

St Scholastica's College

April 2023

Ex-Students' Union

2023 Newsletter - 100th Anniversary Edition



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations to our Ex-students' Union – we are now 100 years old!

Our 2022 reunion was a great success. We were all so happy to be able to get together once again and it was great to see some new faces too. Our liturgy and music was at its usual high standard thanks so much to Jo Kenderes (Catling) for organizing it and to Fr. Ramesh Richards SJ who celebrated our Mass for us. I also thank the ladies who participated in our Mass with readings, offertory procession and the placing of our Books of Remembrance containing the names of our deceased Ex-Students on the Altar.

It has been wonderful to be able to attend some College functions again. On 10 October 2022, I was delighted to be able to attend the official opening of the new building and renovations at the College. I met and spoke with a number of students and teachers. Everyone really loves their new environment. This was a 6-year project at a cost of \$22 million comprising 15 new classrooms,

science labs, specialist technology, drama, music, visual arts, fitness amenities as well as additional recreational space. The College is a very peaceful environment without bells and announcements in keeping with its motto, Pax. Beautiful new green space has also been included. The buildings were officially opened by Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, Tanya Pilbersek, and blessed by Sydney Bishop Terence Brady. Yvonne Weldon, who is a City of Sydney Councillor, Ex-student and mother of a Year 12, 2022 student, gave the welcome to country while Kate Rayment, the College Principal, thanked all involved with the building works. With over 1000 students attending the College, this project takes the facilities into the 21st Century and meets a clear need in the community. For all of us older Ex-students, it's certainly a huge change from our days at Schols but so necessary to keep up with today's needs.



The 2022 Awards Ceremony was once again held at the Sydney International Convention Centre in Darling Harbour. What I enjoy most on these occasions is hearing the wonderful performances from the College Orchestra, Concert Band, the

Choir, Dance Troupe and individual and very talented singers. Numerous awards are presented to the achievers in each of Years 7 – 11. The evening is run so efficiently but no doubt much preparation goes into making it so successful.

In February I attended St Scholastica's Day Mass at St Mary's Cathedral with fellow Ex-student, Frances Nott (O'Keefe). This is another event that never disappoints – a Mass that is enhanced with beautiful music from the College Orchestra and choir with an individual and outstanding singer too. I was mesmerized by her angelic voice. The service culminated with the elected College leaders being blessed and presented with their badges. We all then sang the College song "In the Spirit of St Scholastica's" with all our hearts.

I thank those who have contributed to our Ex-Students bursary fund and to the Good Sams

Karen Debenham (Gillespie '67)

Email: karendebenham@optusnet.com.au

Foundation. Our community spirit prize was once again presented to a Year 11 student at Speech Night. The awardee of this prize is selected by the College.

Congratulations to the Class of 2022 on their fabulous achievements in the HSC. We welcome them to our Union and wish them luck in their studies and future careers.

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

EX-STUDENTS' COMMITTEE

President	Karen Debenham (Gillespie)
Vice President	Maureen McCluskie
Treasurer	Karen Debenham
Secretary/ Registrar	Anne Wells
Newsletter Editor	Christine Volk (Smith)
Liturgy Coordinator	Jo Kenderes (Catling)
Committee Members	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.

We invite all interested people to join our Committee to help provide ideas and "hands" for the annual Newsletter mailout.

Inner City Alumni

– Karen Debenham

You might ask what this group is? It's a group made up of 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, 21 October 2023 at the Bowlers Club, 99 York Street, Sydney. There is always a good representation of Schols Ex-students at the luncheons. To join the mailing list, please email 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).

I hope to see some of you at the luncheon on 21 October 2023.

A SHORT HISTORY OF ST SCHOLASTICA'S EX-STUDENTS UNION

– Anne Wells ('71)

St Scholastica's Ex-Students Union was founded in 1923, the inaugural meeting being called in May of that year, with the permission of Mother-General (Mother M Marcella). Sister M Teresa, the College Principal, gave her wholehearted support, and the Rev Fr J Troy acted as chairman at the first meeting and as honourable adviser in the early stages of our formation.

Our founder, Dr Margaret Jones (Margaret Mary Madeleine Sheehy) spent the night on which her results came out, in 1923, writing invitations to former ex-students regarding the formation of the Union, rather than celebrating!

The first meeting was an enthusiastic crowded gathering of Ex-Students from the Good Samaritan Convent, Pitt Street and St Scholastica's College, where a representative committee was elected. A Constitution was adopted within a few weeks and has been in use with variations since then.

Our first ball was held at the Wentworth in 1925. Annual Balls were held (except during the war years) at the Wentworth, The Ambassadors, David Jones, The Blaxland Galleries, Hordern Bros, Empress Ballroom, Grace Brothers, Cusa Ballroom, The Australia Hotel and The Roundhouse, and were always bright social functions with many ex-student debutantes.

An early tennis sub-committee was very active and we were able to finance the building of a second tennis court at the College in 1928. Tennis parties were held yearly for the ex-students and their friends and were always popular events. The Annual Sports contest between present and past pupils was a very enjoyable day with the Trophy changing hands often.

The Union was always to the fore at the Annual College fete, having two stalls for many years, until the advent of the Parents and Friends Association which took over these activities.

Our garden parties at the College were always happy occasions for the renewal of old friendships.

Our Day of Recollection was added to our Calendar in 1937, as our Spiritual event.

A library for the under-privileged children of Surry Hills was established in 1939 at St Francis, Albion Street, and functioned very successfully till the war necessitated its closing.

