Student Exchanges

EXCHANGE STUDENT TO JAPAN
Elena Hadzellys - Year 11
Along with other students from Stella Maris and different schools around the Peninsula, I was chosen to participate in an Exchange Programme between Australia and Japan. My journey to Japan began in July 2000 and lasted for two weeks. During this time I lived with a host family in the Kanagawa Prefecture of Odawara. Odawara is a city approximately two hours from the heart of Japan and is a culturally diverse and intriguing place. My host family showed me what is entailed in the typical Japanese lifestyle and allowed me to share the experience of associating myself with the wonderful opportunities Japan has to offer. As well as doing the rounds of the usual tourist attractions, I also visited numerous schools and was able to meet the Mayor of Odawara. My voyage to Japan is something that I will keep for a lifetime and an experience I will never forget.

EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM FRANCE
Catherine Gaul - Year 11
As an exchange student, I think that it is good for me to discover a new culture. Australians are so different in their way of life to French people. In my country we don’t think the same way and we are more stressed! Australia is a new Continent for me with a different environment - the bush, rocks, sun and sea.
The reason it’s a great opportunity to visit a new country is it makes us more mature and intelligent. Also, I can improve my English and that can help me in the future. By coming to Australia I’ve learnt a lot about people, which allows me to develop better relationships with others. Exchange students also become more responsible because we are without our family and we have to manage all on our own. These are all the reasons why, for me, coming to an unknown country such as Australia is a great opportunity and a pleasure too.

EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM GERMANY
Simone Neuhoff - Year 10
In June I came to Sydney for a 10 week exchange. I stayed at Katie Bissell’s house and went to Stella Maris with her. First I was so scared of going to Stella because I didn’t know anyone except for Katie and her sister, Fiona. I also had to wear a school uniform. Wearing school uniform was new for me as I don’t have to wear it in Germany. I was allowed to choose the subjects I was interested in and I chose Food Tech, Dance, Photography and German. These subjects were all new for me because they are not taught in German schools (except for German of course!). Katie had different subjects so I was on my own in some of my lessons. This first scared me because I didn’t know anyone as I said already, but Katie and her friends showed me every single room I had to go to and somehow I managed not to get lost on my first day! When I had my first lesson without anyone I knew, I walked in and just sat down. All the other girls in the room came and asked me questions, they were all really nice to me and I began to relax a bit. Now I think it’s good that I had some subjects where I was alone because in this way I got to know many people.
Anyway, when we had our 2 week holiday, Katie and her family took me on a trip to Ayers Rock, Alice Springs, Darwin, Kakadu and Cairns and so they showed me all the famous places of Australia. I really enjoyed this trip! And I think in this way I got more into the family really, because at first I was very homesick and everything, but after the trip I was too excited to think about how far I was away from home.

After the holidays I went to school with Katie again. I was friends with many people and when I walked through the aisle, people always said “hello”. The weeks went past so quickly and
suddenly I realized it was only 2 weeks until I had to go home. On the weekends we were all really busy, we went to the mall, or to NIDA, so time rushed. On my last day at Stella Maris, Katie and her friends had a BIG surprise for me! At recess they suddenly came and gave me a cake, many Australian lollies and a really cool boomerang with signatures from everybody. One girl even gave me flowers! I was really surprised, this was such a good day, but I also got very sad as I had to say goodbye to all my school friends.

On my last weekend, my host family organized a really funny party to say goodbye and as I was the only one at home on my last day (with Katie’s sister who was sick) I had to cook. This was a big thing for me. I was so excited that I smashed two bowls. I really enjoyed this party! I got some presents, we had a delicious dinner and at the end they all sang a funny version of “Goodbye, Farewell”.

The next day I was really excited to go home, but I was also very sad I can tell you! Katie and her family took me to the airport and when I had to leave I couldn’t stop crying. Suddenly the whole family cried and it was such a sad moment. I was really embarrassed when I went on the plane crying.

I really enjoyed my trip to Australia, every single minute, and if somebody asks me if I want to go there again I would definitely go! But the exchange with Katie hasn’t finished yet, she is coming over to Germany (to my house) in November and I can’t wait to see her again.
International Students

Our policy of introducing overseas students to Stella Maris College has continued and expanded in 2000. There is a scattering of students throughout the mainstream school in every year group. The main concentration of girls is of course, largely in Years 11 and 12 because of their desire to sit the HSC. However, some girls, largely from Brazil, are here for only a semester to engage in cultural exchange. They are encouraged to complete extra English through our ELICOS program along with our more long term students.

This year our Language College began. This caters for students both male and female who come to Australia to improve their English before entering mainstream High School. A few of the girls will transfer to Stella Maris but most will get to other Catholic High Schools. This has become a large undertaking being organized by its own Director of Studies. At this stage, most of the students are from China but with a further promotion we hope the clientele will become as varied and international as our students in the main school.

We have had the special privilege this year of hosting and teaching 15 English teachers from China. They were specially selected to come to Australia for three months of intensive English language teaching coupled with experiences in other schools and being tourists. It has been a culture shock for them and for us. I had the pleasure of accompanying them to Canberra. Here they were impressed by the modern style of school buildings and also pleased by the hospitality the Canberra school staff offered them.

However, an even more educational experience for them was their visits to Parliament - both Houses - at Question time. It was a revelation for them to see our Prime Minister up close and to observe the often heated ‘debates’ that occurred. In spite of our cynicism at times, the democratic process in action is precious. The next day we visited the High Court where seven judges were presiding. Ms Stojanovski and I were plied with many questions about the intricacies of governing within Australia. We are planning for another group to visit during 2001 - visas permitting.

This year our regular visitors from Higashi Ohtani High School in Osaka returned to us. They stay for about 10 days and are hosted by volunteer parents from within our school. It has always been a successful program and this year was no exception. Judging from the volume of tears shed at the farewell party, I would say some long term friendships were made. Already parents have asked about next year so the visit is rewarding from both the Japanese and Australian points of view. I hope the hospitality shown by our parents will continue and I thank them for their generosity towards these Japanese visitors.

Our students are becoming accustomed to visitors popping up at school throughout the year either students, teachers or even prospective parents from overseas who wish to see where their daughters will spend some years of their lives. Invariably, our students are gracious and friendly which creates an inviting atmosphere. This all contributes towards a smooth settling in time for the young girls who have made momentous decisions to come to Stella Maris College. I offer my thanks to the Stella girls for their help and friendliness.

