

# St Scholastica's College

## Ex-Students' Union

### 2024 Newsletter

April 2024



#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

First, I would like to congratulate Kate Rayment on her outstanding leadership of the College for the past almost 10 years. Unfortunately, she has decided to complete her tenure as Principal at the end of 2024. Her commitment to the College, updating and developing educational, business and operational systems, her passion and determination to improve the outcome of all students, the physical development from concept, through master planning, designing and building has resulted in the complete redevelopment of the day school. Kate is certainly leaving the College with a firm foundation for her successor to build upon. Kate has been a strong supporter of our Ex-Students' Union and she will be very much missed by all.



Our 2023 Ex-Students' Reunion where we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ex-Students' Union was a huge success. We had over 80 in attendance. We started the day with Mass in our beautiful Chapel. Fr. Ramesh Richards SJ was our celebrant once again.

Special thanks to Jo Kenderes (Catling) for the preparation of our Mass booklet, the liturgy and of course her incredible singing. The great acoustics in the Chapel let us all sing with great gusto! Various Ex-students participated in the Mass with readings, offertory procession and the placing of our Books of Remembrance containing the names of our deceased Ex-Students on the Altar.

On 3 July 2023, I had the honour of attending the 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of community service by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan at Government House hosted by the wife of the Governor General, Elizabeth Hurley. It was a truly wonderful tribute to the incredible work of the Sisters.



Rae Wales



Karen Debenham and Joseph Furolo from Good Sams Foundation



Karen and Tony Debenham



Dolores Johnston (Hill '62), Karen Debenham ('67), Sr. Veronica McDougall ('68), Elizabeth Hurley, wife of the Governor General, and Catherine Turner (Lee '62)



Class of '63 celebrating their 60-year reunion.

Back row: Terry Larkin (Sampson), Christina James (Ingram), Kay McDonagh, Louise Mara (Taffa), Diane Pounder (Pont), Noreen Mostyn (McDonald).  
Front row: Leonie Burns (Studholm), Kathy Boggar (Kalaszi), Tricia Macrae, (Grannall) and Fran Nott (O'Keefe)

#### ←The Class of '63

We also especially welcomed many from the Class of '63 who were celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with us. After Mass we all enjoyed champagne on arrival at the Trixie Forest Centre for lunch, catching up with our old school friends and finishing off with special anniversary cupcakes with the St Scholastica's College crest on top. It was also wonderful to see Alice Timbrell (Brown) aged 98 and Joan Croker (Breen) aged 96 chatting away together about their times at Schols. Unfortunately, Alice died shortly after the reunion in August 2023 just before her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. Details of Alice's interesting

life are in our obituary section.

It is always a pleasure to attend the opening of the school year and celebration of the feast day of St Scholastica at Mass at St Mary's Cathedral. The College orchestra and choir give an outstanding performance for this solemn occasion. Following the Mass, the College Prefects, Captains, and leaders are presented with their badge reminding them of their commitment to the College and their fellow students.

The 2023 Awards Ceremony was again held at the Sydney International Convention Centre in Darling Harbour. Again, I was blown away with the musical performances by the Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra, First Nations Dance, College Choir but especially by the individual performances by ENCORE Nominees Alice Betteridge on the clarinet, Marina Seet on the Pipa and Cate Sandbach on the oboe playing the Swan Lake theme accompanied by the Symphony Orchestra. In addition to the College's awards to achievers in their individual subjects, the Ex-Students' Union presents a Community Spirit prize to an outstanding girl selected by the College. In 2023, our

community spirit prize was awarded to Year 11 student, Annabel Smit. Her contribution and dedication to the College has included: Community Service, Social Justice, Liturgy, Debating and the mentoring of younger students to achieve their academic best. Through her generous spirit, Annabel gives time to many programs across the College making sure other students are given the same support she had to ensure the success of these programs. She is a credit to the College.

I thank our Ex-Students who have contributed to our Bursary Fund and the Good Sams Foundation.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our annual general reunion on **Sunday 26 May 2024**. Please keep in touch with us and please join our Facebook page: St Scholastica's College (Schols) – Ex-students

**Karen Debenham (Gillespie '67)**

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Win McCluskie ('67), Marge Avery (Roberts '50) and Karen Debenham ('67)

### INNER CITY ALUMNI – Karen Debenham

The Inner City Alumni group is made up of ex-students from St James Forest Lodge Parish including those who attended St James School and the Patrician Brothers. The committee meets regularly and keeps members up to date with news about its members. An annual luncheon is held where we all gather for a fun afternoon. The next luncheon will be held on **Saturday, 19 October 2024** at the Bowlers Club, 99 York Street, Sydney. There is always a good representation of Schols Ex-students at the luncheons as many of us also attended St James for primary school. To join their mailing list, please email [innercityalumni@gmail.com](mailto:innercityalumni@gmail.com) with your details.

