



### President's letter.

Dear Old Scholars and friends,

It's been a while since our last newsletter, but I hope you enjoy this latest edition, centering around a common theme of "memories".

In 2021, we continue to learn how to live and adapt amongst the current pandemic. I'm sure some of our older Old Scholars would have memories of a similar time in Australia, when the polio epidemic of the 1950's challenged our way of life.

Memories are an important tapestry of who we are, from recollecting childhood events to something that occurred just yesterday. They play a vital role in every aspect of our lives and provide us with a sense of self on our journey of life.

This can also be true regarding our St Dominic's memories. Capturing important moments in time through storytelling and keeping our St Dom's traditions alive.

The recent release of *"the Sweet Scent of Memory"*, edited by Shelda Rathmann, eloquently expresses school life and its traditions through artworks and verse. A must read for any St Dom's Old Scholar.

Best Wishes  
Annie Pfeiffer - President

### Do you recognise these St Dom's students?

We're hoping someone can help to unlock the mystery and identify these two St Dominic's students shown in The Advertiser article on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2021, Page 39?

The photo was captured in March 1960 during an open-air art exhibition on North Terrace outside Government House.

If anyone recognises these stylish ladies wearing their summer school hats, we'd love to find out who they are? Let us know.



IN BLACK AND WHITE



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Pictured: Sue, Alison (Yr 5) Nicole (Yr 8) - 1990

As a seven-year-old my family was preparing to return to England after having spent the required two years here. But my younger brother became very ill. After he was discharged from hospital we moved from the migrant hostel to Salisbury North. I was enrolled at St Augustine's and so began my association with the Dominican sisters, in particular, Sr Mary Ann Holland, Sr Ruth McBride, Sr Anne Howard and Sr Mary Cahill. My brother Steve recovered fully, my sister Maureen was born and my older brother Chris and I were very settled and doing well at school.

My parents decided to remain in Australia and purchased a house at Henley Beach. This, however, meant that I had to leave St Augustine's after 3 years and complete my primary education at Star of the Sea. Then there was the question of my secondary education. My parents had decided on St Mary's in Franklin St as it was on a direct bus route for me. Then my mum "bumped into" Sr Anne Howard and Sr Mary Cahill in the city. When mum came home, she told me I was going to St Dominic's! Apparently, they had been very convincing in their argument to "let Sue come to us".

So, in 1964 I walked into St Dominic's and my first classroom was what is now the Reception classroom. In 1966 the Hill St block of classrooms was completed and the high school students moved in. I remember being particularly impressed with the large science laboratory. I graduated in 1968 and went to the University of Adelaide and Western Teachers College.

### AN OLD SCHOLAR MEMOIRE.

**3 generations of past and present St Dominic's history.**

*Written by Susan O'Reilly.*

**Sue O'Reilly commenced schooling at St Dominic's as a 1<sup>st</sup> year (Year 8) student in 1964 and graduated in 1968.**

**She then taught at the school from 1985 – 2013, a total of 28 years.**

**Her daughters and now granddaughter attend the school.**

“

After collecting my granddaughter from school one afternoon, she asked:

“Nan why did you go to St Dominic's?”

When I had finished answering her question, Lucy was surprised and a little bemused by the unusual set of circumstances that had led me and our family to St Dominic's.





Fast forward to 1983. I am a wife, a mother to two daughters and a junior primary teacher on parenting leave, living at Seaford. It is the year that St Dominic's celebrated its centenary and there were many events to celebrate this. One such event was an open day at St Dom's. I took my husband and my girls to see the school that I had attended all those years ago. As we walked around the Primary school classrooms and I was sharing my memories, my 6 year old daughter, Nicole, asked if she could come to St Dominic's. My response was that perhaps one day, thinking that possibly we could manage it for high school.

