

# St Scholastica's College Ex-Students' Union Newsletter 2022

MAY 2022



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is so good to be able to tell you that we will be holding our Annual general Reunion on 29 May. Next year we will be able to honour our 100 year anniversary with a special celebration. With social media, we have been able to be in contact with many more Ex-Students than we would ever have been able to otherwise, some of whom are overseas. It is good to see many friends catching up with each other again too.



Due to COVID, the Ex-Students have not been able to be present at any of the beautiful traditions at the College. The College could only have limited numbers at any of its functions. Let's hope this year will bring an end to it and life at St Scholastica's returns to normal.

You will be surprised to see the impressive changes that have taken place at the College with the completion of Stages 2 and 3 of the building masterplan. Inside you will see Kate Rayment's report and photos but better still, come along to our reunion on 29 May where you will be able to see for yourself on a guided tour of the new facilities.

As we prepare this Newsletter and collect as much information as we can, I am always overwhelmed by the incredible achievements of our past students which we mostly find out about in their eulogies. Please spend some time reading them and you, too, will be very impressed by what amazing women Schols has produced over the years. We would also love to hear of the achievements of our more recent Ex-Students. Please send any news you have to me at any time during the year.

**Karen Debenham (Gillespie '67)**

Email: [karendebenham@optusnet.com.au](mailto:karendebenham@optusnet.com.au)

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have suffered loss due to the recent devastating floods and to those who have suffered from the effects of Covid 19 whether personally or by family members and friends.

We really appreciate and thank all Ex-students for their donations to our Bursary Fund and the Good Sams Foundation. Our annual raffle has been one of the many traditions established by the Ex-students' Union. Any extra funds

we raise through the raffle are used for our community spirit prize presented by one of our members at Speech Night. Proceeds are also used for other requests we receive from the College for assistance. Unfortunately, this year the profit we made was only \$190 which is not much considering the work and expense we incur to hold it. We buy the prizes and pay for the printing of the tickets which we then recoup from the sale of the tickets. We really do hope to get a better response to our raffle ticket sales this year. If that is not possible, we will need to consider something different in future.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021 on their achievements in the HSC. It's hard to imagine how difficult it must have been to work with COVID restrictions during the most important year of their school life. We welcome them to our Union and wish them luck in their future studies and careers.

Please keep in touch with us and also join our Facebook page: St Scholastica's College (Schols) – Exstudents.

## EX-STUDENTS' COMMITTEE

<b>President</b>	Karen Debenham (Gillespie)
<b>Vice President</b>	Maureen McCluskie
<b>Treasurer</b>	Karen Debenham
<b>Secretary/ Registrar</b>	Anne Wells
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Christine Volk (Smith)
<b>Liturgy Coordinator</b>	Jo Kenderes (Catling)
<b>Committee Members</b>	Patricia MacRae, Anne Whiting, Carmel Vanny, Cheryl Fraser, Christina James, Helen Castle, Rae Wales and Win McCluskie

### The Ex-Students' Union Aims To:

- Work closely with the College to provide support in various activities, promote loyalty, friendship, and support amongst Ex-Students.
- Provide support to the Good Samaritan Foundation.
- Provide bursaries to daughters of Ex-Students who, due to unforeseen circumstances, require financial assistance.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



2021 was a year of great progress, innovation, and adaptability, impelled in part by the continuing global COVID-19 pandemic. The school year was shaped by a 16-week lockdown, closing the school campus for 14 weeks, including all of Term 3 and the commencement of Term 4. A staged return to onsite learning created an array of challenges as we embraced ongoing restrictions alongside constraints imposed by the final stages of the building works.

The year will be remembered for modifications to the HSC; restrictions to student movement, student gatherings and mixing of cohorts; and the cancellation of sporting and other extra and co-curricular activities, liturgies, and events. Heightened hygiene practices, sanitising, social-distancing, mask-wearing, carefully managed ventilation, and regular cleaning supported by mono-directional and staggered movement through classroom buildings enabled the community to remain virus-free through to the end of the year.

Our graduating class endured a particularly challenging year, with disrupted face-to-face learning, cancelled practical examinations,

modifications to major works submissions and nominations for HSC showcases, delayed HSC examinations and results notification and significantly reduced, live-streamed graduation. The Formal, however, was a joyful celebration appreciated by all.

Despite the pandemic and its insidious reach into our lives, the ability of students, staff, and families to simply 'get on with it' signalled the enormous resilience, flexibility, commitment to excellence, and caring support for which the Schols community is renowned.