Judith Coman
Peer Support

This year was the first time Stella Maris has been involved in the Peer Support program. The purpose of this program is to provide students with the opportunity to develop the skills, understandings and attitudes they require to live a safe and healthy lifestyle and realize their own potential.

Through Peer Support, students learn to care for one another and in the process are helping to create a 'caring world'. They develop new friendships, recognize effects of Peer Pressure and develop skills for dealing with negative Peer Pressure.

Further objectives include skills of goal setting and effective leadership for Year 10 students and giving an opportunity for a Year 7 student to make a senior friend enabling her to feel more comfortable with her environment.

The program provides Year 10 students with the opportunity to accept responsibility within the school, and through practical group work (one lesson per week during Term One) with about ten Year 7 students per group, they develop a greater awareness of their own abilities.

Year 7 students in turn have experiences in transition from a senior and familiar position in their primary school to an anonymous, junior position at high school. This program aims to help junior students when they can be susceptible and vulnerable, by providing a safe environment where positive ideas can be nurtured and explored.

Peta Bird
Peer Support Co-ordinator
Streamwatch

Since 1991 Streamwatch students from Stella have been testing the health of Manly Lagoon and its catchment. Manly Lagoon has the unfortunate status as the most polluted coastal waterway in the state, and we would love to see some improvement.

A dedicated group of students spend their Monday afternoons testing the water in the catchment using 8 different chemical tests, as well as occasionally sampling the water bugs with dip nets. The students have learned to perform the chemical tests safely and obtain reliable results and these provide an invaluable database for the use of Sydney Water and the Council. We hope that our regular monitoring will encourage these authorities to increase their efforts to improve the water quality of the lagoon.

Our testing shows evidence of sewage leaks and overflows. As well, fertilizers and grass clippings from households and golf courses provide nutrients which cause algae and weeds to grow. Industrial wastes, oil and paint are washed into the stormwater drains and kill off water life. The results are available to anyone interested, on the Streamwatch Internet site: http://www.streamwatch.org.au/ - just look up “Maps and Data Online”.

The professional standard of our testing was evident in a recent quality control exercise where a number of Streamwatch groups were pitted against commercial laboratories.

At the annual Streamwatch Open Day in December, the work of these students was recognized with an award from Sydney Water for Excellence in Water Quality Monitoring.

Congratulations to Patricia, Jenny, Sam, Elena, Spencer, Janelle, Grace, Helen and Clare.

David Hart
Streamwatch Co-ordinator
Community Eco Garden

Stella Maris Community Eco Garden is the only fully functioning community garden in the Manly Lagoon Catchment. It is one of the few community gardens set in a school’s grounds anywhere. The College has an open-door policy with regards to the garden and encourages community development and involvement. The garden includes solar panels, water tanks, ponds and rainforest area and can be considered an excellent demonstration site and educational facility on a host of sustainable living issues.

The garden has been facilitated by Manly Council/Manly Environment Centre through the Environment and Waste Minimization Education Officers over the past three to four years.

The Education Officers have held an initial briefing session with key teachers at the College to discuss the garden, how they can best use it, give an informed tour and answer questions. A teacher and Garden Team have been allocated to be responsible for the garden so that it can become integral to school processes. Students are educated about the Eco Garden through the Garden Team, the Environment Prefect, Open Days, newsletter, assemblies and media exposure. The garden is also incorporated into the curriculum through Science.

The Community is educated about the Eco Garden through media exposure, the regular working bees and the courses and tours that are conducted through the garden. These include the EPA Green Living Programme, Council’s Monthly Composting Workshops, Permaculture courses, various Community Colleges courses, etc. The community is also educated in the normal course of the Education Officers’ activities including public education days, displays, workshops and through the Manly Environment Centre.

The Eco Garden is maintained by College staff and students and various members of the community at their leisure. Maintenance also occurs through other groups using the garden for courses (e.g. permaculture), working bees or open days.

Commercial use of the site includes the composting of grass clippings by commercial operators and Council staff as well as experimentation with organic pest control by a local Environmental Scientist. A number of local restaurants and cafes have registered an interest in composting their organic waste instead of disposing to landfill. The new commercial worm farm at the Depot may provide them with an opportunity, as there is probably not the capacity at Stella Maris for the volume of organic wastes produced by food businesses. The composts do however, take organic waste from the Manly Food Co-op and a few local unit residents who do not have space to compost.

Media to date includes articles in the Sydney Morning Herald, The Manly Daily, Urban Harvest newsletter, lots of exposure on Today FM (the garden won second prize on the high profile ‘Word on the Environment’ Competition) and a segment on Channel 10’s Totally Wild (aired in June 2000).
Broken Bay Senior Secondary Schools Association (BBSSSA)

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
The girls who placed first in their events at the Stella Maris Athletics Carnival went through to compete at the Broken Bay Athletics Carnival on Friday August 4 at Narrabeen Academy of Sport. All the girls competed extremely well most achieving personal bests in the events. A special congratulation must go to Cassani Mairs who won the outstanding result of 16 Years Age Champion.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
The BBSSSA Swimming Carnival was held at Homebush on Monday March 20. The competition at a BBSSSA carnival is immense, however all girls swam extremely well and achieved some fantastic results.

Overall Stella Maris College was placed 3rd in Juniors, 4th in Intermediate and 6th in Seniors. Special congratulations must go to our Year 7 swimmers who not only achieved fantastic individual results but also placed 2nd in the Relay.

Congratulations to all girls who swam in the individual events.
Sam Darby 2nd 50m Breaststroke
Amy Whitehouse 2nd 50m Breaststroke
3rd 50m Freestyle Div 1
3rd 100m Freestyle
2nd 50 Freestyle Div 2
Lauren Dooley 2nd 50m Freestyle Div 3
Ashley Kirby 3rd 50m Freestyle Div 2
Jessica Brown 2nd 50m Freestyle Div 3
Crienna Cronley 3rd 200m Individual Medley
3rd 50m Freestyle Div 4
Laura Rigon 3rd 50m Freestyle Div 2
Amanda Sullivan 3rd 100m Freestyle
Fiona Doman 2nd 50m Freestyle Div 4
Amanda Hobson 3rd 50m Freestyle Div 2
Erin Perry 3rd 50m Freestyle Div 3

SOCCER
Stella Maris entered three teams to play in the Soccer Gala Day on Wednesday April 5. The Open team placed 3rd, Under 15 team placed 3rd and the Under 13 team placed 2nd. Well done to all girls who competed on the day for a fantastic effort.

