



President's letter and Christmas wishes.

Dear Old Scholars and friends,

What a journey 2020 continues to be!
But within this years' challenges I can fondly reflect on some significant Old Scholar moments, in particular our Annual Old Scholar Mass and farewell to Sister Jillian. The committee are currently planning for the 2021 OSA Mass, however this event maybe a little different due to COVID regulations.

I'm also excited to share with you our plans for an Old Scholars Art Exhibition, which will be held on August 14th, 2021 (time TBA). So please make sure you make a note in your diary.

The exhibition will be a collaboration and celebration of talented Old Scholars, showcasing their creative expressions. More information will be released closer to the date.

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of you for your generous ongoing support throughout the year.

I'd like to wish you and those you love a wonderful festive season and looking forward to sharing 2021 with you all.

Best Wishes
Annie Pfeiffer - President

My retirement adventure - taking the Ghan to Darwin.

Sister Jill says thanks for the opportunity to travel in 2021.

We Australians are lucky, even in a global pandemic, to be able to travel in to the regions of our beautiful country.

Thanks to the very generous donations of Old Scholars I am able to take a trip from Adelaide to Darwin next year on the Ghan.

I am planning to go in July, and have booked the journey with a friend through Phil Hoffmann Travel. Those who have done this trip tell me that it is really wonderful.

If I see any of you on the Ghan also that will be a bonus!

Thanks again, Sister Jill.

Congratulations Briony Pauley

Who has now retired after 26 years as a teacher at St Dom's. Briony is also an Old Scholar and a member of the Old Scholar's Committee.

We wish her all the best for some well deserved R & R in her garden and time spent with her grandchildren.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

An Old Scholar's Story by Georgina Hurst,

Since leaving St Dominic's Priory College in 1987, my life has taken many turns leading to many amazing and rewarding experiences including my subsequent acceptance into Adelaide Medical School, during which I applied and won a Rhodes Scholarship to study (Medicine) in England.

My University was Magdalen College Oxford and I spent a number of happy years studying with top scientist and professors and students during this time. I also had a great social life and was cox of the rowing team and Master of the Middle Common.

My main interest was Women's Medicine and my Thesis on "Preeclampsia" was completed (gaining me a D.Phil (Dr of Philosophy)). It's completion and publication (which I presented in San Diego was a very proud moment – or should I say struggle, as unfortunately right in the middle of the preparation of my Thesis, I started to feel "rather strange", had serious headaches, my vision was blurring fast and also had very tingly hands and my balance was suffering. I thought at first that I had a brain tumour (Med students are great at self-diagnosis). On reflection, I decided to come back to Adelaide (home) and be treated in Australia as I knew a number of the medical professionals in whom I had every confidence.

The diagnosis was hard to take, I had Multiple Sclerosis and I don't think at that time, I or my family realised the enormous impact it would have on my life.

I had also met a wonderful guy in the UK and we were married in November 2000 in Adelaide, but unfortunately, (as so many "MS marriages" do) it only lasted a short while after which we divorced and he returned to England. I also had assistance by the UK professors to complete my thesis here in Adelaide. Another chapter in my life was that I had embarked on a very revolutionary (then new) treatment for my MS.

My parents and I were ready to move to the USA to seek treatment, but believe it or not the best treatment was at our own Australian back door – Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woodville, SA. The treatment was gruelling and VERY risky, but I had not alternative as my prognosis was not good. After the treatment (Stem Cell Transplant) with autologous (my own stem cells) I recovered well and had a number of years in a "kind of remission". We all enjoyed thoroughly the fact that we could "burn my wheelchair" and we ritually did this in my back yard.

However, this recovery lasted only 8 – 9years and then I suffered a relapse, which resulted in another long spate of rehab and hospitalisation
My MS is labelled "Remitting/Relapsing MS" and this is what I'm living with today.

Despite all, I have to say however, that it is not all doom and gloom – I am blessed with a good family who live nearby, excellent supportive friends and I immensely enjoy the remedial reading volunteering work I do at a local school. I can also proudly say that I am well known to every coffee shop proprietor in my suburb of Adelaide which I love.

I am sincerely grateful for the years I spent at St Dominic's and will never forget the opportunities it afforded me in achieving my Rhodes Scholarship as well as imbining me with a self-respect, pride and confidence to be the happy, well-adjusted and grateful person I feel I am today.

Sincerely – Georgina Hurst
4/11/20



Lord Mayor's reception for 1994 Rhodes Scholar. Left to Right: Sister Jillian Havey, Georgina Hurst and Adelaide Mayor Henry Ninio.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

10 YEARS ON

Our 2010 graduates are out in the community making their mark. We've caught up on news about some of them.

The medical field sees an Adelaide contingent in this COVID 19 year working in Adelaide hospitals.



