



St Scholastica's College

Ex-Students' Union

Newsletter 2020

From the President

May 2020



The year that has passed since our 2019 Newsletter has certainly seen the extremes of what living in Australia can be like. We have experienced severe drought, raging bush fires, water restrictions, flooding and now

the worldwide COVID-19 virus. We were in touch with a number of our Ex-Students during the fires and, although many were affected, they have pulled through with safety. We are yet to see the effects of the COVID-19 but we hope and pray that all our families and friends will keep their health.

It is always reassuring to see traditions being carried on through the generations at the College. Of particular note was the celebration of St Scholastica's Day, with the opening school Mass and blessing of the 2020 College leaders at St Mary's Cathedral on 7th February. The College leaders formally accepted their responsibilities and promised to serve the community of St Scholastica's with respect, compassion and a sense of justice as they work together to build a better community. The outstanding performance of the orchestra and choir each year make this day so special. It is a moving experience to hear the whole College and Choir sing out with gusto the College song, "In the Spirit of St Scholastica". After this formality, the students return for a day of activities and enjoyment.

I had the honour of attending the Year 12 Graduation Mass and Ceremony at St Mary's Cathedral in September 2019, to honour the girls' achievements and again experience the wonderful music provided by the College's orchestra and choir. It is fitting that the girls start their journey at St Scholastica's with Mass at the Cathedral and now have their farewell back where they started.

The tradition of the College's Speech Night to recognise the achievements of Years 7-11 students moved from the Town Hall to the Convention Centre three years ago. The Convention Centre provides better seating capacity as well as access for transport and car parking. I had the honour of

giving out the Year 11 prizes and presented our Ex-Students' Community Prize to Loan Phan. Loan was chosen to receive our prize due to her generosity in giving of her time to the College, her involvement in organising community events, production of the film for Pax day as well as being a proactive Liturgy Prefect. Loan clearly has a love of the College and involves herself fully in all that she does.

We have all been saddened by the loss of some wonderful Sisters of the Good Samaritan since our last newsletter. In particular, we have lost our Ex-Student Sisters Joan (Teresita) Sexton, Pat (Francis) Maher and Elizabeth Carr. On the first Sunday in November each year, a Mass for all deceased Sisters of the Good Samaritan is held in the College Chapel. All Ex-Students are welcome to attend to honour those Sisters. If you wish to receive an invitation, please let me know.

I thank our Ex-Students for their continuing support of our Bursary Fund and the Good Samaritan Foundation. There are so many in need of our help. We need your ongoing support to continue with this work and in particular to provide annual prizes to the College. Buying our raffle tickets is one way you can help us. We would really appreciate more members buying and returning them to us with \$10.00.

At our 96th anniversary reunion we saw a number of new faces and we all had a great day. The ladies also enjoyed visiting the College archives, looking at photos, reminiscing about their days at the College and seeing all the changes that continue to take place. We were again lucky to have Fr David Braithwaite, SJ celebrate with us. Jo Kenderes (Catling) does a fabulous job each year organising our Liturgy and music and we all know how wonderful the acoustics are in our beautiful Chapel.

Congratulations to the class of 2019 on their great achievements in the HSC and we look forward to having them join us as Ex-Students.

I thank everyone who has helped in any way in support of our Ex-Students' Union.

We have over 1000 members now on our Facebook page. This is a great way to keep in touch with us, other Ex-Students and to hear of upcoming reunions. Please join our page:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/schols/?ref=group_header

Karen Debenham (Gillespie '67)
President

Email: karendebenham@optusnet.com.au | Phone: 0419 999 084

Ex-Students Committee

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 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, Susan Bastick, 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.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In keeping with the Government's regulations in our current COVID-19 health crisis, it is with much regret that we must cancel our 97th Annual Reunion which was to be held on 24th May. However, we still need to raise funds to be able to continue with our support of the Ex-Students' Bursary Fund and the Good Sams Foundation, both of which are extremely grateful for our efforts. Funds raised from our raffles enable us to provide prizes to students at the College and give support in other ways when the need arises.

Please consider making a donation by completing the enclosed Remittance Advice.

From the Principal



Dear Ex-students,

It is my pleasure to provide a brief snapshot of life at the College in early 2020. You would, of course, understand the very significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on schools, especially boarding schools, at this time. Even at the end of Term 1, it is clear 2020 will be a year like no other.

Just a few days before Christmas, Scarlet Lenehan, the beautiful 20-year-old daughter of teacher Sara, was tragically killed in a car accident on the Northern Beaches. Just after school returned for the year, the grandson of one of our Laboratory Technicians died suddenly from an aneurism while exercising and then another Lab Technician's son-in-law suffered a serious head injury following a

