MMCOSA

Old Scholars Newsletter

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150 years

Listening to the Heartbeat of the World

M.M.C. IN OMNIBUS CARITAS

Mary MacKillop College
Kensington

A newsletter from the Mary MacKillop College Old Scholars Association

Issue 1, 2016

2016 Events

Sisters of St Joseph Jubilee Mass
Saturday 16 April 2016, 10.00am
St Ignatius Church

St Joseph's Old Scholars Luncheon
Wednesday 1 June 2016
Hampstead Hotel

Sesquicentenary Mass
Saturday 4 June 2016, 11.00am
St Ignatius Church

St Joseph's Old Scholars Dinner
Wednesday 5 October 2016
Adelaide Royal Coach Hotel

MMCOSA Annual Reunion
Friday 28 October 2016
Bethany Centre, Kensington
Tours held next door at the College

Principal's Tours
Tuesday 24 May 2016, 9.30am
Wednesday 6 July 2016, 5pm

Come 'n' Try MacKillop Days
Wednesday 8 June 2016
Thursday 15 September 2016

Join us on Facebook

Join the **'Mary MacKillop College, Kensington'** official Facebook page and the **'Mary MacKillop College Kensington Old Scholars Association'** Facebook group to stay connected with classmates and hear about the latest news and events.

Update your details

To update your details on the Old Scholars mailing list, visit **www.marymackillop.sa.edu.au** and click on the 'Old Scholars' link.

Pope Francis has declared 2016 as the Year of Mercy, which is also the Sesquicentenary Year of the Sisters of St Joseph.

The Josephites, on 19 March 2016, celebrated their 150th anniversary since being founded by Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Father Julian Tension Woods in Penola.

It seems very apt in the Sesquicentenary Year of the Josephites that our St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was voted as one of South Australia's 100 most inspiring women of all time.

The annual Mass, held on Sunday 3 April at St Joseph's Convent Chapel, Kensington, was also a celebration of 100 years of the St Joseph's Old Scholars. It was a beautiful afternoon and well attended, followed by Devonshire afternoon tea in Bethany. There is a luncheon on Wednesday 1 June at the Hampstead Hotel and a dinner on Wednesday 5 October at the Adelaide Royal Coach Hotel.

This year we celebrate the Jubilees of Srs Joan Evans, Margaret Lamb and Marie McCann (60 Years Professed) and Srs Vynette Barnden and Margaet Cleary (50 Years Professed). Congratulations and thank you for your invaluable and inspiring work.

A Mass to commemorate the 150th anniversary will be held on Saturday 4 June at 11.00am at St Ignatius Church, Queen Street, Norwood. If you would like to join the Sisters please RSVP to Rebecca at infosa@sosj.org.au or on 8130 5900 by Wednesday 4 May.

The last Friday in October is the Annual Reunion, which is a wonderful opportunity to catch-up with friends and teachers across many years. Each year our reunions grow, not just by those celebrating decades, but many who enjoy meeting up with friends. This year the reunion will be held in Bethany and there will be tours of the College during the evening. It helps greatly to have a contact person in each year level. If you can help represent your year, please contact me with your details. The MMCOSA Committee meets in Kensington for an hour, four times a year and you are most welcome to attend. The reunions are lots of fun, and I look forward to meeting up with you. Please get in touch if you need some help re-connecting with classmates.

Please don't forget to send in your news for MMCOSA Newsletters and keep your contact details up to date through the Old Scholars page on the College website or email mmcosa@marymackillop.sa.edu.au.

In this past month several groups of people have enjoyed re-establishing contact through our Facebook group. It is a handy way to hear news and events. If you haven't yet joined, here's the link: https://www.facebook.com/groups/179768134304/

Telma Martignago
President, Mary MacKillop College Old Scholars Association

Message

From the Principal

This year is of course a special year for the Sisters of St Joseph. In this Sesquicentenary year we honour and celebrate the women who have devoted their lives in the service of others.

We remember the story of Mary and Julian and those small beginnings in Penola. It was a privilege to attend the Penola celebrations on 19 March 2016. I was very proud of the girls from the College who were part of the Sesquicentenary Mass at the Mary MacKillop Stable Park.

I look forward to the Jubilee celebrations where we will celebrate the service of Sr Margaret Lamb (60 Years Professed) and Sr Joan Evans (60 Years Professed), both Past Principals of the College, Sr Marie McCann (60 Years Professed), Sr Vynette Barnden (50 Years Professed), and Sr Margaret Cleary (50 Years Professed), Regional Leader. I am anticipating many cups of tea and lots of conversations with family and friends.

Please enjoy the photos and the stories in this latest edition of the MMCOSA Newsletter and I look forward to catching up with you at future events.

