



Dear Old Scholars and friends,

Welcome to the **August 2024** edition of the Old Scholars Newsletter.

There have been several highlights in our OSA year. Plenty to celebrate as the College marked 140 years of work, teaching and learning experience by the Dominican Sisters of North Adelaide, staff and students since the College opened in 1884.

Our annual Mass, on a glorious Sunday in March was followed by the unveiling of the Personalized Pavers. To see so many graduates from across the decades sharing recollections of their school years and rekindling friendships was a true blessing.

Missed out? Inquiries for Paver orders can be sent to –

oldscholars@stdominics.sa.edu.au

Orders received by 20th November will be unveiled on the 2nd March at our 2025 OSA Mass.

The 140 Year Celebratory Dinner was well attended by many old scholars. We all enjoyed catching up with the Sisters, past and present staff and our classmates!

Many hands make light work!

It has been wonderful to welcome a number of new members to the 2024/2025 Committee -

Members include:-

Elena Tarraran – President

Briony Pauley – Vice President

Jo Duffy – Secretary

Mary-Anne Yeo – Treasurer

Sr Jill Havey, Kath Halliday, Maureen

Carpenter, Nicki Stewart, Liz Gauci, Tina

Grasso, Sharon Berry, Anna Di Salvatore and

Maria Gianquitto.

The OSA committee have been busy reviewing our Constitution and the OSA page on the College website and planning for the next 6 months ahead.

We hope you enjoy our latest edition.

Many thanks

Old Scholars Committee.

SDPCOSA LIFE MEMBERS

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



*Strengthening connections and lifelong friendships,
honouring the Dominican traditions*



ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY COLLEGE
OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

Strengthening connections and lifelong friendships honouring the Dominican traditions

Find us at Facebook
St Dominic's Priory College, North Adelaide
Old Scholars' Association
www.stdominics.edu.au/community/oldscholars

IN BLACK AND WHITE

“ Strengthening connections and lifelong friendships honouring the Dominican traditions ”



CELEBRATING 140 YEARS! - Briony Pauley

The night truly strengthened connections especially when my elbows got in the way on the dance floor! A joyous celebration of the Dominican tradition honouring those wonderful women who ventured into the unknown by coming to Australia 140 years ago. Those who came after fulfilled their earlier hopes not as nursing sisters but as educators as the song goes by the Eurythmics goes “sisters are doing it for themselves” and they certainly did. Over the years they empowered women “to stand on their own two feet.”

It was a delight to have four of those sisters there on night, two of whom ventured into the unknown again, leaving their home of Vietnam and joining the Dominican order in Australia. Sr Shirley was a reluctant speaker but shared insights eloquently and with her usual dry, no-nonsense style. Of course, Sr Jill's presence made the night even more special as she was an integral part of making St Dominics Priory College what it is today offering a world class education.



“ *Strengthening connections and lifelong friendships
honouring the Dominican traditions* ”

Enjoy reading our August Old Scholar reflection.

SCHOOLING IN THE SEVENTIES

Briony Pauley (nee Dennehy)

1970 - 1975



This article is true to my memory. It reflects my present recollections of experiences of many, many years ago. I apologise for any inaccuracies.

Those were the days; we were so cool and groovy in the seventies. The yard echoed with us singing Cat Stevens, Bowie and Elton and also the squeals of girls avoiding Sr Augustine's crazy driving. Yes, we remember when rock was young and how to enjoy life as only the young can. It was a time of cheese cloth and high waisted jeans. We wore our hair long and had high platform shoes and that was just the boys!

I arrived as a Year 7 at St Dominics in mid-1970, the beginning of that glorious decade. It was my sixth school and thankfully my last as a student. It took no time at all to feel that this was my happy place. The girls were warm and welcoming without pretensions and most importantly fun!



