



Dear Parents, Students and Staff

Semester One is drawing to a close. The Senior students began examinations yesterday another logistical challenge for the College as at times there are over 180 students to be seated in the Gymnasium. Exams are only part of the assessment for each unit but it is important that the students experience exam conditions. We wish the Seniors well for their exams and it has been heartening to hear the Seniors being mentioned during morning prayer.

Service

At last Wednesday's assembly I focussed on the theme of service. I mentioned three books that exemplify what it is to serve. The books were *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams, *Wilfred Gordon Macdonald Partridge* by Mem Fox and *The Giving Tree* by

Shelv Silverstein. I asked the students who has read each of the books and it was obvious that well over half knew of the three books.

The main characters in each book served others. They served in very different ways but in essence they demonstrated that joy comes from not getting but rather by giving.

I'm sure it was pure coincidence but on Thursday I received the following email:

'Good afternoon SFX,

Just wanted to pass on some positive feedback about a student. This afternoon at about 2.30pm, I was walking to my car at Belconnen shops with my baby and toddler, when the car seat I was precariously balancing on the trolley fell off. A few people

walked past, seemingly oblivious, but one of your students kindly offered to help, helped me place the car seat back on the trolley and then offered to help me to my car. She was lovely.

I didn't get her name, but she was tall with long brown hair and was in year 12 (her friend had a Seniors' jersey on). I was so impressed that I just spent a while googling the uniform, which I took note of.

I'm a high school teacher in North Canberra and so I definitely appreciate good manners and wanted to pass on my congratulations to your school. It might be hard to narrow down who the student was, but I'd love to pass on my appreciation once more- to her parents also.'

(continue over page)

We are still trying to 'narrow down' who the student was. I often remind the students that when they are in uniform they are actually representing our College. When I shared the email with staff a teacher emailed to say that he had also recently experienced two Senior students 'saving the day'. The teacher was about to go to a Year 7 Science class and a student was ill and needed assistance. The Seniors saw that the teacher had to look after the student in need and asked if they could help. While the teacher took the student to Sick Bay the Year 12s accompanied the Year 7s into class and by the time the teacher returned they had even started the lesson! The best part of the story was the gratitude and pride that the teacher felt in our students who had gone above and beyond.

I share these stories by way of example of what our young people do each and every day. I could give other examples such as the way our Senior Student Leaders are making their mark on the College or the work that our Year 9 volunteers do to assist schools, charities and other agencies in the Belconnen area. I could also reflect on a significant number of our students who are 'young carers'.

As I said at last week's assembly in serving others we actually learn about ourselves. In giving we do receive as we experience opportunities to just be ourselves and we realise that who we are is good enough.

Best wishes,

Angus M Tulley

Principal

Sport Report

The School Sport calendar has been extremely busy again in the past 2 weeks and SFX has shown plenty of skills in the sporting arena.

Mr Tom Nolan took out the **Senior Boys' Soccer** team on 31 May to Mawson playing fields. The boys started slowly with 3 losses but finished up well with two wins against Narrabundah and Canberra College. There were some great skills on display from the MVP **Nick Rolls** who demonstrated his knowledge of the game throughout the day. The boys displayed some good team work and communication and enjoyed the day as a group.

The **7/8** and **9/10** Girls' Hockey teams represented the College at the Carnival on Wednesday 1 June. The 7/8 Girls' team displayed great teamwork and encouragement. **Leah Brown** was fantastic in goals and volunteered to play this position all day. There was an injury early in the day which came as quite a shock to the team. The girls went on to win the day fighting hard and coming out on top in the Grand Final against Lyneham High School with a **3-1** score. A huge thank you to **Ms Felicity Hunt** who was a great coach and support for the girls.

The 9/10 Girls' team also had a great day winning 2 of their 3 games. Mrs Lee Dwyer mentioned they were a beautiful team who were very supportive of each other and played really well together. There were some great goals scored by Georgia Whitaker and Georgia Froome. Claire Mackenzie did an amazing job as goal keeper. The most improved player was Josie Graham, who developed her skills throughout the day. The girls played in excellent spirit, tried really hard and were gracious in defeat.