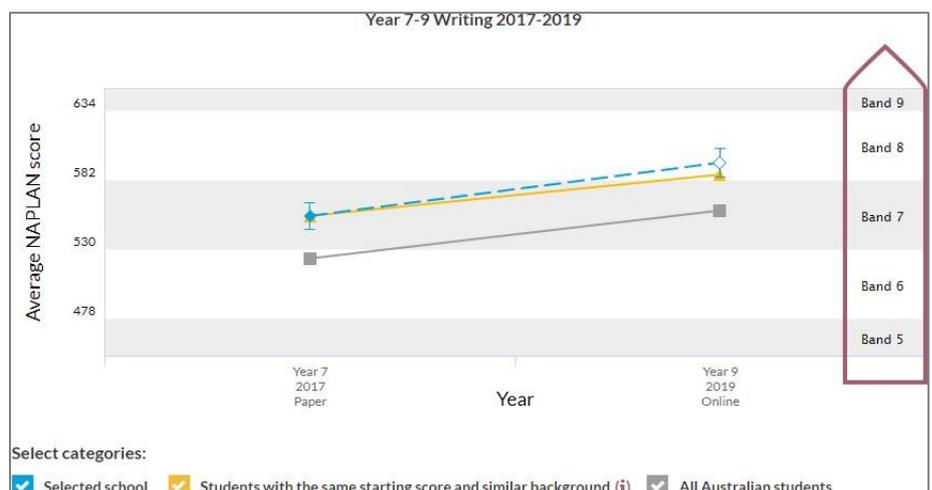
fall in his parent's yard while playing with his children. This all followed a summer of droughts and shocking fires and then floods. It was destined to be a challenging year.

Academic Achievement

Despite all of those challenges, the special Schols community rallied and the focus remained firmly set on looking after each other and on excellence in all we do. The efforts of 2019 saw academic achievement improve yet again, with strong learning growth in literacy and numeracy, measured by the external National Assessment Program (NAPLAN).

The following average score graph → taken from the MySchool site demonstrates the learning growth across the Writing domain in the period between Year 7 and Year 9. It indicates significant growth at a rate greater than Australian schools generally and those whose students commenced at the same point in Year 7. The graph affirms the work undertaken to address learning improvement.

The graph on the next page has been taken from SCOUT and indicates the significant impact of learning at Schols. The first graph shows the 'Average Scaled Growth' and the second, 'At or Above Expected Growth'.



In recent years, Schols girls have absolutely shone in the HSC major works across a range of subjects. This is evident again in the 2019 results. One year, all five of the top major works in Aboriginal Studies selected for addition to the State Library were produced by Schols girls. We have also had students top the state and perform in the top 10 students in the state in a wide range of subjects. The 2019 Society and Culture class had the second highest cohort result in the state in the Higher School Certificate.

The 2019 teaching innovation action research projects undertaken by three successful applicants provided outstanding material for the College as we move into higher levels of offerings in our academic and pastoral programs. STEM partnerships with FINCH Creative Technologies Company and local universities, particularly the University of Sydney and the University of Technology, continue to provide incredible opportunities for the girls to take the lead in areas in which women have previously played a limited role. This is particularly evident in the fields of genetic science/microbiology, engineering and digital technology.

Schols girls continue to excel in a wide range of endeavours in addition to academia, including the Arts, sports and much more. Our Dragon Boating teams are World Champions and students represent at state and national levels. Our girls are community leaders in social justice and environmental activism, and they continue to thrill with exceptional creativity and skill.

I am very proud of the engagement of our girls and staff in supporting community welfare and the ministries of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. Several girls and staff members participated in Good Samaritan Ministry Outreach and immersion programs here in Australia, in the Philippines, Kiribati and Japan. Their work with Matthew Talbot Hostel for homeless men and through volunteering as catechists in local schools is also noteworthy.

As has been the case since Mum Shirl and Father Ted Kennedy first brought local Aboriginal girls to St Scholastica's for a Good Sam education, the College



continues to very actively support local, rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls, providing a rich education in culture, the faith, academia, sports, and much more. We are always looking for ways to support and grow our indigenous education program and would appreciate any financial support any ex-students can offer towards our indigenous bursaries. If you feel you can help with a small donation or a named long-term bursary, please contact me via email at: principal@scholastica.nsw.edu.au.

The following is a snapshot of our current school profile:

| | |
|---|------|
| Students | 1053 |
| Boarders | 86 |
| International | 30 |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 50 |
| (from the local area and across Australia) | |
| Staff (excluding casual staff) | 124 |

BENet Conference

One of the highlights of the last 12 months was the International Benedictine Educators' Network Conference, hosted by Good Samaritan Education here at Schols. It is the first time this triennial conference has been held in Australia and attracted delegates from Benedictine communities across over 20 countries.↓



Masterplan

As many of you would be aware, some areas of the College have not been upgraded for 60 years or more. The rapid growth of the school meant that the facilities were modified in an ad hoc way to address urgent need. Room sizes were in breach of education standards and some facilities limited curriculum and pedagogical offerings. This has led to the development of a 5-stage College Masterplan to redevelop the site. This redevelopment of the physical infrastructure of the College has been a bittersweet labour of love since I took the reigns as Principal of the College over five years ago now. We have completed Stage 1 and are now working our way through Stages 2 and 3 of the Masterplan.

The first 4 stages are due for completion within the next five years. The key features of the College will not change but

many of the long-remembered 'treasures', such as the timber teaching platforms, demountable classrooms held up by the hoop pine in the front yard, and the old science labs, will be replaced by modern, specialist learning and recreation spaces and gardens. The beautiful green spaces will be upgraded and will remain a feature of our very small site. We were fortunate enough to receive Commonwealth support in grants to bring the College facilities to a level reflective of the educational standards of our time. We are seeking support, however, to assist us to complete the program and to ensure our legacy is a high standard of facilities that will serve the Schols community for another fifty to one hundred years. If you are able to contribute any amount to assist in this important work, please contact me via email: principal@scholastica.nsw.edu.au.