The committee members are Raymond McCluskie (brother of Veronica, Maureen, Winifred, Margaret and Mary), Terry McDonald (brother of Noreen Mostyn), Alan Ruff, Paul Blair and Noel Pye (brother of Carmel Vanny).

At our 2023 lunch, Sr Veronica McCluskie sgs gave us a very interesting story of the history of St James School at Forest Lodge and the Good Samaritan Sisters involvement.

I hope to see you at the luncheon on 19 October 2024.

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Kate Rayment

Dear Ex-students,

It is with very mixed feelings that I write this final article for the Ex-Students' Union newsletter. As I move through the tenth year leading this community, I reflect on the many joys and challenges that are now forever etched in my story.

St Scholastica's is a very special community. The charism of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan is alive and well, richly embedded in the culture, policies and day-to-day life of the people who share the grounds daily.



This is Kate at her Commissioning on 6 February 2015



Although they are no longer on staff, the Sisters remain an important part of our lives.

The challenges of the decade have come primarily from the rapid sociological change (largely related to wealth/gentrification, the ever rapidly increasing risk and compliance management, growing external expectations and very significant cuts to government funding.

The joys are too numerous to name but mostly have come from experiences of outstanding young women who have graced our halls, extraordinary experiences of our mission as a Catholic community of faith, the wonder of human endeavour and achievement, the fruits of systems improvements, elevated standards and improved physical infrastructure.

Master-planning and re-building almost the entire school, while an enormous challenge, has also been one of the greatest rewards. The enormous time, effort and planning for the extensive stormwater and electricity infrastructure to be in place before the building work could commence forms a wonderful analogy for the work of the last ten years. It has been a time of establishing foundations for the long-term sustainability of the College. Those foundations are rarely seen but are essential for the enablement of all that follows.

Our place in the parish of St James and our partnerships with families, external agencies and universities have enriched what we have been able to offer students. Friendships forged in the workplace will endure long into retirement, as will memories of all those who have

committed to the greater good of our students and the school community, often at substantial personal cost.

The College's commitment to First Nations families is very special, having begun with the program launched by Mum Shirl and Fr Ted Kennedy decades ago. It has been a joy to witness the way some of the girls from remotest Australia thrive at Schols.

I came to Schols with broad experience from a wide range of educational contexts and I leave further enriched by the journey here. I have been blessed to have had incredible opportunities to serve the broader Catholic education community as Chair of the Catholic Secondary Schools Association, as a member of various Catholic education standing committees, boards and sub-committees, as a Commissioner on the National Catholic Education Commission and as Chair of the national Faith Formation & Religious Education Standing Committee.

I leave with a deep respect for the Good Sams, an increased appreciation of excellence in teaching and teamwork, and an unshakeable belief in the gift that is girls' education.

I thank Karen for her incredible leadership of the Ex-students' Union and I thank all members of the Union for your ongoing support of Schols and her students.

I offer blessings and my warmest wishes to you all for the future.

God bless.

**Kate Rayment**  
**Principal**

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## NEWS FROM THE GOOD SAMARITAN FOUNDATION

### – Sonya Mears



In 2023, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan were recognised for 165 years of service to the community and celebrations were kindly staged by the NSW and Victorian Governors and the Australian Governor General.

The events which were held at Government House NSW on 3 July 2023, Government House Victoria and Admiralty House, were attended by Good Sams students and ex-students including Elizabeth Proust, Chair of Bank of Melbourne who is a St Mary's College Wollongong ex-student and Karen Debenham, your Union's President, the Sisters of the Good Samaritans, volunteers, benefactors, staff, and special guests, including Elizabeth Hurley, wife of The Governor General and one of Good Sams Foundation's ambassadors. You can view the photos here <https://goodsamsfoundation.org.au/what-we-do/photo-gallery/>

This year we are celebrating another significant milestone - the Good Sams Foundation turns 20! We were formed in May 2014 to do 3 things:

1. Raise awareness around the harsh circumstances of the people supported by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan's ministries;
2. Fundraise to cover the cost of those ministries; and
3. Administer the funds raised, ensuring that every dollar possible goes to vulnerable people rather than administration costs.