Kath McGuigan
Principal

Pictured: *Principal, Mrs Kath McGuigan, with 2016 College Captains, Maria and Bella.*

Opening

of the Sister Margaret Hehir Lounge and the Sister Irene McCormack Study

On Friday 8 April 2016 we officially opened the Year 12 Hub and named each of the rooms after two inspirational women; Sister Margaret Hehir and Sister Irene McCormack.

These are inspiring spaces named after inspiring women, women who once were young girls just like the Year 12s who now inhabit these spaces - spaces for learning.

We thank all of the people who have been involved in this project – from the early days of conversation and dreaming, to the architect drawings, the numerous site meetings, the challenges and the delight as the new emerged from the rubble of the old. For as Mary MacKillop said, “All will be right with time and a little patience.”

Farewell

Mrs Brigette Lee, A member of staff from 1997-2015

It was at the beginning 1996 that I heard about Mary MacKillop College Kensington for the first time. I was assigned to MacKillop for my first teaching practicum in February.

I remember this clearly as when I arrived for the first morning to meet my supervising teachers, the College was empty… everyone was next door at the pool for the Swimming Carnival. This put Mary Carty into a bit of a spin as she tried to organise someone to chat with me.

My first teaching experience was to observe Kay Christopher teach a Year 11 Maths class. I knew at the end of that lesson, that teaching was definitely what I wanted to do. And so my path was laid. I worked with Cathy Buttignol, Josie Spizzo and also observed Barb Lawson and Dianne Praulins. What an amazing group of people to have as examples for me to model my own teaching style on. I can easily identify even to this day the characteristics and mannerisms I picked up and decided to incorporate into my own everyday teaching and dealings with the young people and colleagues I interact with every day.

At the end of the year, I was offered a contract position back at Mary MacKillop. I spent the summer holidays preparing lesson plans and materials to teach for real. I absolutely loved it. I began in Maths and Science, gradually incorporating a bit of Music, Drama, SOSE, PE and Religion. I married in January 2001 and returned from my honeymoon with about a week to put finishing touches on my preparation to teach Year 12 Biology for the first time. This took teaching to another level and gave me the opportunity to work closely with Rosemary and Dianne. Two amazing ladies and two fantastic teachers. I worked alternately with them for the next six years and loved every moment of it. I am so thankful for their help and guidance.

Pictured: *Mrs Josie Spizzo, Mrs Brigette Lee and Mrs Barbara Morrish*

9 Gold

In 2006 I was appointed to the position of Year 9 Coordinator which (as most of you know) had been a dream of mine for a while. I got to share an office with truly professional managers and sat between Max/Claudio Iannace and Barb Morrish, both of whom I learnt so much from. I left to begin maternity leave in July 2007 (10 ½ years after beginning as a teacher here).

In January 2009 my dad was diagnosed with advanced throat cancer. Dad passed away in February 2011. Tanner was 3 ½ and Sienna was 6 months old. She crawled for the first time on the day of dad's funeral. The next 18 months were very difficult for me and my family. I was extremely busy with two young children whilst I was kept busy and was never actually alone, for the first time in my life, I started to feel lonely. At least that is how I described it. It wasn't until the end of 2011 that I was able to identify what was missing.

I really needed to teach. We often talk about what it means to be "Fully Human". Well for me it is when I am doing what I believe God intended for me to be doing, and that is teaching; delivering knowledge, answering questions, yes, but more importantly, reaching deeper into students' souls and imaginations. Sparking interest, enthusiasm, and a joy for learning. I had an empty part in my heart and I needed to walk into a classroom and be who I was supposed to be, for me! Once back in the classroom, I felt myself gradually re-emerging and the next year just seemed to come and go, as did the next.

It is not where I am teaching, or who I am teaching, it is that I am teaching. I know that Mary MacKillop would be pleased to know that her work is being carried out so wonderfully here, but I also feel that she would be doubly pleased to know that the fruits of the work that she began that is happening in the process is being spread further afield. Staff of Mary MacKillop College, what you do here is extraordinary. I believe that I can take the essence of what I gained from being a part of living out Mary MacKillop's vision, and continue her work in the dealings I have with children in another location. And I know they all will be richer for it.

As we often assure her…
So may your spirit live on…
in each and every one…
Give us the strength to carry on
The work that you have done!

Thank you staff of Mary MacKillop College. Thank you for being such an important part of my journey and my life. I will continue to convince myself to find peace in the words of a famous author, Dr Seuss.

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

Thank you.

Brigette Lee

Pictured: *9 Gold in 2006*

2015 Dux

Kyle Do Shares Her Acceptance Speech

Good morning Gess Carbone, Sisters of St Joseph, Mrs McGuigan, distinguished guests, parents, staff, and students. I am honoured to be the College Dux of 2015 and it is my greatest pleasure to be here with you today.

