One hundred and forty years ago in 1872, the State Government of Victoria passed the now famous Education Act which, with some timely amendments, continues to shape the structure and fabric of schooling in this state. It enshrined public education as the right of all, nearly eighty years before England did the same, and based the provision of schooling on the principles of free, secular and compulsory. It is a fine document in many ways and is significant for all involved in education in Victoria but it is especially so for PCW. The secular provision in the Act removed access to government funding for religious schools. The early Catholic school system was thus threatened with extinction almost before it had begun. Following the Act, The Catholic primary schools and the two or three secondary schools that existed could not receive funding to pay staff and for the development of buildings and facilities. As most Catholic schools were supporting poor communities, it was not an option for them to charge high fees. Enter Fr James Corbett, Parish priest of St Mary’s East St Kilda and friend of the Presentation Sisters in Limerick, Ireland. His famous letter, sent in January 1873, asked and then begged for a group of Sisters to come to Melbourne to set up a school. The rest is, of course, history that is well known to us here at Windsor. Mother Paul Mulquin and her community of seven Sisters travelled from Ireland and arrived here in December 1873 to open the first Catholic school following the Education Act. Christmas Day, 1873, is our foundation day and thus in 2013 we will be celebrating 140 years of Presentation education in faith in this part of Melbourne. Without the Education Act, the story would have been very different.

A milestone such as this is an important one for a school and its community. Celebratory events and symbolic gestures will involve the current school community of students, staff and families in the great story of our school. For alumnae of our College, it will be a time to reconnect and to remember past days at school as well as to be involved in planning for the future. As the first Presentation community founded in Victoria and the second in Australia, for the Presentation Sisters, PCW’s milestone will honour the extraordinary achievements of the congregation - not just here at PCW but all over the inner southern suburbs and in many parts of the state. There will be a range of events during 2013 which will follow the progress of plans for the arrival of the Sisters from January through to December and then into 2014, the anniversary of when classes began for the first time.

By coincidence, 2012, is the centenary of the Alumnae/Past Pupils Association. The tradition of pride in their school and of contributing to its life and future began when the College was just forty years old. Each year when the new College Captains are announced and when we congratulate the Dux of the school I like to point out to the students that in taking up their leadership roles or by distinguishing themselves with high achievement, they are joining a long line of outstanding women, many of whose names are listed on the honour boards in the Hall. I encourage them to take great pride in this. Those women, and the thousands who have been educated at PCW have in so many ways, made a difference in the world. It is the challenge for this generation to continue that tradition and there are wonderful models for them to emulate amongst the Alumnae. The key celebration for the centenary will be a dinner on November 30, 2012. It will be a wonderful occasion to reconnect with old friends, exchange stories, honour the great work of the Sisters and participate in the future of our school. You will find further details regarding the celebrations in this edition of Windsor News.

A Year 7 student said to me recently that she couldn’t imagine a better school. She said she felt lucky to be here. I agreed with her but pointed out that she was making her own contribution by embracing school life with so much enthusiasm. The Alumnae of the past 139 years have all done so in a variety of ways, large and small and continue to make the story of this place. The long tradition and the diversity of stories and pathways are ballast for the journey and give us all confidence as we, the current community, play our part in the next chapter of PCW that began with a letter in 1873, when all seemed lost, but which in fact was the dawn of an astonishing new era.

Leonie Keaney - Principal
The Italy Study Tour November 2011

On November 21, 2011, twenty Presentation College Windsor students and six CBC St Kilda students, together with five teachers embarked on a three week tour of Italy. We landed in Rome in the late afternoon. It was cold and raining but this didn't stop us from going on a walk, we needed to see the eternal city.

We spent five days in Rome and enjoyed guided tours of the city and of the Vatican, where we visited the Vatican museums and the awe inspiring Sistine Chapel. We also visited the Colosseum and the Roman Forum, the Pantheon, Campo dei Fiori and Piazza Navona. We walked and shopped along Via del Corso, ate gelati, pizza and panini and, of course, we threw a coin in the Trevi Fountain in the hope that we would all return.