Miss Jessica Muller coached the Senior Girls'
Basketball team to the Kate Tominac Cup on Thursday
2 June. The games were full of surprises including 3
point shots from Zoe Allan and Georgia Gorham. The
girls' skills and teamwork improved greatly and
despite the fact they lost every game the girls left the



day smiling. Well done to the MVP **Nyankiir Abuoi** who was a strong player and valuable team member.

The **7/8** and **9/10** Boys' Hockey team were out on 3 June with Miss Elissa Coppin and Mr Brad McCallum. Miss Coppin took the 7/8 Boys' team who had a fantastic day, coming away undefeated! She mentioned the team displayed awesome teamwork and that they kept improving. All games were played in good spirit and they came out on top with a tight win in the Grand Final against Lyneham High School with a score of 1-0. Tying with equal points for MVP were **Matt Mackenzie**, **Ewan Phillips-Higham and Patrick Lewis**. Well done on a successful day!

The 9/10 Boys' team also had a great day with three wins and two losses. **Mr Brad McCallum** said the boys are to be commended for some encouraging results. We had many first time Hockey players who shined throughout the day. It was pleasing to see the boys have fun and display excellent sportsmanship.

Miss Kate Rhodes took the Senior Boys' Basketball team to the John Stelzer Cup on Thursday 9 June. The boys had a great day developing their skills and came out with one win out of three games. Brad Pateman was a consistent player throughout the day and led the team well. Jordan Odom was given the Coach's Encouragement Award as Miss Rhodes noticed his skills continue to develop through each game.

Sport Report cont.

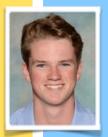
Miss Catherine Morgan took the reigning champions 7-10 Girls' Futsal team to the Futsal Finals on Thursday 9 June. The girls had hugely successful day at the South Side Carnival winning all their games. The girls came up against Telopea Park School in the Final. The girls went down to an early goal but struck back immediately. The girls got their combinations going and scored again. The teams went goal for goal the whole game. SFX were dominating and leading 4-3 with minutes to go. Unfortunately Telopea fought back with just minutes on the clock to come out champions. Ashlyn Garrity and Bailee Crowe played a physical and fast paced game. A special mention to Leah Browne who stood in as goalie. She became very comfortable in the role and made some fantastic saves throughout the day.

ACT Cross Country has been postponed yet again due to the wild weather earlier last week. The team will now be heading out on Tuesday 14 June with **Mrs Kelly Candy**. We wish you the best of luck and a sunny day!

Our **Boys' 15s AFL** team will be out on the 21 June in Week 9 to compete at the Northside Gala Day and I look forward to updating everyone on the results from the day.

We also have the ACT Swimming Carnival on the 23 June.

The next Sports Report we will also be reporting on the **College Boys' AFL** team who are off to Wagga Wagga for the State Finals. We look forward to hearing about the game.





Also, in AFL news, a big congratulations to **Joseph Bishop** and **Matthew Hambleton** of Year 9 who have made the **ACT U15s School Boys' AFL** team, playing in Maroochydore in July. Well done boys!



As always, keep the sporting information coming to me at Fleur.Greaney@sfx.act.edu.au

Fleur Greaney Sports Coordinator

Men in common: Thomas and Muhammad

This weekend was very significant for our family. We celebrated, in Sydney, the 90th birthday of our family matriarch, Aunt Nell, the sole survivor of her generation. Her brothers and sisters have gone to God, but in her dementia they walk with her daily and provide joyful companionship. The British royal family also celebrated their matriarch, Queen Elizabeth's Official 90th Birthday celebrations. Both of these women, one known to the world, and the other known to her neighbourhood, have spent their lives doing good works for others, ministering to the sick, the poor, the needy, and secure in their faith and knowledge that God was their rock. One Catholic, one Protestant. One married with grandchildren and great grandchildren. One single with many grand nieces and nephews and great grandnieces who live in South Korea. Two women who have lived out their calling faithfully, yet in widely different circumstances. One with pageantry, pomp and ceremony; another in the everyday neighbourhood of life. Both equal in the eyes of God.

