In this edition...

> The opening of the Sr Catherine Clark Library & Resource Centre and, naming of the Sister Margaret Lamb Gymnasium and Multi Function Centre
> Sr Catherine Clark’s opening speech
> Where are they now
> St Joseph’s Old Scholars Mass
> Announcements
Message from the President

In this newsletter we acknowledge the many fine women who each day do their best to make their world a better place, following the path of our patron, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. As Sr Catherine Clark says so eloquently, we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. Heartiest congratulations to Sr Catherine Clark and Sr Margaret Lamb, whose invaluable contributions to the life of the College have been recognised with buildings named in their honour. We also congratulate and warmly welcome the first old scholar, Gess Carbone (Del Giacco 1972), appointed to the board of Mary Mackillop College. Gess brings to the board a wealth of experience and management skills, but also her great affection for the College.

Each year our reunions grow, not just those celebrating decades but many who enjoy meeting up with friends most years. 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. MMCOSA committee meets in Kensington for an hour, 4 times a year and you are most welcome to attend.

The annual Mass on Sunday 15 March was a beautiful afternoon and well attended. For those who prefer daytime to evenings, the luncheon reunion will again be held at the Hampton Hotel, on Wednesday 20 May. The venue proved very popular last year, a nice meal and parking access is easy. The last Friday in October Annual Reunion at the College, gives opportunity to meet friends and teachers across many years, as well as tour the College and see what has changed over time. Booking details for both reunions are included in this issue. The reunions are lots of fun, and I look forward to meeting up with you, at one or both. 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/group/?gid=179768134304

Trish Cain
President, Mary Mackillop College Old Scholars Association

Message from the Principal

With each passing year I am delighted by the conversations that I am privileged to be a part of in my role as Principal of Mary Mackillop College. Over the last few years I have learned more about the history of the Sisters of St Joseph and the humble beginnings of the College. It is always delightful to hear the stories from Old Scholars and make connections with past staff when I attend many events throughout the year.

This newsletter once again highlights this rich tradition and sense of history. It also highlights that strong commitment that the Sisters of St Joseph have to all of their schools. We honour and rejoice in that commitment.

Please enjoy this latest newsletter and contact us if you too have a story to share.

Kath McGuigan
Principal

Opening of the Sister Catherine Clark Library & Resource Centre

The Opening of the Sister Catherine Clark Library and Resource Centre and naming of the Sister Margaret Lamb Gymnasium & Multi Function Centre was held on Sunday 1 March.

The ceremony was officiated by College Principal Kath McGuigan and College Captains Stephanie and Carla, with valuable words spoken by our special guests, Sister Catherine Clark rj and Sister Margaret Lamb rj.

60 invited guests celebrated the completion of an extensive restoration project that has transformed the College Library into a vibrant and welcoming Library and Resource Centre. The new building boasts a fully equipped conference facility and adjoining classrooms, as well as hosting the many Library resources for the students.

Also celebrated during this event was the naming of the Sister Margaret Lamb Gymnasium & Multi Function Centre. The Gymnasium, opened in 2003 by Sister Christine Rowan rj and blessed by Archbishop Philip Wilson, is a space fully appreciated by the current students as they undertake many sporting opportunities. It is also the place the whole school gathers for assemblies, Liturgies and Masses.

Sr Catherine Clark shared her response and valuable College history in her address to those gathered Sr Catherine, captured so eloquently, the story of the women of Mary MacKillop College.

As I approach this microphone I can identify 2 distinct feelings. The first is a desire to sing – the second is a feeling of deep humility. The opposite of humility – pride – will prevent me from singing – as will the lovely performance of the choir here this morning.

But the song I would like to sing says:

“i am standing on the shoulders Of the ones who came before me I am stronger for their courage I am wiser for their words. I've been lifted by their longing For a fair and brighter future I am grateful for their vision For their toiling on this earth”

The piece of earth on which we are gathered at this moment. We all know that song is a song in honour of the women involved in the suffragette movement – the movement that worked for the liberation of women and the participation of women in our society.

My reason for wanting to sing that song is to honour the women who, in this school gave me the foundation to be able to participate in the education process ever since.

I would like to pay a tribute special tribute today to three of those women who have gone before us, and to one woman who is here amongst us. When my sister, Ellen – here with me today – and I arrived in Adelaide, at the end of Year 7, from a country Government primary school, we had only visited Adelaide twice in our lives. We were welcomed to the, then, St Joseph’s Higher Primary School in Bridge Street by Sisters Teresa Cormack and Jude Dunand. Sister Oliver Gleson was away for a while having treatment for severe arthritis.