The lockdown period produced some incredible innovation in teaching and learning, communication, and operational practices. The altered timetable enabled structured daily programs offering community connection through creative activities. Pastoral support, prayer, social justice programs, and House activities continued despite the physical separation. A book representing some of the fruits of the *Schols Creates* creative challenges for junior students was published at the end of the year and will remain a special record of this unique time in our history.

The 2021 Mission theme of *Communio* provided inspiration and provocation as we endeavoured to maintain connections and a sense of belonging in our own communities, extended families, and Church. We are all a little richer for the experience.

Very strong learning growth was a feature of the year for our students, evidenced in our NAPLAN and HSC results, despite the pandemic. Learning growth was significantly above the national

growth rate and the growth rate of students in statistically similar schools across all domains. This has been a consistent pattern for several years, illustrating the strength of teaching and learning at the college.

The college educational agenda continued to centre on provision of high-quality learning opportunities, targeting literacy and numeracy, remediation, extension and enrichment, and creative expression. Ongoing partnerships with the University of Sydney, the University of Technology and FINCH enabled outstanding opportunities for the girls in STEM.

Improved operational systems during 2021, featuring electronic management systems, enabled streamlined functions, and stronger accuracy, efficiency, accessibility, and transparency of all areas of business operations. The greatest impact of these advances was felt in the areas of human resource management, finance, governance, data and information management, and communications.

Our boarding community was also impacted by the pandemic, with most international students and some of our most remote First Nations students unable to return. The lockdown period created separation due to distance and a heavy reliance on technology. Meals were staggered and individually packaged and changes to routines were necessitated by distancing requirements.

The steady completion of Stages 2 and 3 of the Masterplan was another highlight of the 2021 school year. The transformation of the physical infrastructure of the college to compliant, functional, and beautiful state-of-the art

specialist, general learning, and recreation facilities, was a joy to behold. The development included major stormwater and power infrastructure. Please refer to the photographic record of the building works later in this publication. The spaces will be occupied in early 2022.

We are now working on the final stage of the current masterplan which involves construction of a library and staff areas, refurbishment of the two heritage buildings and the development of the front of the campus into a beautiful, landscaped area, with a new entrance. Of course, any donations to support the building program would be greatly appreciated.

The works have been essential due to the steady deterioration in the facilities over time, the lack of adequate classroom spaces, flooding of classrooms, mould and power issues, dysfunction of specialist spaces and separation of executive and other staff, increasing parental expectations of facility quality, and non-compliance with various regulatory standards.

While we may well reflect on 2021 as a difficult year in many respects, it was also a year of great learning and hope. We returned to the simple joys of family and friends and challenged ourselves to innovate productively and live responsively to the changing needs of our time.

I am grateful for the extraordinary work of our Executive, teachers, and support staff throughout 2021. I am also grateful for the support of our College Board and Company Members, GSE, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan and the broader Catholic community during what was another particularly challenging year for schools. Special gratitude is also extended to our wonderful students and families for their ability to adapt and respond so adeptly and with such grace.

The engagement of the Ex-students' Union throughout 2021 was challenged by the limitations placed on the community through the COVID-19 pandemic. I look forward to hosting a tour of the new facilities in due course.

I hope we all move into 2022 with a renewed fervour for community and a much richer appreciation for the value of human life.

God bless.

**Kate Rayment**  
**Principal**









## NEWS FROM THE GOOD SAMARITAN FOUNDATION



### Good Sams Celebrate 165 Years of Ministry in 2022

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 marked 165 years since the Foundation of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. The Good Sams were co-founded in 1857 by Archbishop John Bede Polding, an English Benedictine monk; and Mother Scholastica Gibbons, an Irish Sister of Charity. From the outset, they were committed to assisting vulnerable women and children in the fledgling penal colony of Sydney. Their work continues today in education, ministry, pastoral care, and the Good Sams foundation, throughout Australia, the Pacific and the Philippines.

### Good Samaritan Foundation – Latest news

It has been a very challenging year but thanks to the gifts and prayers of our generous donors including St Scholastica's Ex-Students' Union, the Good Samaritan Foundation has been able to increase support to the Sisters of the Good Samaritan ministries in Australia and the Pacific. We are so grateful to have your continued support!

Many Good Sams programs were called upon to do even more throughout the peak of the COVID crisis. The Sisters in the Philippines were faced with the enormous challenge of providing meals and basic supplies to families living in the squatter settlements and on the streets of



Timor Leste scholarship recipients

Bacolod throughout very strict lockdowns. At the peak of the lockdowns, the Sisters were delivering 170 food-packs and 100 hot meals per day.

Sisters Taabeia and Katarina, who came to Australia from Kiribati before the start of the pandemic, are still unable to return to their home due to border closures. The Sisters are keen to get home to their communities and ministries but must wait until their country opens its borders again.