Anne Frank's birthday is also celebrated on June 12. A young woman, tragically succumbing to death in a concentration camp but whose one work, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, calls us to live in hope and not hate those who would harm us. In the USA June 12 is now known as Loving Day, in honour of the multi-racial couple who dared to challenge the miscegenation laws which threatened to annul their marriage.(http://www.huffingtonpost.com/noah-s-leavitt/reflections-on-loving-day_b_10422800.html) There is currently a movie out about this couple's experience, called "Loving" (https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/may/16/loving-review-civil-rights-tale-marries-heartfelt-drama-with-too-much-restraint)

Ironically, June 12 also saw a great act of hatred perpetrated on another minority group in Orlando, Florida. Since that shooting, I have seen many ugly postings on social media. I sincerely hope that people overcome such hatred for others with hatred for the tools which killed and led to that expression of hatred. Guns and hate are two powerful allies that, when combined, leave a trail of destruction and hopelessness. Perhaps this is why the Beatitudes tell us that we should turn the other cheek. Don't fall for hate. Stand for peace.

Another significant event this weekend gave us pause to consider how hatred can be turned into love, into action for change, into a life dedicated to promoting peace, tolerance, racial and religious harmony. I am, of course, speaking about the Memorial Service for Muhammad Ali (pictured right, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bYFb97j7Ro). If you didn't get a chance to watch this service, I urge you to watch it, even if you watch in short sessions. It is 3 hours long, but it is three hours of inspiration, hope, encouragement, history, and politics. Watch it as a family. Watch it and discuss the messages. Decide how you can be agents of change and moral courage in your home, neighbourhood, place of work and sporting team. Take some of the inspirational quotes and live them out.

I have always wanted to go to Louisville, Kentucky, where Muhammad Ali's service was held. Not originally to honour Mohammad Ali, although that will now be on my bucket list! My interest in Louisville is in making a pilgrimage to Gethsemani (http://www.monks.org/), the Cistercian monastery that was the house of the great American writer, mystic, and civil rights/peace advocate, Thomas Merton (pictured below). Merton and Muhammad Ali had many interests in common, and at the same time.

What were the common interests of these two men, separated by colour and faith? They both spent their adult lives in Louisville, Kentucky, home of the Kentucky Derby. They both opposed the Vietnam War. Muhammad Ali was prepared to go to gaol rather than be drafted. Merton was spiritual advisor to draft dodgers. They both advocated for civil rights. They were both resolute and inspirational in their commitment to the faith each converted to in adult life. Both advocated living lives of compassion, tolerance and respect for all races and creeds. Both worked for ecumenical understanding. No doubt, if Merton was alive today he would also be a supporter for LGBTI rights. Merton once said, "I am fully real if my own heart says yes to everyone." Both engaged with the world as mystics. Later in life, Muhammad Ali embraced Sufism, the mystic tradition in Islam. Merton wrote about Sufism. One of their legacies is The Festival of Faiths, exploring pathways to nonviolence, hosted by Louisville each year (http://festivaloffaiths.org/).

Even in death, their lives literally intersect. Thomas Merton has a plaque commemorating his life on "Muhammad Ali Boulevard" in Louisville. At present, people of Louisville are debating whether to name their new bridge "Thomas Merton Bridge" or "Muhammad Ali Bridge". I don't know why they can't compromise and call it the "Thomas Muhammad" bridge. That would be a truly fitting tribute to these two great activists.



I have posted some websites you might want to explore at the end of this article. They make for great, insightful and inspirational reading.

On a happier note, there is a wonderful Italian movie out at the moment called "God Willing" (http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/movies/god-willing-review-both-a-christian-parable-and-a-buddy-movie-20160601-gp8t6n.html). Go see it. It is a laugh out loud study of the transformative effects of the Gospels on a dysfunctional family. Perhaps if we were all more willing to truly live out the inclusive love of Jesus expressed in the Gospels, we would see our world transformed from dysfunction, intolerance, prejudice and hopelessness to a world where, as Martin Luther King so eloquently put it, the freedom of love and inclusiveness reigns.