We were actively associated with the opening of the new Chapel at St Scholastica's, the Novitiate at Pennant Hills and have worked over the years for the Training Centre at Tempe and for Mater Dei in Narellan. We still maintain a very deep interest in the Good Samaritan Charities.

During the years when St Mary's College Rosebank was a Juniorate, their ex-students became an integral part of our Combined Union, and we have many happy memories of this close association.

A flourishing dramatic Society produced many excellent plays over the years.

Our Ex-Students Bursary was established in 1928 and has been awarded continuously since then; the support and generosity of our members have enabled us to make other donations over the years to our school for specific purposes.

During the war years our members were active and enthusiastic workers at the Cusa Canteen, helping to care for soldiers on leave.

We were foundation members of the Combined Catholic Colleges Association and many of our Executive Officers have served on its committee. We have enjoyed many happy functions with our sister colleges, especially the Garden Party at St Scholastica's when we were the official hostesses.

The Centenary of the Foundation of the Institute of the Good Samaritan in 1957 was a great occasion, celebrated at St Scholastica's with a wonderful garden party, hosted by a committee representative of all Good Samaritan Schools and headed by a President and Secretary from our Union. Much of the detailed organisation for this function fell to our members who were most active on the combined committee.

In the 1960s younger members had given excellent officers who led the Union through many troubled waters in ever-changing times.

Since the 1970s there has been a decline in the number of Ex-Students who have become active members of the Union. We continued to support Good Samaritan Charities which included the Good Samaritan Mission in Bacalod (Philippines) and the Good Samaritan Centre in Kiribati. We have also supported Polding Villa and the Japanese Missions.

Since 1983 the Union has presented the Sr Clare Memorial Award to the student gaining the highest aggregate in the Higher School Certificate and continuing Tertiary Studies.

On Sunday March 8, 1998, 150 Ex-Students gathered to celebrate 75 years of our Union. They remembered their school days with photos, and especially the balls and their preparations as “debs”!

The last 25 years have seen many changes to life in general and the Union in particular. We meet once a year on the Fourth Sunday in May for our

Annual Reunion (which includes a short meeting). The Reunion includes Mass in the College Chapel and a light lunch. The rise in social media has seen many year groups with their own Facebook Groups so they can keep in touch with each other and organise their own class reunions. The official Ex-Students Facebook page has around 2000 members from many different years and is a great way of keeping in touch with those who have not joined the Ex-Students Union.

Our fundraising through the annual raffle helps provide the Ex-Students Bursary and the prizes at Speech Night. We collect donations for the Bursary Fund (set up in 1998), and for the Good Samaritan Foundation which provides funds for education, Kiribati and Bacalod among others.

Membership fees help to pay for the Annual mailout which includes the newsletter. As you are all aware, postage is an ever-increasing cost, but it is so great to receive mail.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Ex-Students

This newsletter note is my ninth for the Ex-students' Union and the one I am most proud to write. These last eight-and-a-half years have been full and rich, with a strong focus on stewardship of all that is 'Schols'. There has been a strong emphasis on building solid infrastructure and embedding strong systems and to ensure ongoing improvement in all domains (mission, teaching and learning, pastoral care and wellbeing, leadership and management, resourcing, strategy, partnerships and governance), to modernise, and to strengthen sustainability in a volatile education market.

The faith life of the College is deeply embedded in our mission and is evident in day-to-day life at the

College. The Mission Team works extremely hard to provide rich prayer and liturgical experiences, retreats, staff formation, and social justice experiences. A prayer room (Dadirri) has been established in one of the new buildings (Monte Cassino). Chapel prayer, First Friday Masses, daily community prayer (morning prayer and the Angelus), immersion experiences, boarding family Masses, community celebratory Masses, involvement in the parish Catechists and GSE Prophetic Voices programs, and much more, keep alive the Good Samaritan, Benedictine charism, while a close connection with the St James Parish enables full expression of our Catholic faith.



Embedded literacy and numeracy strategies are at the heart of learning outcome improvement. Strong remediation, extension and enrichment programs have been established, with significant attention given to development of individual learning plans as required. A return to the Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) program, a range of before and after school support programs and an extension of library operating hours until 7.00pm have also increased support for student learning. The development of the Diverse Learning Team supports students with disabilities, while the Pastoral Care team supports wellbeing with individual Pastoral Plans.

First Nations education continues to be a priority, with an education strategy developed during 2022, alongside significant support programs, additional bursaries and scholarships offered and initial work on a Reconciliation Action Plan which will be completed this year. Staff received training in cultural competency and participated in 'on Country' experiences in preparation for further training later this year.

The boarding community continues to thrive, despite the reduction in overseas students and remote First Nations students as a consequence of the pandemic. It is a warm, caring and nurturing environment that promotes learning in all forms. The girls feel it to be a real 'home away from home'.

Weekly mandatory professional learning for all education staff has assisted the development of a strong learning culture, innovative pedagogies, well-informed professional dialogue and sharing of excellent practice.

The business area of the College has undergone major transformation in the last two years, with modern management systems integrated

across the various areas of operation. These systems enable smooth, accurate, accessible, and transparent workflow. The development of long-term financial modelling has been the backbone of strategic planning for future staffing, enrolments, and physical infrastructure. This year, we are experiencing the benefits of the hard work as policies and procedures catch up with recent technical advances.

Risk and compliance management, Human Resources management, IT, and facilities management are areas of significant growth and improvement.