Today our ministries run in Australia, including remote and regional communities, Kiribati, Timor Leste and the Philippines. We offer a safe shelter, a warm meal, free education and hope to women and children in the poorest of countries and remote regions.

To mark our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, we are going to publish photos and reflections from students who attended a Good Sams school. If you would like to contribute please email [info@goodsams.org.au](mailto:info@goodsams.org.au). (Please let me know if you agree to us using your first name in any published articles).

Finally, I'd like to say a big thank you to all the members of St Scholastica's Ex-students' Union for your support of our Australian School's Scholarship Program. This year, due to the sharp increase in the cost of living in Australia, we experienced a high increase in the number of Good Sams students applying for funding to continue their Years 11 and 12 studies in a supportive Good Sams School. Here's feedback from two of the scholarship students for your donations support: "I received early entry into Wollongong University. If I did

*not receive a Good Sams Foundation Grant I could not have afforded to continue to attend my current Good Samaritan school, this would not have been possible".*

*"In relieving this stress for my parents, personally I felt like less of a burden on them and was able to spend more quality time with them as they did not have to work so much to make ends meet so I could attend school."*

If you'd like to keep in touch with news about our Foundation or make a donation, please visit [www.goodsamsfoundation.org.au](http://www.goodsamsfoundation.org.au)

**Sonya Mears, Executive Director**  
[smears@goodsamsfoundation.org.au](mailto:smears@goodsamsfoundation.org.au)

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## UPDATE FROM THE SISTERS OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN - Veronica McCluskie sgs

On 25 July 2023, the Sisters of the Good Samaritan had their Chapter gathering which is held every 6 years. This is an important time of reflection and renewal with inspirational input from guest presenters, prayer and community time. It is also the time when a new Congregational Leader is elected and the leadership team is formed. Sr Patty Fawkner sgs (ex-student) stepped down from the position of Superior (Congregational Leader) together with her team of Counsellors, Srs Meg Kahler, Catherine McCahill, Marella Rebgetz and me. These positions have been taken up by the newly elected Superior (Congregational Leader), Sr Catherine McCahill sgs (Superior) and her team of Counsellors, Srs Meg Kahler, Anne-Marie Nicholls, Michelle Reid and Kathleen Spokes. Although the Sisters are aging, their interest in Good Samaritan Education does not decrease and Schols news is often front and centre. However, education is not our only interest. We try to use our resources wisely to aid the less fortunate, refugees and asylum seekers, First Nations people and of course care for the environment and our planet home. Our Good Samaritan Foundation, through the generosity of our donors, supports *The Inn* in Melbourne (a refuge for women struggling with domestic violence) along with the *Kinder School* and the *Outreach Centre* in Bacolod, Philippines and an *Early Childhood Centre* in Kiribati.

On 8 March I was privileged to be invited to the 2024 Catholic Schools NSW International Women's Day Breakfast where Tanya Plibersek was the guest speaker. Tanya spoke of the unsung heroes of education, the Nuns. She spoke of how they saw a need and sprinted toward

it. Tanya focused on the legacy of the early Nuns and how the mission is the same today but it is up to us to take on this leg of the relay. Tanya challenged all present, including St Scholastica's Principal, Mrs Kate Rayment, and two of the leaders, to take up that legacy and run with it, to see the needs of today and run toward them. I guess the challenge is for all of us as ex-students.

So, I leave you with a question: *how can we contribute today to the ongoing support of our schools and the other ministries that are dear to the heart of any Good Sam so that the legacy of the early Sisters will live on well into the future?*



*Students Montana DeCelis and Lexi Matheson, Kate Rayment, Veronica McCluskie sgs, Agnes Farrugia sgs, Patty Fawkner sgs and Mary Ryan '82*

## EX-STUDENTS' NEWS

### Maria Fuller (2002)

Congratulations to Maria Fuller on her marriage to Paul Pham at St Bridgid's Church, Marrickville on 24 June 2023. Maria looked absolutely stunning, as did Paul. The Nuptial Mass was concelebrated by the Parish Priest along with 13 other priests with fabulous musicians and choir making it a wonderful and memorable day. Maria's sister, Katrina Fuller (2004), was the maid of honour. Jo Kenderes (Catling '82) was a member of the choir. We wish Maria and Paul a very happy life together.



