

Iona Presentation College Visual Art Students Win People's Choice for Portraits of Presentation Sisters

Iona Presentation College is celebrating a significant achievement after winning the **People's Choice Award** at the prestigious Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) Quality Catholic Education (QCE) Awards on Monday 21 October 2024.

The CEWA QCE Awards recognise the remarkable contributions of Western Australian Catholic schools, celebrating the dedication of their communities, staff, and students in upholding the core values of Catholic education.

The culmination of a journey which comprised planning, learning, artistic representation and celebration, the *Portraits of Our Presentation Sisters Project* is a special project of the College's Visual Arts program. It beautifully honours the legacy and enduring impact of the Presentation Sisters of Western Australia, showcasing the students' artistic talents whilst paying tribute to the Sisters' devotion to Catholic education and service across the years in metropolitan and regional Western Australia.

The *Portraits of Our Presentation Sisters Project* highlights the spiritual connection between Iona Presentation College's students and the Presentation Sisters, whose pioneering spirit continues to shape the Presentation ethos of the College.

Current Year 12 student, Tayla Fardon, reflected on the significant her participation in this unique project has had on her visual art learning journey:

"The Presentation Sisters achieved something unimaginable which will continue to develop and grow for years to come," she said.

"I am inspired as a young woman to strive to achieve my goals so I too can be proud of what I succeed in."

Using the mediums of face-to-face interviews, classroom theory learning, and artistic exploration workshops, the Visual Art students connected with the lives of the Presentation Sisters on a deeply personal and spiritual level.

Throughout this process, students produced a series of narrative portraits that not only captured the Sisters' likeness, but also conveyed the essence of their individual stories, reflecting the Catholic values of humility, compassion and service.

Dean of Mission and Catholic Identity (Pre-K to 12), Miss Gemma Thomson, emphasised the importance of the Presentation Sisters to Iona's Catholic identity, "The Western Australian Presentation Sisters hold a very special place in the hearts of the Iona community, past, present and future."

"It has personally been such a privilege to have walked every step of this special journey with the staff, students and Presentation Sisters who made it a reality."

College Principal, Ms Robyn Miller, praised the students for their dedication and creativity, stating, “Each student forged a connection with a Presentation Sister and gained invaluable insight into their individual journey. As Principal, I am immensely proud of their achievements.”

The *People’s Choice Award* is a testament to the profound impact of the project on both the College and the extended community, with the Presentation Sisters representing an important part of Mosman Park history and Catholic Education in Western Australia.

Image 1(Left to Right): Sister Anna Fewer PBVM, Miss Gemma Thomson, Mrs Lisa Corbett, Mrs Lisa Kennedy, Ms Robyn Miller at the CEWA QCE Awards Ceremony