rehearsals for the Jubilee Celebration at the Superdome, Homebush Bay.

Thank you to Joanne Beglin, Year 12 Liturgy Prefect, for her important role in the College this year. And lastly, a very special thank you to Mrs Evans the Assistant Religious Education Co-ordinator for all her work this year, particularly with Liturgy.

Marcia Charles
Religious Education Co-ordinator

LITURGY
Barbara Evans - Assistant Religious Education Co-ordinator
2000 was a busy year for staff and students at Stella Maris College. The school year began with our traditional Opening Mass, celebrated at St. Kieran’s Manly Vale. We welcomed the Jubilee with some wonderful liturgy that involved participation by many students. Jubilee banners were made by the Year 9 ‘Why We Believe’ religion class, who presented these to the College at school assemblies.

The beginning of Lent saw the whole college community receive ashes, distributed at year group liturgies in the College Chapel. At the end of Term One the College took part in an Easter Liturgy presented by the Year 8 Celebrate Religion classes.

There were many celebrations to follow. In May, Bishop David Walker celebrated a Jubilee Mass for the College. Our Year 12 students joined other Year 12 students from colleges on the Peninsula for Mass, celebrated by the Bishop in the Cathedral at St Ives. Some of our Year 12 students also took part in the Bishop’s forum held at the Catholic Schools Office, Waitara.

We also celebrated the Year 12 Graduation Mass with wonderful liturgy and music, a result of careful planning by teachers and the Year 12 Liturgy Committee. The students chose the theme of ‘Take the Step...Change the World’. The End of Year Mass was celebrated on an extremely hot day. The girls participated fully and behaved wonderfully under very uncomfortable conditions.

Liturgy is alive and thriving at the College as the girls are all willing to assist or participate on each occasion.

Katy Johnston - Year 8
On June 21 2000, Stella Maris attended the Jubilee Celebration held in the Sydney Superdome at Olympic Park, Homebush Bay. Many Catholic schools from Gosford to Sydney attended, ours by far one of the largest. There were many performances and some of our school was a small part of one of the four choirs. There were singing and dancing acts to do with the Jubilation themes Joy, Journey, Justice, Fallow, Forgiveness and Freedom. Highlights including a guest performance by Bachelor Girl and talks from some Paralympians, Bishop David Walker, Sister Josephine and Peter Barret from Midnight Oil. It was a special occasion and we were proud to be a part of it.
Bronwyn Seneque - Year 8
It all happened on June 21, a spectacular gathering of all the schools from Broken Bay. We came together to celebrate Jubilee 2000 at the Superdome. The themes of the day were Fallow, Forgiveness, Freedom, Joy, Justice and Journey. These themes were all performed in different ways, such as singing, dancing and guest speakers.

Some great guests honoured us by speaking or performing for us. Bishop David Walker, Sister Josephine and Midnight Oil spoke to us about Jubilee 2000 and Bachelor Girl performed their hit song for us. Everyone who spoke made an important point on why and how we celebrate Jubilee. There was also a great amount of participation for the schools and choirs.

All in all it was a fascinating day and I think we all enjoyed it thoroughly.

Jerny dela Cruz - Year 8
On June 21 2000, Stella Maris College went to the Jubilee Celebrations at Homebush Bay. All the schools from the North shore came. Many famous people including Bishop David Walker came and spoke about the Year of Jubilee and the themes of the Jubilee including Joy, Forgiveness, Justice, Fallow, Journey and Freedom.

At first, all the schools paraded with the banners they made. Then there were performances from different schools and performances by our Aussie bands Bachelor Girl and Midnight Oil.

Everyone from the different schools loved it and had so much fun. I think this Year of the Jubilee will be a year to remember.
Christian Fellowship

This year the Christian Fellowship group at Stella divided into two groups, JCF (Junior Christian Fellowship) and SCF (Senior Christian Fellowship). Both groups were led by Sally Spedding and Tracey Hein. Sally came into the school each Wednesday and Thursday at lunchtime and we would like to thank her for giving up her time and putting so much effort into the groups. Tracey, one of our Year 12 girls, gave generously of her time and herself. She was an inspiration to the younger girls and we want to especially thank her and wish her well in the years ahead.