TENNIS
Congratulations to the Stella Maris Tennis Teams who participated in the BBSSSA Competition at Evergreen Tennis Centre on Tuesday October 24.

The Junior team placed 5th - Annelise Hickey, Bree Nicholson and Montana Daniel
The Intermediate team placed 3rd - Alison Walker, Claudia Walker, Kristy Sanderson and Alison Barnes (Reserve)
The Senior team placed 3rd - Kelly Bourke, Cassani Mairs, Louise O’Malley and Joanne Greco (Reserve)

Kylie Wardrop  
PD/H/PE Co-ordinator

Combined Catholic Colleges (CCC)

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
The CCC Athletics Carnival was held at Campbelltown Sport Centre on Friday August 25. Kelly Bourke, Katherine Harrison, Cassani Mairs, Natalie Frostick, Jenny Laird, Nicole Robb and Mary Searle were chosen to represent Broken Bay. This was a great honour, as at this level competition is at its best.

All girls performed extremely well. A special congratulation to Natalie Frostick who came second in the Shot Put and to Mary Searle who placed second in the High Jump.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
The CCC Swimming Carnival was held at Homebush. Laura Rigon and Ashley Kirby were selected to represent Broken Bay at the Carnival. Both girls competed extremely well. Congratulations to Laura Rigon whose relay team placed second in heats and fourth overall.

Kylie Wardrop  
PD/H/PE Co-ordinator
Waterpolo

NSWCCC Girls Open Waterpolo

On the November 15 Stella Maris was invited to compete in the NSWCCC Girls Open Waterpolo Competition. It was the worst weather you could have with continuous, pouring rain and strong winds forcing the rain horizontal. To sum it up; it was a bitterly cold day and to make matters worse the pool wasn’t heated!

The first game was against OLMC Parramatta who have a thousand girls in the side and were last year’s grand finalists. With the Ref against us (the opposing coach was telling him what to do) it was as though they had an extra player. The girls played well and managed a draw with Rebecca McDowell’s backhanders (previously unseen in a game) getting two goals and Vanessa marking Parramatta’s huge player and in the process making her go off in tears! What happened underwater no-one knows.

We then played a school by the name of St John Bosco. We trounced this team 12 - 2. Everyone played well easily accounting for this team. Notable standouts were our three junior members Megan Rick, Yolanda Butler and Kate Moran. Kate was the super sub, scoring two goals, making breaks and being in the right spot at the right time. She was unlucky not to get more goals.

We then had a rest in the baby pool which the girls visited between games to get their body temperature back up to normal.

The next team we played was Monte St Angelo whom we thought were easy but in fact they played well or we were too cocky after our big win. We missed about five shots early in the game and squeezed out with a win 2 - 1. Holly Moran played well doing everything right while some others took it easy. Laura Rigon’s defense was at its best and she was unlucky in her long shots which won us our Open Semi Final at Aquatic.

We then played Woolwich (we had to win or get a draw to make the Semi Finals) a very good team with a NSW representative in it. The team relied on her the whole time and as she could shoot from anywhere she was dangerous, scoring all of Woolwich’s three goals. We battled well and our defense was good. Our goalkeeper, Danielle Byrnes, was tremendous and could have easily been the best goalkeeper in the state after the performance in that game. Carly Townsend played with spirit, defending and attacking well and was unlucky not to get more goals. “Keep trying Carly”. Stella Maris showed spirit and came from behind to get a draw in the last quarter, knocking Woolwich out of the Semi Final race.

We then had to play St Claire’s Waverley in the Semi Final which was a formidable task as all their players play representative Waterpolo. At half time we were 5 - 2 down and in the second half St Claire’s continued on to win. Playing St Claire’s was like playing the NSW Team. Our team did pretty well, considering St Claire’s annihilated every other team and went on to win the Grand Final. Had we been in the other Semi Final we would have won easily and been in the Grand Final so we can say we are the 3rd best Catholic school in the state. The best thing about our result was that we were the youngest of all the teams so Stella Maris’ Waterpolo future looks very bright.
Athletics Carnival

The Stella Maris Annual Athletics Carnival was held on Thursday May 4 at Narrabeen Academy of Sport. It was a fabulous sunny day where we saw many of our students performing in multiple events. Participation was excellent making all events very competitive.

House results were as follows:

1st Rosaria 745 points
2nd Fatima 606 points
3rd Carmel 578 points
4th Lourdes 514 points

Congratulations Rosaria for your win.

Age Champions were as follows:
12 Years Alyce Portlock - Year 7
13 Years Jessica Layton - Year 8
14 Years Tiffany Speechley - Year 9
15 Years Shari Ternaez - Year 10
16 Years Cassani Mairs - Year 10
17+ Years Jenny Laird - Year 11

Congratulations girls, a big effort!

Thank you to all of our students and staff helpers on the day. Without your assistance and enthusiasm the day would not have run so smoothly. Thank you also to the parents and friends who came along to support our athletes.

Kylie Wardrop
PD/H/PE Co-ordinator
Swimming Carnival

The Stella Maris Annual Swimming Carnival was held on Friday March 3 at Manly ‘Boy Charlton’ Swim Centre. It was a fantastic day with beautiful blue skies and a light ocean breeze. Our swimmers swam in many different events providing spectators with some exciting races to watch.

The war cries were absolutely fabulous and a difficult task for Mr Coman and Ms Ryland to judge. However, Rosaria shone above the houses to take out the ‘War Cry’ competition.

House results were as follows:
1st Rosaria 754 points
2nd Fatima 672 points
3rd Lourdes 523 points
4th Carmel 476 points

Congratulations Rosaria for your win, this ends Fatima’s three year reign!