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### Marge Avery (Roberts '50)

Congratulations to Marge Avery who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 16 October 2023. Marge had a wonderful celebration with her family and was presented with a book prepared by her daughter, Gemma Avery, with lots of photos and stories from many of those who remembered her as their teacher and her friend.

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### Virginia Wright ('67)

Congratulations to Virginia Wright, class of 1967, who has been appointed an Adjunct Fellow at the University of Technology Sydney, in the School of Design at the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building. She completed her PhD. (Design) at the faculty in 2017. Her book based on the doctoral thesis is being published by University of Toronto Press in April 2025. It is titled: *'Fit For Any Society', Bentwood Furniture in Canada and Australia 1860 to 1945*. The book is the first global history of the bentwood furniture industry, which originated in Austria in the 1840s. It identifies two Canadian manufacturing companies and traces their activities in a combined history of design, trade, and consumption. One of the companies exported more than a million chairs to Australia and New Zealand. 'Fit For Any Society' was an advertising slogan used for bentwood chairs by a merchant in Hobart in the 1890s. The book is also the first Canada-Australia history.

Virginia was Curator of Canadian Decorative Arts and Curator of Post-1900 International Design at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto from 1996 to 2002. She lectured in furniture history in the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Toronto from 1989 to 2002, when she moved home to Australia. More details to come when the book is published next year.



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### Dr Anne Knight OAM ('78)

Congratulations to Dr Anne Knight who was among medical specialists included in the 2024 honours list, having been granted an Order of Australia Medal for her outstanding services to medicine through a range of roles. Her career has spanned more than three decades on NSW's mid north coast at Manning Hospital as a general and respiratory and sleep medicine physician.

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### Louise Taylor ('94)

In July, 2023, long-time Canberra resident and ACT Magistrate, Louise Taylor, was announced as the first Aboriginal Resident Judge of the ACT Supreme Court. Having served on the ACT Magistrates Court since 2018, Magistrate Taylor has spent the past 5 years exhibiting her proficiency in both civil and criminal law matters, displaying a commitment to fairness, impartiality, and open-mindedness.

As a proud Kamilaroi woman, her appointment also marks a significant milestone – the first time in the Supreme Court's history that an Aboriginal woman has held such a prestigious position in the ACT. Congratulations Louise.



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### Maureen Costello ('88)

When Maureen left Schols, she went to university and graduated from UNSW with a Bachelor Science (Psych) Hons. She also completed a Graduate Certificate from the AGSM in Change Management. She joined (out of university) a company called Accenture which is a global management consulting firm where she was a Partner/Managing Director



and then a Senior Manager Director. Today she is a Corporate Vice President at Microsoft leading a global team working with many customers and partners around the world. She has had the pleasure of living all over the world and many times has reflected back on the values that her family provided her and also the start St Scholastica's gave her (of which she is grateful). Her best friend is still the girl she met at Year 6 Orientation for Year 7! Today Maureen lives in London but regularly travels back to Sydney as her mother is still alive (she lost her father in 2022) and her three brothers live in Sydney.

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### Rose Mitchell (Dux '22)

Congratulations to Rose Mitchell, the Winner of the 2023 Young Writers Showcase Award.



### Lucia Bruce-Gilbert (2023)

Congratulations to Lucia Bruce-Gilbert who participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> World Dwarf Games in 2023 held in Cologne, Germany where she achieved incredible results:

- New World Record 60m sprint (athletics)
- Gold Medal 60m sprint and 100m sprint (athletics); 4 x 100m relay
- Silver Medal (Basketball) (Vice Captain); 50m freestyle

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## REUNIONS

### Class of '63 – 60 Year Reunion – Tricia Macrae (Grannal '63)

The Class of 1963 celebrated its 60th year reunion at the May 2023 annual general reunion. What a milestone! We can't quite believe it! There were 10 of us in attendance, quite amazing since our Leaving Certificate Class only held 21 students.

We recognized each other instantly with cries of "You haven't changed a bit!" and "I'd have known you anywhere!" Of course there were many reminiscences! The nuns, mostly our teachers, the very few lay teachers, the Headmistress, Sr Mary Agnes and her cat, the layout of the classrooms - all very different now, the tennis courts, the running green and the mini golf course. Progress over 60 years has changed a lot of things.

There are many more and varied learning spaces, more students, a different uniform (no more cap hats and gloves!), no nuns teaching and lots of air-conditioning!