Here are some before and after photos of the Science Labs, completed in January this year.



Old Science Lab



New Science Lab



Old Science prep room



New Science prep room

We are currently developing a new system for maintaining a register of alumnae. We look forward to trialling the program later this year. We will be in touch with you, via Karen, to build our database as the year progresses.

To conclude, I acknowledge in this newsletter the generous work of the Ex-students' Union in supporting our College community, especially through the scholarships provided. I also wish to acknowledge Karen for her consistent and

valued presence at College events, representing Schols girls across the decades and, indeed, over 140 years.

Please do visit the College website from time to time (www.scholastica.nsw.edu.au) and read our fortnightly newsletter (Schols News) to keep abreast of life at the College. You are always welcome here and you are always "Schols girls".

Best wishes for the remainder of the year. Keep well and keep in touch. God bless.

Pax,
Kate Rayment

News from the Sisters of the Good Samaritans



Relationship is what life is all about. Late last year, I was given a valuable gift of a new relationship with the Good Samaritan Sisters, Uganda, writes Veronica McCluskie SGS.

Our Congregational Leader, Sister Patty Fawkner, had asked me if I was willing to visit the Good Samaritan Sisters, Uganda. Patty had met their Superior General Sr John Evangelist Mugisha at a gathering of Superiors General in Rome in 2019. For our congregations, this was the beginning of a wonderful relationship.

The Good Samaritan Sisters, Uganda are an institute of the diocesan rite, founded in 1978 by the late Emmanuel Cardinal Kiwanuka Nsubuga in the Archdiocese of Kampala. During my 12-day visit to Uganda in December last year, I was surprised, amazed and deeply touched by this group of women.

On arrival at the airport, I was met by two Good Samaritan sisters and their driver with beaming smiles and a simple but beautiful bunch of flowers. Stepping outside, I was struck by the humidity, the crowds, and cars that seemed to go in any direction along roads riddled with potholes.

At the Generalate which became my base, I presented a print of the [Good Samaritan](#) by the Australian painter Justin O'Brien to Sr John Evangelist and the sisters, who were delighted.

Their hospitality and care of me was truly "Good Samaritan". Thankfully, English is the common language across more than 40 language groups, so communication was not a problem. Uganda is not much bigger than Victoria but has a population of 43 million. Despite obvious poverty, the people appear to be happy, with a certain vibrant quality.

The Mother House and headquarters are located at Nalukolongo, where I visited the quarters for men, women and children with disabilities. The sisters also care for retired priests who can no longer manage for themselves. This was the founding work of the congregation, however, changing needs have challenged them to expand their ministries.

The sisters are now involved in teaching, nursing and midwifery, social work and care of orphans, many as a result of AIDS. They are counsellors, secretaries, catechists, administrators and agriculturalists.

I had opportunities to meet many of the sisters, who are no longer limited to their founding Diocese but are spread across many dioceses in Uganda. I was welcomed at their convents and joined them in the ceremonies of First Profession, Final Profession and Jubilee celebrations.

After the Final Profession, Archbishop Cyprian Zizito Lwanga introduced me to the congregation and gave me the Ugandan clan name of Nansubuga. This placed me in the same clan as the founder. I felt both very privileged and most humbled.

These Good Samaritans are a vibrant group. At first the younger sisters appeared to be quite shy, but that changed after I got to know them. I found they love dancing and joking.

Living the motto "Be a Good Samaritan" is very real to them. The sisters who work in the orphanages have a friendly, warm relationship with the children, but did not appear to be overly 'motherly'. Their work includes a large manual component as they grow most of their food.

I was introduced to a very different diet. The staple food called Matooke is made from plantain (green) bananas and served at all meals, including breakfast. A paste/sauce of g-nuts tastes like peanuts and is eaten with Matooke. A soft, sweet white bread is also plentiful in addition to sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, chicken and fish, and greens.

Activities included a trip to the beginning of the Nile, not quite the source that is in Lake Victoria, and a tour of Entebbe Zoo where most of the animals have been rescued from poachers.

On a visit to the Equator we were able to watch how water flows down the drain. It runs anti-clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere, clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and straight down on the actual Equator.

An added bonus was a visit to the major shrine of the Ugandan Martyrs for the sesquicentenary celebration of the Missionaries of Africa and the Missionary Sisters of our Lady of Africa (White Fathers and Sisters).

One of the many joys of my visit was meeting the "Pioneers". These are the sisters who began the congregation with Cardinal Nsubuga. Six of them are still living. There was something unique and special about them... a direct link to their founding charism of being Good

Samaritan. It was as if I could actually touch not just their charisma, but ours as well.

I was able to join with the sisters in their daily rhythm of life beginning with Eucharist at 6am. This was often by lamplight as we experienced power outages most mornings. Can you imagine the atmosphere of the predawn darkness, celebrating Eucharist to the sound of drums and voice – and could those sisters sing!

The majority of the sisters are young and vibrant. The atmosphere around them was one of happy contentment. There are 186 Good Samaritan Sisters, Uganda spread across 35 houses. At present they have 15 novices (six second years and nine first years) along with four postulants and a number of inquirers. It was amusing and enjoyable to chat with them. I wanted to know about them, but they wanted to know about the Good Samaritans in Australia. It delighted them to know that across the world was another group of Good Samaritan Sisters.

