



From the Principal.....

Welcome to the second edition of your magazine for 2008. I extend best wishes to all Old Collegians and trust that you will find Christmas and the New Year a time of peace and happiness.

This has been an exciting year for our College that has continued to grow and enhance its offerings, facilities and programs to all current Monicans. In particular, the new buildings on Dalton Road Campus have proved to be a great asset for the junior campus and a stroll across the newly created piazza is well worth a visit.

The College has also constructed a new Technology Centre on Davisson Street Campus to accommodate automotive studies and electronics. It will be opened in early 2009. This development now places SMC at the top of schools that offer a technology stream of learning.

It is a source of great delight to read the stories and adventures of Alumni of our College and congratulations and best wishes to those Monicans featured in this edition. I know that the editorial committee is always pleased to share your stories with others and I urge you to tell us your news and achievements.

I thank the Alumni Committee for its work in 2008 and I feel certain that this important group in the College will continue to grow and make St Monica's College, Epping an even better and stronger educational community.

Brian E. Hanley
College Principal

Editorial

Since this publication's establishment, this editorial space has been used to offer motivation and inspiration to our readers. This publication as a whole is built on the premise that alumni of St Monica's College can achieve great things. The very title of this work, "Emitte lucem et veritatem" ("Send out light and truth"), is the definitive message offered to all Monican alumni. Any Monican is capable of achieving greatness, but how do we get there?

Inspiration is necessary in order to be motivated enough to chase whatever it is that fulfills us. If we look at the word 'inspiration', its origins come from the Latin word for 'breathe' or 'inhale'. It originally had a very religious or divine meaning, that one could 'inhale Godly or divine essences' or 'receive God's breath'. Come to think of it, inspiration does have a very divine feeling about it – no one really knows how it comes to us.

Inspiration can come at any time, in any situation. Sometimes it comes when we least expect it, or it comes too soon, or too late. It's completely beyond our control.

So if inspiration does have a divine source, all we can control is how we use it. Every new event, program, initiative and product – everything created by humans, in fact, was inspired by something. The pyramids at Giza were inspired by kings and built with the work of thousands of hands. The light bulb as we know it came as a figurative 'light bulb' to Edison. The greatness of all of these people and things is obvious and unquestionable, and each began with just a bit of inspiration.

After all, "No person," Cicero tells us "was ever great without divine inspiration."

May we always send out light and truth.

In Memoriam

In Memory

– *Kenneth William Milroy*

b. 20-10-1930 d. 18-06-2008

Parent

Samaritan Medal 1991

– *Terry Monagle*

b. 12-08-1946 d. 10-07-2008

Staff 1974-1975 1979

– *Elizabeth Mary Horowitz*

nee Corboy

b. 01-10-1968 d. 08-05-2008

Student 1981-1986

– *Joe Crupi*

b. 11-12-1967 d. 09-08-2008

Student 1980-1985

Board Member 1993

Emitte lucem et veritatem
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2006-2007 Reunion



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World Youth Day, Sydney 2008

