



OSA Committee update.

Dear Old Scholars and friends,

Welcome to the **August 2023** edition of the Old Scholars Newsletter.

Once again, the OSA committee has been hard at work planning for the next 6 months ahead.

Please mark in your diaries:

August 26, 2023, marks the arrival date of the Dominican pioneer Sisters from Stone in Staffordshire to North Adelaide.

In January 1884, The Sisters opened the door to St Dominic's Priory College.

Saturday 19th August – The new Adams Mayo building tour, including refreshments. See all the details on this page.

Saturday 2nd December – A Christmas gathering with the Sisters of St Dominic's.

We hope you enjoy our latest edition.
Many thanks
Old Scholars Committee.

YOU'RE INVITED

Saturday

19th. August ,

2.00 – 5.00pm

Molesworth St



We welcome all Old Scholars to attend a special tour of the new Adams Mayo Building.

Hosted by Dr Helen Steele and Sr Jillian, who will conduct the tour and share fascinating insights into the historic St Mary's and its new neighbour the Adams Mayo Building, named after our Founding Sisters.

Refreshments (wine and cheese platters) will be served.

Entry: \$20. Can be pre-paid into the Old Scholar account

RSVP (for catering purposes):

oldscholars@stdominics.sa.edu.au;

BSB: 065-000 (CBA)

Account #: 0090 2787

Name: St Dominic's Old Scholars

Payment Reference: (Your name)

Payment also accepted at the door.

Dress (optional): Black, White or Pink!





Enjoy reading our August Old Scholar profile.

Recently committee members Sr Jillian and Annie met with Old Scholar and Legal Eagle, Amy Nikolovski (nee Morris).

Uncovered were a few insights (and strategies) about a winning sports team, the importance of an education, especially for girls and other hidden gems about Amy during her school journey and beyond.

A little background first.

Amy is a 2nd generation Old Scholar. Her father, Fred Morris attended St Dominic's in the 1950's. Both her elder sisters Natalie and Nadia were also students at the school.

Her husband Tony Nikolovski (Blackfriars class of 1997) was her high school sweetheart and her date for the Year 12 dance.

They have 2 children, Niko aged 4, who currently attends Blackfriars ELC and enrolled to attend reception in mid-2024. Her daughter, Amelia who just turned 1 is also enrolled to attend Blackfriars ELC in 2025 and then hopefully Little Doms in 2027.

Reading Amy's school record, her personal attributes and career path were already apparent. She was an exceptional student who demonstrated

strengths in Maths and Science, leadership, yet a compassion and a desire for social justice, even in those early days.



Her career highlights are extensive and inspiring. [Amy is the Managing Partner](#) in prominent Adelaide based legal firm, Duncan Basheer Hannon. She practices in the areas of workers compensation, motor vehicle accident, public liability and general civil litigation.



She was the former Chair of Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee and was the South Australian representative on the Law Council of Australia's Equal opportunity Committee from 2018-2021.

Amy is an active member of the Law Society of South Australia and was President in 2019, being the 4th female to be elected to the position in the 140-year history of the SA Law Society.

In 2020, Amy was named one of InDaily's 40 Under 40, recognising leading business people in South Australia aged under 40.

She is also the founding partner behind the successful women's professional networking group, [Doing Business in Heels](#), a charitable foundation designed to connect and empower South Australian business women from all backgrounds and industries.



What aspects from your home life have helped you in your career?

I was born at Calvary Hospital the same week my sister Natalie started school at St Dominic's. So, from birth St Dominic's has been ever-present in my life.

I grew up in a very matriarchal family. My Nonna was in charge of the family (even if Nonno thought he was!) and she instilled the values and beliefs in us that **'girls can do anything'**. There was no gender bias when it came to opportunity and achievements growing up.

My Aunt Rafaella Matto (nee Martino) also an Old Scholar, was the only person in my family to get a tertiary education. My mother wasn't given the opportunity to go to high school or University. Back in the 60's, Italian families only sent their boys to school, so it was mother who ensured her little sister got an education by helping to pay for her St Dominic's education.

The importance of an education, especially as a woman, was instilled in me from the start. My sisters and I all have multiple degrees and have ensured that through education we can map our own paths to success.

Did you have a teacher/s that inspired you? Or helped to shape your pathway?

In primary school I have very fond memories of Mrs O'Reilly and Sr Margaret, and of course Ms Tarraran, who I had in years 3 and 4.

Despite the career I chose, maths, science and languages were what I really loved at school.

I have very fond memories of chemistry with Mr Cockeril and Ms Kennedy and Biology with Ms Broderick. Despite being terrible at it, I really loved French and having the opportunity to go to Noumea in Year 11 was a highlight. I can still recite the "Our Father" in French, thanks to Madame Randabell-Williamson, which came in handy lighting candles in Notre Dame.

From the time you entered your school life at St Dominic's in Reception, until you graduated in Year 12 in 1999, you displayed enthusiasm both in and outside the classroom.

In 1999 you captained the Columba, Red sports team and were a member of the premiership A grade Hockey team.