Governance systems have also been improved in recent years with solid processes for policy review and implementation and risk and compliance management, strong support from the Board of Directors and Company Members, and excellent training available.

The most obvious improvements of the last 12 months or so, however, are seen in the development of the physical infrastructure of the College. The four-stage masterplan for the complete redevelopment of the day school facilities, documented in 2015-2016, has almost been completed. In 2022, Stages 2 and 3 were officially opened after two years of significant disruption. Only one classroom was left untouched. Every space was refurbished, demolished, or built new.



The masterplan was necessitated by the significant area shortfall for compliantly educating the number of students attending the College; managing risk, dilapidation and dysfunction; and to enable the College to meet national education and safety standards. It has provided an opportunity to establish state-of-the-art educational facilities that address specialist learning needs in a comfortable, well-resourced, and aesthetically beautiful environment, while extending and improving the green space, adding light and ensuring a peaceful ambiance. Importantly, the work has included massive stormwater management systems to address flooding and mould issues, and the installation of a new power substation, enabling air-conditioning, lighting, security, and technological advances.



The works included the following:

- Stage 1 Purchase and installation of two large demountable buildings.
Decanting the staffroom and library.
Refurbishment of the former staffroom and library to create 11 new classrooms, student amenities, seminar rooms, shared learning areas and offices.
- Stages 2-3 Stormwater infrastructure, electricity sub-station upgrade (combined cost of \$2M).
Refurbishment of all classrooms except the Hospitality room.
Construction of a new Drama theatre, Music rooms, Art rooms, general learning areas, shared learning areas, student amenities, meeting rooms, staff offices, canteen/café, IT hub, Open Learning Area, and landscaping in addition to,
- Stage 4 Repair and refurbishment of the main administration building and Wychwood house in keeping with their rich heritage. Both buildings will be restored to their original glory.
Demolition of the old “J Block” and construction of a new library, study areas and staff spaces.
Removal of the ‘temporary’ buildings at the front of the site (Salem).
Construction of new pedestrian access and beautiful landscaping that will highlight the heritage buildings and provide an open, welcoming entrance to the College.

I look forward to sharing the new developments with all our ex-students over time.

A culture of philanthropy will be increasingly important in supporting ongoing stewardship of our community and its resources, as the Direct Measure of Income (DMI) model of funding continues to create a significant and negative impact on the earning capacity of the College. The greatest impact is on our ability to support those who cannot afford an education at Schols yet who are important to our mission to support the poor and disadvantaged, especially our First Nations sisters.

God bless.

Kate Rayment
Principal



NEWS FROM THE GOOD SAMARITAN FOUNDATION

Good Sams Celebrate 165 Years of Ministry in 2022



The Sisters of the Good Samaritan turned 165 in 2022 as many of us know. In recognition of this milestone, both the Governor of New South Wales and the Governor-General have agreed to host a reception later in the year.

The recently completed renovations to the Chapel were necessitated by water damage to the roof, including the full replacement of the roof using Spanish-style terracotta tiles, copper guttering and downpipes, all done in a manner which maintains the heritage integrity of the building. The work was done with the assistance of a heritage architect to ensure it complied with all aspects required under the local Heritage listing of the Chapel.

Once the roof was replaced, repainting and repair of the Chapel could commence. A specialist architect, who consults on religious buildings, provided his recommendations for the colours to be used on the various parts of the Chapel.

The building disruption to the Congregational Centre has also come to an end. The brand new extension comes with great facilities for small conferences, seminars and functions and a lovely outdoor break out space.

The Good Sams Foundation has been busy with the ministries in Australia, Timor-Leste and the Philippines.

The intergenerational sewing program at Santa Teresa was a great success and the Foundation is now looking to raise support for another three such workshops during 2023.

In Timor-Leste the first tertiary students have just graduated and a virtual immersion with the Philippines was enjoyed by hundreds of enthusiastic GSE school students.

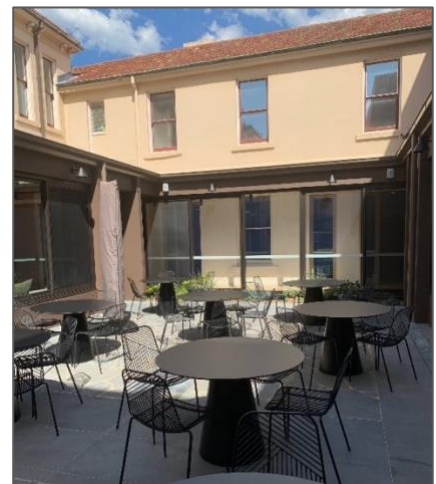
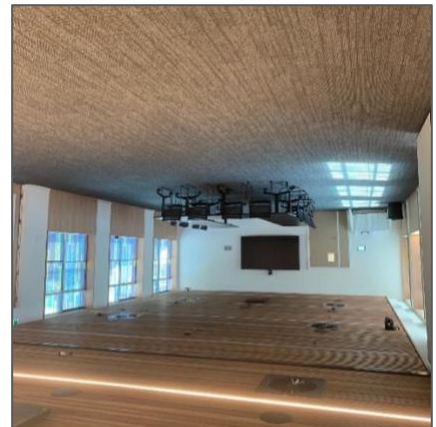
News from the Sisters

- Sr Patty Fawkner has just returned from Kiribati and is preparing for the Chapter meeting later in the year when she will retire as Congregation Leader.
- Sr Gemma Cahill is still living on-site at the Convent.
- The Pullen Sisters (Cecily and Pam) are also living on-site and may possibly be attending our reunion Mass in the Chapel on 28th May.
- Sr Beverley Caffrey is in excellent health, living at Nowra and working in the local parish. She usually attends our Ex-students' Reunions.
- Sr Carmel Connolly is in hostel care at Eastwood.
- Sr Diana Law lives in Gympie and is still working in the local parish.
- Sr Veronica McCluskie is a member of the Congregational Council and living in Queensland.