JCF met on a Wednesday and was a really fun group. We played games, had craft days and looked for any excuse to have a party. We invited guest speakers to come and talk to us, learnt more about how Jesus wants us to live and usually spent some time looking at the Bible and praying.

SCF is for girls in Years 10 to 12. SCF usually met over coffee and biscuits and looked at some of the more challenging aspects of Christianity and its relevance in today’s society. This was an encouraging and fun group and the girls involved felt free to raise questions and share experiences.

This is the second year the Christian Fellowship has been running and everyone is very welcome to come and share with us.

Rowena Wharton and Kirsten Macaulay
Christian Fellowship Co-ordinators
Science

The Science department has had another successful year. It has also been a very hectic year as we have worked to introduce the new junior syllabus and new syllabus in Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

We welcomed two new members of staff this year - Ms Campbell and Mr Daley while Mrs Hurley took leave, mid year, to have a baby. The other members of the Science department in 2000 were Mr Hart, Ms Whealing, Mrs Mascarenhas, Mr Romagnolo, Mrs Lawther and Mrs Macinnis.

All of our students sat for the Science Competition again this year and many students obtained very creditable results. Our students continue to show an enthusiastic and cooperative approach to laboratory work and we look forward to new challenges in 2001.

Christine Macinnis
Science Co-ordinator
Visual Arts and Design

This year has been another dynamic and productive year for the Visual Arts and Design Departments. Our staff has expanded with demand in Elective Courses with Ms Knight, Mr Wong, Ms Palmer and Ms Regis joining us. Ms Georgiou took her retirement mid year, her contribution as Co-ordinator facilitated much growth within the Visual Arts and Design Departments.

Students of Year 12 produced a large variety of exceptional works for their HSC submission in Visual Arts and Design and Technology. HSC Major works and the work from all other Visual Arts, Design and Photography students were showcased at the Visual and Performing Arts evening, Stella Alive, held at the College in Term 3. The high standard of artwork this year was recognized when three of our Year 12 students were pre-selected for the prestigious ‘Art Express’ Exhibition. ‘Art Express’ exhibits selected artwork from the current Year 12 candidature for the HSC. Congratulations to Sacha Alagich for ‘Code 4’, Katherine Edney for ‘I am Genius’ and Alison Roberts who was selected for both her 2 Unit and 3 Unit works, ‘Animal Instinct’ and ‘The Ride of Your Life’. Design and Technology students were also pre-selected for ‘Design Tech’ which exhibits outstanding designs from the current Year 12 Design and Technology candidature at the Powerhouse Museum. Congratulations to Sacha Alagich, Hayley Sharpe and Leisha Mortimer whose works appeared at the Powerhouse. Works by Candice Lopez, Hayley Sharpe and Zoe Heffernan were selected by Manly Art Gallery for their annual exhibition ‘Express Yourself’ which recognizes the talent of local HSC Visual Arts students.

Visual Arts and Design students attended numerous excursions to study art and design works at places such as The Art Gallery of NSW, The Museum of Contemporary Art, The Powerhouse Museum, Manly Art Gallery and various Paddington Galleries. Year 11 Visual Arts students attended a five day camp at Bundanon, near Nowra where they investigated the possibilities of artists’ practice, visited the studio of Arthur Boyd and studied his works. This has become a yearly senior excursion which provides a rich and memorable experience for the girls.

Certificate Awards in the Visual Arts and Design given at Stella Alive Visual and Performing Arts Evening were as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Visual Arts</th>
<th>Junior Award for Excellence</th>
<th>Sarah Goss</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Senior Award for Excellence</td>
<td>Bethany Nero</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Most Promising Artist</td>
<td>Sacha Alagich</td>
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<td>Design</td>
<td>Excellence in Design</td>
<td>Sarah Smith</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Outstanding Effort in Design</td>
<td>Gemma Gagnacci</td>
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Jo Knight and Ranee Fitzgerald
Visual Arts Co-ordinator and Design Co-ordinator
Vocational Education and Training
Stella Maris Training College

The opportunities in Vocational Education and Training offered by the new HSC have been enthusiastically taken up by students at Stella Maris College. This year, girls in Years 11 and 12 are studying courses in Business Administration, Information Technology, Hospitality, Tourism, Outdoor Recreation, Child Care, Design and Interactive Multimedia. These courses give the students dual qualifications. All courses count towards the HSC (and from 2001 most can also be counted towards university entrance) and all are accredited to either a Certificate II or Certificate III level. Most of these courses implement National Training Packages, and so they confer qualifications which are recognized and valued by employers and training Organizations across all Australian states.