In Timor Leste, life has been challenging for our program partners with severe floods, COVID and an outbreak of Dengue fever putting vulnerable communities under even greater strain. Our scholarship program in the coffee growing region of Railaco continues to support over 100 students to complete school or tertiary education. A recent article in the April edition of the Good Oil gives a good overview of the (very interesting) history of the program, from its establishment by Sr Rita Hayes and continuation through a partnership with the Jesuit community and Alola Foundation - <https://www.goodsams.org.au/article/scholarship-program-making-a-difference-in-timor-leste/>



Sr Rita with uni graduates

Closer to home, the Good Samaritan Foundation's Education Grants for students experiencing particular hardship will provide grants for 10 students attending Good Sams Colleges in NSW and Victoria. Each of the students receives a grant of \$4,000 (administered via their school) to help with education expenses in the year ahead. We are grateful to the generous donors who make this program possible.

**Donations to the Good Samaritan Foundation are tax deductible and are directed in full to Good Samaritan ministries. Administration costs are absorbed by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan so that all funds raised go directly to ministries. You can make a gift here <https://goodsamsfoundation.org.au/get-involved/donate-today/> or call the Foundation office on +612 87525313.**

### **Delivering aid to Typhoon Survivors**

In December 2021, just before Christmas, a Category 5 typhoon tore through the Philippines. The impacts were devastating for poor families who already struggle to meet basic needs for food, water and shelter each day. These families have since been dealing with the aftermath - homes destroyed, crops ruined, livelihoods snatched away. Good Samaritan Sisters live in community in Bacolod city on Negros Island, which was badly hit.

Over the past few months, Good Samaritan Sisters together with other religious sisters in the Negros Occidental Women's Religious Association, banded together to deliver aid to survivors. At first, their mission was to give relief goods to those who were deeply impacted by the typhoon. The Sisters visited a number of local villages and supported over 300 families materially and/or financially. This includes providing assistance with repairs to homes and livelihood equipment, such as fishing nets and boats. Many recipients walked for one-and-a-half hours in order to get the goods that were brought for them. In the second wave of distribution of goods, the Sisters were able to commune with the affected families and hear their stories.

Sr Anne Dixon said, "I've lived through a few cyclones and a number of typhoons now and this was the worst. They are saying it is the worst catastrophe ever for this Island of Negros."

"The worst-case scenarios have been seeing families losing not only their home but all their possessions and often their livelihoods too. The fisher-folk, and the farmers who have lost their

crops seem to be the worst affected. The people live one day at a time. Work today means food on the table tonight, and hopefully something to go towards bills and children's needs. A calamity is not budgeted for and will cause great stress."

**The Good Samaritan Foundation has raised more than \$10,000 through an appeal for donations to provide assistance to families in need through online fundraising. You can add your gift here -**

**<https://www.givenow.com.au/typhoonrai2022>**



### **Bacolod Livelihood Assistance Program Bakes up Success**

Many of the families the Sisters work with in Bacolod, the Philippines, were just surviving on subsistence incomes when COVID lockdowns hit. With communities closed, employment halted and no savings to fall back on, these families were under enormous stress. The Good Sams Livelihood Assistance program was developed to provide women with small loans to purchase the equipment needed to start a micro-business, allowing them to support themselves and their families through the crisis. Sr Anne Dixon sgs, who lives and works in Bacolod, explains.

"Arzely was one of the first recipients of our Livelihood Assistance Kit. Using funds provided through the Good Samaritan Foundation, she bought an oven for her home in Boulevard, to bake cup-cakes that she learnt how to make from Sr Grace in our skills training sessions. Arzely then taught her five children to bake, so they would bake during the day during quarantine to sell in the community.

Now, Arzely's family have opened up their own bakery in the village she grew up in, and where many of her family still reside. This venture is run by Arzely and her extended family. There is no



bakery nearby this tight knit community and so the venture is guaranteed to be successful.

Without the original support and belief in what Arzely and her family could achieve and most importantly the financial support of our Good Samaritan Foundation, this dream would not have come true! It is truly a GOOD NEWS STORY!

Note that in these photos, all the equipment was funded by the family, not the Foundation, it goes to show how from LITTLE things BIG things can grow!



Cheers, Anne Dixon sgs”

Arzely is just one of the women assisted and the Bacolod Livelihood Assistance Program continues to grow.