Age Champions were as follows:
12 Years Amy Whitehouse - Year 7
13 Years Yolanda Butler - Year 8
14 Years Elizabeth Hobson - Year 9
15 Years Rebecca McDowell - Year 10
16 Years Amanda Sullivan - Year 10
17 Years Tanya Lund - Year 12
18 Years Erin Perry - Year 12

Congratulations girls, a big effort!

Thank you to all of our students and staff helpers on the day. Without your assistance and enthusiasm the day would not have run so smoothly. Thank you also to the parents and friends who came along to support our swimmers.

Kylie Wardrop
PD/H/PE Co-ordinator
U14s Manly Pool
This was a well organized team with a lot of talent. If this team keeps together they will surely go on to win more titles. The competition wasn’t much of challenge to them throughout the season and they easily went on to win the title. The team comprises Yolanda Butler, Hannah Watkins, Sarah Olsen, Megan Rick, Kate Moran, Sally Bills, Claire Nass, Suzie Bateman and Samantha Hardy.

U16 and Open Team Manly Pool
This team participated in two competitions, one at Manly Pool and one at Warringah Aquatic Centre. The team was a class above any other team, and in the Manly Pool competition didn’t lose a game the entire season, winning the Grand Final easily. The second competition they played in was the Open division at the Aquatic Centre which they also won. Out of 30 games they won 28 - a great feat and they should be very proud of themselves. Hopefully these girls can keep this trend up next year. Team members were Holly Moran, Rebecca McDowell, Carly Townsend, Claudia Walker, Laura Rigon, Amanda Sullivan, Lauren Kavanagh, Annie Hefferman, Skye Nicholson, Lauren Palmisano and Danielle Byrnes.

Andrew Coman
Waterpolo Coach
Sydney 2000 Olympics

TORCH CAULDRON
I was honoured to take part in the unveiling of the Olympic Torch Cauldron by representing Stella Maris College. The event was held at Manly outside Council Chambers. Manly is a site of the Olympic Torch on two occasions. After a short presentation the cauldron was unveiled, followed by a morning tea.

Kylie Wardrop
PD/H/PE Co-ordinator

TORCH RELAY
On the August 30 Gregory Campbell, father of Stephanie Campbell - Year 7, ran in the Torch Relay at Cessnock. Adele Campbell, Stephanie’s mother, brought the torch and shirt in to the Canteen for all the mothers to see.

Maree Sewell
Canteen Co-ordinator
Stella Alive

Katie Bissell - Year 10
This year Stella Maris had an arts night, a fun night full of art, dance, design and (very importantly) music. For music the girls played their instruments and some even sang/played songs that they had written themselves. The school was decorated and the whole night was spectacular!
Kool Skools

The Kool Skools National Recording and Multimedia Project is in its fourth official year. The project encourages young people to write and perform original compositions of all kinds of contemporary music styles while providing them time to record in professional studios such as Velvet Sound in Sydney, Studio 52 in Melbourne and Fat Trax in Adelaide. In the studios students get to work with professional engineers and producers while other students from each school get to design their own CD cover an interactive multimedia presentation, assisted by professional graphics staff.

Congratulations to Katie Bissell and Shannon McKinn, winners of the Best Mainstream song for ‘Tell Me’.

Thank you to the Music, Design and Photography departments, the Year 10 Design Team and Stephanie Rigg for her CD artwork.

Kirsten Macaulay
Music Co-ordinator

Karen Young - Year 10
For most of the year many talented and creative music students collaborated to create a CD. Songs were written and put together to make ‘Stella Maris Live’. The girls worked with graphic designers and various others over a 3 day period at the Velvet Sound Recording Studio. The project not only included the music students but involved the Year 10 graphic design class as well. All students involved worked very hard and the end result was fantastic!

Melanie Tan - Year 10
When we went to the Velvet Sound Recording Studio I was there for only one day, but within that day it was a great experience for me and the other 30 girls. At the studio we learnt about the basics of sound recording. It was quite interesting because I found out that there is a lot more involved than I first thought.

Musicale

Prue Roberts - Year 10
On the June 26 and 27 the students of Stella Maris displayed their true musical talents. There were solo numbers, ensembles, piano pieces and the Rock Eisteddfod performance. Not only did the students gear up and perform on stage, so did the teachers, Mrs Macaulay, Miss Gerrard and Mr Macallister put in long hours to organize the two nights, and on both evenings achieved immensely pleasing results. Overall, both nights of the Musicale ran smoothly and proved to have an enjoyable array of talent for the whole family.
Rock Eisteddfod

This year fifty girls from Stella Maris entered the small schools section of the Rock Eisteddfod. The girls participated in two groups, dancers and stage crew, both co-ordinating very professionally together. They performed exceptionally well on this successful day, in a large event which was enjoyed by all.

The theme for the Eisteddfod was ‘Disconnect or Connect’ which was presented in the paragraph that follows:

“In a world that has become void of human interaction, the individual is isolated, functioning only to work and whose escape is only into virtual experiences. Physical experience has been rejected, yet the emotional world of Love, Joy and Sorrow remains, waiting for humans to exist within. When faced with a choice between staying connected to the virtual world or disconnecting for the emotional world, which will the individual choose - a lonely world or a path to a world that must be travelled alone?”

Choreographed by Carly Taylor and Kellie Dennis, the piece was well received by both the judges and the audience. The success of this performance was highlighted when Stella Maris collected four awards for Choreography, Drama, Concept and Performance Skill. Following are some comments given by the Judges:

• “A mature and intelligent production which was highlighted by some clever use of choreographic devices”.
• “First Class dance ensemble - you have some very talented dancers! Dramatic skills of mime/gesture were used extremely well”.
• “A compelling interpretation of your theme”.
• “A dynamic, clean, tight, performance”.
• “A courageous attempt to address the very real issues of isolation, reality and society”.

Carly Taylor
Dance/Drama Co-ordinator
Stella Day

Stella Day 2000 was integrated into the Year 2000 Jubilee. The day started with a Mass at Manly Vale after which the students returned to the College to continue the celebrations.

The Hall was converted into a disco and penny arcade where the students could dance, sing and jig to the latest music videos displayed on a screen that occupied the whole stage. Students could have a rest from the mosh pit and play video games, pinball machines and pool.

Outside the Hall was more! Kale amusements provided us with a jumping castle, merry-go-round and fairy floss machine. The food for the day was Thai style and the usual canteen facilities.