After Rome we travelled to Palermo, in Sicily, for the home stay part of the tour. Our sister school is the Educandato Maria Adelaide in Palermo. Our students were warmly welcomed by their host families and for the next five days they experienced family life and the Italian school system. They attended Italian lessons and the Art students who participated in this tour, were taken to view the historical architecture and art of Palermo. While in Palermo we travelled to Agrigento where we were amazed by the Greek temples, and we also visited the picturesque mountain town of Castellbuono where we sampled true Sicilian cuisine and freshly made panettone.

Our next stop was Florence, the home of the Renaissance, here we visited Piazza della Signoria, the Uffizi Gallery and the Ponte Vecchio. We walked all the way to Piazza Michelangelo on a wet, misty day for a breathtaking view of the city below. And no visit to Florence is complete without seeing Michelangelo’s ‘awesome’ statue of David.

While in Florence, the students also attended a school for foreigners where they studied the Italian language and the Art students had art lessons. Also, during our stay in Florence we visited Siena, San Gimignano and Pisa.

The last stop was Venice, the city built on water. From our hotel we traversed the labyrinth of calle before arriving in the magnificent Piazza San Marco. Here we visited the Doge’s Palace and the dungeons underneath. Finally, there was the magical gondola ride on the Grand Canal. Our tour had come to an end but a new passion for travel and adventure had been ignited.

Study Tour in Japan

On Thursday 24 November, 2011, seven of our students joined twelve students from Star of the Sea and four teachers to travel to Japan for three weeks. They spent the first fourteen days of the tour with their host families in Kagoshima, in the south of Japan, immersed in Japanese culture. During this period they attended school at Immaculata Heart College in Kagoshima and as well as language lessons, they learned about and performed the tea ceremony and they also learned the protocol and ceremony associated with putting on the Kimono.

Sarah Spencer, one of the students on the tour, recounts what happened when they farewelled their host sisters.

We all boarded the bullet train to Hiroshima. In Hiroshima we travelled to the Atomic Bomb Peace Museum. The museum was quite amazing; I think that we were all moved by the experience.

In the afternoon we caught the ferry to Miyajima, a small island, and the next morning we hired bikes and explored the island. It was full of little streets and beautiful shrines. In the afternoon we boarded the train for Kyoto. That night we visited the Gion district which is famous for Geisha, but unfortunately we didn’t see any. In Kyoto we visited four shrines, including the Golden Temple and the Shinto Temple, which is painted red and has beautiful gardens. Walking down the hill from the temples, we came upon three streams which you are to drink from. One stream gives you wisdom, another gives you youth and the last stream gives you a boyfriend. I think everyone was drinking the ‘boyfriend’ water that day!

The next day we travelled to Nara, which is famous for deer roaming freely. We bought crackers to feed the deer. We also visited the biggest wooden building in the world inside which is a giant Buddha. After dinner we all went to Karaoke. The next morning we were off to Osaka for a day of shopping- Topshop, Zara, H&M. Trust me if there is anywhere for shopping, it’s Osaka!

Waking up the next morning was heartbreaking as it was our last day in Japan. After packing our luggage we travelled to Universal Studios, the home of Shrek, Back to the Future, Jurassic Park and more. In the afternoon we travelled to the airport but I don’t think any of us wanted to say goodbye...I think that I can say this for all the girls on the Japan Study Tour of 2011: it was an amazing experience that we will never forget.
In order to encourage students into a career in Science, we have developed a program at PCW called Expanding Horizons. This program is directed particularly towards Year 10 students, knowing that by the end of Year 10 that they will have chosen their VCE path.

Earlier this year six girls went to GM Holden in Port Melbourne to research engineering solutions under the guidance of the engineering staff at Holden.

The girls were asked to design something amazing that they would like to see in a car, and prove that it is a worthwhile feature. They came up with a number of solutions: pet-friendly car upholstery (incorporating nanotechnology), a wireless electro-magnetic charge pad for smart phones, an app that can recall where you left your car, including what floor it is on, electro-chromic glass that can become tinted at a touch of a button and car paint that has insulating properties.