From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when *all* of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

Free at last! Free at last!
Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!

http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkihaveadream.htm

The Year 9s have been using MLK's speech as a model for a prophetic speech calling for action on some important issue in our world, in their *God of the Prophets* unit. In future newsletters, I hope to bring you some excerpts of their speeches. In the meantime, check out some of Muhammad Ali's and Thomas Merton's speeches and works. You will not be disappointed. You may even find a call to take action on some issue which you have been thinking about for some time, as have many of our Year 9s.

http://alphahistory.com/vietnamwar/muhammad-ali-refuses-to-fight-1967/ - Muhammad Ali's famous speech on why he refused to fight in the Vietnam War.

<u>http://wagingnonviolence.org/feature/thomas-merton-now-more-than-ever/</u> - Merton was spiritual advisor to draft dodgers.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAJ2neuouYI - This is a beautiful youtube clip of the Dalai Lama visiting Merton's monastery in Louisville, with Muhammad Ali, speaking about compassion.

https://newrepublic.com/article/123335/thomas-merton-and-louisvilles-search-hometown-hero Should the new bridge in Louisville be named after Merton or Muhammed?

http://wfpl.org/exploring-thomas-merton-epiphany-marker-louisville/ The Thomas Merton memorial at the corner of Fourth Street and Muhammad Ali Boulevard.

http://www.adn.com/voices/article/intersection-muhammad-ali-boulevard-and-thomas-merton-square/2008/12/08/ Merton and Muhammad comparisons of faith journeys.

http://centerforinterfaithrelations.org/portfolio/muhammadalicenter/ Muhammed Ali Centre for Interfaith Relations



Anne Armstrong
Religious Education Coordinator

PERFORMING ARTS

Stop Press - SFX Dance Students to Perform at Belconnen Markets on 26 June from 10.00am to 11.30am. See you all there!!!!! - Stop Press

Over the past two weeks the Performing Arts Department have presented a range of dance, drama, and music performances.

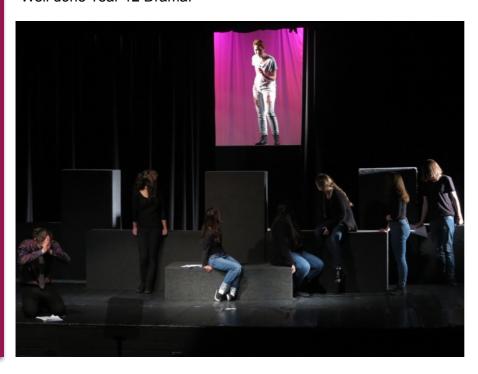
The fortnight of festival activities exploded on 1 June with an evening of dance presented by the Dance classes in Years 8, 9 and 10 as well as the Dance Ensembles. Performing to an enthusiastic and responsive audience the dancers from all levels provided an entertaining range of dance and dance styles.



On 2 June the Year 11 Drama class performed the play 'Concerto for Humans and Semtex – a gruelling look at terrorism and suicide bombers. This Australian play was written by Simon Luckhurst and performed by the students in the style of a music concerto – that is there are four conversations between couples that are spoken at the same time like a music composition. Well done to the students who performed this difficult play extremely well in the small studio space on the stage.

Monday 6 June saw **Ms Hannah Carey's** Year 9 Drama class perform in the Acting Up Festival at Canberra Theatre. The festival requires an individual or group to write and produce a 10 minute play. The class was divided into two groups who then devised two entries into this festival – 'The House on Main Street' and 'More or Less' both exciting plays which was well received by the audience and judges alike – so well in fact that 'The House on Main Street' was chosen to go into the Finals on the following Friday and Saturday nights. This was certainly an outstanding achievement being selected to represent the College in the final 10 plays. Well done to all the writers, performers and Ms Carey. Also a huge thanks to the parents who supported their budding young actors at this prestigious drama festival.

The Year 12 Drama class performed their major assessment task, Euripides' Medea on Tuesday 7 June in the Theatre. The students used the translation by C.A.E Luschnig which made the language more accessible but the rhyme more difficult. The performance was a challenging piece that utilised the role of the chorus as both observers and commentators who were outstanding in helping the audience delve into the minds of the other characters. **Sarah Smith** did an amazing job with long monologues and was well supported by the rest the cast. Well done Year 12 Drama!