Many thanks must go to the SRC for their efforts in making the day a wonderful success.

Colin Macallister
Stella Day Organiser
RETREAT
Angharad Johnson
Year 7 retreat to Freshwater Beach Surf Club was fantastic. We went on Thursday October 5. The weather was great, a nice warm day. Our retreat leader, Father Kevin, was with us throughout the day. The theme was friendship. We learnt that it is important to listen to people to form a good friendship with them.

After playing a few games Father Kevin set us some activities. We were to talk to people in our class who we usually don’t talk to. This was to broaden our horizons and come out of our own little friendship groups. Most of us learnt something new about the person we spoke to. We then had recess with cakes and drinks supplied for us. We had recess and lunch out the back of the Surf Club.

When we came back in from recess we focussed on listening. Father Kevin told us a few stories about seeing past someone’s face to the real person inside. He told us to realise that a grumpy person, underneath could be a loving and caring person or somebody with a disability could be a great person inside. We played a few games and went out to lunch at about 1:00pm.

After coming back in we were set a few activities for working together. One of these was to build a machine (in a group) that we thought would be useful in the future. Some of the ideas groups came up with were planting machines and machines that could make people happy.

At the end of the day the last thing we did was to write a poem or prayer about friendship. Some were very good. I think everyone enjoyed the day and Father Kevin got a big round of applause before we left.

Josie Davidson
On Thursday October 5 the whole Year 7 grade attended a retreat at Freshwater Surf Club. Father Kevin, who had a very humorous way of telling and explaining what he wanted to say, led the retreat. The main topics he spoke about were friends, being honest to ourselves and how God had given us special gifts.

During the day we played lots of fun, exciting games and listened to stories and songs by Father Kevin. Some of the games included cat and mouse, making a human machine for the future and showing it to the year, talking to people we didn’t know very well and finding out things about them. We had to separate from our friends and our group and meet new people.

It was a warm, sunny day and during recess and lunch we sat outside on some nice grass behind the Surf Club. There was also a Birthday cake and we sang Happy Birthday to Mrs Lynas-Chant.

It was a fun and exciting day and everyone who went enjoyed a perfect day at the beach.

TALENT QUEST
Rebecca Bradstock, Jessica Brown and Abigail Marwick
On November 14, Stella Maris held a Year 7 Talent Quest. Many Year 7’s entered in dance, drama, vocal or instrumental and for each category prizes were given. The winner overall, Abigail Marwick, got a tin of cookies and a $20 gift voucher.
There were some really fabulous acts, including ‘Pink Panther’ performed by trumpeters, ‘Crazy Classroom’ with dramatic Mrs Pickles (Prickles) and the students, also ‘I Will Survive’ that included some fabulous singers and dancers.

The judges were Ms Campbell, Mrs Lee and Ms Kerl. The night was spectacular and everyone wished they all got a prize, but unfortunately if we all did the school wouldn’t have any money left!

The night was a success and we hope that next years Year 7’s have just as much fun in their Talent Quest.

ART
Candice Kilduff and Sonya Toohey
This year in Year 7 art we enjoyed learning about many different Art styles and techniques. All classes did a variety of works such as self portraits, ceramics, Picasso paintings and charcoal drawings. We learnt how to evaluate artworks and to describe the mood, subject matter, materials and techniques. We studied many famous artists and their styles such as Pablo Picasso and his Cubist period. Year 7 Art has been most enjoyable. We have developed lots of skills and learnt many valuable things about art. We were all excited about having our artworks displayed for the first time in the annual art exhibition, Stella Alive. Thank you to all Year 7 art teachers!

DESIGN
Shae Duncan, Ashley Kirby and Jessica Spasojevic
We have had so much fun this year in Design. We have learnt many new skills for example colours that look good together (contrasting and harmonious, cool and warm). We have studied the design elements and the design process. We have also had lots of fun making our designs, which included Kites for which Michael visited our school to instruct and teach us how to design, make and fly kites, and our interiors. Another interesting subject of design that we have learnt is how to create a pattern. A pattern isn’t a pattern unless the shapes are joining. We have loved design this year and learnt a lot at the same time.
RETREAT
Megan Rick
On August 16, Year 8 went on a Retreat. The theme was ‘from small things, big things grow’. Out leader was Father Kevin Bates. He made me realize that from just a simple “hello” to someone, you can build a great, long lasting friendship.

We did activities such as listing all the things that worry us. Some examples of these things are starvation in poorer countries, sick relatives and brothers and sisters in trouble. One really fun activity was blindfolding a friend and leading them around outside. This showed us how much trust we have in our friends!

I enjoyed the retreat and I thought it was a success!

DESIGN
Whitney Rhys
Year 8 Graphic Design for the year 2000 was interesting and enjoyable. There were different assignments and practical work that was both challenging and fun. We studied the elements and principles of design, such as harmony and contrast, which helped us learn about design itself and assisted when we did our projects.

One of our main topics was logos. We were taught what the actual meaning of a logo was and were given a design situation to create a logo for our school and two for ourselves, using our initials and zodiac sign. This work also involved going to computer rooms and designing work on different programs. The other main topic was designing a piece of tribal bodywear. We studied an existing tribe, then created our own tribe and a headdress or jewelery based on their beliefs and costumes.

This along with the other students and teachers, made Year 8 Graphic Design an enjoyable and creative experience.
Year 9

RETREAT
Renee Picello
On Wednesday August 2, Year 9 went on their yearly Retreat. Father Kevin Bates played MC for the day and his bright spirit warmed the rainy weather we had in the morning.

We learnt a lot about ourselves and each other. We also learnt about our responsibilities in everyday life, the responsibilities we have to others, our work and especially to ourselves. We went to morning tea and came back ready for more activities. Father Kevin told us stories of his own experiences and invited us to participate in a group discussion. As groups we were sent off to be blindfolded by our friends, who were to lead us around the park. This made us trust our friends and for our friends to be responsible for us. After lunch we got into groups that we usually don’t mingle with and we drew and coloured posters of symbols that have some importance or significance to use.

Overall, I thought Father Bates’ involvement on the day helped us understand our responsibilities as 15 year old girls in our society and positions. I enjoyed it because I think everyone learned something about themselves and their friends that they never knew before.