*Class of '63 having lunch in the TFC*

It's always great to return to the Alma Mater and see how St. Scholastica's is thriving still. Attending Mass in the Chapel is still an awe-inspiring experience and it also brings back memories of the young nuns and their angelic voices.

We are looking forward to May 2024 and our 61st Reunion.

We congratulate the Class of 1963.

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### Schols Brisbane Gathering (Margaret Gilmartin ('69)

On Saturday 19 August, 13 Ex-students from various class years met up for lunch at the Coorparoo RSL and Community Club. Winifred McCluskie and Karen Debenham flew up from Sydney to attend the event to surprise others from their year (1967), Kath McGill, Susan Lochran (Franklin) and Heather Joseph (Michael) were attending. Also in attendance were Margaret Gilmartin ('69), Helen Bodnar (Schmidt '69), Margaretha (Meg) Mutton (Toohey '69), Julie Parker (Wisemantel '80), Patricia Williams (McLaughlin '69) and Therese Simpson

If you live in the Brisbane area or think you might be in the general area in August, please join our next gathering **on Saturday, 17 August**. The venue is yet to be confirmed. Please respond to Margaret Gilmartin by email [simcal@hotmail.com](mailto:simcal@hotmail.com)



*Schols Brisbane Gathering class of '67 ladies – Kath McGill, Heather Joseph (Michael), Susan Lochran (Franklin), Win McCluskie and Karen Debenham (Gillespie)*



### **Class of '73**

Had a fun day catching up at their 50-year reunion held on 23 October 2023.



### **Class of '78 – Lisa Dooley (Sly '78)**

On Saturday 28 October 2023, the class of 1978 (including some who left in year 10 in 1976) had a 45-year reunion. As time goes on, we've preferred to meet every 5 years, as 10 years is way too long between catch ups.

The organising committee of Marea Pavey, Gae Clemson, Angela Mancuso and I managed to contact as many of our classmates as possible. Although we have better technology and social media, it's still a challenge to locate everyone, especially after 45 years. That said we had a turnout of 26 (and apologies of approx. 50). The



evening was beautifully hosted by Marea Pavey at her lovely home in Abbotsford.

We had a relaxed and warm atmosphere, ate beautiful food, shared lots of stories, lots of laughs, looked at old photos and a slideshow, remembered our departed classmates, and even had some dancing around Marea's loungeroom to our much-loved 70s disco tunes (that was our music back then, and still is now).

There was a classmate from Paris, another from New Zealand and others who flew or drove in from various parts of Australia. We agreed that 5 years is now too long. Life's getting shorter, so we'll be trying for an annual catch up from now on. Looking forward to our next soiree in 2024.

### ***Our attendees were:***

*Marea Pavey / Lisa Dooley / Gae Clemson / Angela Mancuso (Committee), Helen Brady / Kathy Dewstow / Ann Fraley / Julie Geale / Helen Gleeson / Elaine Howe / Libby King / Anne Knight / Maria Konda / Enza La Spina / Amanda Larkin / Belinda McManus / Suzanne Moiso / Anna Nemanic / Maria Nicotra / Christine Nugent / Mary O'Connor / Kerri Olson / Judith Rolfe / Lynn Stanton / Liliana Vit / Jenny Wong.*



## UPCOMING REUNIONS

### Class of '79 (Penny Gilmour '79)

The Class of '79 are planning a 45-year reunion for **Saturday, 16 November at Strathfield Golf Club** starting with drinks at 3 pm in the Alfresco area followed by dinner at 6 pm in the Bistro. Anyone who would have been in this class group being year 7, 1974, year 8, 1975, year 9, 1976, year 10, 1977, year 11, 1978 or year 12, 1979 are most welcome come. Please RSVP to Penny Gilmour by email at [pennyg62@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pennyg62@bigpond.net.au) or to the Facebook page that has been set up for this reunion St Schols – 1979 Year 12 (From Year 7-1974) – 2024 Re-union planning page.

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### Class of '64 (Maureen McCluskie '64)

This year, the class of '64 is celebrating 60 years since leaving school!

We are planning a big **reunion in May in conjunction with the College's annual general reunion**, but we had a small get-together on 20 February, as Anita Brigden-Butterfield, who lives in Canada, was in Australia for a family visit. (Unfortunately, Anita won't be able to make it in May.) Those present were Anita, Noreen Mostyn (McDonald), Elizabeth McKenna and Maureen McCluskie. Lots of laughter and reminiscences. Happy memories!! Contact Maureen McCluskie by email [maus133@tpg.com.au](mailto:maus133@tpg.com.au)



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## OUR NEWEST EX-STUDENTS – THE CLASS OF 2023

### Sister Clare Memorial Award 2022

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.