Campaign for Carlo

The Foundation has just launched a fundraising campaign to help a child from the Bacolod nutrition program requiring surgery for a massive facial tumor. Fortunately, it is both benign and operable. Any help from Schols ex-students will make a huge difference to 10-year-old Carlo's suffering. The Ex-students' Union will make a donation to this worthy cause and would appreciate any help from our members.

Please refer to this link for further information: <https://help-carlo-campaign.raisely.com/>



EX-STUDENTS' NEWS

Engagement

Congratulations to **Tara Down ('14)** on her recent engagement to David Crowley.

A Family Affair - Louise Mara (Taffa '63)

Louise attended Mothers' Day morning tea at the College in May 2022 with her daughter, Nina O'Connor (Mara '93) and granddaughter, Eleanor O'Connor, a current student at the College. How wonderful to have 3 generations of Schols girls at this gathering. Louise's other daughters, Julie ('95) and Ellen ('99) are also Ex-Students of the College.



Yvonne Weldon AM ('88)

Congratulations to Yvonne Weldon who was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours for her work with the Indigenous community of New South Wales. In 2019, Yvonne was awarded the NSW Volunteer of the Year for the South Sydney Region and she was awarded the 2022 Cancer Institute NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year Award.

Yvonne provided a Welcome to Country at the opening ceremony of the College's new building works and renovations in October 2022.

Memories from Judith O'Farrell (Judie Sampson '57) on the College's Centenary Celebrations in 1957

When the First-Year students of 1953 began at Schols, the Centenary of the Good Samaritans could not have been further from our minds. The nuns, however, were already planning the celebration. It was to include all Good Samaritan schools in Sydney and be a major event.

Surreptitiously our training began early on with a study by the nuns of our potential as ballet dancers. By 1956 our ranks had been increased to twenty with the addition of girls with potential from the years behind us. The corps de ballet was determined!

Sydney Town Hall was booked for the event in 1957. I'm not sure if it was filmed at the time, and a copy resides in the archives, but the photo here shows the Schols' ballet participants on the front lawn after the Town Hall performance. We had been trained by Barbara (surname uncertain) who was, if my memory serves me correctly, an ex-student who was about to embark on a ballet scholarship overseas. On the stage of the Town Hall in front of the corps de ballet (us) was a group of three serious ballet students. Our combined task was to mime the Good Samaritan Story as it





was delivered by narrators. Other Good Samaritan schools (Rosebank mainly) had other roles in the story to celebrate, to the packed Town Hall audience.

I was a 15-year-old then and now have only hazy memories of the actual performance. Others may be better able to fill in the gaps. My most vivid memories are of the training in the years before and of lying in bed before sleep and stretching out my toes under the blankets to straighten them so they'd be 'pointy' and I would look more like a ballerina! Being fitted for our modest long tutus (nothing above the knees - thank you - as were our tennis dresses then required to be!) is also a clear memory.

I hope that the photo brings back memories for those who were part of the Centenary in 1957 and that they are able to remember and

celebrate with me the massive contribution that the Good Samaritans have made to the education, especially of girls, in Australia. I have had a granddaughter attend a Good Sams school in Melbourne (Santa Maria). It is carrying on that same tradition. Hers was a hugely positive experience too.



Judith tells us that she retired in July 2022 (age 81) and closed her business as a Mental Health Social Worker in private practice. "Kooyong Solutions, Mediation and Counselling Service", was her business for 22 years. Prior to that Judith was a secondary school teacher after completing a degree at Sydney University, marrying, having 5 children, and teaching for over 30 years. She has always lived in the country and hence found it difficult to get back to Sydney for Reunions. However, her Fifth Year leaving class gathered regularly until COVID. Judith has lived and worked in Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria. Sadly, her husband died in 2006 after a long illness. He was an ex-Johnsman whom she met while living at Santa Sophia College at Sydney University.

Lynette (Lyn) Innes ('56)

Thanks to a good grounding in these subjects at St Scholastica's, I was able to study French, Latin, and English at Sydney University from 1957 till 1960. In 1963 I managed to get a Fellowship at the University of Oregon, studying for an MA in English and Comparative Literature, arriving just two months before the assassination of President Kennedy.

America was an exciting place in the 1960s. I soon got caught up in politics, campaigning against Vietnam war, and for the economic and civil rights of Mexican American farmworkers and African Americans. Segregation was still an issue in many states. In 1968 I got a job teaching in an historic University for black students, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

I learned more from the students than they learned from me and I became interested in poetry and novels written by Africans and African Americans. Struck by similarities between their



ideas and Irish nationalist ideas we encountered when studying Church History back in St Scholastica's, I decided to do a comparative Ph.D at Cornell University on Irish and Black writing.

In 1973 I became an Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. This led to three life-changing events: working with the famous Nigerian novelist, Chinua Achebe; adopting a wonderful daughter, Robin; and meeting my future husband, Martin Scofield, a visiting Lecturer from the University of Kent, Canterbury.