Sr John arranged for me to meet with some of the members of her council to discuss ways we might support each other and work together. Their dream is to build a dispensary, or health clinic, that would service the needs of their orphanage, schools and the local people.

They minister within a culture where corruption and poverty abound. Due to the legacy of their founder, the community is relatively land rich but cash poor. They have the land but not the means to build. Our congregation will give \$US10,000 per annum for the next three years to help the sisters in Uganda realise their dream.

Veronica McCluskie ('61)

This article was first published in the March 2020 edition of The Good Oil, the e-magazine of the Good Samaritan Sisters www.goodsams.org.au.

Students Dive into History of the Good Samaritan Sisters in Japan



Students of St Scholastica's College have taken a 'deep dive' into the history of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan in Japan, through an initiative run by the Australian National Maritime Museum that calls for an understanding of 'War and Peace in the Pacific'.

Earlier this year, students in Years 9 and 10 from St Scholastica's College were given the opportunity to take part in the Australian Maritime Museum's ongoing annual project War and Peace in the Pacific 75 – a project that focuses on a different theme every year for five years, from 2017–2021.

The project is in its third year and the 2019 theme *Secrets and Spies* explores the untold stories from WWII – stories like the establishment of the Good Samaritan communities in Japan.

The project was conceived as a result of the AMM and the NSW Department of Education looking into how a student-led research program could engage schools in the trinations of Australia, United States and Japan to explore the battles and consequences of WWII.

Jeff Fletcher, Senior Education Officer of the Maritime Museum, was first alerted to the history of the Sisters in Japan by an attendee at the 2018 War and Peace exhibition.

He then made contact with Sister Lia van Haren and the Good Samaritan Archives who suggested the students of St Scholastica's be considered as research candidates.

"I suggested they involve the students from St Scholastica's largely due to the access the students have to our archives," said Lia. "They [the students] are located directly next door and I knew they would be heavily reliant on our archives as a resource for their research."

It has been over 70 years since six Good Samaritan Sisters set sail for Nagasaki, Japan, to aid in the reconstruction of the diocese after the atomic bomb was dropped in 1945. Significantly, this was the first overseas mission established by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan.

Leading their fellow students in the exploration of this history were Year 10 students Veronica, Lillian and Mia. The more research the girls undertook, the more relatable the original six Sisters became to them. *"Some of them were not that much older than we are,"* said Lillian. *"Because of this, it was easy for us to connect with their story and the significance of them travelling to Japan at that time."*

"What struck me, through our research," added Mia, *"was how ahead of their time they were to be thinking of world peace because WWII polarized the world."* *"Today, we don't*

think of nuns as young women, but back then they were young pioneers shaping their generation."

The final product of their efforts is a website that includes an interactive chronological history of the Good Samaritan mission in Japan; 'boarding passes' detailing information about each of the pioneering Sisters; video interviews; and infographics.

The group leaders took a 'multimodal' approach to the project. "We split the girls up into smaller groups and gave them each an area of focus," Veronica said. "This was largely based on their interests and covered the areas of web development, video, graphic design, copywriting and more."

When asked about the best part of the project, Veronica, Lillian and Mia agreed that it was their visits to the Archives

and getting closer to the history of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. "We have been at St Scholastica's since Year 7 and before we did this project, we had never visited the Archives," said Veronica. "Since then we have made frequent visits to the Archives and have met many Sisters. We feel much closer to our school's heritage and to the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. Now we can say we have developed a resource that can tell their story and appeal to a younger generation. That is pretty cool."

The final digital project by the students of St Scholastica's College will be available on the Australian National Maritime Museum website in 2020.

This article was first published in the December 2019 edition of *The Good Oil*, the e-magazine of the Good Samaritan Sisters www.goodsams.org.au

Go to <http://goodsamsfoundation.org.au/good-sams/> to see some of the great work the Good Sams are doing within the community.

Follow the Good Sam Foundation on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/goodsamsfoundationAus>

If you are interested in supporting the work of the Foundation, would like to organise a fundraiser, make a donation or have other ideas for support, please contact Catherine Cresswell on phone: (02) 87525313 or email: ccresswell@goodsams.org.au

Ex-Students' News



Ex-Student Rosanna Chaina Baini OAM ('81)

In January I became the proud recipient of the Order of Australia Medal as part of the Australia Day Honours Awards. I reflect on the greatness of Australia, and how we survived two world wars, a Great Depression and myriad of natural disasters, only to emerge on the other side as the best country in the world. I believe that the tribulations of our nation reflect some of our own personal struggles. The secret is to persevere and continue to focus on the greater good, or in a personal sense, the bigger picture. I feel enriched through the ability to empower others to excel and believe in a greater good. Taking our nation as the ultimate example in all that we do, there has to always be a better tomorrow. As a mother, an educator and a businesswoman, I know all too well the struggles many face to navigate

themselves through the complexities of the modern world. My aim, as with all my appointments, is to continue to actively assist and coach others in finding their path as professionals, as Victorians and above all else as Australians! Once again, I am honoured to receive the OAM.