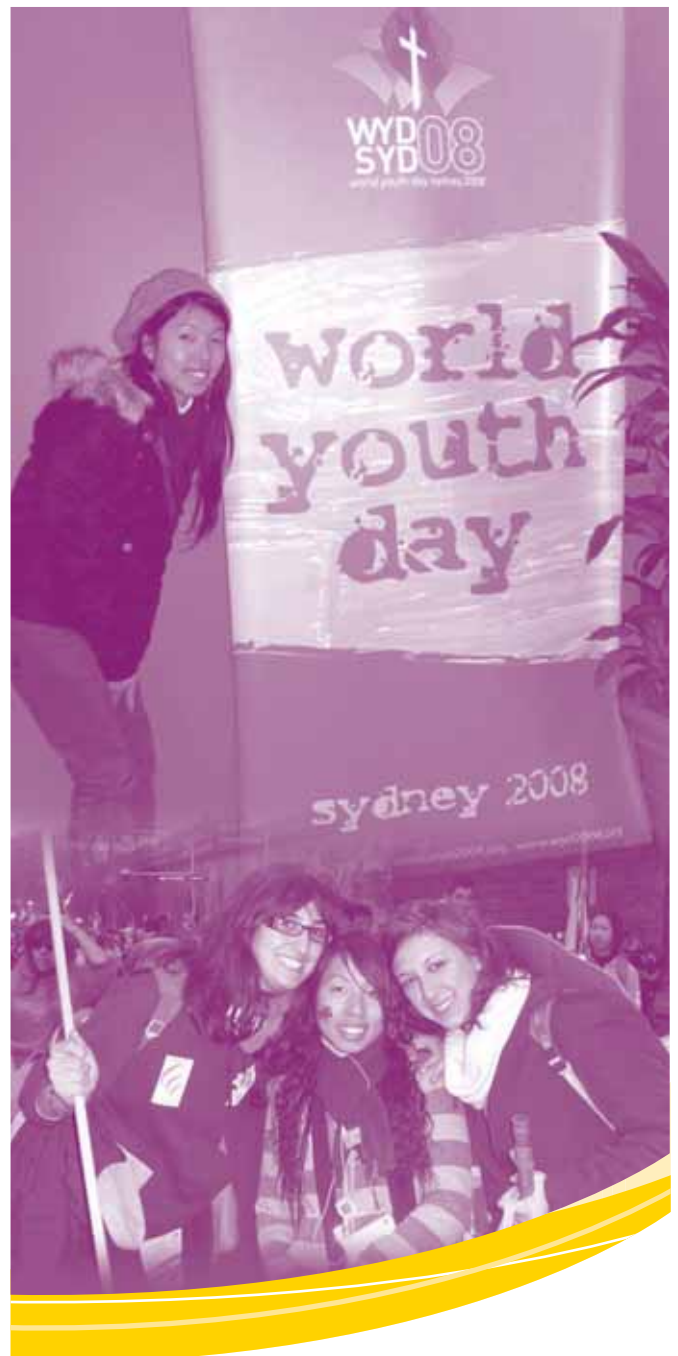
World Youth Day 2008 was held in Sydney. Hundreds of thousands of people were present to welcome His Holiness at the Papal Arrival on the Thursday. An estimated 400,000 people slept under the Southern Cross at Randwick Racecourse on the Saturday night before the Closing Mass was hosted by the Holy Father himself. The Catholic Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Group of Collingwood and I were part of those gathered to experience World Youth Day.

My youth group and I had been anticipating World Youth Day months before the day. Fundraising within our community was arranged 12 months before our departure to ensure we had sufficient funds to cater for our pilgrimage.

On the morning of Saturday 12th July we set out, every one of us excited and energetic about the week ahead.

As we drove into Sydney, there were numerous signs and countdown boards of when World Youth Day was officially going to begin. The city had built so much enthusiasm and excitement in every one of us.

Tuesday 15th July marked the beginning of the World Youth Day activities with a crowded Opening Mass at Barangaroo, and full footage of the mass around the globe. Everywhere you looked you could see hundreds of different flags representing where the flag holders came from, flown high and proud. The Opening Mass was further celebrated by live performances from Guy Sebastian and Paulini well into the night.





Hong Tran (SMC: 2000 - 2005)

There were activities and concerts placed around different venues throughout the week, where pilgrims had the opportunity to mix and mingle with other pilgrims from all over the world. It didn't matter that we were total strangers to each other; everyone was glad to meet people from the same faith who lived in a different country or state. We greeted, hugged, took photos and even exchanged whatever we had as souvenirs for each other; flags, group jumpers, badges, bracelets... anything significant to our group.

It was absolutely incredible to see so many people from almost every nation, gathered together for one reason, with one common faith. It amazed me even more, the number of people that surrounded Sydney Harbour, the Domain, Barangaroo and all over Sydney's streets along the path of His Holiness' travel, waiting to catch a glimpse of the Pope, for many, for the first time in their lives. We waited for hours and hours but did not lose excitement of the Papal Arrival. No one did. There was such strength, hope and faith in the air around the pilgrims. I've never felt so overwhelmed with confidence to act freely in my own faith and beliefs until I was there to experience and be moved by World Youth Day, and more importantly, the inspirational words of His Holiness at the Closing Mass.

On Saturday night's sleep-out under the Southern Cross Stars at Randwick Racecourse everyone was exhausted from the 9km walk to the Racecourse. We woke for the Mass which was going to mark the end of World Youth Day 2008, but initiate the journey for the next World Youth Day to be held in Spain.

I did not expect and certainly would never forget, the incredible experience I will cherish from World Youth Day, and hope to meet these people again in Spain.



Where are they now?

What's a third the size of Tasmania, has a population of just over 4 million and has "Pura Vida" as its catch phrase?

Costa Rica!