**Ava Boeckenhauer** achieved the highest ATAR of 99.4, was the Dux of the College and is the recipient of the Sr Clare Award. As the 2023 recipient, Ava will be presented with her award at the Annual General Reunion Mass and Lunch on 26 May 2024. We look forward to the opportunity of welcoming Ava to our Reunion and presenting her award. Congratulations Ava.

We also congratulate **Ruby Lehmann** who achieved an ATAR of 99.15 and **Cate Sandbach** who achieved an ATAR of 99.0 and were on the HSC All-rounders list. Cate was also placed 5<sup>th</sup> in NSW Studies of Religion 1.

### 2023 NSW HSC Results

We are very proud of the results achieved by all students in 2023. 30 students achieved an ATAR of 90 or above, including our Dux, **Ava Boeckenhauer**.

- 146 year 12 students sat the HSC
- 15 accelerated Year 11 students sat the HSC
- 5 First Nations students sat the HSC
- 125 Band 6 results
- 66 entries on the Distinguished Achievers list
- College rank improved two spots to 117 in the State

- Schols had a 15% Band 6 success rate (State median 5.47%)
- **Cate Sandbach** was placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the State for Studies of Religion 1
- 99 score in Mathematics Advanced by **Niamh Xu-Glassop**
- 19<sup>th</sup> best cohort in the State for Studies of Religion II
- 20<sup>th</sup> best cohort in the state of Legal Studies
- 100% of Music 1 and 2 students achieved a Band 5 or 6
- 91% of Legal Studies students achieved a Band 5 or 6
- 87.5% of DAT students achieved a Band 5 or 6
- 86% of English Advanced students achieved a Band 5 or 6
- 84% of Visual Arts students achieved a Band 5 or 6

- **ARTEXPRESS** for exemplary work in HSC Visual Arts – **Cate Sandbach and Violet Eddy**. Violet's body of work was selected for exhibition in the ARTEXPRESS Southern Highlands exhibition.
- **SHAPE** for exemplary work in HSC Design and Technology – **Helena Macarthur**
- **ENCORE** for exemplary performance in HSC Music – **Alice Betteridge, Marina Seet, Cate Sandbach** and for creating an Exemplary HSC Music Composition **Sophie Hargreaves and Amelie Niemes**
- **YOUNG WRITERS** – for exemplary work in HSC English Extension **Jacinta Lyakurwa**



## OBITUARIES

### **Therese Holles (Logue '44) (26.10.1927 – 26.4.2023)**

Therese was born on 26 October 1927, the third child of six of Peter and Bridget Logue who had emigrated from Ireland in 1924 and lived at Punchbowl. Our grandfather worked on the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Therese attended primary school at St Jerome's at Punchbowl and sat the scholarship examination for St Scholastica's in Year 6. She and her good friend, Patricka Hole (Hogan '44 dec'd in January 2023) (who became our Aunty Pat), were both awarded scholarships and travelled to school together for 5 years. Therese made lifelong friends at Schols. She sent her three daughters, Gabrielle, Catherine and Margaret, to Schols, and more recently her granddaughters, Brigid and Maggie, have both been Schols girls. For most of her adult life, Therese regularly attended catchup lunches in the city with her old school friends. She was a regular attendee at the Ex-Students annual reunion Mass and afternoon tea.

After school Therese was awarded a scholarship to Sydney Teachers College, qualifying as a primary school teacher. Her first teaching post was at Revesby Public School. With the baby boom and immigration in full swing, it was more like crowd control than education. Therese had a class of about 70 kindergarten children.

Therese met her future husband Reg on the platform of Punchbowl Station in 1947 when Reg was a handsome and charming returned soldier. Reg's brother Frank had been seeing Therese's friend Patricka, and when Frank and Patty needed some company for an outing one day, Therese and Reg were enlisted. Therese had told us of the enduring memory of her first sight of Reg, leaning out of the door of the train as it approached the station keen to catch a glimpse of the girl he had been lined up with. The outing was a great success.

Reg proposed to Therese on Shark Island and they were married at St Jerome's Catholic Church on 28 August 1948.