SOMERSET - YEAR 9 CAMP
Amber Short
This year, Year 9 went on a camp out to Camp Somerset located about an hour and a half drive from Sydney on the Colo River. We camped in tents next to cow paddies and didn’t have showers or flushing toilets but we still had fun, well I think most of us did. It was a real camping experience, with an open fire and the much loved burnt food we cooked ourselves (now you know why it was burnt).

There were two main courses that were done on camp. The first which I have just described was two nights out, and the second was one night in, one night out. These groups did various activities including an 11km canoe trip up stream, a 5km hike up through the bush and back round to camp, a high or low ropes course, rock climbing and an obstacle course.

MOSMAN YOUTH AWARDS IN LITERATURE
Congratulations to Katrina McLeod for her achievement in the Mosman Youth Awards in Literature. Katrina entered a short piece in the Junior Prose Section. There were 500 entries received and Katrina’s entry was among the 20 shortlisted for prizes.

Katrina McLeod
Alone and unnoticed she sat there, a cigarette in one hand and a tube of lipstick in the other. Pressing lips together the girl smeared the gloss carelessly over her softened lips and took a deep drag of the cigarette, blowing it out in stages, letting her worries float away with the smoke.

She stared out to sea; it was an overcast day; the clouds hung low and the wind blew the waves so they collided and collapsed toppling over the sharp rocks, then bubbled and disappeared back out to sea. Young blonde heads bobbed far out in the distance, sitting patiently trying to catch the next wave in. The girl’s stare was intense as she watched them; once she had known them, once she had spoken and felt their soft hands caress her hair or their muscled bodies hug her slender arms, but not anymore. A salty tear streaked the side of her cheek. She wiped it away furiously; it felt like a jagged burn boring deep into her skin.
The cool summer’s rain had just started to sprinkle lightly onto the marked concrete pathway when a bus pulled in, distracting her from her thoughts. Quietly slipping onto the bus she made her way to the back. She fell exhausted into the seat and stared out of the glass. A reflection looked back at her of people hugging, laughing, and feeling the wind brush against their sun spotted skin. She stared at them wistfully because from what she saw they took it all for granted.

The bus pulled up near a place she used to call home. Like before, she slipped off unnoticed. Head down, blending in, she walked at a slow pace towards a cream timber house. A distant ambulance siren cut through the air. She froze, her heart started beating faster at the sound of the irritating ring. Her mind was rushing fast on impulse as she thought back to that disturbing night. She closed her sorrow filled eyes and grasped at her chest fingering the slightly faded scar. There were only some things she vaguely remembered, but she remembered the pain, it was horrible. It was so ugly it was unbearable.

She scampered up the front lawn. Eagerly climbing the stairs two by two, praying silently the screen door would be left unlocked. Seeing the old metal door that hung off its hinges, was left ajar she stepped inside. A familiar smell fell over her. It was home. The door swung back and slammed noisily.

On the other side of the room a woman, who sat wearily at a round wood polished table, jumped slightly and looked up cautiously around the room. Nothing was there except a breeze with a quickening pace that hinted at an impending storm. The woman glanced back down at the paper; but she couldn’t concentrate, everything reminded her of her daughter.

The girl dared to come near the woman.

“Mum?” she choked. She reached to touch her mother’s soft hair. A smile spread across her pale honest face.

The girl’s mother glanced around the small, neatly arranged house again and with great effort she pushed a couple of lose gray strands behind her ears. Leaving her paper sprawled messily across the pine table, the woman thoughtfully wandered to the mantle piece that was crowded with photos, that captured moments of loved ones on holidays, picnics, and family get-togethers. She looked at the photos heartbroken. Her heart now ached and her body felt less than whole.

The old woman shook her head as she sadly looked at her photos of her family that had been torn apart. The girl stared at her mother crestfallen. Not for the first time she had a hidden feeling of guilt. It was so unfair; a beautiful person like her mother had to live through each day with a conscience that wouldn’t go away and would shadow her for a lifetime with the fact that her daughter had been brutally raped.

The woman hesitantly picked up another photo of her daughter as a child with sincere hazel eyes and light freckles sprinkled across the nose. She couldn’t look at it for long without turning her head away to stare outside of the window where lightning slashed boldly on the earth. Her eyes had a distant forlorn look in them as she watched the rain pelt down streaking the window. Eventually the photo still in hand, slipped from her fingers and the glass smashed into a million tiny-splintered pieces. She stepped back abruptly and stumbled, her eyes now drawn away from the storm just outside the window. A cry of pain and anger welled inside the
woman and her eyes fell down in despair to the photo. The girl noticed her mother’s hands were shaking furiously. Her hands were so beautiful. The girls stared in awe. She so desperately wanted to comfort and nurture her mother just as her mother had done for her. With extreme urgency the girl ran towards her mother and hugged her warmly. She felt so hopeless and futile. She closed her eyes and desperately tried to smell her mother’s scent, hear the sound of her soothing voice and she tried to imagine the feel of her loving arms around her body. The girl was so close to her mother yet so far away. She placed her head on her mother’s chest and it was then that she wished she was still alive.

DESIGN
Amy Allen and Gemma Gagnacci
This year in Year 9 Graphic Design we studied various areas of design. This included designing a new school hat for Stella Maris College. We also looked at Architecture and the famous ‘Fallingwater’ house by Frank Lloyd Wright. Another one of our areas of study included using the ‘Reclaimed’ elements to design and create a lantern using recycled materials. Our last area of study was Fashion and we had to design our own fashion items. This year was very enjoyable and productive.
Year 10

RETREAT
On February 25, the Year 10 Retreat was held at the Curl Curl Sports Centre. Our leader this year was Chris Doyle from Karis Ministries.

We started off with Chris talking and playing his guitar, and talking about peer pressure, alcohol and drugs using examples from his own life. We also sang a few songs and danced the ‘Nutbush’. We then broke for recess. After recess we did role-plays about teenagers being teenagers and curfews. The role-plays were funny and I think even the teachers had a laugh! After Lunch we sat and listened to Chris play some more on his guitar and did an activity which involved us writing a letter to ourselves a year from now. We will be receiving the letters at our next retreat, next year.

The day was enjoyable and the students had a lot of fun.

DESIGN
This year our graphic design class was introduced to the basic fundamentals of design. What design is, the procedures and elements, layout principles and design principles were all part of this introduction to a new and exciting subject.