I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the graduating class of 2015 on your achievements and success.

At the beginning of Year 12 I wrote a letter to my future self as part of the National Youth Science Forum. The letter went as follows:

Dear Kylie,

My goal is to persist through Year 12 and achieve the best grades possible without burning out.

I am prepared for shortcomings and failures but I am keen to do my best - whatever my best may be.

During NYSF, I learnt that if life doesn't go as planned, you take the alternate, more scenic route. Enjoy the journey.

Don't rush. Don't burn out. And if you're already burnt out, just get back on that horse and ride.

Keep going, do well, and don't forget to pray.

Kylie (before Year 12)

I received this letter just before end of year exams. I never thought I would say this, but hearing back from myself was a huge comfort. The letter reminded me to persist through Year 12 and not let this be the end of a chapter, but instead the beginning of a new one.

Throughout my years in high school, I learned that we are defined not only by the opportunities we seize but also the opportunities we miss.

Pictured: *Principal Mrs Kath McGuigan and Kylie Do at the 2016 Beginning of Year Mass and Awards Ceremony*

Retreat

As much as I wanted to blame something or someone else, I knew that it was these missed opportunities that would propel me forwards to aim for more and for better.

But aiming for something bigger and better was definitely not easy. Even though I may have really wanted to be the ideal student, I definitely was not - in fact, far from it. Last year, I loved the first lesson of everyday because I could loiter around in admin to enjoy the company of my dear friend, Elyse. I would daydream in English about the day I would finally drop the subject. I would linger in the Specialist Maths class talking about cats and dogs even though I wasn't even enrolled in the class.

I would be lying if I told you I was the best student. I will admit, however, that no matter how difficult and demanding Year 12 became, I still loved learning. Yes, I dreaded the stretching hours of writing practicals, endless note taking, and tedious practice questions. But I loved what I learned and I loved learning - and this is what got me through.

Since I was young, my parents always told me, "Có công mài s□t có ngày nên kim", which translates to, "If you put in the work to sharpen the steel, it will eventually turn into needles". It wasn't until the last couple of years of high school that I truly learned the importance of practising persistence and patience. No matter how desperately I wanted to give up on studying or on myself, with a gentle nudge from family, friends and teachers I would push through what seemed like a wall of bricks. And in the end, the bruises, tears and scars were all worth it.

> "I thank the College for providing me opportunities to grow and a community in which I could belong."

I want to formally thank my parents for their unconditional support and patience. Thank you to the staff of the College and the Sisters of St Joseph - your smiles never failed to brighten my day. I am especially grateful for my teachers, for their guidance and reassurance. Lastly, I thank the College for providing me opportunities to grow and a community in which I could belong.

To all the girls who are here today at the beginning of a new chapter at Mary MacKillop College: this is your time to shine. The year will end before you know it and hopefully you can look back and laugh, smile and know that it was all worth it. So have confidence and take every opportunity to learn. Most importantly, have fun - because as Dr Seuss said, "Fun is good."

Kylie Do
2015 Dux of the College

Pictured: *2015 Year 12 Retreat*

Massey de los Reyes

Class of 2000

Where are they now?

It is not an exaggeration to say that great teachers can change a student's life. Before I started as a shy, nervous Year 8 student at Mary Mackillop College the summer of 1996, I was adamant that my future career would involve travelling around the world as a flight attendant. Those dreams changed significantly when I stepped into a Science class. Fast forward to Year 10 Chemistry - who knew that exploring the interactions between matter and energy or how the world was made up of atoms would provide me with a great foundation that would later shape my future career thus far. Particularly, my interest in the sciences would not have been unlocked had it not been for Mrs Josie Spizzo or Mr Joe Russo, who collectively made this subject so interesting and engaging. The more I learnt, the more I knew this is what I wanted to do with my life.

In 2001, I pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Science with a major in Chemistry, which then led me to an Honour's degree in Nanotechnology and finally to a PhD in Nuclear Materials Science, all from the University of South Australia. The experimental component of my PhD was done predominately in collaboration with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) in Sydney, where I then spent nine years undertaking research on different aspects of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle. This wonderful experience had allowed me to do so much in this area, which exceeded the limits and expectations I had of myself. During this time, I was fortunate enough to travel around the world to give talks at conferences, visit researchers and undertake experiments at special national laboratories. I also delivered guest lectures overseas, including those at the University of Oxford and De La Salle University in the Philippines, to which I have an adjunct post. In 2012 I won the United Uranium Scholarship, which took me to France so I could work with the French Atomic Energy Commission on nuclear fuel and spent fuel storage materials.