Rosanna was born in Sydney and her parents were migrants from Lebanon. Rosanna has a Diploma in Health Sciences, a Degree in Criminal Justice Administration, and a Degree in Health Science. Her particular interests are youth, isolated women and newly arrived migrants. She is committed to cultural diversity and seeks to empower people, especially youth, with the leadership skills they need to participate in all aspects of the wider Victorian community, in government, in community, in sport, in the arts and in business. Between 1997 and 2001, Rosanna was the first woman to be appointed to the role of Commissioner for Multicultural Affairs within the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Congratulations Rosanna.



Ex-Student Ashleigh Chatelier (2019)

In May 2019, United Nations Youth Organisation members were invited to apply to be part of the Middle Eastern Educational Tour in January 2020. After an extensive three-stage application process involving interviews and essay writing, Ashleigh was chosen to attend the tour, to explore themes of nationalism, religion and statehood in some of the most exciting and spectacular parts of the world. Ashleigh was selected as one of New South Wales' two representatives and joined the 16-strong team which

headed to Tel-Aviv, Amman, Petra and Jerusalem. The educational experience focused on developing a first-hand understanding of the work towards peace in the region. Ashleigh and her companions met with representatives from Non-



government organisations, intergovernmental organisations, representatives from the United Nations and Politicians to understand the roles of the different stakeholders. The tour visited both Israel and Jordan and throughout these locations those involved discussed the roles of these key factors in crisis such as the Israel - Palestine conflict. The program looked at how Australia interacts with the region and what role we play in the greater international community.

Ashleigh began her UN encounter through the NSW UN Youth conference, before going to the National conference. Ashleigh attributes a keen personal interest in Human Rights to the development of her professional interest and aspirations and has always been interested by the conflict in the Middle East and the struggle between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Congratulations Ashleigh.

Reunions

60 Year Reunion - Class of '59

Ladies from the class of '59 chose the 2019 Annual General Reunion Mass and luncheon to celebrate their 60 year reunion. Some of the ladies participated in Mass by doing readings and the Offertory Procession. It was wonderful to see them having fun, laughing and reminiscing after so many years of friendship bonded together by their days at St Scholastica's.

In attendance were Mary Boyle (Martin), Jan Coulton (Scales), Elizabeth Fletcher (Walker), Mary Forde (Maquire), Mary Gallagher (Savage), Carmel Kennedy (Barry), Dianne Larmer (Loves), Maureen Massa (Stephenson), Beverley Nilan (Reddie), Leonie Ridgeway (Lalor) and Julie Samuel (Todd).



50 Year Reunion – HSC Class of '69 and SC Class of '67

After just over 12 months of dedicated sleuthing with the invaluable help of school records, social media, genealogy and technology sources, Margaret Gilmartin and Patricia Williams (nee McLaughlin) were able to track down 76 out of 103 former classmates from the SC class of 1967 and the HSC class of 1969. 50 Former students were able to attend a reunion celebration held at the Toxteth Hotel in Glebe, on 3rd August 2019. They came from interstate, the USA and Great Britain as well as various parts of NSW.

The food and wine flowed freely as did the memories shared by everyone about their experiences at Schols. A power point with 47 photos submitted by members of the

year group and set on rotation caused laughter, discussion and the recognition that name tags were indeed important!

The reunion was preceded by a tour of the College which, of course evoked considerable comparisons with facilities and freedoms enjoyed by present Schols students. Boarders could remember hair washing once a week, school uniforms on weekends and "Schols Delight" on the menu!

However, the afternoon was not without its sadness as we remembered the five former classmates, (Mary Brechefeltd, Guilio Cicco, Frances Finocchario, Colleen Shearer and Anne Sullivan) who had passed away. Through memorials supplied by their families and friends we learnt



about their lives post Schols. The sadness continued as we learnt of the passing of a sixth student (Susan Powell) a week later.

Overall, the day was filled with nostalgia, wonderful reconnections and much laughter as the years melted away and we once again shared the good and bad experiences of high school life.

Finally, the enduring result of the reunion has been the re-igniting of friendships and the continuing connections that are now happening through informal get-togethers... and what a wonderful outcome that has been!

Patricia Williams (McLaughlin)



50 Year Reunion – SC Class of '69

Class members from First Form 1966 gathered at The Little Snail in November last year to celebrate the completion of their School Certificate Examinations 50 years ago. Many could not attend but sent messages of good wishes. There were a couple of “newbies”, too.

This was an important occasion for those who left school in 1969 and went on to join the Public Service, attend Business College, or join the workforce. Some of us went on to complete the HSC.

One of the talking points of the day was some black and white contact prints of a school dance (we think 1968,) held

at St Brendan’s Hall in Annandale. It was sometimes easy and sometimes difficult to identify the people in the photos, but it was also very interesting to look at the fashions, and the hairstyles.

We are still looking for classmates who began at Schols in 1966, or the years that followed, and who completed their HSC in 1971. If you are “one of us” or know someone who is, please get in touch.

Anne Wells



Upcoming Reunions

Class of '80 – 40 Year Reunion

The HSC Class of '80, being anyone in the group from Year 7, 1975 to Year 12, are hoping to celebrate their 40 year reunion this year and are trying to make contact with class members. Please contact Catherine Ebert at cathy.ebert@me.com if you were in this group. Further updates and messages can be found on the Schols Ex-students Facebook page (St Scholastica’s College(Schols)).

Class of '90 – 30 Year Reunion

The HSC Class of '90, being anyone in the group from Year 7, 1985 to Year 12, will be holding their 40 year reunion on Saturday, 24 October 2020 at The Royal Hotel, Leichhardt at 6.30 pm.