Once we had the basics to work with, we were given our first assignment, to redesign the school newsletter. We not only had to design and create a practical, acceptable and attractive layout but we had to construct and produce this newsletter, all the time considering the resources and financial limitations of the school. This was indeed a challenging project that we all took on with a professional manner. The most successful final results were put forward to Mr Coman himself to give some ideas of practical yet attractive layouts (immediately after we noticed an improvement in the newsletter by pure coincidence).

Our second assignment was to create an entire cover and booklet for the ‘Kool Skools’ competition which our own musicians at Stella Maris were competing in. This was a class project, one that not only taught us skills in co-operation and working as a team but computing skills we never knew there even were. After two months of hard work, arguing and decision making we came up with a final idea, one that was produced into a CD for the school.
Year 11

RETREAT
Diana Nujic and Kathryn Crossing
A Retreat is a day where you are free from normal routine and spend the day with your fellow peers, chill out and have some fun. It is also quite rewarding in the sense that we are being taught how to join and unite as a group.

Chris Doyle who lead us through the day made us realize that life is about making independent decisions, choices and not being led by the general crowd but rather doing what you feel is best. However, there was a light side to the day with a few highlights, these being girls crowd surfing and a few others entertaining us with their musical talents. Overall the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all the students and we look forward to the next retreat.

BUNDANON - YEAR 11 ART CAMP
Ammabelle Jones
On Sunday March 26, Year 11 Art students began the journey to Bundanon, the home and property of the late Australian artist, Arthur Boyd. What followed, in the next five days of our stay there, would be some of the best learning experiences in art that we will probably ever have.

Arthur Boyd’s properties (near Nowra), Riversdale and Bundanon are classic examples of the Australian countryside. The English-heritage architectural and cultural qualities, set within the raw lusher of the Australian bush made an excellent creative space for us to develop our art skills, to learn and to work within. This environment was definitely an invigorating change from the suburbs, city and beach scenes that we were used to, and in this way we were greatly inspired. But, perhaps the greatest privilege of our time at Bundanon and Riversdale was the fact that we were working in the exact space in which Arthur Boyd, himself, created masterpieces.

For those of us who are unsure, Arthur Boyd was and is one of Australia’s most famous and valuable artists whose work spans many decades. His work has great historical and iconic value in its depiction of the harsh but beautiful Australian landscape and the myths and culture of its people. His work involved the biblical character Nebuchadnezzar (who often featured in his works) as well as people of the bush. Series such as his half-caste series (which discusses Aboriginal discrimination) and bush family scenes are some of his most important explorations of Australia’s diverse people. Almost all are depicted in the harshness of the Australian landscape, displaying that their home is as much a part of their life and destiny as is their own mind and body. Boyd’s landscapes in particular are important. The rich, bright cobalt blue of its sky and the red/orange of its dirt are incredibly unique to the Australian outback. But most important is his fascination with technique, whilst painting, to capture the real substance and atmosphere of the landscape. He once said:

“I think all painting is a sensual activity. Anything that is intensely satisfying is sensual - the actual business of squeezing out tubes on your palette, digging out paint with a palette knife, or smearing paint on your hands, in very sensual. There is the pleasure afterwards or the agony if it is no good…”

This quote was one we referred closely to in our own experimentations. Our stay gave us the opportunity to really get involved with the materials and their application. We explored different and diverse ways of using them to create the texture, colour and vibrancy that we could see before us in the landscape. Even the building in which we stayed at Riversdale...
provided us with inspiration and comfort. Designed by top Australian Architect Glen Murcutt, the building was beautifully designed to fit into the landscape as do the traditional English houses that were built centuries before it.

All this beauty and its luxuries were increasingly refreshing. I think most of us can say of our stay at Bundanon that it was almost like a holiday, except we still had work to do. However, the work that we achieved was an absolute pleasure and incredibly satisfying, in the setting of both a famous Australian artist’s home and inspiration, and the unique Australian bush.

WHITE WATER KAYAKING - SPORT AND RECREATION AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION CAMP
Peta Matthews and Alison Macgregor
On March 28-31 2000 the Year 11 Sport and Recreation class and Physical Education class went to Barrington Tops to complete a basic skills kayaking certificate. We stayed at Barrington River Lodge, which consisted of one large mud brick building with rooms, which had sets of bunks beds. The building also had bathrooms, kitchens and a lounge/dining room.

Each day we set off to go Kayaking with two instructors Dave and Ray. The rapids ranged from small to medium and we were unable to go on the bigger ones as it had been raining and they were too dangerous for beginners. While we were kayaking we saw a lot of free-ranged cows just wandering around and drinking the water that we were in.

Everyone enjoyed themselves. It was a great experience and we can’t wait to go on our next camp. From the camp we feel that we have got stronger both physically and as a team. Although we fell out a lot we still had a great time.

FANCY DRESS FORMAL
Britt Havenstein and Louise O’Malley
Two hundred crazy people invaded the wharf at Taronga Zoo dressed in their best and ready for a good time. In the midst of the crowd a few famous faces were recognized, Dorothy the dinosaur, Marilyn Munro (looking beautiful), Bardot members Tiff and Sophie and stirring up trouble was Poison Ivy. We had a few nuns on board to bless the boat and a couple of naughty nurses in case anyone got seasick. With ‘All Aboard’ there were cameras flashing left, right and centre, now the real fun would begin! Too restless to be seated for too long meant the dance floor was pumping and people were breaking out all the moves. Not to be out done on the dance floor was Lara Croft who had moves like no one else. When we thought the night was coming to an end, because the cruise was, we all piled onto two buses where the party continued on the ride home to Stella.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY
Sally Hunt - Social Science Co-ordinator
On the weekend of June 10 & 11, several girls attended a convention run by the Rotary Club of Lindfield called the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA). MUNA is a chance for the youth of the world to act as the real United Nations. In keeping with the United Nations ideals of peace and harmony, the student delegates are asked to intelligently debate a series of resolutions about real-life world problems. Up to three delegates from each school are elected to participate, this year they were Olivia Ross, Amy Ung and Elena Hadzelis. The regional MUNA was held at Pymble Ladies College, and the team chose to represent Taiwan.