- Thien Phuong Hoa is at the Lyall McEwen Hospital and is specialising in Obstetrics,
- Evelyn Timpani is also at the Lyall McEwen, training in anaesthetics and
- Leanne Nguyen is in the same field at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.
- Both Lan Nguyen and Olivia Paris Quinn are training to specialise as paediatricians, Olivia at the Women's and Children's Hospital and Lan at the Lyall McEwen.

Our 2010 Head Prefect Cristina Blumberg has completed degrees in Law and Science and is currently enrolled at the University of Tasmania in " Sustainable Living".

STOP PRESS

Another esteemed St Dominic's Old Scholar has recently been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in November. Congratulations to Dr Sarah Short, (pictured below) who is one of three Australians heading off to Oxford University.



Sarah is a University of Adelaide graduate in both Medicine and an Honours degree in Medical Sciences.

Her career aim is to work as a clinician-scientist to be able to use surgical innovation in influencing practice outcomes and improve patient experiences. Sarah graduated from St Dominic's in 2012 with an ATAR of 99.2.

Spending time with 1979 graduate – Charlotte Kelly

“ I was fortunate to complete my full twelve years of schooling at St Dominic's, graduating from Year 12 in 1979. I enjoyed my time at school and looking back, I can appreciate the benefits I acquired across the years. Clearly my fellow students and I received a sound academic education at St Dominic's, but we also benefitted from a school environment where girls were encouraged to participate and to achieve our potential in whatever field or endeavour we chose.

As with many seventeen year olds, the extent of my life planning was to pass my exams and hopefully get into university. I had no idea what my future would hold after year 12, however as the youngest of six siblings, I had plenty of advice on the topic! My older and wiser siblings suggested that a Law degree would provide a more reliable path to employment than an Arts degree, so off I went to Adelaide Uni Law School – the only Law School in South Australia at that time.

One of the many benefits I acquired through my years at St Dominic's was a strong and abiding commitment to social justice and improving the position of women in our society, attitudes that were equally encouraged by my parents. I realised that a Law degree would enable me to combine my feminist politics with my working life, an outcome that I have appreciated to this day.

After graduating from Law School in 1985 and completing the required professional practice qualifications, I began working with Camatta Lempens, a law firm that was then based in the western suburbs. I soon specialised in family law, helping clients to navigate their way through the emotional and legal difficulties that can follow separation.

In 2007 I had the great honour to be appointed to the Federal Magistrates' Court – now known as the Federal Circuit Court. I sit as a specialist family law judge and continue to work with families in crisis, albeit in a very different role. Life on the judicial bench is as challenging as it is fulfilling and I am grateful for the influences throughout my life that led me here. I look forward to serving the South Australian community in this role for many years to come. ”





2021 OLD SCHOLARS ART EXHIBITION

A celebration of Dominican Artists

We are looking for Old Scholars who are practising or hobby artists to submit work for an exhibition to be held at St Dominic's on Saturday 14th August. If you would like to be involved, please register your interest by contacting Josie Revesz via email: jrevesz@stdominics.sa.edu.au

Please send Josie your name, the years you spent at St Dominic's, the type of work you would like to exhibit and the dimensions of your work.

Specific details will follow your expression of interest.

Submissions will be open until June 30, 2021.

2021 DIARY DATES

Sunday March 14th
Old Scholars Mass

Saturday March 14th
Old Scholars Art Exhibition
(time to be advised)

SDPCOSA LIFE MEMBERS

JOAN CAHILL
COLLEEN HARRIS
SR JILLIAN HAVEY
MAUREEN CARPENTER
KATH HALLIDAY
HELEN POWER
KAREN TAYLOR
ELENA TARRARAN
DALMA ROMALDI
LEONIE HINES
SANDY LEE
REBECCA HOSKINS BARTLETT

REUNION REPEATS

There's no stopping the Class of 79!
In November they celebrated (again) their 41st school reunion. The ladies enjoyed their 40th catch up so much they decided to do it all again, just in time before the second lockdown.

There were lots of laughs and funny stories shared amongst the group and with Sr Jill, Sr Noreen and Sr Shirley. Congratulations ladies – we're looking forward to seeing your 42nd celebrations!



*If you receive the OSA Newsletter by post, but would prefer an emailed copy, please let us know.
Email: stdomsoldscholars@hotmail.com and we will make sure you receive electronic newsletters for future editions.*

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to families who have lost loved ones.

To the family of Mellita Joy Froiland (nee Kimber), Mellita graduated from St. Dominic's in 1999. She died on 24th September this year . She was " the cherished wife of Daniel, much loved mother of Cooper, Austin, Archer and Lucy- Mae; beloved daughter of Catherine and Peter; treasured sister of Dylan".
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To the family of Elide Gazzola 4/1/1932 -30/10/2020, whose daughters Josie Spizzo and Giacinta Gazzola and grand daughter Marianne Spizzo are our Old Scholars.
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Donato and Regina Pilla (married for 64 years) parents of Old Scholar Mara Pilla, and grandparents of Old Scholars Jude and Yasmin Bottos.
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May they rest in peace.