In 1975, I married Martin. At the University of Kent, I taught and published books and articles on African, Caribbean, Irish, American, and Australian Literatures, and in 1995 became a Professor and

Head of the English Department. More importantly, Martin and I had another wonderful daughter, Rachel.

After retirement in 2005, I began researching the life of my great-grandfather, the Nawab of Bengal, who married an English hotel maid in 1870. The youngest of their six children, my grandfather, emigrated to Australia in 1925. Their story, published in 2021, is titled *The Last Prince of Bengal: A Family's Journey from an Indian Palace to the Australian Outback*.

REUNIONS 2022

Inaugural Brisbane Reunion

For the first time, one of our Ex-students, Margaret Gilmartin, organised an interstate reunion. It was held on 13 August 2022 in Brisbane at Easts Leagues Club, Coorparoo. There were 12 representatives from various classes of the '60's, 70's and '80's. Everyone really enjoyed getting to meet other Queensland Ex-students and all had a fun day. They all agreed that as it was so successful, they will do it again in 2023. The date has been set as the Saturday after Ekka Wednesday. For a Queenslander, this is an easy date to remember! For non-Queenslanders who might happen to be in Brisbane at the time, it will be **19 August from 11am**.

In attendance: Margaret Gilmartin, Gaylene Smith (Lynch), Beverley Barter, Sylvia Beck, Kath McGill, Susan Lochran (Franklin), Julie McGlone, Helen Castle (Malloy), Karen Poole, Therese Simpson, Cathy Cam, Jenny Wong

For further information on the 2023 Brisbane Reunion, please contact Margaret Gilmartin by email ScholsGathering@hotmail.com or SMS 0444 518 162 Details will also be put on our Facebook page closer to the event. We thank Margaret for this great initiative and maybe Ex-students from other States might like to do the same.



Class of '81 – 40 + 1-year Reunion – Sonia Biondi-Flanagan

The class of '81 held its 40th + 1 year reunion in the Bora Bora Room at the Balmain Hotel on 15 October 2022. The reunion was attended by 30 plus students and a few teachers. As we had missed our 40-year reunion in 2021 due to COVID,

we were so happy to be able to let our hair down and mingle freely on the night. We look forward to seeing each other again soon. Big thanks to everyone who lent a hand and made the night a memorable one.



Class of '82 - 40-year Reunion - Louise Spillane

On 8th October 2022 the ladies from the graduating years 1980 (Year 10) and 1982 (Year 12) had a fabulous 40 year reunion at The Nags Head in Glebe, their old stomping ground.

40 girls from far and wide came along and had a joyous fun night as they reconnected and remembered their school days. They even sang the school song.



Class of '87 – 35-year Reunion – Eloise Stanley

On 19 November 2022, 35 former Schols girls got together to celebrate their 35-year reunion in the Stables Room at Gallon in Pyrmont. It was a great night with a few dedicated party goers travelling from as far away as Christchurch, Adelaide and Brisbane to attend. It was particularly good to see

so many faces after the past couple of years when gatherings have been restricted due to COVID. A lot of memories and laughter was shared with those present. Another reunion will be held for 40 years so, if you missed this one, stay tuned for the next one in 2027.



Class of '71 – Celebrated their Milestone Birthdays (70) – Donna Cooper ('71)

The 'Girls Are Back'!!! After a forced hiatus due to COVID, the girls of '69/'71 were back to enjoy another great lunch on Saturday 25 March at the Little Snail Restaurant, Pyrmont. This year we had 24 girls, three of which were newcomers to our reunions from our class, 2 travelled from the Sunshine Coast and one from Tweed. Together we were joined by some of our ex-students from other classes who enjoyed our fun, laughter and storytelling from our days at Schols. It was great to be back enjoying each other's company once again.



We send our best wishes to all our girls who could not attend this year.

Class of '63 – Upcoming 60-year Reunion

The Class of 1963 will be holding their 60-year reunion in conjunction with our 100-year Ex-student's Union Anniversary at the College on 28 May 2023. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you.

OUR NEWEST EX-STUDENTS – THE CLASS OF 2022

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.

Rose Mitchell achieved the highest ATAR of 98.6, was the Dux of the College and is the recipient of the Sr Clare Award. As the 2022 recipient, Rose will be presented with her award at the Annual General Reunion Mass and Lunch on 28 May 2023. We look forward to the opportunity of welcoming Rose to our Reunion and presenting her award. Congratulations Rose.

2022 NSW HSC Results

We are very proud of the results achieved by all students in 2022. 35 students achieved an ATAR of 90 or above, including our Dux, Rose Mitchell.

- Santina Costanzo was placed 1st in the State in Aboriginal Studies
- 128 entries on the Distinguished Achievers list.
- The College had a 13.8% Band 6 success rate.
- The College median ATAR 80.45 (State median 71.25).
- 95% of Visual Arts students achieved Band 5 or 6.
- 92% of Society and Culture (SAC) students achieved Band 5 or 6.
- Students who achieved a Band 5 or 6 in Community and Family Studies (CAFS) were 41% higher than state average.

Congratulations are extended to the following:

ARTEXPRESS for exemplary work in HSC Visual Arts – **Imogen Kerr's** three-minute stop motion animation was selected for ARTEXPRESS.

TEXSTYLE for exemplary work in HSC Textile and Design – **Silver Kaley's** Coyote costume inspired by Mad Max and the Australian Outback was selected for exhibition in TEXStyle and nominated for SHAPE.

ENCORE for exemplary performance in HSC Music – **Sabrina Muntz**.