In term 2, six Year 10 girls attended an extension program at Vic Roads, Kew, in order to research engineering solutions under the guidance of the engineering staff and Vision Australia.

The students investigated the textured tiles that are on footpaths, particularly those near pedestrian crossings. These tiles are present to aid vision impaired people. Unfortunately these tiles have not been a total success, so the students were asked to do some problem-solving to see if they could help.

As a result they designed a new type of tile which incorporated some nanotechnology such as tiles having a hydrophobic (water-hating) surface.

In term 3 all Year 10 Science 1 girls (approximately 30) will be involved in a program where they will be designing and making resources for the Yarraville Special Developmental School. They will be aided by fourth-year engineering students from Monash University.

All of these programs have been funded by the Catholic Education Office as part of their Science in Schools funding.

Jo-Lee Kennedy - Head of Science

Margaret Walsh, pbvm. RIP

Sr Margaret Walsh died on June 9 after a long illness. She was 82. Margaret was Principal at PCW from 1974-1980. She taught mostly at Star and was a renowned teacher and trained accountant who was the bursar for the Sisters for some time. She was a great supporter of disadvantaged women and after finishing her work in schools she set up the St Kilda ‘Stables’ a refuge and training centre where women could acquire employment skills and personal support. In her last years she lived at Nagle House adjacent to PCW.
Mulquin Scholarship for PCW Staff

Rosalie Lawler and Anne Sparks travelled to the UK and Ireland at the end of 2011 as the inaugural recipients of the Mulquin travel scholarship.

This was a fantastic opportunity for us as teachers in the Arts to explore Arts education in the UK. We travelled to London, visiting the BRIT school in Croydon and attending a conference in Birmingham focussing on “Every child has a talent”.

The BRIT School is Britain’s only FREE Performing Arts and Technology School and the only one of its kind dedicated to education and vocational training for the performing arts, media, art and design and the technologies. From the moment we stepped off the train we connected with students from the school who talked of their hopes for the future and the schools role in this. Upon arrival at the school we were greeted by the very enthusiastic Deputy Principal, Simon Collins who managed our day. We very quickly became immersed in the creative world of the school, observing classes in stage management, set design, costume design, visiting the production workshop and finally in the afternoon watching the musical performance strand in final rehearsal before their evening performance. The school pulsed with a palpable energy. Adele is a past student of the school.

Then it was onto Birmingham to the conference focussing on “Every child has a talent”. This was a rich learning experience.

To further enrich our understanding of the Nano Nagle’s story we travelled to Cork where her story began. The Presentation Brothers accommodated us at Mount Saint Joseph, which is high on a hill overlooking the city of Cork. Brother Paddy Minehane was our guide leading us through Nano’s story. We visited Ballygriffin the birth place of Nano, Limerick from where the first group of nuns travelled to the “ends of the earth” to begin Presentation College Windsor. Here we were able to read the original diary of that journey, written by Sister Paul Mulquin. South Presentation Convent was the highlight of the trip because from here Nano founded the Presentation order. Sister Rosario guided us through the archival room dedicated to Nano memorabilia. The afternoon culminated with a visit to Nano’s tomb on the Convent grounds. Here, in Cove lane we got a real sense of the area where Nano founded the Presentation order and could only imagine what it must have been like for her walking through the narrow, hilly streets in 1775.

Rosalie and I will cherish the fond memories of our time spent with the Presentation Sisters and Brothers who warmly welcomed the travellers from “the ends of the earth”.

PCW the year so far...
Social Justice at PCW

But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. John 3:17 – 18

The PCW 2012 Social Justice team have been inspirational in their work, compassion and enthusiasm this year – and we’re only half way through! For the first time, we have four Social Justice Captains: Katecia Taylor, Nicola Gertler, Clem Round and Jessica Pecar. These girls are working together to drive and inspire the Social Justice members from across the school. Some of the initiatives undertaken so far in 2012 include:

- Two shifts at the Sacred Heart Mission Dining Hall, with 10 girls from Years 11 and 12 volunteering their time and effort to help prepare and serve lunch to over 400 people. Sacred Heart Mission serves over 400 people every day of the year, providing hearty, nutritious meals to people who are homeless, socially disadvantaged and isolated. It is also a vital opportunity for people to reconnect and develop a sense of community and belonging.