MUNA went for the whole weekend and on the Sunday afternoon several prizes were handed out. Stella won a costume prize and Olivia Ross was one of four people chosen to go through to the National MUNA. Students from all over Australia competed in this competition that was held in Canberra on the weekend of August 19 and 20. This time Olivia represented the
Russian Federation and attended a function with the Governor-General. This was a wonderful and enriching experience.

**NSW SCHOOLS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE**

**Karen Nathan**

On Monday November 20, I participated in the State Final of the NSW Schools Constitutional Convention at Parliament House, Sydney. This convention was attended by one hundred Year 11 delegates from all around NSW, Senators for NSW and Professors of politics and international relations. The general propositions of the conventions were ‘A century later, can we still say Federation was a good idea?’ and ‘Should the External Affairs power be limited?’.

Both of the aforementioned issues instigated great discussions and debates proving to be very insightful. The Convention enabled all those involved to raise the ideals of the kind of society our generation would like to inherit and the system of Government which might best realize our hopes for the future.

I was extremely fortunate to be among one of twenty selected to attend the National Convention in Melbourne in 2001. This convention will be held over three days where I will have the opportunity to meet many influential political figures and attend the longest serving Parliament House in the southern hemisphere.

**‘RAVE’ - THE YEAR 11 PLAY**

**Jacqueline Cowell - Drama Teacher**

The Year 11 play was a ‘raving’ success. They play ‘Rave’ depicted scenes of youth and youth issues through drama, song, drag queens, music and images. It was a collage of ideas and scenes written by Ms Cowell from ideas expressed by the Year 11 students and Mr Granneman. The ideas turned into scenes about fashion, music, drugs, relationships and gender. Each student put their own creativity and flair into different aspects of the production. Most students performed in the play. However some students took on production roles such as Jasmine Khan (Student Director) and Alex Tokurezyk (Stage Manager). All students learnt about aspects of production and staging as well as performance.

‘Rave’ was performed at The Zenith Theatre, Chatswood. The play was a great success with a large and enthusiastic audience. The students performed very well and learnt a lot about production elements through a few funny incidents. Thank you to all students, staff and parents who helped and attended to make the Year 11 play such a successful night.

**BIOLOGY EXCURSION**

**Chris Macinnis - Science Co-ordinator**

As part of the new Biology course, our students attended an excursion to Long Reef Marine Rock Platform. We organised this excursion with the Year 11 Biology class from St Augustine’s.

After a long walk out to the platform, our students had a most productive day measuring environmental factors and determining the distribution and abundance of organisms in different zones of the platform. We also had a deep and meaningful interaction with a very obliging octopus!

The excursion was run by Auseco and I thank Colina Mathison for organising the excursion and inviting Stella to join St Augustine’s.
Year 12

RETREAT
Elizabeth Cohen, Alisha Allan, Puro Numa
On Friday June 9 Year 12 for the last time travelled to Curl Curl Sport Centre for their retreat. The day was lead by Christ Doyle who talked to us about being ourselves, the changes that will occur in our life, the importance of friends and staying together. Overall the day was enjoyed by all with the usual but unforgettable Sara Lee Cake and watered down cordial. The sense of everybody coming together and working with each other made our last retreat full of memories we’ll never forget. Thank you to Chris and all the teachers involved in making this retreat so unforgettable.

FORMAL
Marie Wood - Year 12 Co-ordinator
On Wednesday November 22 the Year 12 Formal was held at the Wentworth Hotel in the Grand Ballroom. The girls were absolutely stunning in their beautiful gowns and their partners who accompanied them were most gentlemanly. It was a pleasure to join the girls in such a relaxing atmosphere and to share their enjoyment at being together. Everyone enjoyed their meal and danced the night away to some very energetic music! Many parents were able to be a part of the evening and quite a few were seen on the dance floor throughout the function.

Thank you to our Principal, Mr Allan Coman and to our Deputy Principal, Ms Mary Ryland for their gracious presence. A very special thank you to the staff who joined us - Mrs Coman, Mrs Ferguson, Ms Hunt, Ms Knight, Mrs Macaulay, Mr Puntillo and Mr Regan. Your support of Year 12 has been invaluable.

Finally, thank you Year 12. I loved the flowers that you presented to me and I have many happy memories of this evening - our last formal together. I am very proud of the manner in which Year 12 have conducted themselves while at the College and I feel privileged to have been your Year Co-ordinator.

DRAMA NIGHT
Jackie Cowell and Ken Granneman - Drama Teachers
The Year 12 Drama Night was a huge success. Individual and group projects were prepared and presented. Four group presentations were performed on the night. These pieces were self devised and written by the students. They were inspired from a stimulus and workshops over a few months. The themes of the pieces were varied, exploring issues such as consumer society and products, imagining an ideal and perfect world, the role of men in today’s society, heaven and hell and truth and deceit. The individual projects for Year 12 comprised three designs and sixteen performances. The costume designs were beautifully displayed on the night. The performances were also of an excellent standard. It is to their credit that eight of the thirteen pieces were written by the individual students themselves. I was very impressed by the originality, quality and creativity of the pieces as were many audience members whom I spoke to. The students have also performed the pieces for examiners and were equally impressive in their presentation.

Thank you to Grant Underwood and Angela Miller for their fantastic lighting and sound, supported by students Hayley Brown and Jasmine Khan. Thank you also to Philip Hassan
(Year 12) for his original artwork and Carly Taylor for videoing the night. Congratulations to all students and teachers involved.

DANCE
Samantha House, Erika Thornton and Roxanne Bollen
Over the past two years we have been taking Dance as a subject. It is the first time dance has been offered for the HSC at Stella Maris and we didn’t really know what to expect. Soon enough it was August and we had to present our dances for the HSC marking. The three of us and our teacher, Ms Kerl, made our way out to Newtown where we had to perform our dance pieces individually. This was done in front of a panel of three examiners who also tested our knowledge of Dance after the practical examination. This involved giving an on the spot speech ranging from five to eight minutes in length.

The course also enabled us to choreograph our own pieces and we would like to extend a thank you to the three girls who danced these for us. A lot of time and practice went into the presentation, and they performed really well.

Dance has been a great subject as it has added a practical component to our Year 12 classes. Looking back on it now, we are all glad we picked Dance as a subject.