Please contact Catherine Butera (De Pasquale) at schols30years@gmail.com.

Class of '79

The HSC Class of '79, being anyone in the group from Year 7, 1974 to Year 12, hold an annual roll up on the 2nd Saturday each November. The venue is yet to be determined. If you were in this group, please join their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/468908823748573/>.

Our Newest Ex-Students: The Graduating Class of 2019

HSC 2019 Highlights

- 3 All-rounders - students who gained a result above 90% in at least five subjects;
- 62 Distinguished Achievers – students who scored above 90% in at least one subject;
- 115 individual Band 6 (90% and above) results;
- Top Exam Mark = 100% - Studies of Religion 1;
- Distinction for Society & Culture HSC Major Work;
- 8 Nominations for ARTEXPRESS (Top HSC Visual Arts works);
- 1 nomination for ENCORE (Top Music performances);
- 1 nomination for Shape (Top Design & Technology works);
- One student received a \$66,000 scholarship to study Data Engineering at UTS.

Sister Clare Memorial Award - Dux of 2019

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 continuing on to 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.

Palvi Bothra achieved the highest ATAR of 99.45, was 4th in the State in Studies of Religion 1 and was named Dux of the College in 2019. Palvi is studying for a Bachelor of Data Engineering at the University of Technology as a Women in Engineering and IT Scholar.

Congratulations Palvi.

Obituaries

Vale Sr Joan Sexton (Sr Teresita) sgs ('45)

(9 November 1928-20 April 2019)

Patricia Joan Sexton was born in Glebe on 9 November 1928 to Peter and Annie (nee Roach) Sexton. She commenced school at St Scholastica's College in kindergarten and made her first communion in St Scholastica's Chapel in 1935. Sadly, her mother died when Joan was 9 years old. She had a close relationship with her father. She was also blessed with many loving relatives with whom she remained close throughout her life.

On leaving school, Joan attended Business College and was then employed in the Commonwealth Bank while attending evening classes at Sydney Technical College.

On 6 January 1946 Joan entered the Good Samaritan Novitiate at Pennant Hills and was given the name Sr Mary Teresita, later returning to her preferred name of Joan. As a postulant Joan completed her Leaving Certificate. She made her first profession of vows on 6 January 1949.

Joan trained as a teacher at St Scholastica's Teachers' College. Her first appointments were to primary classes at Manly, Charters Towers (where she was also Principal) and Wilston. During these years Joan completed her Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma of Education. Her beloved father died on 31 January 1953 while Joan was at Charters Towers.

In 1966 Joan was appointed Mistress of Postulants at Mount St Benedict Novitiate. While there, she found time to complete a Diploma of Theology. In 1968 she was back at St Scholastica's where she became Deputy Principal and then Principal in 1969 for the next ten years. Joan welcomed the first of many indigenous girls to be educated at St Scholastica's College during this time.

In 1979 Joan took a break from the classroom and undertook a year of renewal. She returned to teaching in 1980 and was appointed as Head of Middle School at Mater Christie College Belgrave.

From 1984 Joan was Superior of Rosebank Convent and teacher of the College and also Congregational Representative on the Council of Catholic College of



Education which was to become Australian Catholic University. Joan was subsequently appointed a member of the NSW State Chapter for Australian Catholic University. Joan played a significant role in the transition of Rosebank College to a senior co-education college, while at the same time gaining a Master of Literature from the University of New England. Following the 1987 Good Samaritan Chapter, Joan moved to Balgowlah while continuing to teach at Rosebank College. In 1992 she enrolled in a Master of Education (Gifted) graduating with Honours in 1995. For the next 8 years Joan assisted both State Primary Schools and Congregational Colleges with the introduction of courses for gifted students. From 1988 to 2005 Joan was a Director and Member of the Boards of a number of Good Samaritan Colleges.

In the 2003 Queen's Birthday Honours Lists, Joan was a most worthy recipient of an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for services to Education and Community. Joan's gifts, talents and interests were extensive. She was interested in issues of justice and current affairs; she was a great reader, a fine cook and a devotee of cricket.

With Sr Frances Maher, Joan took up residence at Dalton Gardens in August 2005. Always willing to share her gifts in whatever way she could, Joan was actively involved in the life of the Dalton Gardens community while also engaging in a part-time ministry as a Good Samaritan presence at Rosebank College.

When Joan became frailer, she moved to Bethany Hostel in October 2015. She died there peacefully on Holy Saturday 20 April 2019.



Vale Sr Francis Maher sgs ('45) (19 October 1929- 6 August 2019)

Mary Patricia Maher, called Pat by her family, was born at Gladesville on 19 October 1929, the first child of John and Helena Maher nee Murphy. She had a younger brother, John. Pat enjoyed close and loving family relationships all through her life.

The Sisters of St Joseph in Hunters Hill educated Pat in her early years and Pat then met the Sisters of the Good Samaritan when she enrolled at Rosebank College. When Rosebank became a Juniorate at the end of 1944, Pat transferred to St Scholastica's College to complete her Leaving Certificate.

The Maher family had Good Samaritan connections going back to the very foundation of the congregation. Pat's great grand aunt was Sr Mary de Sales Moloney who entered the congregation in May 1857, and she had four other great aunts in the congregation: Sr Francis Goold, and Sisters Teresa, Raphael and Irene Maher.