OnSTAGE for exemplary performance in HSC Drama – **Zena Abdo** and **Coco Jack Gillies**.

SHAPE for exemplary work in HSC Design and Technology – **Marlene Cai**.

SHAPE for exemplary work in HSC Textiles and Design – **Elise Ali** and **Silver Kaley**.

OBITUARIES

Jill Hamilton (Hamer '56)

Jill was born on 16 July 1938 in Glebe. She was the first child of Jack, a Police officer, and Audrey who were then living at 5 Avenue Rd Glebe Point. Her brothers, Bruce, Brian and Michael followed.

Jill attended St James Forest Lodge until sixth class and then went to St Scholastica's College in first year. The College was diagonally across the road from home. Jill participated in dance, was a promising tennis player and loved swimming. She learnt the piano and performed in the school concert.

It was December 1950 and Jill would have been looking forward to the end of school year and the summer holidays ahead but a Sunday afternoon at a harbour pool in Parsley Bay forever changed Jill's life. She was swimming until late into the afternoon and became very cold. She may have been infected by a bug in the water, as within a day she developed a fever and then paralysis and was soon diagnosed with having contracted polio. From all accounts, it was rampant at the time and affected many young people to varying extents. Because of its highly contagious nature, those infected were often placed in isolation, so Jill was taken to the Prince Henry Hospital at Little Bay. She was in a perilous condition and her only movements were the blinking of her eyes. She remained there for over 6 months. After her discharge from Prince Henry, Jill was transferred to the Dame Edith Walker Convalescent Hospital at Concord. She remained there for another 6 months. Jill was encouraged to walk with the aid of leg callipers and crutches but most of her mobility was with the aid of a wheelchair.

Jill returned home in about mid 1952 and went back to St Scholastica's in 1953. Luckily the College was less than 100 metres from home and had level street access for her wheelchair. She went into 2nd year, then to her intermediate certificate in 3rd year, and then onto her Leaving certificate in 1956, where she gained First Class Honours in Geography, three As and two Bs in other subjects and was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship for University entry. She gained the highest aggregate of marks out of all the students in her year – an amazing achievement when considering the adversities she had endured.

Jill was now ready to embark on the next stage of her life with an undergraduate degree course in Law at Sydney University. In those days the Law



School was in an old building in Phillip Street, which had to be accessed over several levels by an often out of service lift or stairs. Fortunately, with Dad being stationed in the city or inner west, and with the later assistance from her brother Bruce, Jill was wheeled each day from a car into the building or carried by her father or brother, Bruce. There was no shortage of willing guys on hand to take over the task or pleasure of carrying Jill to the upper levels of the building when the lift was out. This process was repeated at the end of each day.

Jill was one of about five women who commenced Law that year, and on the first day she became acquainted with two ladies who would become lifelong friends - Ann Mountstephens and Louise Porevski. She reconnected with James Diver who she first met in their early school days at Forest Lodge, and they became great friends. She was also joined by Nance Rolfe (Armour '54), who was with Jill at St Scholastica's and lived around the corner in Arcadia Road, and Margaret Standish. There were other students in and about Jill's years that would later have distinguished political and legal careers, most notably John Winston Howard, and a wave of justices and judges, including Chief Justice Murray Gleeson of the High Court and the Supreme Court of NSW, Michael Kirby of the High

Court and NSW Court of Appeal, Michael Grove, Tony Puckeridge, Jeremy Badgery Parker, Marcus Einfield, Bill Windeyer, Murray Tobias, Roger Gyles, Jane Matthews, Joseph Goldstein, David Hodgson, Lloyd Waddy, Alan Abadee, Barry Mahoney and many distinguished lawyers. A veritable Law Almanac of Who's Who.

Jill completed her degree in 1961 as one of ninety-seven graduates, of which only five were women. Of interest, statistics for Sydney University for that year show that there were about 3300 women enrolled out of a total of about 11900 across all faculties and, of the 800 enrolled in Law, only 60 were women. There was definitely a bias towards men pursuing a legal career.

What Jill liked most about Law School was the men! And they would have had a like attraction to her – Jill was stunning. It's been remarked she had the features of Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly – the face, hair and dark eyes giving her a striking resemblance.

After University, Jill took up articles of clerkship with the firm of CW Robinson, where she remained until September 1962 when an opportunity arose for a role as a legal officer with the Housing Commission which she accepted. She was later admitted to the Bar as a non-practicing barrister. Jill later became the second officer of the General Conveyancing Section, dealing with property transactions and recoveries. During those years her father and brothers, Bruce and Brian, continued to help getting Jill to and from work.

Another extraordinary feat of Jill's was that she not only learnt to drive but mastered this on a manual vehicle and got her driver's licence. The clutch was controlled by a dome shaped device with a button near the steering wheel that had to be manipulated to engage and release the gears. Another device controlled the brake and accelerator pedals. While managing all of these in one hand, the vehicle was steered with the other. The controls had to be custom made by an engineering firm in the inner west and then passed

by the Transport Department, which was no mean feat. Later came the Holden Hydramatic with its auto transmission – a game changer for so many people with disabilities.

If Jill's life wasn't busy enough, she undertook charity work for the Harlequin Committee which Ann Mountstephens established as the younger set to provide fund raising for the Royal Blind Society – now known as Vision Australia. She was also its President for a time.

On a harbour cruise one New Year's eve, Jill was introduced by Ann Carney to the man who became her Mr Right – the very handsome and tall Peter Gordon Hamilton. The romance gathered at a pace and they became engaged in May 1965. They celebrated their marriage in November 1965.

