

## St. Monica's Week 2010

St. Monica's Week is an opportunity to join together, celebrate, take part in College life, maintain traditions and proclaim our unique heritage.

A fitting start to the week of celebrations and festivities was held with the hosting of the inaugural **Alumni Gathering**. This event gave Old Collegians an opportunity to return to St Monica's, view the many changes and developments, reminisce in front of archive displays and catch up with friends and past teachers. It is hoped that the Sunday before St Monica's Day becomes an annual event and tradition, fostering friendships and developing alumni networks.

Cameron Cutts from the L'Arche Community presented the **Annual Oration**. Located in Black Rock, the group work in community with those who have intellectual disabilities. Providing support, assistance and companionship to those who are often marginalised and forgotten in our society, the L'Arche community live out the mission of Jean Varnier and seek to change the world, one heart at a time. A member of L'Arche for over 13 years, Cameron provided personal insights and moving personal testimony. Accompanied by Brother Gerard Bennett and Greg Morris, the presenters shared their experiences of life together, in a model that typifies our annual theme of "Something Beautiful for God."

The **Sports Breakfast** had a definite Australian theme this year, as three proud and eminent Australian sports personalities spoke to our breakfast audience. Simon Colosimo, Old Collegian, former Socceroo and Captain of the Melbourne Heart Soccer Club told of his journey in sport and success in professional soccer. Melissa Barbieri, Captain of the Matildas Soccer team addressed the challenges for women in sport and facing personal challenges. Champion weight lifter and Commonwealth gold medallist Damian Brown then spoke about competing in an individual sport, carrying the Australian flag in an opening ceremony and the memorable highlights of his illustrious career.

**St. Monica's Day** is always a much anticipated event. Bishop Tim Costelloe celebrated mass in the transformed Sports and Assembly Hall. Transformed by the colour and symbolism of the theme banners, our annual theme was enlivened and reflected upon. After the Eucharistic celebration and induction of new College Captains, the afternoon took on a carnival like atmosphere. The day included sport, sumo wrestling suits, numerous rides, a disc jockey, a rock band, electronic games, food, lollies and activities for all to enjoy. It was a day filled with laughter and fun.

Our feast day culminated a full week of events and activities, designed for the students, staff and parents of St. Monica's College to reflect, offer hospitality and celebrate. Together and in a spirit of joy and community, the unique talents of our Monican community were celebrated and applauded by all involved.

Bernadette Harris  
*Assistant Principal (Administration)*