

St Monica's Week 2011

St Monica's Week was launched with a highly successful **Annual Alumni Gathering**. With over 160 in attendance, 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. The Sunday before St Monica's Day is fast becoming a tradition and a means to foster friendships and developing alumni links.

Acclaimed Celtic singer and song writer Maria Forde presented the **Annual Oration**. Those present marvelled at her beautiful voice, entertaining anecdotes and reflected on the role of Celtic spirituality in the Catholic tradition. Maria provided a thought provoking approach to our annual theme of "Listening for God's Heartbeat." As one of Australia's leading entertainers, it was a privilege to welcome Maria to the new Theatre of All Nations to perform.

The **Sports Breakfast** had a definite comic flair this year. Featuring the comedic talents of radio and television personality Peter Helliard, commentator and 'Coodabeen Champion' host Greg Champion and former Australian Test Cricketer Rodney Hogg, the audience were treated to the humorous, the sublime and the Strauchanie. With former Essendon and VFL footballer Anthony Daniher as Master of Ceremonies, the morning was a much talked about event.

St Monica's Day is always the highlight of the calendar. Bishop Hilton Deakin celebrated mass in the 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 carnival began. The day included a real sense of merriment with face painting, 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 that will be remembered fondly by all.

Each year the events planned around our Feast Day bring us closer together as a community. They enable us to share our unique talents and gifts with each other and express the tremendous pride we feel about our College, our traditions and plans for the future.

Bernadette Harris
Assistant Principal (Administration)