These three women enabled us, and many others, to find our way in life. Oliver Gleson served this college as a staff member for her first six years (1944 to the end of 1949) when it was located on the present site of St Ignatius College in Queen Street. She then became Principal for twenty-one years. She was at the helm for the thirteen years that the school was located in Bridge Street – then for its first eight years on this site. Hence, she served the school for its first twenty-seven years – that is, over a third of its existence as a separate Secondary School for girls. She was a little woman with a lot of punch – and a burning desire for each young woman in her care to reach her greatest potential and to find a secure future in life.

Jude Dunand served this College from its first year in Bridge Street for six years. She returned again in its first year on this site for eight years, after which she replaced Sister Oliver as Principal for one year. At the end of that year she was asked to take a Principalship in Sydney. She returned again in the 1980’s for five years - a total of twenty years of service here. She was the greatest story teller, and the greatest “adler” of anecdotes that I am sure, ever existed. We students used to plan questions to get her to tell more stories rather than to have to do the planned exercises.

The third woman, Teresa Cormack, was never Principal here. But she served this College for a period of nineteen years – all through its
thirteen years at Bridge Street and its first six years here. At the same
time, after and before school, she worked as a part time secretary to the
Province Leader, and assistant to the Province Finance Officer. Her skill
in financial administration saw her serve as Finance Officer in our Nursing
Homes, as well as a period in Sydney as the Finance Officer for the whole
Congregation. I see one of Teresa’s greatest contributions, made both
inside and outside the classroom, was her commitment to making the life,
work and qualities of Mary Mackillop known. Many Sisters, and others,
have said “We never knew much about Mary Mackillop, or learnt anything
about her at school.” Any one who was in Year 8 at this school between
1950 and 1968 (inclusive) must be forgetful, inattentive or fibbing – because
one of the first research projects Year 8 did each year, under the direction
of Teresa, was to research the life and actions of Mary Mackillop. I will go
so far as to say, Mary Mackillop would not have been declared Australia’s
first Saint if it had not been for the hours of research carried out, over many
years, by Teresa Cormack.

These three woman have gone before us – and we stand on their
shoulders.

But there is one amongst us here today, that I would like to acknowledge
for her quiet contribution to this school. Joan Evans, I include you in what I
would describe as this Foundational Tribute, because you gave enormously
to the growth and development of this place, both at the level of curriculum
development and development of infrastructure. Joan was Principal here
for five years and served for another eleven years – ten during Sister
Oliver’s time as principal and one during that of Sister Jude. During your
time here, your practical nature made you a leader and driver of many
projects that contributed to the growth of infrastructure. You, and many of
the other women, did this at a time when there were no government grants
and when finance was short. You were efficient, practical and up-to-date
with all movements in education. You did what you did at great personal
cost in taking up the challenge of study and work so that you were well
able to keep pace with sound educational development. When the first
grants for Science Laboratories started to flow, I had just been appointed
to Port Lincoln, and was given the task of setting up the first Science Lab.
I knew who to come to for assistance – and I have been seeking your help
and advice ever since.

I stand very humbly in the shadow of your contribution and the contribution
of the other women I have mentioned, for what you and they contributed
to all who followed you in the Leadership of this place. I thank you all here
today for giving me the opportunity to pay this tribute to some of those who
have gone before us and given so much to this place and to the hundreds
of young women they have served here”.

Sister Catherine Clark

Opening of the Sister Catherine Clark
Library & Resource Centre
Tina Castello attended Mary MacKillop College from Year 9 after arriving from Cava del Tirreni, Italy. Since leaving Mary MacKillop, Tina has gone on to become the successful co-owner of retail travel agency, Mondina Travel Centre which has won many prestigious awards for service and excellence. The agency specialises in international and domestic travel including airfares, tours, rail, car and insurance, with emphasis on European destinations, in particular Italy and Germany.

Some of the countries I’ve visited during my career include: Southern Africa, Mauritius, Maldives, Fiji, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, UK, Ireland, USA including Hawaii, France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Netherlands and many parts of Australia.

My favourite destination: The Amalfi Coast in Italy, one of a kind. My experience in the Travel Industry began with 26 years at Jetset Travel, which became State Travel and then Traveland. Since 2002 this agency has been owned by my business partner Manika and I. As I say to my clients, I am part of the furniture! I was delighted to be one of Trafalga Tours top-sellers for Australia in 2010 and I was rewarded with a special tour of Switzerland and Italy, which was fabulous!

Gess Carbone (Guiseppina Del Giacco) Class of 1972

"A long long time ago, I can still remember" a shy girl from a very protective background rolled up for her first year at high school (1968) accompanied by her father who insisted that he needed to check out this place!