What did you learn about yourself at school and at home that helped you to enter a wide range of school activities?

Firstly, there was no internet back in those days, so extra-curricular activities were a must!

I tried just about everything I could at school. Netball, hockey, tennis, soccer, basketball, synchronised swimming, swimming, athletics, debating, school musicals, chess, learned the drums and flute.

I enjoy being in a team environment and my strengths include organising people in a team, which I believe has been reflected in my career and day to day life.

When I captained Columba, I wasn't the best at sport, but good at encouraging everyone in the team to enter as many events as possible. Siena was the dominant team during that time, but Columba beat them on participation numbers by entering every event.

I loved being class SRC, but was never Prefect. Sr Mary-Anne said I was too outspoken to be prefect. A premonition of my legal destiny maybe?

It's been 25 years since you graduated. Do you still keep in touch with classmates?

I do. My longest friendship is with Lara Romeo who I met in Mrs O'Reilly's Reception class. We're still best of friends.

I'm still in touch with so many Old Scholars there are too many to name, but those I see the most are Melissa Moretta, Lechelle Papas, Renee Rugari and Christina Cestaro (all maiden names). Our children are similar ages and its lovely to see friendships continue into the next generation.



You founded Doing Business in Heels; can you tell us a little about how and why that came about?

When you're in a privileged position, it's really important to give back to your community. My work in family and personal injury law, demonstrates to me every day the difficulties for people in vulnerable positions.

Domestic violence and family tragedy can be devastating for women. The damage is not just physical injuries, there's also homelessness, poor employment and being trapped in a poverty cycle. This can also have a flow-on effect to children and other dependents.

I'm grateful for my family and extended family who are always there to support me. Some people don't have that family support in their lives.

By providing assistance, financial relief and support goes a long way to assist violence-affected women set up new lives.

Establishing this group allows me to give back in practical ways by not only empowering and connecting like-minded women within the South Australian community, but supporting and helping those women who are at their most vulnerable state.

Currently Doing Business in Heels is actively supporting [Catherine House](#) through their networking evenings.

We encourage Old Scholars to reach out to Amy and Doing Business in Heels, to help support Catherine House through the networking evenings.

You can email mktc@dbh.com.au to find out more and make sure your say you're an SDPC Old Scholar.



YEAR 1 and 2 Teacher: Sr. Margaret Wallace
BACK ROW, (L to R): Felicity McAvaney, Olivia Iadanza, Katherine Timoshanko, Alicia Pike, Lindsey Uhrig, Cecilia Waters
MIDDLE ROW: Katie Musilino, Amy Moris, Adrian Gasparini, Christina Whitmore, Matthew Matto, Carla Lippis, Kate Hill





Transcript of Jo Vandeeper, University of Adelaide.

Research from her unpublished thesis title: South Australian Needlework 1876 – 1909

Reproduced with her permission.

For those Old Scholars who attended our Annual Mass earlier this year, you would have heard some of the fascinating insights shared by Jo Vandeeper about our creative, brave and entrepreneurial founding Sisters. Here's an extract of her presentation.

As past scholars, you would be familiar with the history of the Founding Community. I will also share with you a few things I found in my research that add to the story. I will give you slices of colonial life, portions of narrative, stories such as the predecessor of your annual fete, and the Founding Communities side-hustles.

I'm guessing you didn't know that the Founding sisters has a side-hustle, but they did, one that they established before they started their schools, the results of which reached Queen Victoria, Pope Leo XIII and the future King George V.

The sisters of Stone Convent in England were approached by Bessie Baker, a wealthy Adelaide colonial who was sponsoring the establishment of a new hospital in North Adelaide, now known as Calvary. They offered to fund the passage (a return passage if they wished to return), accommodation and annual stipend for the religious sisters to come to Adelaide and help establish the hospital. These brave founding nuns put their hands up for the adventure, **they were female adventurers.**



Our Founding Sisters.

When they arrived in North Adelaide, there were objections within the Catholic community itself to the nuns nursing in a general hospital (nursing men as well as women) so the female adventurers found themselves on the other side of the world, without accommodation, an income or purpose.

Sewing skills were more important than you may have realised at the time the Founding Community arrived in Adelaide.

The Married Women's Property Act had just been passed in parliament and this meant that women gained the right to their own property and earnings.

Until this time, the only object they were allowed to keep once they married, was the family's sewing machine, because sewing was perceived to be important for the economy. When the St Dominic's Priory sisters found themselves across the other side of the world without an income.

Middle- and upper-class women sewed all the time. A colonial woman spent on average between 20 to 40 percent of their waking hours on some form of needlework. A lot of tasks required hand sewing.



This is why the mothers of North Adelaide were very keen for their daughters to have needlework skills and this is where the Founding sisters seized on an opportunity.

They rented a house called Park View on Strangways Terrace and on December 1883, took out an advertisement to announce they could teach various subjects but especially Needlework.

But they didn't just teach it.

The Community set up their own needlework guild. There was a work room and it was run on a business model in that orders were accepted, a design was made, the object was sewed and embroidered and then payment was charged.