By 1969 with a family of 6 children, they moved to Tamworth. When Sister June Mary, the principal of St Nicholas Primary School, realised that Therese was a primary teacher she persuaded her to return to the classroom after about 20 years. That started a long and happy relationship with the Dominican sisters, with Therese teaching at Dominican schools for the remainder of her career. Therese enjoyed getting back to work and although it was a very hectic time, she managed the work/life balance very smoothly.

The family moved back to Sydney in 1974 settling into Dulwich Hill.

Therese taught at St Martha's primary school at Strathfield and for many years at St Michael's at Belfield and Santa Maria del Monte. At some point, when her



children had all left school, she went to the University of New South Wales and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in history. Reg died suddenly in 1995, leaving Therese to contemplate a future without the man who had been the loving cornerstone of her life. She threw herself into assisting with the care of her grandchildren and returned to UNSW to complete a Master of Arts degree. She also continued to travel overseas with her family, spending some months staying with her sister in Donegal.

Family and faith were the two defining features of Therese's life. She attended Mass every day and was an active member of the Parish of St Paul of the Cross at Dulwich Hill. Therese was a regular reader at Sunday Mass, helped with counting the collections and brought communion to the sick and housebound of the parish.

Therese was a devoted and loving mother. She had a flair for fashion and sewed her own and her daughters' clothes, while working a full-time job and running a household of 6 people. She managed this with consummate skill and a determination that standards would be maintained notwithstanding the obstacles! The untimely death of her youngest son Michael at the age of 41 was a major setback from which she probably never fully recovered. But with characteristic love and energy she put countless hours into assisting with the care of Michael's young daughters.

Therese often said in the final weeks and months of her life *"We are very blessed"*. She had lived a full and rich life and is sadly missed by her family and wide circle of friends.

**Alice Timbrell (Brown '40) (4.12.1924 – 13.8.2023)**



This is an extract taken from "Memories of my Life" written by Alice Mary Timbrell (Brown) in 2015.

Alice was born in Glebe, the youngest child of Mary and Norman Brown. They lived at 129 Wigram Road Forest Lodge. Alice's older sister, Ellen, also attended St. Scholastica's. Her brother, Noel, died from gastroenteritis on 14 December 1923, a year before Alice was born.

The Great Depression began in 1929 when Alice was 4 years old. Her family was fortunate that their father had a secure job in an essential service although the wages were very low. The building of the Harbour Bridge was already underway and was completed in 1932. Alice remembered walking across the bridge on the opening day.

Alice started school at St Scholastica's when she was 6 years old (1930). Her parents wanted her to have a good education which they both lacked although it was a struggle for them to pay the fees and buy the uniforms. Due to her mother's lack of education, there were no books in their home. When Alice was about eleven, she found a book and her mother took it from her. When asked why she could not read it, her mother said it was because she did not know what was in it. Her mother could not read.

Alice left school aged 15 and started work for 10 shillings a week as an apprentice dressmaker at "Le Roi" whose clientele were Sydney socialites including the Governor General's wife, the Duchess of Gloucester.

World War II began in September 1939 and all fit men aged 18 to 35 were called up for the Army, Navy and Air Force with the exception of those who worked in essential service. Civilians in non-essential jobs were being called up to work in factories so Alice decided to find a job in an essential service. She took up an appointment in February 1943 as a telephonist in the Main Trunk Exchange of the Postmaster General's Department in Martin Place. She enjoyed this job much more than dressmaking. After working in the Trunk Exchange connecting country, interstate and overseas calls manually, she was seconded to the Royal Navy Headquarters where she worked 3 shifts per day 7 days per week.

When the Royal Navy Headquarters closed, Alice returned to work in the Trunk Exchange in the GPO.

Within a few weeks, Alice was sent to the State Government Exchange, known as BO6 on the corner of Macquarie, Bridge and Phillip Streets, Sydney. This 10-position switchboard connected telephone calls to the majority of the State Government Departments including Parliament House.

Alice met the love of her life, Norman Timbrell on 16 February 1947 at a dance for ex-servicemen at CUSA House in Sydney and were married at St James Church, Forest Lodge on 23 September 1950. They had five children, Jane Elizabeth born in 1951, Helen Margaret in 1952 (who attended St Scholastica's), Stephen Gerard in 1955, Ruth Marie in 1958 and Anna Therese in 1966 (whose daughter, Simone, attended St Scholastica's).

In the mid 1960's the Commonwealth Government lifted the ban on employment of married women. Alice returned to work at the Trunk Exchange working 6.30pm till 1am. When Anna was almost 3, Alice took a permanent job with The Association of Employers of Waterside Labour where she worked until her retirement in 1986.