Here I am 47 years later, an old scholar and The Chair of The Board for the Governing Council of Mary MacKillop College.

I reminisce with great fondness my time as a student the experiences I had, the connections I made and the friendships that are enduring. Walking around the campus I remember the breeze way, the gym is where our bike rack and some tennis & basketball courts were. I remember pacing and learning notebooks as I prepared for exams. (That was the popular thing at the time; it was not unusual to see students with notes and books pacing around the yard!)

I remember having dancing lessons in the hall at the St Josephs in Bridge Street. The development of the site over the years is outstanding, the ambience is welcoming and I am proud to have been part of the history and am totally committed to the future.

So what has happened in the intervening years? I am married with one son and two beautiful granddaughters. My home life is rich and full. This stage of life is a gift in some sense there is less demand without children at home. There is a renaissance with the beginning of life in the young grandchildren and the privilege to experience the twilight years accompanying ageing parents.

After my graduation from Mary MacKillop I applied to work with the state government and began a career that spans more than 42 years. I continued my tertiary education, as a mature age student, while working.

My career in the public sector has exposed me to opportunities and experiences that were never on my radar. I have worked in Forestry, Corrections, Health, Vocational Education, and currently in Public Sector Reform. My work has included strategic planning, policy development, organisational change, business effectiveness, customer service and direct face to face delivery of services.

With a very strong thirst for learning, extension, growth and personal development I have sought opportunities to be involved with activities outside my responsibilities with family and work. I have been actively involved in the work of SACCS and engaged in the conversations and strategies that shape the future of Catholic education in our state.

It is without a doubt that life experience shapes you. I feel fortunate to have had a strong faith formation, first and foremost through my parents, augmented by my Catholic education in the Josephite tradition. Of recent times I have been involved with the work of SACCs and engaged in the conversations and strategies that shape the future of Catholic education in our state.

I am passionate about education, in particular Catholic education, and the development of the whole person. I have been a beneficiary as has my son and now I am blessed to say my grandchildren and extended family. I am keen to have an enduring connection and look forward to the future.

Know more • do more • be more.

Gess Carbone

On Sunday 15 March, the St Joseph’s Old Scholars Mass was held in St Joseph’s Convent Chapel, with celebrant Monsignor Robert Atkins. This is always a lovely celebration, in the tranquility of the beautiful chapel where Mary MacKillop prayed.

The Mass was followed by a scrumptious Devonshire afternoon tea with much chatter in Bethany.

I encourage everyone to take a little time in March next year to come along, to be held on a Sunday near the Feast of St Joseph (19 March).
Old Scholars

Annual Luncheon

Date
Wednesday 20 May, 12 noon

Cost
$15 A la Carte menu or Seniors Selection

Venue
Hampstead Hotel, Northeast Road, Collinswood.

Bookings
With Josie 8295 3667 or Chris 8263 1948 by Friday 15 May. If booking a group, please advise of all names.

Annual Reunion

Mary MacKillop College Old Scholars Association welcomes all past students, teachers, staff and friends to the 2015 Annual Reunion to be held at Mary MacKillop College.


Date
Friday 30 October 2015, 6.30pm - 10pm

Cost
$30 inclusive of food and beverages

Venue
Mary MacKillop College Gymnasium
10-14 High Street, Kensington, SA 5068

Contact Details
Email: mmcosa@marymackillop.sa.edu.au or phone Trish Caine: 8342 0785

Bookings
Trybooking:
http://www.trybooking.com/126674

Marriages

Stefanie Crosato (2007) married Steven Beltrame on Sunday 8 March 2015 at St Joseph’s Convent, Kensington. A reception followed at Glen Ewin Estate. Stefanie was attended by Melissa Crosato (2010), Eva Jakob (2012), Michelle Beltrame and Rebecca Beltrame. Stefanie is the daughter of Helen (Pavan 1982).

Victoria Asker (2009) and Angelo Ianella celebrated their engagement on Saturday 15 March 2015.


Deaths

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of recently deceased:

Veronica Ziesing (Roberts 1967)
Long time canteen volunteer, Mrs Angelina Giorgiutti, mother of Lubiana Drigo (Giorgiutti 1974)

Marriages

Stefanie Crosato (2007) and Stephen Beltrame

Deaths

Veronica Ziesing

Victoria Asker (2009) and Angelo Ianella

Laura Corbo (2009) and Jim De Gregorio
If you would like to share your news or make contact with classmates please get in touch with us:
MMcosa, PO Box 4034, Norwood South, SA 5067
mmcosa@marymackillop.sa.edu.au
www.marymackillop.sa.edu.au