Pat entered the Good Samaritan Novitiate at Pennant Hills on 2 July 1948 and was given the name Sr Mary Francis. She made her first profession on 6 January 1951. Once she completed her teacher training at St Scholastica's Teachers' College, Francis was appointed to teach primary classes in the Good Samaritan Schools in Coffs Harbour NSW, and Preston and Thornbury in Victoria. She became Principal of St Mary's Primary School Port Pirie, while concurrently teaching in the Secondary School until 1967. She held

various responsibilities as teacher and/or Principal and/or Superior in Marrickville, Rozelle, St Scholastica's where she was also responsible for the boarders, and Campbelltown.

Francis then taught at Stella Maris Manly from 1988 to 1992 when she was appointed the New South Wales Provincial Bursar as well in 1992. The next year she was appointed General Bursar of the Congregation, a position she held for twelve years. It was said of her that "She treated our resources with almost reverential attitude. Francis was always approachable and gracious; forgiving of us whose accounting methods differed from her own."

With the incorporation of the Good Samaritan Colleges, Francis served as a Board Director at St Patrick's Campbelltown, St Mary's Wollongong and Rosebank College at Five Dock.

With her long-time friend, Sr Joan Sexton, Francis moved to Dalton Gardens at Ryde in August 2005. Typically, she offered her services in a voluntary capacity at Dalton Gardens and in the local St Vincent de Paul Society until 2019. With Joan, she provided pastoral support to the other Good Samaritan Sisters at Dalton Gardens and also Bethany Hostel Eastwood.

Close friend, Sr Beverley Caffery, honours Francis "as a woman her Sisters could rely on. She was a very loyal friend, able to remain calm and helpful in crises and ready to do anything for anyone." Francis was renowned for her organisational skills and her quirky sense of humour. When asked by her health care consultant what she wanted to say about herself, Francis answered simply but ever so accurately, "I did my best".

Francis is remembered with deep affection and gratitude by all her Good Samaritan Sisters.



Vale Sr Leonie McGuire rsj ('45) (16 December 1927- 1 April 2020)

Leonie McGuire attended St Scholastica's in late '30 to '45, commuting from Willoughby to Glebe. Leonie spoke very highly of her days at Schols and shared stories of her school day experiences with many over the years. After leaving school, Leonie spent a few years in the workforce before following her sister, Marie, into the Sisters of St Joseph. Leonie was a wonderful, hardworking woman and a devoted Sister who took every duty conscientiously and always with a gentle manner and with good humour. She was a Sister of St Joseph for almost 70 years and had a full and rich life dedicated to teaching at schools. She provided much needed service to communities all over New South Wales.

Leonie will be sadly missed by her sisters, Sr Marie McGuire RSJ, Laurencia Grundy ('45) and Patricia Grant, her extended family and all those who knew her and were touched by her warm spirit.



Vale Carmel Keys (Gilchrist '44) (8 August 1927-3 October 2019)

Past President of St Scholastica's Exstudents' Union

Carmel Terese Gilchrist was born on 8 August 1927, the eldest of 4 children and the only girl. Her two younger brothers pre-deceased her and she is survived by the brother, Paul and various nieces and nephews. Carmel attended primary school at Rosebank College and then went to St Scholastica's for secondary school where she completed her Leaving Certificate in 1944.

Following school, Carmel obtained a pharmacy degree at Sydney University and worked in various pharmacies in Sydney, London, Melbourne and back in Sydney until she retired. Shortly after her parents died in the late 1960's and while she was still living in Melbourne, she took an outback tour where she met Herb Keys who she married in 1971. Carmel and Herb had an interest in archaeology and were involved with a Melbourne University team in "digs" in Australia and the Philippines. Carmel and Herb became quite involved with and "adopted" the Galeno family who had cared for them during the digs on Panay Island helping with the education of their family members. After Herb died in 1986, Carmel retired and returned to Manly where she caught up with her old Schols friends and the St Scholastica's Exstudents Union where she was elected President. She also became ensconced with parish life at Manly where she assisted with the care of the sick and with the liturgy.

Carmel has provided leadership at a local, diocesan and national level through her work in the Catholic Women's League and was made a Life Member in 2014. She completed a four year term as State President of the Catholic Women's League Australia – NSW Inc., having previously been president and then immediate Past President and the Social Issues Convenor in the Catholic Women's League, Diocese of Broken Bay. She has been the secretary of the Manly branch of the Catholic Women's League, the Convenor of the Manly District World Day of Prayer Committee and for 15 years was Secretary of the Catholic Chemists Guild. She was President of Australia Church Women for two years. In recent years, Carmel was



especially pleased to have been awarded the Jean Arnot Award for women in their '90s who were still active in public life. This ceremony took place at Parliament House. She was well known to so many.

Although Carmel and Herb had no children, she kept in close contact with her brothers' families comprising 16 nieces and nephews who all regarded her as a legend. Carmel loved swimming, walking, tennis and especially dancing. She had a great love of the Opera.

Unfortunately, in her later years, Carmel's eyesight failed due to the dry form of macular degeneration and so she became legally blind. After a number of fainting episodes, she had to give up independent living and go into care. She finally died peacefully from a cerebral haemorrhage.