Mother Rose Columba Adams specialised in creating the designs and Sister Francis Philomena Ullathorne was the most skilled embroiderer. They operated what was effectively an atelier workroom which made objects both on order and philanthropically as gifts.

In 1932, it was noted in a press article and I quote, *"Orders are taken for vestments, and there is also a workroom where the daintiest lingerie, trousseaux, children's frocks, etc are handmade. Hem stitching is done, and all the work turned out bears the hallmark of perfect finish"*.

So, what began as their first independent income, continued as their side hustle until the mid-1930's, bolstering their main game, which of course was developing the schools, because they knew that schools would provide a much more secure income.

But.... the atelier was not their only side hustle.

They had two.....

Find out in our next newsletter about the 'other' side hustle!





Old Scholar, Sally Anne Howes.

13 February 1978 - 27 April 2023.

Remembered and written by Marni Curtis, classmate of Sally.

Sally Howes joined the St Dominic's Priory College Community as a Year 8 student in 1991. The challenges of arthritis are not something teenagers usually think much about; however, Sally was already in a wheelchair due to rheumatoid arthritis that had been with her since she was about two years old. Sally had a life filled with challenges, but she had a great sense of humour. Whilst Sally was mostly wheelchair bound, in her early teen years she was able to walk with assistance, which did provide fun with friends when going to the movies, and Sally getting up out of the wheelchair to get into the theatre was met with cries from her friends that 'It's a miracle, she can walk!' which would of course result in people looking around to see what on earth was going on.

However, a life with continuous medication for the arthritis, plus the arthritis itself, continued to make life challenging. Sally was the catalyst for the school catering for broader cohorts as the school installed a wheelchair lift. Sally also reached the point where holding a pen was a challenge, so she was an early adopter of technology using a laptop for school. Sally had to undertake her year 12 over two years, as the arthritis by this point was making it challenging for Sally to move.

But through all of this, Sally was not someone who complained. Sally, like all teenagers, would have faced challenges in friendships, but she was never known to have an unkind word about anyone.

She was a kind, caring, gentle soul, with incredible wit, sharp intelligence, and a love of horses.

Whilst Sally had hoped to be a vet, she was unable to do the physical component of the work, but her excellence in English saw her become a writer and editor. Her resilience and adaptability are an inspiration.

For someone who suffered so much, she has left behind love and joy for those of us privileged to share part of her journey.

Deepest condolences to her parents Sue and Fred, her sister Nikki (class of 1993) and all her family.

IMPORTANT DATES.

Old Scholar Class Reunions.

Class of 2003 – 20 year reunion.

Saturday 7th October, 5.00pm.
School tour, hosted by Helen Steele and Sr Jillian, followed by reunion drinks and catching up.

Class of 1983 – 40 year reunion.

Saturday 18th November, time to be advised.
Reunion drinks and school tour, hosted by Helen Steele and Sr Jillian.

Christmas Gathering with the Sisters of St Dominic's.

Saturday 2nd December 5.30 – 7.30pm.

Christmas drinks on the Terrace.
Adams Mayo Building.
Further details provided, closer to the date.



Paying it forward - UPDATE

Old scholars helping current scholars.

In our March newsletter we asked you, our old scholars, if you could help out current students and families finding it hard at the moment purchasing uniforms and school supplies.

Principal, Dr Helen Steele and the OSA committee want to thank those kind and generous Old Scholars who donated towards these items.

Your support has now benefitted two students from different families with a full winter uniform and additional jumper.

If you feel you can support students and their families in our school community, you can donate via the Old Scholars account:

BSB: 065-000 (CBA)

Account #: 0090 2787

Name: St Dominic's Old Scholars

** Please make sure you include your name and code-word **HELP**.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity and helping to 'Pay it forward'.

SDPCOSA LIFE MEMBERS

JOAN CAHILL
COLLEEN HARRIS
SR JILLIAN HAVEY
MAUREEN CARPENTER
KATH HALLIDAY
HELEN POWER
KAREN TAYLOR
ELENA TARRARAN
DALMA ROMALDI
LEONIE HINES
SANDY LEE
REBECCA HOSKINS BARTLETT

Old Scholar weddings.



Congratulations

Madeline Primavera (2013) married Jacob Leake at St Laurence's Church December 3, 2022.

Angelisa Marino (2006) married Michael Parrella on October 1, 2022.

Shanna Lee (pictured below) (2016) married Levi Burgess at Trinity Church, Adelaide on May 20, 2023.



Recently Deceased.

Condolences and prayers are extended to the families of deceased Old Scholars.

John Holland 22/6/1933- 21/5/2023.
Old Scholar of St Dominic's and past parent of Old Scholars. Requiem Mass at St. Laurence's celebrated his life and valued contribution to the community.

May he rest in peace.

Lan-Anh Ngoc Do. Graduated in 2000.
Died on 8th July 2023.
Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated at the Church of St Patrick.

"Hasten to meet her, angels of the Lord".