"Where's that?" was my initial reaction when the volunteer organisation informed me of where my position was going to be. I'd never actually looked at a map of Central America, nor did I know anything about the area. However after some research I was thrilled to find out that Costa Rica has a minimum temperature of 32° daily and is generally bypassed by hurricanes. Great News! I was excited; I ignored the parts that read, earthquakes, frequent volcanic eruptions and monsoon style rains... I blindly led myself to believe that any place that is 32° everyday, has "Pure Life" as its catch phrase and no civil unrest has to be a prime location for a working holiday! Right?

I threw myself in the deep end completely! In my case, to a Spanish speaking country with malaria infested areas with nothing but a phrase book and a mosquito net! I didn't want to be let down so I made the conscious decision not to have any expectations of what was about to come. As I arrived in Costa Rica I had this immediate overwhelming feeling of, "What in the world have I done!?"

My time in San Jose was difficult, and it was only through perseverance that I made it through and into the next phase. Once I was out of San Jose things began to look up! It's amazing what a climate change will do for your spirits! The warm Costa Rican sun and Pacific Ocean water were perfect for morning swims and sunset walks. The people were lovely and helpful and my students a little undisciplined but at the same time, very gracious and caring. There are no flies in Costa Rica, just big flying bugs, geckos, iguanas, monkeys and crocodiles. Seeing a crocodile by the beach was normal and having geckos in your house was very common.

I had one month of volunteering as an Assistant to the English teacher before she up and left without notice! The Principal simply passed the torch and gave me the freedom to teach the students anything I thought would help their English and enforce any rules that I believed to be necessary! I revised the curriculum and tested each student to see what level of English they were at. I then arranged the classes from Preps to Beginners, Intermediates and Advanced. The mixed ages was a great idea, each intermediate student had an advanced student who was their buddy or "amigo". They would all take the Intermediate class together which was basically vocabulary and set phrases and then the advanced students would return for a second class of grammar. It taught them leadership skills and improved their behaviour immensely because they had now become role models.

I found incentives worked famously also! If I promised a game of soccer, Aussie Rules football or an excursion down to the river on the really hot days, the students would work diligently to complete set tasks. Something new for them was having their teacher check their homework. Each week they would need to line up and hand in their homework. If it wasn't handed in it would be noted on their report card.

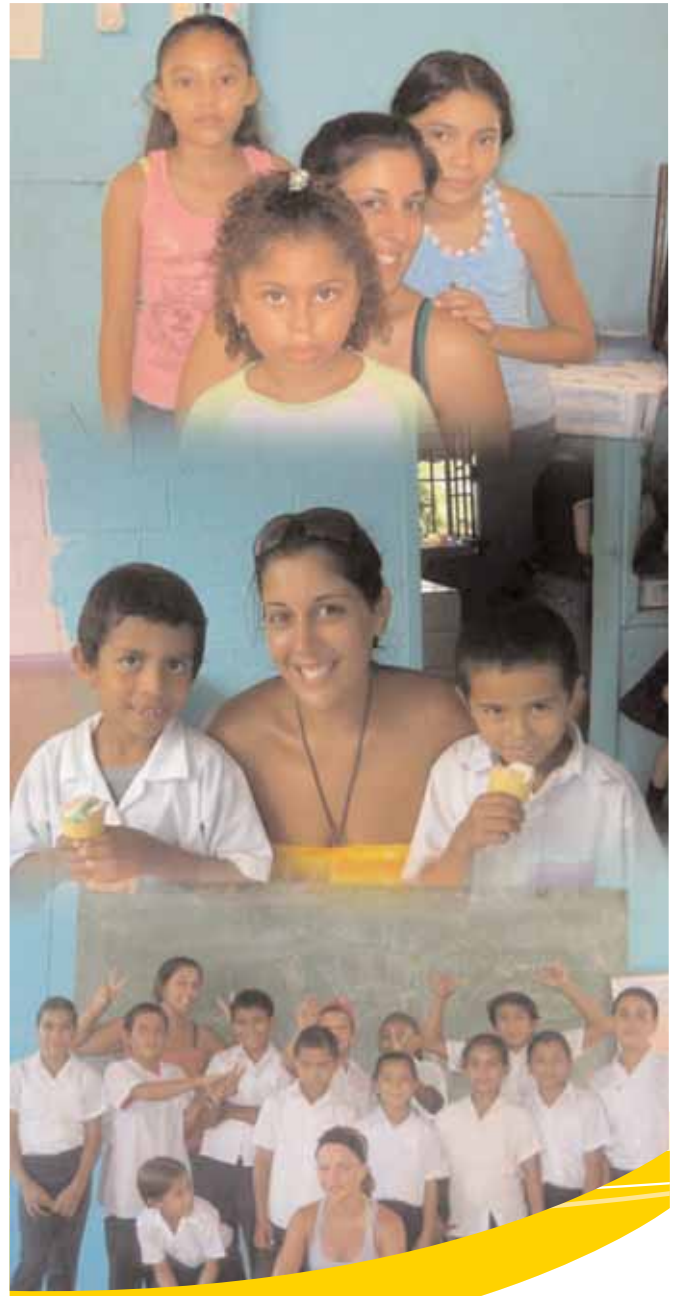
I was so proud of my students, they had spoken so clearly and confidently. I had this overwhelming sense of satisfaction and understanding of what it really feels like to do something worthwhile with your life.