**Donations to support the programs in the Philippines can be made via the Sisters of the Good Samaritan Foundation -**

<https://goodsamsfoundation.org.au/get-involved/donate-today/>

## EX-STUDENTS' NEWS

### Yvonne Weldon ('88)

Continuing the legacy of the women that came before her, Wiradjuri woman Yvonne Weldon is the 2022 NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year. She joins the likes of 2021 winner and the First Peoples Disability Network Deputy CEO June Riemer and 2020 winner Gunai poet and creative Kirli Saunders.

“This award today is a confirmation for the wonderful people I have grown up around and been taught by. This award is for them, they have invested in me through their belief and I hope to share that with so many,” Ms Weldon said.

Ms Weldon was one of four finalists for the Award alongside Elder Aunty Beryl Van Oploo, Mandandanji woman Jane Kemp from Wilcannia, and Founder of Jarin Street and co-founder of Trading Blak, Wiradjuri woman Jarin Baigent.

Surrounded and supported by strong Aboriginal women, Ms Weldon hopes to continue the fight of those she loves.

“Both my grandmothers have passed, it’s been hard to not have them because they played such an important part in my life. They have given to me, and to so many others endlessly and selflessly,” she said. “Our women play so many different roles, and often it’s not easy to recognise that and at times they aren’t given that recognition.

“There are so many women in life who are no longer here, and I’m so conscious of the fact that I represent them. I need to represent them in an honourable way and in a way they would have



liked. It’s who I am, I am what they’ve taught me, and I need to continue to honour that.”

With strong ties to Wiradjuri Country in Cowra, in New South Wales’ Riverina area, Ms Weldon is a Sydney local. An advocate social justice, Ms Weldon has championed child protection, women’s rights, health and education. She is the elected Chairperson for the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, Deputy Chair of NSW Australia Day Council and sits on the Boards of Domestic Violence NSW (DVNSW) and Redfern Jarjum College.

Ms Weldon said that her work comes down to needing to make things better for her people. “My three children are my driving force but who is in my heart, and I tell him regularly, is my grandson. I have to make a difference for his generation so he can make a difference for his peers in time, and the generations after him,” she said. “So that our people can continue to be represented and heard in ways that haven’t been done in the past.”

In December of 2021, Ms Weldon made history becoming the first Aboriginal councillor elected to the City of Sydney Council. Ms Weldon was elected after a six-month campaign, with little to no money and a small team. "I was very fortunate and humbled to be elected. When I think about what we achieved in such a short space of time, I think it's a true reflection around where this country is heading." she said.

Not only dedicated to her people, Ms Weldon also has a talent for writing. In 2017, she won the Allen & Unwin Faber Writing Academy Scholarship, and her debut novel 'Sixty-Seven Days' was published. "I wrote the book a number of years ago and I entered it into the David Uniapon Award at the Queensland Literary Awards. It was the first thing I ever wrote, and it got shortlisted – I was so proud of that," she said. "It's a fictional piece, a tragic love story – it's heartbreaking in a lot of aspects but it shows the resilience of people, the beauty of culture. One of the greatest parts of the story is that if you have love and you embrace what that can mean for you, you can achieve anything."

[Click here to read the NSW Women of the Year Awards article.](#)

### **Congratulations to Bishop Tim Norton (son of Dawn Norton (Spillane '45)**

We congratulate Father Tim Norton SVD, on his episcopal ordination on 22 February 2022 as an auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Brisbane. He is the first member of the Society of the Divine Word religious order to become a Bishop in Australia.

Bishop Tim grew up in Sydney and trained as a physiotherapist after leaving school.

During a university holiday visit to India led by a Divine Word Missionary, he was introduced to Mother Teresa, now St Teresa of Calcutta. This inspired him even more about following a mission life, and so he joined the Society of the Divine Word.

Much of his training took place in the slums of Mexico City, and he returned there after his ordination in 1991 to continue his pastoral work.

Returning to Australia, Bishop Tim has worked in key formation roles in Melbourne and Sydney. He had been the Australian provincial of his Order.

More recently, he has been working in Rome in renewal programs for Divine Word Missionaries, and more recently working with consecrated women and men promoting interculturality, for which his Order is well known.

"One of the many expressions of the Church in the world is through mission" newly ordained Bishop Norton told those gathered at St Stephen's Cathedral during his ordination Mass that included many indigenous and multicultural elements.

"Mission has context - from the people sleeping rough each night around this cathedral precinct, to people with addictions, to rights of women, minorities and indigenous people."

To those who are sick, the issues of farmers in Australia, in India and Botswana, tensions in Syria, Ethiopia and Ukraine, - tensions and terrors.

"So our gathering in the name of God expresses our commitment to the mission of God in the world".

Tim has celebrated our Annual Mass on several occasions. His mother **Dawn (Spillane '45)**, was an active member of the Ex-Students Union for many years, serving as a committee member and as President.