Carmel planned her own ceremonial farewell at St Scholastica's College Chapel with beautiful music and singing in a packed Chapel filled with her extended family, friends and her St Scholastica's College friends.



Vale Sr Elizabeth Carr sgs ('45) (22 June 1929- 4 November 2019)

Elizabeth Carr was born at Balmain on 22 June 1929. She was the sixth child of James Gilbert and Elizabeth May Carr (nee O'Toole). The family already had a strong connection with the Good Samaritan Sisters, Elizabeth's mother being a cousin of Sisters Brigid, Elizabeth and Lidwina O'Toole who were members of the Congregation.

Until the age of four, Elizabeth lived with her family at Forest Lodge and then moved to Croydon. Elizabeth began her schooling at Holy Innocents School conducted by the Presentation Sisters. After gaining her Intermediate Certificate, Elizabeth transferred to Rosebank College. As Rosebank was to become a Juniorate for the Good Samaritan Sisters, Elizabeth moved to St Scholastica's where she obtained her Leaving Certificate. After leaving school, Elizabeth took up a position at CSIRO and at the

same time attended lectures in Mathematics at Sydney University for three years.

On 2 July 1950, Elizabeth entered the Novitiate at Pennant Hills. Elizabeth was given the name Sr Mary Colman and made her First Profession on 7 January 1953.

After completing her teaching qualifications at St Scholastica's Teachers' College, Elizabeth moved to St Mary's Wollongong where she remained for seventeen years. During this time, she gained a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of New England and a Diploma in Theological Studies through St Patrick's Manly. In 1971, Elizabeth was transferred to St Patrick's College, Campbelltown as Principal for four years. Here she

supervised a building program and completed a three year Counselling Course with Sydney's Institute of Counselling.

Elizabeth's ministry took a distinct change in January 1975 when she was appointed Mistress of Novices. She wrote "I felt it was a privilege to be involved in the training of these young people and to have the opportunity of reviewing the whole meaning of vocation".

Upon completion of her term as Novice Mistress, Elizabeth returned to classroom teaching at Mater Maria College Warriewood. This was her first experience with co-education and she found the eight years at Warriewood most rewarding. Following her Warriewood appointment, Elizabeth had the opportunity for renewal in Idaho, North America.

Her final school appointment was to St Scholastica's. She taught until 1999 and then took up the role of Home-School Liaison. She retired in 2012.

That compassionate service of others was also very obvious in Elizabeth's commitment to the homeless. For some time she assisted at Matthew Talbot and then undertook weekly

visits to Redfern where she helped feed the hungry. Her knitting skills also provided many a rug for those in need while her compassion for her own Sisters at Eastwood was evident in the way she would bake a cake each Saturday and take it for afternoon tea.

Throughout her life Elizabeth had a special love for her family. She attended every family gathering and was always ready to assist when the need arose.

In her latter years of failing health, Elizabeth transferred to St Catherine's Aged Care Services at Eastwood where she died peacefully on 4 November 2019. She will be remembered by the Good Samaritan Sisters and her surviving siblings, Marie, Maurice and Cecile and her extended family, as a valiant woman and a most generous, loyal and loving sister.

Deceased Ex-Students

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

- † **Maureen Batty ('55)** died 6 April 2019
- † **Elizabeth (Bette) Blyth (Cook '45)**, died on 27 March 2020
- † **Sr Elizabeth Carr sgs ('45)** died on 4 November 2019
- † **Margaret Cummins (McVeigh '55)** died 3 October 2019
- † **Mary Ebert (Wicks '41)** died 30 April 2019
- † **Beverley Hillsdon ('54)**, died on 26 March 2020. Beverley served as a member of the College Board until her resignation in 2012.
- † **Carmel Keys (Gilchrist '44)** died on 3 October 2019
- † **Sr Patricia Mary Maher (Sr Francis sgs '45)** died on 6 August 2019
- † **Margaret McGlenn (Mullheron)** died 8 December 2018
- † **Sr Leonie McGuire RSJ, ('45)**, died on 1 April 2020, sister of Laurencia Grundy (McGuire '47).
- † **Susan Powell ('69)** sister of Lynne Schulze (Powell '67) and Cathy Powell.
- † **Sr Joan Sexton (Sr Teresita sgs '45)** died on 20 April 2019 aunt of Anne Wallace (Sexton '67)
- † **Estelle Turner (Dolahenty '44)** died 14 September 2019

Relatives of Ex-Students

- † **Antonio Casula** died 14 November 2019, father of Marina ('71) deceased, and Lucy ('72)
- † **Stella Therese Farrington** died 17 October 2019, mother of Margaret ('75)



Treasurer's Report

- Our Bursary Fund received \$6,070.00.
- Our Investment Fund this year reached \$110,949.61.
- The Bursary amount paid for 2019-2020 was \$6,000.00
- The Good Samaritan Foundation (Education) Fund received \$2,960.00.

Karen Debenham – Treasurer

Annual 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.

Winners of Last Year's Raffle:

1st Prize: **Helen Naziridis** ('87)

2nd Prize: **Gail Southwell** (Fitzsimmons '60)

3rd Prize: **Leonie Ridgeway** (Lalor '59)

Change in Raffle prizes

Since printing our raffle tickets stating that the prizes were David Jones vouchers, we have reconsidered this and decided that Visa cards with credits of \$300, \$200 and \$100 will be the prizes for the 2020 raffle.