Jill wanted to start a family so she resigned from the Housing Commission in 1970, but before that she was admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court. Sometime after that she took over the running of her brother Bruce's probate practice and managed it from her home.

Jill gave the birth to her son, Richard, in 1974 which brought untold joy not only to them, but to her parents, Audrey and Jack, and to Peter's parents, John and Janet. Jill was also a godmother to 2 of her nieces.

Jill was an extraordinary person in so many ways, who went beyond fulfilling her natural abilities and given talents and rose above the terrible adversity suffered at such an important time in her development. She remained very positive and resilient throughout her life. She never complained or looked for sympathy about her disability – just the very opposite, she got on with what confronted her and with no excuses. She had the loving, dedicated and unqualified support of her husband Peter, and son Richard. She remained so interested in what was happening with her extended families, even in the difficult times during the last months of her life. Jill inspired all those who knew her – an amazing woman.

Joan Smith (Martin '56) 13.2.1939 – 10.11.2022

Joan attended St Scholastica's from 1952, completing her Leaving Certificate in 1956. Her younger sisters, Patricia Martin ('58) and Mary Boyle (Martin '59) also attended St Scholastica's. After leaving school, Joan went on to study teaching at Sydney Teacher's College. During her long teaching career, Joan obtained a

Bachelor of Commerce Degree and ultimately became an Inspector of Schools. Joan met her husband, Lawrie, while doing research on family history. They had a common Spanish ancestor whose life was the subject of an early history book on the Hawkesbury region.

Joan did not have children of her own but had a very close relationship with her nieces and nephews. She introduced her nieces to lots of her cultural pursuits including opera, art and travel. Sadly in 2013, Joan was diagnosed with cancer and bravely battled her illness for 9 years. Her nieces very generously supported her during her illness. Joan finally succumbed to the cancer on 10 November, 2022. Her funeral Mass at St Mary's North Sydney, where Joan and Lawrie had been married in 1990, was attended by many including a number of St Scholastica's Ex-Students. Her husband, Lawrie Smith, really appreciated their presence. Joan will be fondly remembered by her family and her classmates. She hosted a class reunion in her home in recent years.



Picture: from left to right are the Martin sisters, Joan, Patricia and Mary



Lorraine Fanning (Pont '61) 24.2.1945 – 27.10.22

Lorraine was a very special person who loved everyone and loved life. She led a very full life, growing up in Rozelle with her parents, Mary and Norm Pont, her brother Norm, sister Dianne and younger brother Alan.

Lorraine and her younger sister, Dianne (Pont '63), were both privileged to attend St Scholastica's for their high school years with Lorraine winning a scholarship to teachers' college in Wollongong. She taught primary school for many years in Wollongong, Anna Bay and Raymond Terrace, becoming a teacher librarian in later years.

Lorraine spent many happy years living in Port Stephens with her husband, John, and three children Rhona, Neil and Dianne. During her years in Port Stephens she also taught yoga and swimming.

Sadly, Lorraine passed away after a short battle with cancer. On the day Lorraine left us, to our delight, a large double rainbow appeared in the sky. We took it as a sign from Lorraine that all was well. She will be sadly missed by all.

Patricka Hole (Hogan '44) 1927 - 2023

Patricka Ann Hogan was born on St Patricks Day 1927 at Waverly, the third of four children. She grew up at Punchbowl where her parents built and ran a local corner store which served as the family home.

She regarded herself as the family tomboy which stood her in good stead on annual summer holidays to her grandparents' sheep property in the Queanbeyan region. These occasions were highlights of her young life.

She attended St Jerome's Catholic Primary School earning a state bursary and scholarship to St Scholastica's College, commencing 1940, which she happily took up alongside her local friend Therese Logue as they caught two trains from Punchbowl to Glebe, back and forth.

On a rainy Friday morning they arrived at the school gates to be greeted by boarders who cheekily advised that school had been cancelled! Without hesitation they retreated home, changed out of their uniforms and dashed into the city attending the cinema – *Mrs Miniver* was showing. Pat returned home to a telegram from a cross Sister Agnes summoning her: - "*Come to school immediately.*" Fortunately, returning to school after the weekend nothing further was said.

Pat enjoyed the English, poetry, and history she learnt at school. After leaving she worked in the RAAF city office. At this time the family received another telegram with the devastating news that her only brother, John, was *missing in action* having been shot down over Germany in the final days of the European war. It was some time before news arrived that he had survived and was returning home. These days she deemed the most traumatic of her life.

The class photo is from 1943. Patricka is on the 2nd row from front and 2nd from right.



In the winter of 1946 Pat and a girlfriend holidayed at the Blue Mountains. There she met the recently demobbed tall and handsome Frank Hole.

Subsequently, she introduced her friend Therese, and Frank's brother, Reg and by the end of 1948 there were two weddings.

Frank's work in the Commonwealth Public Service took them to Canberra, arriving with a newborn to fires raging on multiple fronts.

After a few years they returned to Sydney building their War Service home upon freshly subdivided land on the faraway northern beach's suburb of Collaroy Plateau. Here they completed their family of five girls and one boy all born at Margaret's Hospital.

Like many of their generation Pat and Frank gave up any thought of little luxuries ensuring their children enjoyed more opportunities than they themselves experienced. Education and church were ever prioritised.

Pat understood her role was to feed her family well despite a tight budget. She wasn't afraid to experiment. Her baked potatoes and Sunday roasts were famed far and wide.