The following year I was in First Year General, for those who are not familiar with that term, it is Year 8 and General involved not learning shorthand and typing but subjects that would lead me to a Teaching Diploma. My Mum did suggest I learn to type but when would I need to do that! As I type this with two fingers, I curse the arrogance of youth. Yes, my Mum is Mrs Dennehy who was the Art Teacher. At least she was the Art teacher not Science or Maths, no one took offence at not being good at Art. I just had to cope with my mother being an over sharer. This was also the time when I wasn't the new girl and there was an influx of new students.

Our class teacher was Mrs Taylor who we loved and adored but left us at the end of Year 8 to have a baby. We bought her a beautiful cut glass swan with some kind of tray attached that played music. I'm sure that went straight to the Pool Room cupboard. I also tackled French but even Mrs Wilkenfeld suggested I try another subject as I spoke French with a Japanese accent. In 1971 Sr Jill allowed female teachers to wear slacks maybe because the before mentioned teachers wore miniskirts and writing on the blackboard could be challenging to their modesty.

In Second Year, our class teacher was Mrs Cook who sported a rather high bouffant hair do but wore the most stylish clothes. She was our English teacher and introduced me to more adult fiction and I've been hooked on reading ever since.

In Third Year, we begun to attend dances. I even had my first kiss behind the library which was quite a disappointment, it certainly was not romantic like in the movies and I didn't kick up one leg behind me. As my Mum was a chaperone someone dobbed me in within minutes, so embarrassing. That year we had an inexperienced male student teacher, poor man, girls hid in the cupboard and a close friend pretended her head was stuck in one of those old open topped desks with an ink well at the top. During my time at St Dom's Father Foote was the school chaplain, we loved throwing small pieces of food into the hood of his habit and unfortunately, he had a question box and our questions were not always religious based.

But the story doesn't end here! After living in the country for ten years and three children later, I applied for a job twenty years on in 1995 and got it. Sr Jill recognised my 'try hard' skills, having nurtured them when I was at school. I had the privilege to teach Reception and Year 1 for twenty-five years, teaching truly lovely, engaged students and working with an amazing group of teachers who got me through some tough times. I will always treasure these friendships.

Guess what? That's still not the end, I am now on the Old Scholars Committee and loving it!



Old Scholars helping current scholars

Some of the College families continue to find it tough. With the cost of living continuing to rise, affordability to purchase essential school items, such as uniforms, textbooks and stationery is difficult.

We,(the committee) are reaching out to you, our members in asking if you are in a position to donate towards helping some of our most vulnerable students to attend school, supplied with a full uniform, books and stationery.

Let us all follow in the footsteps of our founding Dominican Sisters in their care for the wider South Australian community.

Please donate what you can, via the Old Scholars account:

BSB: 065-000 (CBA)

Account #: 0090 2787

Name: St Dominic's Old Scholars

**** Please include your name and code-word HELP.**

We can send you a tax receipt if requested.

We thank you and appreciate your generosity.

Transcript of Jo Vandeppeer, University of Adelaide.

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

Reproduced with her permission.

Continuing the fascinating insights shared by Jo Vandeppeer (Annual Mass 2023), about our creative, brave and entrepreneurial founding Sisters. Here's another extract of her presentation.

Mother Rose Columba Adams was not only a designer, but also a painter so as well as their atelier, the Community produced small painted objects like Christmas cards because these provided ready funds. That wasn't all.

At the time they arrived in the colony, illuminated addresses were very popular – basically, a group of people raised some money, approached an artist who then created a page, or sometimes multiple pages of calligraphic writing describing how a special individual was jolly marvellous. The page was decorated with lots of bling: gold leaf, red, blues and black ink and if the commissioners could afford it, the artist would beautifully adorn the illuminated address with small images in miniature. Whoever commissioned them usually put their signature down the bottom.

This was the St. Dominic's nuns second side hustle and they executed at least three seriously important works.