But wait! There's more! On Wednesday 8 June the combined Year 10 Drama classes from **Ms Hannah Carey** and **Ms Annie Teasdale** took over the stage to perform their play First World Problems. The piece contrasted 1st and 3rd world issues and used a range of techniques to get the message across. The performance was fantastic with many first time performers taking to the stage doing an excellent job in keeping the audience intrigued for the entire performance. Well done to everyone involved in this fantastic piece and thank you to the wonderful parents who came along to support and encourage.





Almost finally but not quite - on Thursday 9 June the stage was full of musicians from Years 11 and 12 performing a range of musical items for the Moderation Concert (left). This concert involves the Senior students being assessed for their major piece by teachers from SFX and other Colleges. The evening was a huge success with Mr Tulley commenting that 'music is alive and well' at SFX. Well done to all the students, teachers and parents involved in this wonderful musical event.



The music students have also been performing in the Hub (left) every Friday as part of Buskers Corner – an event that will continue into Term 3.

Meanwhile, the Year 12 Media class have been extremely busy developing a documentary and recording all the performances for the Acting Up Festival at the Canberra Theatre. The students have dedicated over 30 hours each in recording and editing this Festival for the Canberra Theatre Centre and are to be congratulated for their hard work and dedication.

We look forward to next Semester where students will be able to demonstrate their talents at more Performing Arts evenings.



Peter van Rijswijk Performing Arts Coordinator

Canberra Youth Theatre is now offering a drama program in Belconnen!

Canberra Youth Theatre has been around since 1972 and has a strong presence in the South and Centre of Canberra. In July they are expanding to Belconnen and opening Drama Workshops at Belconnen Arts Centre.

Through theatre games and performance technique training, our artists develop, extend and strengthen fundamental skills in improvisation, voice, movement, character development, storytelling and theatre making in a variety of styles and structures.

The first few weeks of the workshop are spent discovering the skills the artists already have, the ideas they are interested in exploring and what they hope to achieve through the workshop. Throughout the program, each ensemble works collaboratively with their tutor to create a short performance that implements the skills learnt. At the end of the semester family and friends are invited to watch these new theatre works.

So join CYT now on their new adventure into Belconnen. Workshops commence on 21 July until 3 November every Thursday from 4:30 - 6pm for 12 - 16 years.

To register visit the <u>Canberra Youth Theatre website</u> or to find out more please contact the CYT office on 6248 5057.

STUDENT'S VISIT TO ANU

More than 350 secondary school students explore Languages at ANU. Read the article here: http://cass.anu.edu.au/students-schools-centres-news/news/20160531/more-350-secondary-school-students-explore-languages-anu



Bianca Porcheddu Languages Teacher





Canberra CareersXpo

3 - 4 August 2016

Exhibition Park, Canberra

SEEKING a pathway to the career that will really challenge and satisfy you? The Canberra CareersXpo provides the vital information to connect your talents, skills and dreams to the best career fit.

The CareersXpo is a one-stop shop for information on careers, training and further education for students as well as adults considering a career change.

Students, parents and career changers will be able to speak with more than 80 exhibitors.

Including representatives from universities, TAFE, employer groups, registered training organisations, apprenticeship centres, trades, and government agencies, including defence force recruiting.

Career experts will be on hand to answer questions and provide advice on options as students consider the transition from school to the workforce, or to further education and training.

Seminars will be held throughout the event, with presentations on a wide range of topics by exhibitors.

Information will also be available about overseas gap year opportunities, and the Rotary stand has information on student exchange, youth leadership and driver awareness programs.

This year the CareersXpo is host to the Indigenous Employment Exhibition, which will feature businesses, RTOs and government agencies specialising in career and educational opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT.

WorldSkills Australia's Try'aSkill returns this year, providing an opportunity for students to have a go at various skill and trade areas, see demonstrations and chat to skilled tradespeople.

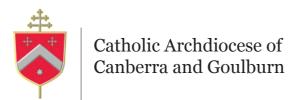
A variety of skill and trade areas will be on offer including hairdressing and beauty therapy, surveying and mapping, automotive, brick and block laying, horticulture, floristry, forensics, hospitality, first aid, an amazing line up of engineering related stalls to inspire students into STEM as well as the Black Magic coffee van to learn how to be a barista!