Who remembers having lunch on the front verandah of the old school building?

Tracey Miller, Trisha Sheehan and Julie Corso from the class of '75.





## REUNIONS

### The Class of 1981 found a way of getting around the COVID lockdowns: a zoom reunion!

On 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021, we had organised to have our St Scholastica's 40th High School Reunion. However, we were unable to host it face to face. COVID wasn't going to beat us, so we organised a virtual zoom meeting instead. We held a practice run on Wednesday 13th October 2021 which was fun and followed it up with the real thing on Saturday 16th October 2021, the original date set for the reunion. It was a wonderful opportunity to say G'day to our mates, have a few laughs and catch up on what we've all been doing since our last catch up in 2014. Now it's full steam ahead for our face-to-face reunion on 15th October 2022. If anyone would like to have information on the proposed reunion or be added to the mailing list, please email Sonia Biondi:

[sonia@southernphone.com.au](mailto:sonia@southernphone.com.au)

Thank you to **Sonia Biondi** for forwarding the details.

### Class of 1976

Members of the class of 1976 had a wonderful winter weekend in the Blue Mountains to celebrate their 50 years since starting Year 7 at St Scholastica's. Pictured are **Anne Buckley, Julie Dahlberg, Cheryl Frazer, Anne Sullivan, Chris Corcoran, Lindy Rodwell, Jackie Gerrie and Kerrie McCall.**



## OUR NEWEST EX-STUDENTS – THE CLASS OF 2021

### Sister Clare Memorial Award 2021

The Sister Clare Memorial Award is presented to the St Scholastica's student who achieves the highest Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) in the HSC Class of the previous year, provided she is undertaking tertiary studies. The award is in memory of Sister Clare Slattery sgs MBE who died on 18 October 1980 after a long and distinguished teaching career at St Scholastica's College.

**Purvi Bothra** achieved the highest ATAR of 98.45, was the Dux of the College and is the recipient of the Sr Clare Award. As the 2021 recipient, Purvi will be presented with her award at the Annual Reunion Mass and Lunch. We look forward to the opportunity of welcoming Purvi to our Reunion and presenting her award. Congratulations Purvi.

### 2021 NSW HSC Results

We are very proud of the results achieved by all students in 2021. Twenty students gained an ATAR above 90, including our dux, Purvi Bothra.



- **Mia Giovannoni** was placed 9th in the State in Society and Culture.
- Society and Culture classes ranked 8th best performing cohort in the State.
- Several subject cohorts ranked top 50 in State.
- 75% of our students received early entry university offers, many receiving their first choice.
- Congratulations are extended to the following staff and students:
  - Science Department – Dr Stella Koulianos, Ms Averil Rimes and Ms Sandra Albanese - winning the 'Amgen Biotech Children are our Future Science Award 2022'.
  - Two Year 11 Aboriginal Studies students, **Lara and Isabella**, for winning the Aboriginal Studies Association Preliminary Prize for their Commitment to Study.
  - A senior student, **Coco**, is featured in the film RUBY'S CHOICE which premiered in cinemas on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

## OBITUARIES

### Carmel Gazal (Malouf '45)

Eugenie Carmel Gazal, born in 1928, was one of seven Malouf girls, among the first eight families of the Syrian Lebanese community of Australia from the 1880s. She grew up in Macksville during the Depression years, where the family established the famed Malouf department store. Her father, Richard, died when she was 12.

Carmel boarded at St. Scholastica's College during WW2. The heritage-listed Music House (Wychwood) was one of her favourite facilities, 'a place to call home'. The high quality of tuition and rich relationships with other music students, were instrumental in her obtaining the Distinction of Associate in Music for the violin, that in 1947 let her study a classical music diploma at the Conservatorium of Music Sydney. She then joined the Sydney Philharmonic Orchestra and developed her lifelong love of classic repertoire.

Her ambitious mother Olga started a high-end fashion boutique in Randwick which provided quality couture to ladies attending the races and other prestigious events. Carmel worked in the business with sisters Mercia and Angela (also former St Schols students) and developed sophisticated sales and buyer expertise.

Carmel married John Gazal in 1960, moved to Narwee, had their four children (Gabrielle, Julianne, John, and Michael) and opened a menswear business in which Carmel dexterously participated. John and Carmel's priorities were always education and extra-curricular activities for their children.