The first work - Mother Rose Columba Adams was commissioned by a delegation calling themselves 'Women of South Australia' who wanted an illuminated address created to celebrate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign on the throne. A group of prominent female elite organised meetings around the whole colony where women in the regions gathered, had tea and cake, a bit of chin wag, and then donated money for the commission. They then approached Mother Rose Columba Adams with the task and she charged accordingly. The resulting highly elaborate illuminated address was carried to Balmoral in person by Lady Downer but not before it was shown in Wiggs shop front attracting much praise for its designer and painter, Mother Rose Columba Adams.

The second high profile illuminated address she did was for no less than Pope Leo XIII and it was sent to Rome, again having been exhibited at Wiggs.

A third high profile commission was from another delegation, this time the men known as the 'Old Colonists' with familiar surnames of streets you know, such as Strangways, Fisher, Morphett & Hill. These men all wanted their names on an illuminated address to be presented to the Duke of York (the future King George) in 1901 to commemorate his visit at the time when South Australia was part of Federated Australia.



And the cope??

With the illuminated addresses beside the cope, one can see the two are connected. The illumination skills transformed into the cope; medieval bling colouring in gold, blue, red; small images in miniature; calligraphic writing but stitched.

The cope represents how the Founding Community transformed their existing skills into beauty and they did it by shoeing mettle, by being resilient in an atmosphere of Self Help, where women collaborated to get the job done.



Francis Philomena Ullathorne

Crossing the Bar, c 1907

Pen, Ink watercolour, gold leaf

This *historiated* illumination, as created by Sr Philomena, has hand drawn pictures, painted within the letters

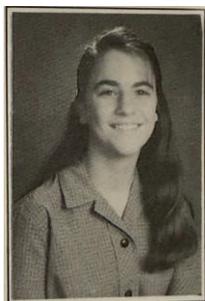


Congratulations

Dr. Caroline Butler-Bowdon, graduate of 1985, has held significant high profile administrative positions in New South Wales. The most recent is her new role as the incoming NSW State Librarian. Numbers of our readers will remember her from school days as well as her sister, Teresa, and their Mother, Marion Butler-Bowdon, a former outstanding English teacher on the staff at St. Dominic's. A fascinating story about Caroline and her family appears in Open book.



<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/stories/dr-caroline-butler-bowdon>



Carmen Matteo SC Graduate of 1991 has worked at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for more than two decades and was appointed Senior Counsel last year. Within the last 6 months she received a new appointment to the District Court as Judge Carmen Matteo. Congratulations on this well-deserved honour.

Dr Caitlin Abbott from the class of 2013, who was recently awarded A Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowship. The objective of the fellowship is to support researchers' careers and foster excellence in research. Caitlin is to carry out her research at the San Raffaele Hospital, Milan. "Under the supervision of Professor Matteo Iannacone, Dr Abbott will work to understand the role in the liver of FOXP3+ regulatory T cells (Tregs), a subpopulation of immunosuppressive T cells that modulate immune system responses".



BLOOD IN THE WATER 2024 PERFORMANCE

Congratulations to old scholar Jorja Bentley, a finalist for the 2022 the Australian Theatre Festival NYC New Play Award for her play Blood in the Water.

Such an amazing achievement that her play was also performed in Melbourne this year. With plans to produce more work to be part of the Adelaide and Melbourne Fringe in the future, we wish Jorja all the best!



Reunion for 1994 Graduates - A memorable time!

By 11.30 a.m. Saturday 16 March there was a buzz in the St Dominic's Chapel porch as the 30-year reunion of the 1994 Graduates was about to start. Although not everyone could be present, visually all were there as the Graduation Ball photograph of the whole class was up in pride of place near the statue of St Joseph. Alongside that photograph was a photo of Tracey Pope who spent her last two years of school at St. Dominic's and sadly died from Leukemia in 1993 When she was in Year 11.

Welcoming the '94 graduates was our Principal Helen Steele, members of the Old Scholars Committee viz., Kath Halliday, Jo Duffy, Briony Pauley (nee Dennehy), and myself.