This year we are increasing the services and information available to migrants and refugees. A number of different organisations will showcase the services and support they provide to assist migrants and refugees in gaining training, education and employment. The Career Services for Migrants and Refugees stall will be located at booth 21 in the main arena.

The CareersXpo run by the Rotary Club of Canberra City, supported by the ACT Education Directorate can give you expert advice and direction to acquire the knowledge and skills for a truly successful career.

Contact: visit the CareersXpo website www.careersxpo.com.au and select 'Contact Us'.

Community Announcements



Moira Najdecki to retire in January 2017

In recent days, I have received written advice from Ms Moira Najdecki that she will not be renewing her contract as Director of Catholic Education with the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, beyond 19th January 2017. I have therefore accepted Moira's resignation.

Moira has given outstanding leadership as Archdiocesan Director of Catholic Education since 2007. Prior to this, Moira worked for 30 years in Catholic secondary schools in the ACT as teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal. We are grateful for her Catholic leadership among us.

There will be an opportunity towards the end of the year, where we can acknowledge her many achievements and dedicated leadership.

Meanwhile, in the months ahead, the process of seeking a suitable replacement for the Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese will commence.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn Wednesday, 8th June 2016



MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACT BUDGET IGNORES MOST VULNERABLE STUDENTS IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Director of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Mrs Moira Najdecki, will seek an urgent meeting with the ACT Chief Minister and Treasurer, Mr Andrew Barr to express her extreme dissatisfaction and that of the Catholic Education Commission with the lack of investment in Catholic Schools in the ACT Budget.

The Government's Budget briefing yesterday included no new initiatives for Catholic Schools in the ACT. The Budget delivered \$21.5 million in funding for public schools to respond to recommendations of the 'Schools for All' report whilst not providing a single dollar to enable Catholic Schools to meet the same outcomes for their students. Catholic Schools and the parents of students in our schools are committed to achieving the recommendations of the Shaddock Review; the budget expresses disdain for the needs of students in Catholic Schools and their parents.

Chair of the ACT Catholic Education Commission, Associate Professor Patrick McArdle said 'Governments have a core responsibility to meet the needs of all students in the Territory, especially those with particular and complex needs regardless of the choices of their parents about the type of education that meet their family requirements. Since over 25 per cent of all students in the ACT attend Catholic schools, Government spending should reflect this distribution of students. In this Budget the Government is showing that education funding for ACT Catholic schools is a low priority.'

Mr Paul Compton, Chair of Catholic School Parents for the Archdiocese said, 'Parents who have a child with a disability or complex need should not be disadvantaged because they choose a Catholic education for their child. These families must be supported.'

The latest ACARA Financial data on the MYSCHOOL website shows that for each dollar of Territory funding going to a student in an ACT government school a student in a Catholic school receives less than 17 cents. This is the lowest amount provided by any State or Territory Government in the country. The ACT Government is demonstrating a continuing lack of respect of for the choices of ACT families, ACT teachers and the requirements of over 17000 ACT students most particularly those with complex needs.

For further information please contact: Frances Neuss, 62345455.









Being a parent is the hardest job we'll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress.

Parentline ACT

is a confidential and free telephone and face-to-face counselling and information service.

Phone Parentline if you would you like:

- To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
- · Help with some ideas on raising children.
- Support in the important job you are doing.
- To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
- To build better relationships in your family.
- Help to understand your child or teenager's behaviour.
- Make an appointment for a counselling session.

Parentline ACT.

Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm.

Phone: 6287 3833

REFLECTING ON DOMESTIC/FAMILY VIOLENCE

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS







Registration is essential. Go to: http://bit.ly/1sOMmD3

9.30am - 4pm Saturday 18 June, 2016

The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture Cnr Kings Ave & Blackall St, ACT

The Catholic Archdiocesan Commission for Women, the Anglican Church and the Uniting Church will host an event, "For Such a Time as This", an ecumenical response to Domestic/Family Violence.

The day includes an outline of Family Violence, experiences of field practitioners, life stories, a prayer reflection and a brief address from senior Church leaders.











BYO lunch, beverages provided.

For more information contact: Margaret Ryan: 0417 418 838 commissionforwomencg@gmail.com Delia Quigley 0438 018 799 deliaquigley@yahoo.com