Here are some of our girls’ reflections after their experience at the Mission:

- “It was such an amazing atmosphere. I loved the jazz band playing during breakfast, and it was great that some of the clients got up and had a sing with the band!” - Mathilde Hastings
- “I feel like the volunteers also have their own story. Some I spoke to were retired, or widowed, and it was obvious they felt a real connection and sense of community from volunteering at the Mission.” - Quynh Nguyen
- “I can’t believe how good the food was! Rack of lamb, soup, stewed rhubarb! It’s better than my mum cooks!” - Maddison Sullivan-Thorpe

- Project Compassion Boxes: Our generous students contributed close to $500 in loose change for Project Compassion in Term 1, with all funds going to the very worthy work undertaken by Caritas.

- Lunchtime Ice-Cream Stall: I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice-cream! Indeed we did, with the Social Justice Team selling hundreds of ice-cream cones to our eager students on Friday 9th March (weren’t we grateful for the warm weather on the day!). We raised close to $200, with all funds again going to Caritas as part of the Project Compassion drive.

- Sounds of Silence: As part of an awareness raising exercise for International Women’s Day, many staff members and over 100 students from across all year levels came to the Hall and spent recess in total silence on Friday 16th March. As Social Justice Team member Aviya Nacarella (Year 11) explains; “Australian women enjoy many rights and freedoms that women in other parts of the world will never experience. The right to vote, to travel independently, to own property, to determine your own future. And in some cases, the right to have an opinion and to voice it. We hope that 20 minutes of silence will challenge us and raise awareness of the masses of silent women throughout the world”. It certainly was challenging and thought-provoking and we were heartened by the number of our girls who participated as a sign of solidarity. As Tori Whitten (Year 11) reflected afterwards: “I speak without thinking, so it made me sit and really wonder what it would be like to live in a society where I would have to stop and question whether I was allowed to speak or not”.

- A musical show-case for residents at Sacred Heart Mission Aged Care Facility, courtesy of some of our senior Music students. Stella Joseph-Jarecki, Alisha Millar, Dari Kanizay and Monique Grech volunteered their time to sing and play the piano for a group of enraptured residents, who were most vociferous in their appreciation of our girls’ talents! More performances are planned for Semester Two.

- Of course, there is also the fun and organised chaos of our weekly lunchtime meetings in the R.E. Centre every Thursday. Despite the range of extra-curricular activities on offer at our bustling school, we have had close to 30 girls coming to each meeting, with many girls from Year 7 joining our ranks and contributing a range of exciting new ideas for us to focus on during Semester 2.

Thanks to the hard work and spirit of our four Social Justice Captains and to all staff and students who are part of the team and our activities. We invite any interested girls to join us in Term 3 and look forward to continuing the worthwhile and fun work. Enjoy your holidays!

Fiona Hall
Social Justice Co-ordinator

Simply Sharing Mass – Food all boxed up ready to go.

- Each year in Term Two, PCW celebrates its Simply Sharing Mass. This annual event calls on us to consider sharing our goods and our compassion with all those in our local community, and particularly those who are poor, experiencing homelessness or who are recently arrived refugees. Throughout the term, all girls in the school have been invited to donate non-perishable items, which will be distributed by the Malvern Emergency Food Program to those in need throughout the City of Stonnington. We have a proud tradition of generously donating at PCW, and we were thrilled to win the Proudlock Trophy for most goods donated by a participating school in 2011. Our 2012 Mass was held on Wednesday 27th June, and we thank all those students and families who have given to this worthy cause.

www.pcw.vic.edu.au
PCW Alumnae Office: July 2012

It has been a hectic first six months of 2012. The Alumnae Office has been busy running reunions and we recently meet up with the Class of 2011. It was a pleasure to welcome them back to PCW as Alumnae and we hope that they continue to stay connected with the College and their school friends. We have also held decade reunions for the Classes of 2002, 1992, 1982, 1972 and 1962. So many memories and stories from their time at school and their journeys after PCW!