After John's death in 1987, a new career opportunity arose for Carmel (aged 60) in the travel industry with her daughter Julianne, who purchased the Harvey World Travel Crow's Nest franchise. Carmel demonstrated her ability to reinvent herself, loved the travel business and felt joy at being able to work with her daughter and her two sons John and Michael, forming a formidable business. She was the 'secret weapon' and her sales skills on the floor (without a computer) expanded through being sent on many familiarisation trips to the corners of the earth. She became a 'legend' with her younger colleagues on these trips.



*Carmel (standing) with her fellow classmates, Sr Francis Maher, Rose Paton and Joan Croaker at the 2019 Annual Reunion.*

The business was repeatedly awarded Office of the Year and Carmel received Top Consultant many times. Her sales ability was based on her propensity to listen and engage with all she met. Clients would say, 'Carmel is such a warm and interested person who always makes me feel good about myself'.

At age 81, Carmel had her Sydney University qualification converted to a degree in a ceremony with Governor Marie Bashir. She continued to be an avid concert goer at major Sydney venues, including her 'other home' the Opera House Concert Hall.

Carmel was a staunch supporter of the St Schols Ex-Students Union and attended all annual reunions till 2019 with daughters Gabrielle and Julianne. She would say, 'I always feel so happy being back my wonderful school, a place that helped shape me'.

Carmel's life was one of great achievement, of tremendous love and support of family, of unexpected career turns, of great self-reliance in the face of adversity, and the triumph of a positive attitude. Carmel was a resilient, problem-solving, 'get on with it' type, a pragmatic person with a lifelong ability to adapt. She had a lot of stamina and was very self-reliant. She had a dry wit, was very much a people person and a fine storyteller. Carmel's life, lived as a 'glass full-full', was one of great achievement, of tremendous love and support of family, of unexpected career turns, pragmatism in the face of adversity, and the triumph of a positive attitude.



## Heather Roberts (Sr Maria Roberts sgs) ('46)



Heather was born in Braidwood on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1930 to Francis Oakenden Roberts and Eileen Lilian Roberts and was the second of 6 children (Jim, Ian, Helen, Marjorie and Hilton). Her father had been a teacher but after marriage opened a newsagency in Braidwood. Heather's great childhood sorrow was that her father never returned from the war. He was buried overseas. Her mother was a woman with immense strength and courage. By taking over the newspaper business, she was able to raise and educate her 6 children. Consequently, Heather and her 2 sisters, Helen and Marjorie, were able to board at St Scholastica's after completing primary schooling at St. Bede's, Braidwood.

After gaining her intermediate certificate in 1946, Heather did a secretarial course and went to work in the Department of External Territories in Canberra. On 6 January 1949 at 18, Heather made the life-changing decision to enter the Good Samaritan Novitiate at Pennant Hills. There she received the name Maria Teresa and made her first vows on 5 January 1952. Many years later when the Sisters were given permission to return to their baptismal name, Heather retained Maria and dropped Teresa. Maria completed her leaving certificate while in the Novitiate and after Profession completed her teacher training at St Scholastica's. Her teaching career began with

appointments to schools at Charters Towers, Hawthorne (Brisbane) and Toowoomba. Her talents for giving children a solid foundation in learning, her great ability in befriending children, fellow teachers and families was recognised and she was appointed Principal, first at Harlaxton in the Toowoomba region and then in Gayndah, Bulimba and Wilston, Qld. Her gifts for innovative leadership came to the fore in the 14 years of her principalship of St Peter and Paul's Primary School in Bulimba. Even in the last days of her life, Maria was receiving calls from many former Bulimba colleagues.

In 1984 she joined the staff of the Catholic Education Office in Wollongong as consultant for Primary Schools, a position she held for 13 years. In 1990 Maria had another well-deserved Sabbatical at Hawkstone Hall, UK which included a trip to the Holy Land. This unforgettable experience was followed by a tour of some months through Europe with her brother, Hilton and her sister, Marjorie.

Her retirement in 1997 gave Maria the opportunity to minister in the Parish of Page in Canberra This time renewed her spirit and gave her the opportunity to reconnect with her family in Braidwood.

In 2006 Maria moved to Marrickville to become a carer for her brother, Jim, who was deaf and whose health was deteriorating. With support also from her sisters, Maria lovingly cared for Jim until his death.

In 2015 Maria moved to the retirement village in Croydon where yet again she quickly made new friends. She had the gift of reaching out to others, thinking ahead and providing support.

Maria was a woman with great zest for life. She lived every moment to the full. She was generous to the core and would give away her last dollar to help a person in need. She was proud of and loving towards her nieces and nephews and they returned her love. With her quick wit and her engaging smile, she had a radiance about her that endeared her to all who met her.

