Greetings to our alumni.

You are remembered and always welcome.

Our old scholars are welcome at the College. It is always great to see them. They are an important part of the St Mark’s story and we certainly want to hear about how they have been doing. When the children of old scholars are enrolled it affirms what we do here and when they visit, just to have a look, their love and laughter for the place is a great support. Certainly, their experience of St Mark’s in the past has a direct impact on the school today.

St Mark’s College is an expression of a spirit, a living tradition. It is a tradition created and sustained through the interactions and aspirations of people over generations. It is spirit that has been shaped by thousands of students and it has flourished over many decades. The spirit is about fun and growth, care and community, dreams and achievements. It is the same spirit of the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Good Samaritan Sisters that has been a constant for 60 years. This tradition makes the school stronger. It supports the learning and the joy of being together. We value our story and the richness of the past. What the old scholars do is to retell the stories and remember the interactions. That is why they are so important.

The Old Scholars remind us of what is central and important in our traditions. When they visit or when they enrol their children, they remind us. It’s a good thing really. Keeping in touch, reconnecting with a spirit, linking to foundations, telling the stories. The traditions continue when that happens.

Mostly our Old Scholars are about anniversary school reunions and a Newsletter. They have been fantastic ways to catch up with old classmates and teachers, and to find out what school colleagues have been doing since graduation. St Mark’s actively supports the organization of school reunions and encourages anyone planning a reunion to contact us. We want to gather once every decade.

In the next month 85 old scholars will be created with the Graduation of our 2016 Year 12s. They are a fine group. They will leave a College that cared for them and they will enter a world stronger because of a network of St Mark’s friends. Our hope is that they remain strong and that as old scholars they are better prepared to reach their goals because they have been together. I am certain that we will find them flourishing at their reunion in 2026.

Warm regards

Principal, St Mark’s College
Around the College

We gave thanks for our Year 12’s at the Thanksgiving Mass held at the Cathedral at the end of October.

Our new 2017 College Captains were announced! Congratulations Jayden Gonsalves and Ebony Bennier pictured with Principal Greg Hay and 2016 Captains Eve Cappelletto and Patrick Williams.

After a 9-year drought, Polding were winners of the Benedict Sports Day!

Our Class of 2016 celebrated their graduation at the Northern Festival Centre on 2 December.
Old Scholar’s Reunion

Last week we welcomed back past students from the anniversary decades of our time as a College.

We had old scholars from 1976, 86, 96 and 2006. Our Bishop Gallagher Centre was filled with photos and memorabilia, icons and symbols of the richness of our history. There was a celebration of Mass and a beautiful sermon from Father Francis and then the gasping surprise of a tour round the place.

People gathered, at first a little shy and then with growing confidence. They walked with a student guide and a teacher as commentator. But the old scholars did most of the commentary. There were plenty of smiles and bursts of laughter. The buildings amazed them and brought back memories.

The old scholars teased each other a little and remembered past mischief. They huddled around drinks and a delightful supper after the tour and there was the enthusiasm of the sharing of stories.

Past teachers were beaming. There was warmth in hugs and laughter as relationships were re-established so quickly. There was a sense of real gratitude for the experience of being at this school. The old scholars talked about it and the past staff felt it.

It was a wonderful celebration and in gathering it makes us richer.
Memories of the Class of ‘96

Bec Jamieson (Hanrahan) shared her memories of the Class of 1996 at the recent Old Scholars Reunion.

In 1992, my mum and dad made the hardest, yet one of the greatest decisions a parent can make, sending me to boarding school. They packed me up from Leigh Creek Area School, hoping for a future of successes and achievements, with foundations being set here at Saint Mark’s College.

I had missed the Year 8 transition, so was entering the school gates on day one, with only the company of my fellow “homies” who were also experiencing the same nerves and uncertainty – and quite possibly great resentment towards our parents at that stage. It was close by them I remained for the first couple of days meeting them for each break in the quadrangle near room 15. This many kids, in such a big school was pretty overwhelming for many of us. However, it wasn’t long until a friendships were formed with others, which grew in to a wonderful, fun, energetic circle of friends. Over the years our circle grew, and has remained solid over the years.