I have included some reunion photos here, but you can also see more photos, get Alumnae information and access to online publications by visiting the College website - www.pcw.vic.edu.au/PCWCommunity

As previously mentioned, Presentation College Windsor is looking forward to celebrating 140 years of providing education in Melbourne. There will be many celebrations as we follow the story from the last 140 years.

One of the major components of this story is of course the people, all the students: past, present and future - who learn about Nano Nagle, the Presentation Sisters and the value we place on education and social justice. It is wonderful to see students graduate and then take all their experiences and education from PCW...letting their light shine!

This office is very committed to reconnecting Alumnae with each other and sharing our journeys. Enjoying a PCW education and all that is offered here is our motivation as we continue to work towards providing Alumnae Education Scholarships...and all fundraising connected with our Alumnae Celebrations at the end of this year will go towards these scholarships.

ALUMNAE DINNER & CELEBRATIONS

The Alumnae Dinner and Celebrations planned for the end of the year will be celebrating 100 years since the first meeting of the Past Pupils Association in 1912 and all the Alumnae from PCW. We have a dinner booked for Friday 30 November at the Promenade Room, Caulfield Race Course and then a Mass, College Tours and Afternoon Tea on Sunday 2 December at PCW. All Alumnae are invited and we would encourage you to get together a group of friends and form a table for the Friday dinner and Sunday events.

The Archives Team and I are also working on a commemorative archive book, which will be released in November and available for order with your dinner invitations. It will be a really lovely pictorial reflection from Windsor over the last 140 years.

Invites and further information will be sent out in August. We would ask you to help spread the word about the celebrations and encourage those of you who are in contact with other PCW girls to make sure that they are aware of upcoming events.

Lynaire Falkenstein
PCW Alumnae office
Email: alumnae@pcw.vic.edu.au or Phone: 03 8517 2734

Where are they now?

Three Alumnae...three very different journeys at school, all with different dreams!

One of the unique qualities of PCW is our firm commitment in providing opportunities for success to every student. The Senior Pathways program at PCW enables girls to choose from VCE, VET & VCAL studies, which can then lead to University, TAFE, an Apprenticeship and Employment.

Read their stories below:

Nina Louise Hooper
PCW Dux & Class of 2011

I began at Presentation College Windsor in term 2 of 2006. After having encountered bullying and a school that was happy to neglect students who were ‘different’ in the first term, it was a relief to arrive at PCW, where diversity was fostered and I was encouraged to be myself.

In the years I spent at PCW I went through a lot of major changes that have really defined the person I am today. I made friends, and changed groups and found myself through trial and error with the support of those around me. By the time I graduated in November of 2011, I really felt like PCW was a second home and that the teachers and students were like extended family.

Looking back I think of school traditions such as Presentation Day and Music Festival, where the whole school magically came together and created something brilliant. I think of all the hundreds of times I sung our school song ‘This Is Our Presentation’ and the last time I sang it, tears in the eyes of everyone around me, on the night of my graduation.

I really enjoyed my final VCE year studying Physics, Specialist Maths, Chemistry, Italian, Math Methods, English and Extension Maths through Melbourne University - and embraced being school Music Captain and Social Justice Captain.
After completing high school, I continued to take exams and write essays with the intention to apply to university in the United States. To my delight and surprise, I was not only accepted to Harvard University, but was given early notification of my admission decision as an "outstanding applicant" and a full scholarship to the value of $65,000 per year. I began my degree there in September of 2012 and will be studying astrophysics and entrepreneurship.

My ultimate goal is to become a NASA Astronaut, something which I am constantly working towards not only with my degree but also through flight training and a number of other things. I am also still very motivated to make an impact on this world in a social justice capacity, something that being at PCW affirmed in me.