Two years on and I was taking a cursory glance at the employment pages in the Saturday Advertiser. There was an advertisement for the position of Reception and Year 1 teacher at St Dominic's. I was not intending to return to work but with my family's support and encouragement, I applied for the job. When Sr Jill rang to offer me the position, I was ecstatic. Then reality set in! We couldn't commute from Seaford to North Adelaide every day. We would need to find a house and a new school for Nicole and Alison. This time it was me hearing Sr Jill say the words "let them come here".

So, in 1985 Nicole and Alison began their education at St Dominic's. Nicole graduated in 1994 and studied Occupational Therapy at UniSA. For nearly 20 years she has lived and worked across the Northern Territory. She is currently living in Darwin and is the course coordinator and senior lecturer in Occupational Therapy at Charles Darwin University. Alison graduated from St Dominic's in 1998 and studied Medicine at the University of Adelaide. She has completed her training and now works as a G.P. with a special interest in forensic medicine.

In 2012 my granddaughter Lucy was born. This time I was not leaving anything to chance! An enrolment form was completed and hand delivered to Sr Jill. In 2018 Lucy began her education at St Dominic's in the same classroom as I had, 54 years earlier.

My teaching career at St Dominic's began in 1985 and continued to 2013, from blackboards and chalk to interactive whiteboards! I am immensely proud to have been a student, parent, staff member and currently, to be a part of the mentor programme in the primary school..... so very grateful for that chance meeting that my mum had with Sr Anne Howard and Sr Mary Cahill! ”

Sue O'Reilly



Alison and Lucy, who at 4 days old had her sights set on St Dom's



Lucy Year 3 2020



**POETRY BOOK LAUNCH JUNE 2021**

*The Sweet Scent of Memory* is a celebration of poetry and art by St Dominic's students from 1947 – 2020. The launch of this poetry anthology was the ultimate joyous culmination of many months of compiling poems and artwork from school magazines.

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Sr Jillian Havey Centre was abuzz with poets, painters, music and fellowship. While guests enjoyed the delicious finger food provided, they were entertained by a melodious string quartet. Thanks to Danielle Nicholas, a wonderful PowerPoint presentation of words and images from the book played on overhead monitors throughout the night. An SA Life photographer also roamed the room taking shots for the 'Out and About' section of their magazine, as well as the Education Showcase 2021 supplement. Appearing in the August issue, the St Dominic's pages were indeed a shining light, and it was a fitting tribute to the event and St Dominic's Priory College.

Dr Helen Steele led the proceedings introducing Shelda Rathmann, the Editor, who outlined her inspiration for the anthology and the production processes. Sr Jill introduced special guest, Rachel Healy, Joint Artistic Director of the Adelaide Festival, to launch the book. Rachel's speech was insightful with wise observations about the poems, as well as memories of her own school days at St Dominic's. One of the highlights of the evening was the poetry readings by past and present students, and the vibrant voices of these poets made their poems come alive. Ayo Adejoro read her powerful piece, 'This is Us', a response to the Black Lives Matter movement. Julia Pickersgill's poem, 'The Legacy of the Watchman' and Emelia Haskey's 'Christopher' were both award winning poems in 2017 which really engaged the audience. We were also entertained by Fred Morris who played his guitar and sang 'The Rose from Stone' which he wrote in 1983. Lastly, Josie Revesz (nee Chiappin) provided much humour with her presentation of 'Alas to be a Door' which she wrote with Nina Bosco in 1978.

After the official proceedings, the jazz choir sang beautifully, conducted by teacher, Stephanie Neale. Then patrons mingled, bought copies of the book, posed for photos and enjoyed the refreshments.

Thus, a fusion of the arts – poetry, painting and music, provided a great deal of warmth on a chilly winter's evening. It was a celebration of the girls' talents at St Dominic's throughout the ages, and another sweet scent of memory to enrich the history of the school.

Shelda Rathmann, Editor.



Top left: Special guest Rachel Healy. Right: SA Life Article  
 Bottom left: Shelda Rathmann. Right: Emelia Haskey

IN BLACK AND WHITE



## OLD SCHOLARS MEMORY LANE

The Poetry of Margaret Catharine Kelly ( nee Tribe),  
1923 – 1992.