In 2016, I am happy to be back in South Australia, where I now work within the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission. Being back has made me realise how wonderful South Australia is to bring up children, and my husband Mark and I hope to raise our son Logan (who is almost 8 months old!) here.

I often think fondly of Mary Mackillop College and how far my secondary education has taken me. Apart from my academic experiences, I believe the most valuable proficiencies I gained from my time at MMC were empathy, social skills, self-worth and respect for others. I also encountered Christ in every class and everyone I met – allowing me to develop my faith.

Massey de los Reyes

Class of 2000

Pictured: *12 Blue in 2000*

Louanna Hacket

Class of 2008

Where are they now?

Since graduating from Mary MacKillop College in 2008, I decided to continue on my journey of learning and spent the next four years studying at the University of South Australia. I completed a Bachelor Degree in Human Movement and Health Science, as well as a Graduate Diploma in Clinical Exercise Science.

I am now an Accredited Exercise Physiologist working with people dealing with chronic diseases and chronic injury, using exercise as a form of therapy. I have spent the past three years working on building my own business while also working at several fitness institutions to continue to gain experience in the field.

I am very passionate about my work and enjoy the rewarding aspects of my career, being able to assist someone to get back to normal life, whether that be back to work or simply being able to perform everyday activities easily and confidently. I enjoy being able to make a positive to change to someone's life.

> "I enjoy being able to make a positive to change to someone's life. "

Being a part of the Mary MacKillop College community during my high school years definitely reflects upon the type of person I am today. I have confidence to address groups of people to discuss exercise and health and feel that my leadership skills I developed at the College have been paramount for working on my own business prospects and desires. The friendships I formed at the College have been life-long and I still remain in close contact with several friends from the College. Mary MacKillop College instilled many core values in me during my high school years including integrity, compassion and empathy, and I find myself living by these values each day.

I am now in the process of planning a long-awaited overseas holiday to Europe to explore the wide world that is out there, which I am very excited about! In fact, one of the friends travelling with me is a very good friend that I met in the early days of Year 8 at Mary MacKillop College.

Upon my return, I look forward to continuing to build my business and my experience as an Exercise Physiologist.

Louanna Hacket

Class of 2008

Pictured: *Year 12 Graduation in 2008*

Announcements

Marriages

Cassandra Balsamo (2006) and Adam Candiotto married on 9 January 2016 at The Monastery: Parish of St Paul of the Cross. The couple celebrated their reception with 290 guests at the National Wine Centre.

Petrice Christou (2005) and Daniel Cwil celebrated their wedding day on 9 March 2013. The ceremony was held at the Cathedral of Archangels Michael and Gabriel followed by a reception at The Hilton Hotel.

Stephanie Christou (2008) married her high school sweetheart, Michael Vidoni, on 10 October 2015 at St Laurence's Church, North Adelaide. The couple, who have been together for 11 years, celebrated their reception with 240 guests at John DiFede Reception Centre.

Michelle Giuffreda (2000) and Greg Alderson celebrated their wedding day on 28 November 2015. The couple married at St Francis Xavier Cathedral followed by a reception at The Adelaide Town Hall.

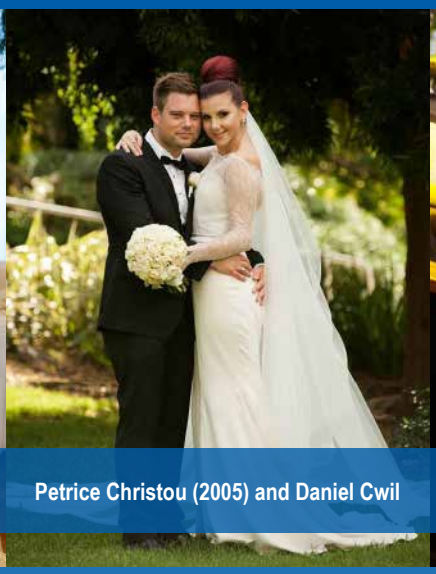
Births

Rosanne (Vignogna 1991) and Bill Mavrantzas welcomed a baby girl into the world on 16 January 2016. Alexandra Donata Mavrantzas weighed 3370g/7lb 7oz and was a length of 51cm. Her big sister, Sarina, is very proud.

Deaths

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of **Elisa Tatarelli (1982).**

Cassandra Balsamo (2006) and Adam Candiotto



Petrice Christou (2005) and Daniel Cwil

Stephanie Christou (2008) and Michael Vidoni

If you would like to share your news, please get in touch with us:

MMCOSA, PO Box 4034, Norwood South, SA 5067

mmcosa@marymackillop.sa.edu.au

www.marymackillop.sa.edu.au