I can confidently say that I ended up at the right school. Not every single day was perfect, there were days when I wanted to give up and walk away, others when I was frustrated and irritable, but even during the worst times, there was always someone around who could make me smile and make me feel cared for. These are the kind of qualities that are often overlooked when parents are choosing a school...but ones that should not be. All students will sometimes doubt themselves – and with the kind of support given at PCW, we all had the chance of reaching our full potential.

Hui Yan Zheng - Class of 2006.

The three letters P-C-W still bring back memories worth reminiscing forever. The sounds of giggling girls, cheers from House events, catching the 7.47 train every morning, the lessons learnt, receiving words of encouragement, those lunches down at Buddha’s Belly and most importantly, the friendships made along the way, are only a snap shot of the joys of being a “Presentation Girl”.

During my time at PCW, I was a VCE student, a VET student and I also took part in undertaking a subject at CBC, completing Year 12 in 2006. I studied: English, Maths Methods, National Politics, Economics and VET Business Administration and had already completed Legal Studies in Year 11. I took the option to study Maths Methods at CBC due to a subject clash. I am really grateful PCW has this VCE engagement with CBC. If it weren’t for this flexibility, I would have been unable to continue studying VET Business Administration and achieve the success that I did.

VET Business Administration was a subject that was so different from all my other subjects. I loved the practical aspect of the course. One component of this course was to undertake a work placement. I was offered a placement with renowned barrister Robert Richter, QC at Crockett Chambers. It was such an amazing experience, Robert Richter and everyone at Crockett Chambers was so welcoming and friendly and I was able to gain a real insight into how the skills I was learning would apply to the professional working environment.

In 2006 I was PCW’s inaugural winner of the Australian Vocational Student Prize. This prize is granted by the Department of Education, Science and Training to recipients in recognition of their “skill, commitment and achievement while undertaking a Vocational Education and Training (VET) in schools programme”. It was such an honour to receive something of this significance on behalf of my school and to be recognised at a Federal Government level.

In 2009, I completed an Arts degree at Monash University with double majors in Politics and Chinese and a minor in History. Immediately after my undergraduate degree, I accepted an offer for an Honours Degree in Chinese Politics, producing a thesis tackling a contemporary issue in Chinese Society today of the rising “Chinese Middle Class”. After my Honours degree, I travelled overseas and pondered which direction the next stage of my life would go. When I came back, I accepted a job with the Australian Bureau of Statistics working on the Census Project.

During my years at PCW and the six years thereafter, I am really proud of everything I have achieved, been really lucky to have met the people I did and really happy with the person I have become. Whether this next stage of my life takes me to pursue further study, gain employment, travel or something completely different, I will always look back, reminisce and proudly promote that I was once a “Presentation Girl”.

Lisa Tripp - Class of 2006

I was always a fairly good student. I got pretty good marks and enjoyed learning new things. When I was in year 11, however, things changed. My parents split up and my grandmother passed away. Throughout the year I developed depression and became a “school-refuser.” My teachers were incredibly supportive. When I started missing school it became evident that I was not going to be able to achieve the scores in VCE that I was capable of, if done traditionally. I needed a tailor made course. We chose to structure my Year 12 around VCAL. The “Applied Learning” intrigued me, and I was excited about doing something a little more “hands-on.”

I ended up with a combination of studies: VCE English Literature & Theatre Studies, VET Textiles, VCAL Numeracy and the Personal Development component and Industry Specific and Work Related Skills. Through this I was able to focus on the industry I wanted to get into...Education. As part of the VCAL program I volunteered with the Red Cross and at a local Primary School, as a teacher’s aide. One day a week I would work in the classroom with kids, gaining invaluable experience. This, incidentally, was when I realised I wanted to teach secondary school.

I also obtained a Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) and a level I First Aid Certificate with Surf Life Saving Australia. Opting for VCAL gave me a much more flexible timetable and gave me a sense of responsibility. I had designed my course. However, once I completed VCAL, it was still not enough to get into university, but I wanted to be a teacher. So I decided to do three extra subjects, which would enable me to complete VCE and obtain anATAR score. I enrolled at a government-funded school that heavily focused on the Arts. There I completed Studio Art 3/4, Art 3/4 and Drama 3/4.