After his beloved wife's passing in 1992  
Frank Kelly honoured Margaret's Memory  
in a wonderful compilation of her poetry,  
some familiar, others never read before.

The poem below was written in the centenary year. It will  
evoke for Old Scholars of all ages and many decades their  
own "legacy of Priory Days".

### PRIORY DAYS '83

A vision in the past -the faith we share,  
A quality in life-the need to care,  
Have served us well, have shown the way,  
Our legacy of Priory Days.

The tide of life, the ebb the flow,  
Our hopes raised high, some dashed below,  
So as we grow in mind and form,  
We gather strength to steel the storm.

Confusion stalks our passing youth  
Devours dreams , and tears at truth,  
But we are blessed by Spirit here  
He gives us strength to face our fears.

The time has come for us to leave  
The current pulls us out into life's sea  
And as we struggle with the tide  
To keep our Faith and live with pride  
ST Dominic's flame will be strength within,  
a strength within.

My daughter's hand in mine- a time to learn,  
To Molesworth St. a name returns,  
The old nun smiles, our thoughts are one  
A generation goes, another comes.

A vision in the past- the Faith we share  
A quality in life – the need to care  
Have served us well have shown the way.  
Our legacy of Priory Days.

Author  
Margaret Kelly

Gala Day – Then and Now.

First Gala Day in 1978, brain child of Sr Shirley Macklin.

GALA  
DAY.



A new idea for raising money for sports equipment and the missions  
was formed this year, a gala day! Each of the teams had their own  
stalls and the girls donated the goods.

The stalls included cake stalls, sweet stalls, lucky dips, toss-a-coin,  
the bucket game, softball throw, cheap jack stall, Italian food stall,  
lunch for the teachers, pony rides, fortune telling and a pancake  
stall. The day was a great success with a good attendance from  
parents and friends.

Article from the 1978 School Magazine.

Fast forward 43 years, to the most recent Gala Day on  
September 14, 2021.







## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

### AS OF 2022, THE OLD SCHOLAR NEWSLETTER WILL NO LONGER BE PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED BY MAIL.

The Old Scholar Newsletter relies on many collaborators to compile, print and distribute to our old collegians each edition.

Due to an increasing number of "return to sender" newsletters over the last few editions, the Old Scholar Committee has made the decision to cease printing and mailing hard copies.

As of 2022, your Old Scholar news and updates will be provided by the following avenues:

- Email
- School Website – Community Tab
- OSA Facebook Page
- You may also have family members who can print you a copy, if you prefer your newsletter via hard copy?

Please ensure your email address is up to date. You can notify us via the school website:

<https://www.stdominics.sa.edu.au> & navigate to the community page/old scholars.

For those Old Scholars that have no access to electronic tools. Please contact the school on (08) 8331 5100 and we will arrange an alternative for you to receive our news.

Thanking you all in advance for your support on this new process.



### CALLING ALL

## ST DOMINIC'S BOARDERS!

We're looking for Old Scholars who attended the school as boarders. We would like to hear about your memories of that time.

Please contact Sr Jill via the school office.



### RECENTLY DECEASED

Our thought and prayers are with the Dominican communities and families of Old Scholars whose loved ones have died.

Sr Beth Radford April 1937 – July 2021 (pictured) known to many Old Scholars as Sr James Mary O.P.

\*

Virginia Mehrtens (nee Lang) 1953 – 2021. Virginia graduated in 1969. She was a boarder, a past parent and a member of the College Board. She tells her own story beautifully in "Chapel, Cloister and Classroom".

\*

Rev. Fr John Neill O.P. 8<sup>th</sup> June 1932 – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021.  
5<sup>th</sup> Headmaster of Blackfriars.

\*

Michael, James McGuire 1963 – 2021, brother of Old Scholars Cate, Julia and Paula McGuire.

May they rest in peace.

### SDPCOSA LIFE MEMBERS

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