During 2000, Stella Maris College obtained registration as a ‘Registered Training Organization’ under the business name of ‘Stella Maris Training College’. The College awards vocational qualifications to its students which are accepted across Australia. On leaving school, students may simply add further Certificates or Diplomas to these qualifications at any other recognized Government or private training provider, or, of course, they can go straight into the workplace as qualified and work-ready employees.

Stella Maris Training College has established partnerships with a number of employers and companies in the district. The employer benefits through this partnership by securing students for workplace who are already work-ready in their skills, competencies and attitudes. The College benefits through feedback from employers as to the real requirements of the workplace. The students benefit from the combined interest and efforts of adults who want the best for them and in some small way to contribute to the economic and social health of the district and of the nation.

Our hope is that as the profile of VET courses grow, and the purpose and content become more widely understood, then more and more students will choose them. These courses can serve many educational purposes including:

- To prepare and skill-up a student for immediate entry into the workforce
- To give balance to a student’s HSC study load
- To obtain a Vocational Qualification which will assist with preferred work opportunities during tertiary studies
- To learn particular life skills
- To balance theoretical with practical studies within particular domains (eg. Computing courses and IT, Business Studies and Business Administration, Visual Arts and Design Fundamentals)

At Stella Maris students are enjoying VET courses for all these reasons.

Ross Cleary
VET Co-ordinator
Star of the Sea Resort Practice Firm

The Star of the Sea Resort Practice Firm opened its doors for the first time in July. The Practice Firm is a simulated work environment where students are trained in Business Services Administration, Information Technology and Business Studies. Students are issued with certificates from the Stella Maris Training College as well as being certified in the Australian Qualifications Framework. Qualifications issued in this framework are articulated to post compulsory education and tertiary education Certificates, Diplomas and Degree course.

The Star of the Sea Resort is a member of the Australian Network of Practice Firms and is monitored by the ‘Radisson Kestrel on Manly Beach’. The College is hopeful of building a strong relationship with the Radisson in the future and many thanks must go to Ms Karen Wares the General Manager, for her generosity and guidance in our start up stage.

The firm has been successfully managed by a group of dedicated students who have worked tirelessly to place the simulated business in a position of strength for the future. Grace Morris and Freyja Watson were two such students with Christie Sym, Natalie Crawford and Hanna Kolenda also very influential in the firm. Other students who have made a meritorious effort throughout the semester were Sally Bourne, Britt Havenstein, Sharnie Ferguson and Margaret Churchley.

Colin Macallister
Practice Firm Co-ordinator
Language College

In July 2000 Stella Maris Language College (SMLC) was launched to cater for the growing number of international students who appreciate that English is becoming the global language of education and trade.

SMLC began with a small group of four students and has now grown to accommodate 2 classes. The college caters for both male and female international students and offers High School Preparation Courses in English for students ranging from Elementary to Advanced levels of English. The courses prepare the students for studies in an Australian secondary school as well as providing excursions each week in and around Sydney in order to introduce students to the cultural and lifestyle aspects of Australia. Upon achieving an upper-intermediate level of English students enrol in a school of their choice. The school is selected by the students from a number of independent Catholic schools on the Northern Beaches or in the Hills district.

The College has also run an Intensive English and Teaching Methodology course for teachers for a three month period to a group of fifteen Chinese teachers. This course was so successful that it will continue to feature as one of our ongoing programs.

This is an exciting first-hand opportunity both for international students and Stella Maris students to share in and exchange the vast array of knowledge, experience and culture that the world has to offer. We hope that the students of Stella Maris will give them a warm welcome and the outstretched hand of friendship.

Helena George
Language College Co-ordinator

STUDENT COMMENTS
Fantastic teacher, caring environment, intensive course, learn a lot - Samantha
Very good study environment - Carrie
We always make good friends in the class - Queenie
These courses help us to prepare to go to high school - Jenny
Good way to get in touch with Australian students - Michael