After their children had completed their studies, Alice and her husband, Norman, bought a caravan and drove around Australia for 18 months. They spent 4 months in America in 1989, they visited England, Ireland and Scotland in 1996 for 3 months. After Norman's death in 2004, Alice travelled to Europe and arrived in London in the early morning of 7 July 2005 which was the day of the bombing. Since then, Alice enjoyed several overseas tours and learned much from those experiences.

*Alice said "I have been very fortunate to have had good parents, a loving and faithful husband, five wonderful children who have given me eight beautiful grandchildren."*



*Alice on far right (with plaits)*



## 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 alter during our Annual Reunion Mass.

- † **Mary Chambers (Egan '45)** died on 23 May 2023. Mother of Suzanne Deane (Chambers '72).
- † **Pamela Chivers ('48)** (formerly Mrs John Tingle and mother of Laura Tingle) died on 23 May 2023.
- † **Glestelle Hannaford ('47)** died on 9 May 2022.
- † **Kathleen Hilder (Wallace '48)** died 16 June 2023.
- † **Theresa Holles (Logue '44)** died 26 April 2023. Mother of Gabrielle Holles ('76). Catherine Navin (Holles '79), Margaret Holles ('80) and grandmother of Brigid (2016) and Maggie Holles (2017).
- † **Mary Kenny (Ryan '56 Head Prefect)** died 16 November 2023.
- † **Marie Rheinberger (Tarlinton '55)** died 14 July 2023. Sister of Therese (dec'd), Cecelia ('62), Rosemary (dec'd) and Kathleen. This family is from Bega, NSW.
- † **Alice Timbrell (Brown '45)** died 13 August 2023 aged 98. Sister of Ellen (Eileen) Wilkins (Brown dec'd and a Schols Ex-student), Mother of Jane, Helen Witt (Timbrell '71), Stephen, Ruth and Anna , grandmother of Simone (2020) and sister-in-law of Ronda Boyd (Timbrell '43). Alice attended our 2023 100 years anniversary celebration.

## Deceased Relatives of Ex-students

- † **Peter Hamilton** died on 10 May 2023. Husband of Jill Hamilton (Hamer '56) deceased.
- † **Michael Lynch** died on 11 September 2023, husband of Elizabeth McKenna ('64)
- † **Warwick Michael** died 25 May 2023. Son of Margaret Michael (Alam '45), nephew of Inez de Hesselle (Alam '41) and Dorothea Jones-Roselius (Alam '50) and brother of Heather Joseph (Michael '67) and Cathy Rowe (Michael '70)
- † **Everelda (June) Malloy** died 2023 mother of Cheryl ('71), Helen Castle (Malloy '73) and Michael (dec'd)

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2023

- Our Bursary Fund this year received \$5,380.00
- Our Investment Fund this year reached \$119,834.43\*
- We made a Bursary payment for 2022-2023 of \$6,000.00
- The Good Samaritan Foundation (Education) Fund received \$4,000.00
- The Sr Claire Memorial Prize fund remains at \$17,500. Interest on that amount is used to cover the prize awarded to the Dux of the College each year.

\* Please note that although the Ex-Students' Union has been paying \$6,000.00 each year to the Bursary recipient, we have had a shortfall for a few years from the amount we have raised and what we have paid. That shortfall was covered by our general account. On expiry of the last investment term at the end of February, we transferred \$3,834.43 from our Investment Fund to cover some of that shortfall and have reinvested \$116,000 for 12 months at 4.25%.

### Increasing costs of postage, printing etc

Due to increasing postage costs and other associated costs, this year we will be sending out our Newsletter, remittance advice and invitation to the reunion by email, to all those who have elected to receive our mail by this method. Please do not hesitate to send your remittance advice back by email too, where you can. The names of all those who purchase and pay for raffle tickets by direct deposit without returning actual tickets will be entered into the draw. Please email [karendebenham@optusnet.com.au](mailto:karendebenham@optusnet.com.au)

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## 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.

**Thank you.**

### The raffle prize winners for 2023 were:

1. First prize - \$300 gift card – Kathie Bognar
2. Second prize – \$200 gift card – Margaret Malcolm
3. Third prize - \$100 gift card – Carol Griffith

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## 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:

Karen Debenham (Gillespie '67)

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

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

Join us for Mass in the Chapel at midday on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024 followed by an enjoyable lunch to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

**Cost: \$55** (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 2023.