Life had become simple and yet the quality had improved immensely. There were less complications, external influences and unhealthy habits plaguing me. I was truly happy volunteering as an English Teacher. I spent my spare time outdoors, I was lucky enough to have an abundant supply of cheap fresh fruit and vegetables and beautiful endless stretches of black sand beaches.



Roslyn Galati (SMC: 1998 – 2003)

There were times when I wanted to throw it all in and come back to Australia, and there were times when I didn't think anything I did would benefit the community, especially the students. There were also the times where I was quite sick and needed to take care of myself and worst of all, there were the lonely moments when I was yet to make friends, when I had only myself to turn to, when I was adamant I had made the wrong decision in my choice to leave home. When I think about my experience now, I'm appreciative of the difficult times, and the curve balls and the changes I didn't see coming. They have made me stronger, wiser and most of all capable of knowing that I can do anything I put my mind to, no matter where it is in this big old world. There is nothing like good old fashioned personal growth, putting yourself outside your comfort zone and finding your way back through hard work, prayer and perseverance.



Daniel Porceddu (SMC: 1979 – 1984)

May 27th was an exciting evening at St. Monica's College when Daniel Porceddu (LL.B) who attended St. Monica's College from 1979 – 1984 returned to the College to speak to students and parents about how a law degree prepares you for many career pathways and about life as a Barrister in Melbourne.

When Daniel left St. Monica's he joined the public service working for the Immigration Department for many years before returning to University as a mature age student to begin a law degree. At the end of his degree Daniel worked as a solicitor with Galbally & O'Bryan before moving overseas to Hong Kong where he was employed as the Chief Legal Officer for an international commercial firm, supervising a team of solicitors negotiating contracts and commercial licenses throughout Asia. Daniel then took up

the position of Director of Compliance with Ernst and Young's China Practice.

On returning to Australia in 2006 Daniel was re-admitted to the Bar and has since pursued a career in criminal law and family violence crimes along with Federal Court immigration appeals and hearings before the Administration Appeals Tribunal and Racing Appeals Tribunal. Daniel also acts as the Barrister on the Board of the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

Daniel Porceddu (LL.B) centre of picture surrounded by budding lawyers and parents at St. Monica's College Law Information Evening.



Emitte lucem et veritatem
send out light and truth



Elizabeth Nealy nee Merlino (SMC: 1992 – 1997)

Old Collegian, Elizabeth Nealy was elected East Ward Councillor for the City of Whittlesea in 2005 and was the Mayor of the City of Whittlesea in 2008.

Residing in the City of Whittlesea all her life, Elizabeth lives in Mill Park with her husband Todd. Elizabeth is a secondary school teacher, and has a passion for improving services for young people, the elderly and the environment.

Elizabeth is involved in a number of committees as a council representative; these include the Bundoora Netball and Sport Centre Committee of Management, the Mill Park

YMCA, the Junior Sport and Cultural Aid Committee, the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group, the Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Council and the Riverside Committee.

She enjoys reading, playing the piano, running and playing netball.



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Class of 1988 Reunion

The Class Of '88 Make it Great... Again!!

On Saturday 15th Nov, 2008, the SMC class of '88 were reunited (mostly). A quick count of heads tells us that there were nearly 150 ex-students in attendance. Some people flying in from interstate for the occasion.

A great night was had by all, some having a rough Sunday, however.

The night wouldn't have been possible without the help of the SMC administration, their help in spreading the word about our plans was invaluable, thank you.

And to the Class of '88, thank you all for joining us on the night, without you all, it would not have been a success.

Tiffany Rosselli nee Jones



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PEACE & HARMONY



SMC

PRAY AND PERSEVERE

**PLEASE
CIRCULATE**

Log on to www.stmonicas-epping.com to access the Alumni Association and add your details to the Old Collegians database.