Frank died in the 1990s and Pat remained in the family home for many years thereafter, finally accepting her need to retire to residential care where she herself could finally be taken care of.

Family relations were valued and long friendships stretching back to schooldays ever treasured. Into her 90's, no longer able to attend school reunions she relished reading the Ex-Students' Union Newsletter recognising old teachers, classmates and sharing old stories.

She enjoyed an excellent memory and would tell tales of family and friends from yesteryear, and legends from bygone times. She retained her faith and never lost her sense of humour. In her final years she outlived two of her children, all her siblings and most her friends and classmates – and with it the sense of an era passing.

Fay Mora (Eckett '67)

Fay Eckett was born on 18 April 1950 and grew up in Five Dock. Fay died suddenly on 10 April 2023 but had been living with chronic illness for many years. She had three children - Lucinda Mora, Kaitlin Moore and Richard Moore who will miss her greatly.

After school, Fay completed a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) at UNSW. She moved to Brisbane in the 1970s. Fay later completed a Master of Education (Career Development and Counselling) at the Queensland University of Technology. Fay was a case manager, assessor, trainer, and manager in employment services, working at the Department of Education Employment & Training, the Queensland Department of Education and Mission Employment for many years.

Fay retired to Banora Point, New South Wales, enjoying life by the sea, mountains, and forests with her long-time partner Peter Bettles. Peter sadly passed in July 2022.

Fay was community minded and a social justice advocate. She worked tirelessly to help others in her career, was also a social bee and devoted to her family including her three grandchildren.

Whenever Fay visited Sydney, she would take a walk with her daughter, Kaitlin, around Glebe and past St Scholastica's. Kaitlin's in-laws live on Toxteth Road, so a visit to them was a real blast from the past for her.



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.

- † **Joan Baillie (Satterthwaite '47)** died 31 May 2022. Sister of Sr Patricia sgs ('42) deceased and of Bishop John Satterthwaite (deceased).
- † **Patricia Baker ('44)** died 17 February 2023. Sister of Kathleen Newell (Baker '39) and Jean Crowe (Baker '35) both deceased.
- † **Maureen Becker (Chapman)** died 2 February 2023 aged 89.
- † **Margaret Carters (Newbigging '68)** died on 26 February 2021.
- † **Anna Cooper ('80)** died 28 March 2023.
- † **Elizabeth (Bette) Donnelly ('45)** died 26 September 2022 aged 91. Sister of Ann Tinman (Donnelly '40)
- † **Lorraine Fanning (Pont '61)** died 27 October 2022. Sister of Dianne Pounder (Pont '63)
- † **Maree Fenech (O'Donoghue)** died 14 February 2022 aged 69. Sister of Anne O'Donoghue ('68)
- † **Wilma Ferguson (Stephens '45)** died 7 October 2022.
- † **Elaine Giddey (Considine '46)** died 21 October 2022.
- † **Kaye Gordon ('63)** died April 2022.
- † **Jill Hamilton (Hamer '56)** died 19 August 2022 aged 84.
- † **Phyllis Hayes (Malone '38)** died 25 August 2022 aged 100. Sister of Norma O'Keefe (Malone '39) deceased, and aunt of Sharon Wilson (O'Keefe '67).
- † **Patricka Ann Hole (Hogan '44)** died 18 January 2023.
- † **Maria-Cruz Luquin (Barrado '73)** died 20 September 2022.
- † **Kathleen McElhone (Thorp '38)** died 19 November 2022 aged 100. Sister of Pauline Murphy (Thorpe) deceased.
- † **Marie Therese McGuire rsj** died 30 October 2022. Sister of Sr. Leonie McGuire sgs ('45) deceased and Laurencia Grundy (McGuire '47).

- † **Megan McManus ('74)** died 24 February 2023.
- † **Fay Mora (Eckett '67)** died 10 April 2023.
- † **Gwendoline Player (Hockey)** died 12 February 2020. Mother of Catherine Player ('87) and Anne Jarvis (Player).
- † **Patricia Pritchard (Courtenay)** died 2021. She was 96.
- † **Joan Smith (Martin '56)** died 10 November 2022. Sister of Patricia Martin ('58) and Mary Boyle (Martin '59).
- † **Clare Waterstreet (Stevens '55)** died in 2022.

Deceased Relatives of Ex-students

- † **Peter Joseph** husband of Heather Joseph (Michael '67) and son-in-law of Margaret Michael (Alam '45).
- † **Judith Wisemantel** died 13 April 2022 aged 87. Mother of Sally-Ann Wisemantel ('76) and Julie Parker (Wisemantel).
- † **Michael Delaney** died July 2022 brother of Margaret and Nancy (both deceased).

TREASURER'S REPORT 2022

- Our Bursary Fund this year received \$5,435.00.
- Our Investment Fund this year reached \$115,225.42.
- We made a Bursary payment for 2021-2022 of \$6,000.00.
- The Good Samaritan Foundation (Education) Fund received \$4,000.00.

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 2022 were:

1. First prize - \$300 gift card – Merryn Blackall
2. Second prize – \$200 gift card – Margaret O'Flynn
3. Third prize - \$100 gift card – Jodie Sewell

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)
email: christinevolk@bigpond.com
Karen Debenham (Gillespie '67)
email: karendebenham@optusnet.com.au



Invitation to Ex-Students' Mass and Annual Reunion

Join us for Mass in the Chapel at midday on Sunday 28th May 2023, 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

We especially welcome our newest Ex-Students - the graduating class of 2022.