At the University of Ballarat I completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Fine Arts) majoring in Ceramics. In my final year I was awarded with the Ceramics Victoria Award for Excellence in Innovation and Design. I was then offered a place in a post-graduate education course. I am currently enrolled in the Master of Teaching course at the University of Melbourne.

VCAL was the best pathway for me because not only did it give me the option to reduce my VCE workload, it also kept me actively engaged in school, at a time when things were difficult. I wouldn’t be achieving my dream without it.
The Larkins Family memories

It is a sad task to write this article for the school magazine, as it was usually Judy, my eldest sister, who came often to my house with long, sometimes overly wordy, epistles, for me to type, (after deciphering her difficult handwriting) for inclusion in the Entre Nous. Judy Morrison, née Larkins, died on 24th March 2012, after a long and adventure-filled life.

Our mother, Lucie Jones, was the first in our family to have been a pupil at Windsor Convent. She began when she was ten years old, and stayed until she completed Matriculation, which in those days, was called Leaving Honours. She was a marvellous scholar, winning prizes every year for English, French, Elocution – Miss Hemming’s Art of Speech – Mathematics, Essay and History. Lucie left the convent during the cataclysmic years of the First World War.

She married, in 1921, a "returned soldier" – a boy who had enlisted and been sent to Gallipoli, when only sixteen years old. Our father, Brian Larkins, was granted a small parcel of land, in the Soldier Settlement Scheme, suitable for dairy-farming, in the Western District, near Derrinallum, and while there, David, in 1922, and then Judy, in 1924, were born. Diana was born in 1926, amid raging bush fires – a fact which Lucie used to joke, was responsible for Diana’s quick, but easily forgotten, temper! The young family moved back to Brighton, in the suburbs, where John was born in 1928.

These children were the "first four" and it was not until they were almost all grown up, 14, 16, 18 and 20, that Lucie and Brian embarked upon a second family – Rosemary and Caroline. My parents both loved children and were not fazed by becoming parents again, 14, 16, 18 and 20, that Lucie and Brian embarked upon a second family – Rosemary and Caroline. My parents both loved children and were not fazed by becoming parents again at 43 and 45.

Because of her happy years at Windsor, Lucie sent her two daughters, Judy and Diana, to her old school. Many of the nuns who had taught and loved Lucie, or had been her contemporaries at school, such as Sisters Bertrand and Concepta, and of course Mother Ita Cagney and Mother Stanislaus, who were well-known members of the Community, now became the teachers of the Larkins daughters.

During the many years that our family members were students at Windsor there were happenings of great historical significance. Lucie was there in the first terrible months of the Great War. Also, she was there to welcome, with great ceremony, Archbishop Daniel Mannix, when he first arrived in Melbourne, on Easter Sunday, 1913. Judy and Diana always remembered the terrible day, when, in June 1940, the School Assembly was hushed as Sister Edwardine, in her lovely English tones, announced that Paris had fallen to the Nazis.

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Judy went on to become the President of the Past Pupils’ Association, and when Rosemary made her début, in May, 1959, Judy was in charge, along with Miss Carée and Sisters Bertrand and Lucy, of the preparation for the Ball, held in the Palais de Danse, Saint Kilda. Judy is in the centre of the large photograph, taken on the night, resplendent in her apricot-coloured gown, and white arctic fox fur stole. She was then not quite 35! I was still at school at the time, and later, had no wish to be involved in all that folderol!

The boarders had to keep their uniforms (no street clothes were allowed them) in good order, brushing even the seams and darning the socks and jumpers, and I vividly remember one Sunday morning (we were only allowed to leave the convent on a Sunday) Sister Rosaria, who ran our dormitory, saying to me, “Caroline Larkins, I don’t care if Judy, Diana and the whole Larkins family come to collect you, you are not leaving until those socks are darned!”

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