### Patricia Logan (Hickey '47)



Patricia as a student at St Scholastica's

Patricia Dorothy Logan was born on 24 May 1930 at Royal North Shore Hospital to the sounds of the 21 gun salute celebrating Empire Day. Her family say that from that moment Pat thought that she was born to rule! She attended the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and her father was involved in the design of the

north-east pylon. Pat commenced private piano lessons at the Conservatorium of Music winning the Overseas Empire Scholarship Award at the end of 1944 but was unable to take up the award as she was under 18 and World War 2 was a factor. Pat also studied Violin, Theory of Music, Music Perception, singing and elocution through both AMEB and Trinity College of Music, London. Across these disciplines Pat was a NSW State medallist on 18 occasions.

For Pat's final secondary years, 1945-1947, Pat was a boarder at St Scholastica's. Sr Justin taught Pat to play the organ to accompany daily school masses in the Chapel. Pat matriculated with a scholarship to the University of Sydney and was also awarded a music scholarship from the Conservatorium. Pat chose the University scholarship but continued with private piano studies.

Pat joined her parents in Mt. Isa in 1951 to assist with running their business and it was here that she met her husband, Bruce. They had two children, John and Diane.

From 1966 to 1973 Pat worked as a part time teacher of creative English and History at San Jose Catholic Girls High School, collaborated on several school musicals and was the organist at St Joseph's Parish.

In 1974, Pat and Bruce moved to Kenmore, Brisbane where she was musical director at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish for 34 years. In 1975 her interest in Liturgical music was roused. She received an honorary degree from RSCM in 1991.

Pat was always aware of what others needed, generous, a woman of integrity, never lost for words, loved champagne, port and beer, made every person feel special, one of the great manipulators, always calm in a catastrophe, a friend to everyone, loved deeply, always laughing and a special person in their lives.

Pat will be missed by her son, John and daughter, Diane and their families,

### Sr Jean Gates ('48) (aka Sr Mary Paul)

Jean and her twin sister, Joan, were born in Willoughby on 18 June 1931 to Joseph and Phyllis. Her parents operated several small mixed businesses in Naremburn and Willoughby as her mother cared for her husband who had injuries from his time in the army until he died when the twins were just 14. Jean enjoyed a happy stable home but was conscious of poverty and struggle.



Sr Jean and her twin sister at St Scholastica's

Jean and Joan attended St Scholastica's from 1944-1948.

Jean attended Sydney Teachers' College, graduating with a lower primary school teacher's certificate before entering the novitiate. After further training at St Scholastica's Teachers' College, her first appointment was to Nara, Japan. The Japanese culture was life changing for her. There with Margaret Lyons, Jean spent two years studying Japanese. However, due to ill health, she was recalled to Australia in 1957. Over the next five years, she taught at Good Samaritan Schools in three states and St. James, Forest Lodge.

In 1964 Jean happily returned to Japan as Principal of Nara Catholic Kindergarten. She embraced the Japanese culture, artistry and spirituality and had a deep respect for the Japanese people. She introduced the Montessori education principles and ran seminars to inform staff and parents regarding open plan methods and wrote an educational text in Japanese to assist learning.





In 1984, Jean returned to Australia with a spirit that had been nurtured and deepened by her Japanese experience with a zeal for missionary work. She became an outreach worker to disadvantaged families at the Family Crisis Centre and then Good Samaritan Outreach with

disadvantaged families from the Franciscan Friary at Maryfields. She developed long and lasting bonds with the families and volunteers around the Campbelltown district.

In 2002 Jean made a significant change in her ministry, developing her skills and talents as an artist and potter. She moved to Mater Dei as an Artist/Potter and loved her time there. On a brochure she produced titled "Sr Jean Gates Good Samaritan Artist/Potter" she wrote, "I endeavour to make the most of my gifts by creating beauty and joy through my art and pottery. During the many years living in Japan, I had the privilege of learning so much from their artistic culture."

With failing health, Jean moved to hostel care at the Macarthur Retirement Village in June 2012. She was a much-loved resident known for her open door and heart. After 10 happy years, Jean died there peacefully on 5 February 2022.

### **Patricia Tang (Carbonaro '76)**

Patricia had an extensive career in healthcare, working both in the public and private sectors since 1986. She joined Balmain Hospital in 2010 as the Ward Clerk in the Transitional Care Unit. In 2011 she commenced as the Executive Assistant to the Director of Nursing and Operational Nurse Manager at Balmain Hospital. During the 18 months prior to her death, she was working as part of the District's Corporate Records Team.

