What an exciting and busy year we have in 2009! This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the death of Mary MacKillop. Both the College and the Old Scholars’ Association are planning some exciting centenary events.

Recently, the Sisters of St Joseph held a breakfast at the Adelaide Convention Centre with best selling author Monica McInerney attending as guest speaker. Monica, an old scholar of the Sisters of St. Joseph, now lives in Dublin but grew up in a family of seven children in the Clare Valley wine region of South Australia, where her father was the railway stationmaster.

Her most recent novel, Those Faraday Girls, won the General Fiction Book of the Year at the 2008 Australian Book Industry Awards. Some members of our Old Scholars’ Committee were fortunate to be able to attend the breakfast and were thoroughly entertained by Monica.

Friday, July 3rd is the Old Scholars Annual Quiz Night. Please book tables of 10-12 through the College. If you are able to donate any goods or services for silent auction, prizes or raffle, we would be very grateful. All forms of sponsorship will be acknowledged and advertised on the night. Please email me at robkel@adam.com.au or ring 0414 230 731 or if you are able to help.

All money raised on the night goes towards our annual scholarship fund. This is a very worthy cause and we always have a fun and entertaining evening.

Our Annual Reunion Dinner promises to be a very special event. To celebrate the Centenary year, we will be holding the dinner at the John Di Fede Function Centre on Friday, the 30th of October. Please mark this date in your diary and begin organising your group now.

A reminder that the College is putting on ‘Mary MacKillop, the Musical’ at the Entertainment Centre on Monday, 1 June. Tickets are available through Ticketek: www.ticketek.com.au or 132 849

The feast of Mary MacKillop will be celebrated with a mass in St Francis Xavier Cathedral at 4pm on Saturday 8 August. All old scholars are very welcome to join the diocesan celebration in this special year.

New members are always welcome at our meetings which are held at 6pm on the first Monday of every month at the College.

Kellie Byrne
At the end of 2008 I was awarded a scholarship for teachers of French by the French Embassy in Canberra and the Australian Federal Government. This allowed me to attend a three week professional development course at the Centre for Applied Linguistics within the University of Franche-Comté based in Besançon (two and a half hours south east of Paris by TGV) from 4th to 23rd January.

I arrived in Paris on New Year’s day and spent a few days in this magnificent city to acclimatise before heading to Besançon. All five Australians (I was the only teacher from S.A.) were hosted by local families who spoke only French in order to maximise the immersion experience in the language. The course ran each day from 9.00 to 3.30 p.m. with one and a half hours for lunch. The first day it snowed and we all rushed out to see the fluffy flakes gently floating through the air. The morning temperature generally hovered around minus 6 degrees but, fortunately, I was well-equipped for the cold.

The lessons included oral and written activities in French where we honed our skills, collected useful resources (both electronic and paper) for our students back in Australia and learnt other teaching techniques. The socio-cultural aspects included learning more about the education system in France, viewing current films and listening to modern singer/song-writers, wine-tasting in a fifteenth century cellar, eating the traditional “galette des rois”, visiting a school in Belfort for a day, visiting Dijon, Beaune, Ornans and Strasbourg.

One of the highlights of the trip was our visit to the ancient village of Champlitte to celebrate the feast of Saint Vincent on 22nd January. This event has been celebrated since 1612 and it was wonderful to see the villagers wearing traditional costumes and performing folk dances. The celebration also included a Mass where the congregation prayed for a good vintage in 2009. This was followed by a lengthy communal luncheon which lasted all afternoon, in the best French tradition! We were made very welcome by all and people expressed their appreciation to us for having come all the way from Australia to share in their celebrations.

I am grateful to the French Embassy and the Australian Federal Government for this fantastic opportunity and I thank my school, St Dominic’s Priory College, for supporting me in this adventure. I learnt more about teaching French, explored regions which I didn’t know before and expanded my knowledge of French culture by living with a very special host family in a charming historical town. I am now keen to share my knowledge with my students, with my colleagues at St Dominic’s and within the South Australian French Teachers’ Association.

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Gabriella Patti-Reid
Events in 2009

Mary MacKillop – the Musical

Adelaide Entertainment Centre    7.30 pm Monday 1 June 2009

Tickets    Adults $30, Concession and students $20
available from Ticketek 13 2849 or www.ticketek.com.au (type mary mackillop into the search keyword)

2009 is significant for all Australians as the 100 year anniversary of Blessed Mary MacKillop’s death is recognised nationwide. Mary’s contribution to the development of education in Australia is well documented as is her incredible work in promoting social justice. Her legacy is particularly relevant to South Australia because this is where the Josephite Order of Sisters had their beginning and continues with their work today. Mary MacKillop College’s musical will present Mary’s life in an entertaining production of song, dance and music featuring colourful characters from the era and an authentic presentation of the life of a remarkable woman, based on her writings and information gleaned from over a century's research. The musical is narrated by former scholar of the College and original Pop Star celebrity Daniela Scala and is the World Premiere for composer, Xavier Brouwer, who resides in Victoria.

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 3 July 2009
7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start
The Mary MacKillop College Multi Function Centre
Cost $12 per person
with BYO Supper and Drinks & Change for Table Games

Proudly presented by the
Old Scholars’ Association, with
proceeds supporting MMCOSA Funded Scholarships

Donations of prizes will be gratefully accepted
and may be left at the College Front Office.

Bookings Kellie 83951385 or Trish 8342 0785
Mary MacKillop College Old Scholars Association

invites all former scholars of the College to celebrate this very special centenary year at the

**Annual Reunion Dinner**

to be held on

**7pm Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

at the John Di Fede Centre

Freebairn Street Windsor Gardens

Start organizing your tables now, don't miss out

register your interest with

Telma ph 8341 5229 or Trish 8342 0785

A special invitation to all class groups but especially classes of 1969, 1979, 1989 and 1999

For further details or help contacting your class mates, please call Kellie Byrne,

8395 1385 (AH) or 0414 230 731 or

email robkel@adam.com.au

Please help us to keep in touch and update your contact details
Forward changes in your contact details, especially email addresses, to
trish.cain@bigpond.com

**MMCOSA 2009 Subscriptions**

Some of you may not have yet paid your 2009 subscription ($15)

Please consider doing this now, as membership fees help to support the Old Scholars' Scholarship Fund
Nun better than this inspired musical

AMY NOONAN

We've had Keating - The Musical and Wamie - The Musical, now prepare for Mary MacKillop - The Musical, about the feminist pioneer nun who could become Australia's first saint.

When it comes to musicals, there'll be "nun" better. The world premiere of the musical, written by Xavier Brouwer and to be performed at the Entertainment Centre on June 1, is the biggest show Mary MacKillop College has produced.

It involves 170 students, such as star Rachel Vidoni, and old scholars, such as former Popstars winner Daniela Scala. Scala, the former member of band Scandal*us, is the narrator, Mary's sister Annie MacKillop.

"It's been 100 years since her death so it's beautiful to tell her story," Ms Scala says.

"It's a celebration of her life, not only as a nun, but as a woman who pushed the boundaries of Catholic education,"

Mary MacKillop College's head of music, Robyn Carroll, said the entire school was thrilled about the project. She said the audience would see what life was like for the Josephite nuns.

"These nuns were out on horseback, traipsing around the colony - women who worked very closely with the people and still do," Ms Carroll said.

Mary MacKillop: The Musical plays for one show only. Tickets available through Ticketek.

The Advertiser Monday, May 11, 2009