As many 94 graduates would know, Petone May and Alison Green gave wholehearted time and energy to the planning and organization of the reunion. The opening prayer in the Chapel was designed by Petone around the following theme:

Gratitude for Sisterhood: Celebrating 30 years of Faith, Friendship, and Growth.

Here is a petition from the prayer that will bring back memories of students and teachers.



Loving Father, we lift up to you, those who are currently facing illness or suffering. May your healing hand be upon them, bringing comfort and restoration. We especially pray for our beautiful friend Mirella who is bravely battling cancer. We also remember our dear departed classmate Kelli Hoffmeyer, Sr M. Anne, teachers, Mr Gallio, Mr Peter Howes, Mrs Butler- Bowdon, Mrs Mary Vugts and all who have gone before us. Grant them eternal rest and welcome them into your loving embrace. May their memories inspire us to live meaningful and compassionate lives.

The buzz continued as the 94s went on tour of old and new facilities, toasted each other with a glass of champagne, and went on to enjoy lunch at the Wellington Hotel. It was a day to remember!

Sr. Jill Havey.

p.s. A sincere apology is extended from Mrs Colleen McEwen for her inability to attend.



REUNIONS

OLD SCHOLAR CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 2004 – 20 year reunion

Saturday 23rd November, 11.00am
School tour, hosted by Helen Steele and Sr Jillian,
followed by reunion drinks and catching up.

RSVP :- lauraculsh@gmail.com

Class of 1975 – 50 year reunion

Planting the seed for a 2025 celebration.
Please forward your contact details to –

oldscholars@stdominics.sa.edu.au

Class of 1984 – 40 year reunion

Saturday 23rd November, 3.00pm
Reunion drinks and school tour hosted by Helen Steele
and Sr Jillian.

RSVP :- angelina@fleuriemade.com.





Sr Rosemary Campbell OP
 April 11, 1931 - February 8, 2024
 Motto: "To love is to Serve"



Sr Rosemary entered the Convent of the Dominican Sisters of North Adelaide in 1952 and served as Provincial Superior of the North Adelaide Province from 1977 to 1985. From 1973 until 1988, she was the Library Coordinator at our College and worked on the design of the original Conway Library. In her later years, Sr Rosemary continued to use her talents as the Archivist for the Dominican Sisters of North Adelaide.

We will remember Sr Rosemary for her patience, practicality, and professionalism. Her generosity of spirit, great humour, and empathy touched many students and staff here at St Dominic's Priory College.

Our new Adams Mayo Library has a section named the 'Campbell Study Corner' in appreciation of the work of Sr Rosemary Campbell. May we remember her presence and give thanks for the life of a woman of conviction.



Recently Deceased.

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

In Loving Memory

Lisa Marie Henbest (nee Porter) 1987
 24th March 1970 – 17th August 2023



Remembered with Love

Gabrielle Kelly AM 1970
 23 July 1953 - 23 July 2024
 Eulogy given by Frank Kelly

Remembered with Love

Mirella Smith (nee Cortazzo) 1994
 11.3.1977 – 27.4.2024

<http://stdominics.sa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Eulogy-of-Gabrielle-Kelly.pdf>



Old Scholar Weddings



Congratulations

Chanel Kite (pictured below) (2006)
married Almas Adel at St Laurence's Church
November 18, 2023



Annalise Violi (pictured below) (2006)
married Peter Nikas at St Laurence's Church
April 6, 2024



Jacinta Smith (2013) married
Mitchell Tanner at St Laurence's Church
April 13, 2024



Thu Nguyen (2016) married Jay Mathews at
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Hindmarsh
on May 4, 2024



Is your wedding day fast approaching or
recently been celebrated?

We would love to include your nuptial
news in our newsletter.

Please send the details and a photo (we
all love to see a bride) to –

oldscholars@stdominics.sa.edu.au



Old Scholar Births

Have you welcomed a precious
little one?

We would love to meet them.