Patricia always went above and beyond for staff at the hospital. She was always friendly and would often be seen with a big smile on her face and a willingness to assist everyone. She has been described as one of a kind who was extremely fond

of perfecting English grammar. She was a special person who was happiest when helping others. She was always talking about her relationship with her family and how proud she was of them and of her work. She was respected by all those who worked with her and provided incredible support to Balmain Hospital. She was recognised for her service and dedication by being named as the employee of the quarter in 2018.

Patricia played an integral part in organising many events across the hospital and did her best to ensure nursing staff were recognised on International Nurses Day. She will be greatly missed.

## **DECEASED EX-STUDENTS**

Please remember our deceased ex-students in your thoughts and prayers. The names of all deceased ex-students are recorded in the memorial book which is placed on the altar during the Annual Reunion Mass.

- † **Noni Boyce (McGuiness '55)** died 24 May 2021
- † **Monica Casey (McConkey '46)** died 13 March 2022
- † **Libby Colter (Williams '84)** died 3 December 2021
- † **Sr Jean Gates (Sr. Mary Paul) sgs** died 5 February 2022, twin sister of Joan Gates.
- † **(Eugenie) Carmel Gazal (Malouf '45)** died 31 December 2021, sister of **Mercia Bunting (Malouf '46)** and **Valda Malouf**

- † **Julie Jones (Splatt '79)** died 16 October 2021
- † **Margaret Kennedy (Grelis '47)** died 28 March 2021
- † **Patricia Logan (Hickey '47)** died 2 October 2021
- † **Sr Heather (Sr Maria) Roberts sgs ('46)** died 14 August 2021, sister of **Helen Felton (Roberts '48)** and **Marjorie Avery (Roberts '50)**
- † **Mary Taylor ('68)** died 18 April 2022, sister of **Anne Saunders (Taylor '72)** and aunt of **Katherine Saunders (2002)**
- † **Patricia Tang (Carbonaro ('76)** died August 2021
- † **Marie Trounson (Kerney '53)** died 10 January 2022
- † **Sr Winifred (Sr Madeleine) Try rgs ('45)** died 15 November 2021

### Relatives of Ex-students' Deaths

- † **Antoinette Akle** died April 2022. Mother of **Joan Sattout (Akle '74)**; **Beryl Kassoum (Akle '76)**; **Margaret Taborda (Akle '80)**; **Cheryl Akle '82**; **Gladys Akle '83**
- † **John Edelman** died 25 May 2021. Husband of **Lucienne Edelman (Dixon '67)**
- † **Stephen Cusack** died 28 May 2021. Brother of **Sr Margaret Cusack rsj**
- † **John Gillespie** died 18 August 2021. Brother of **Karen Debenham (Gillespie '67)**
- † **Reginald Grundy** died 22 January 2022. Husband of **Laurencia (McGuire '47)**
- † **Peter Hine** died 7 February 2022. Husband of **Nina Hine (Cullen '44)**.
- † **Dr Giovanni Lucchese** died 26 October 2021. Father-in-law of **Kylie Lucchese (Evans '90)**.
- † **Desmond Wales** died 19 January 2022. Brother of **Rae Wales ('55)**





## TREASURER'S REPORT 2022

- Our Bursary Fund this year received \$3,725.00.
- Our Investment Fund this year reached \$114,808.62.
- We made a Bursary payment for 2020-2021 of \$6,000.00.
- The Good Samaritan Foundation (Education) Fund received \$3,475.00.

### Raffle

Proceeds from the raffle enable us to provide prizes for Speech Night, our Community Spirit Award, and give financial support to the College in other ways as the need arises. We really appreciate the funds raised from the sale of the raffle tickets. Raffle tickets can be purchased from the booklet provided and paid for by cheque or direct deposit. **Thank you.**

#### The raffle prize winners for 2021 were:

1. First prize - \$300 gift card – Maureen McCluskie
2. Second prize – \$200 gift card – Margaret O’Flynn
3. Third prize - \$100 gift card – Claire Bird

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

### News and Photos

We are always interested to hear of Ex-students' achievements, weddings, anniversaries and births. Sadly, we are often notified of Ex-students' deaths, but **we would love to hear more news of the special joyful occasions in your lives.**

Please contact us so that we can publish details and photos in future newsletters and share them with your fellow Ex-students.

Send your news and photos to Christine Volk (Smith) ('77) at [christinevolk@bigpond.com](mailto:christinevolk@bigpond.com)



## Invitation to Ex-Students' Mass and Annual Reunion

Join us for Mass in the Chapel at midday on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022, followed by an enjoyable lunch to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Cost: \$45 (includes lunch and champagne on arrival)

To RSVP, please contact Karen

[karendebenham@optusnet.com.au](mailto:karendebenham@optusnet.com.au)

We especially welcome our newest Ex-Students - the graduating class of 2021.