I believe it’s a super special thing to still have such friendships, and these people have now been part of me for more than two-thirds of my life – and it all started here 25 years ago. Despite the distance between us, the experiences we shared, the growth we made together has kept our bond tight.

I find it amazing that high school only lasts for 5 years, yet seems to have an incredible impact on who we become as we struggled from the teens to adulthood, and the influence it has on the people we become. I believe this is due to our circumstances and those around us.

My circumstance as a boarder meant courage, independence, respect for others and a diverse understanding of family – all forming the values I carry with me today. The parents and families of my friends, as well as the community of Saint Mark’s College became a part of my sense of family. I knew I was cared for, watched over and I felt safe here despite being so far from my own blood. I am grateful for their contributions to the friend, daughter, wife and mother I am.

There were several teachers over the years that also influenced me, and always spark a smile when I think of my time here.

Mr Griffin: by far, the quirkiest individual I have ever encountered, teaching me not to fear the uniqueness in others.

Mr Seymour: a teacher whom you either loved, or didn’t. What started as a not love relationship I had with him, altered as I learned to appreciate the high standards and expectations he held upon us and the respect he gave us when he knew we were pushing ourselves to be our best in his classes. High expectations are a good thing, and as I became a teacher myself later in life, it was
something I liked to work through with students who also initially felt resentment with the pressure, but also shared the celebration of the learning phases that we travel together.

Mr Schliebs: his technique with every sport was always textbook material, yet a perfect balance between the theory and the practical, which is me to a tea as a learner, needing a bit of both. And I am yet to see anyone clear a hurdle the way he used to, with his head not lifting an inch, but this unique, flawless job he did.

And dear Father Ray, who taught me that you can never take life too seriously and there is always time for a good laugh – it was mostly him, laughing at his own jokes that we had all heard a thousand times, but the sound of his laughter never grew old.

Year 12 carries significant highlights as I broke into adulthood, which perfectly reflect the values I carry with me today.

Surprisingly, I was elected Gallager House Captain. Receiving such support and belief from my peers and the teachers nurtured leadership skills that have allowed me to give back to the communities I have been a part of. I was appointed my first leadership job as a Primary School Principal at just age 26, I have been president of several sporting clubs and am now leading others in a life of change as a Personal Trainer. Being captain though, also meant that we need to participate in all events as “role models”, which was mostly mortifying for me at the time as I was no athlete, and came dead last in the 1500m. This could have gone badly receiving confidence-killing mocking by my peers … however, instead I received encouragement, laughter with- not at, and persisting through the moment and enjoying the accomplishment. I have since completed a half marathon, a triathlon and several obstacle course races – because I am confident enough to give anything a go, as you never know who is watching you, being inspired.

A Year 12 reflection would not be complete without a mention of the Knockout Netball and Football. While the boys brought home the shield for the third year in the row, I remember there being some serious rivalry and competitiveness within us girls for the netball, but I actually believe the rivalry was established in the teachers with Mrs Brown being our coach, and Mr Ray & Mr Lacey being the footy coach. Either way, the heart still gets racey thinking of the grand final game for our netball. From memory, we went in to the grand final having gone from strength to strength each game and coming together in such a short time, to be quite hopeful for that shield. But then injury hit us which led to myself and one of the other shortest girls in the team, standing as the defenders in the ring. Despite odds against us, with grit, determination and a whole lot of drive from back at school, we managed the win. The feeling amongst us was incredible – sense of pride, faith in our team and the fact we could hold our heads on returning to school with that shield! So much so, that when we actually left school and most of us headed to Adelaide the following year, we entered a team in local comp and stayed together to also take out that Premiership! Our theme song – Never Tear Us Apart. It is funny, how it still makes me smile today when I hear that song and the deeper meaning it seems to still hold today.

Besides my first teaching appointment after graduating uni being over at Benedict Campus, this is the first time I have returned here. I often drove by when I was in the area, noticing the changes on the outside, but after reflecting back, I don’t think much has changed on the inside – well for me anyway.

It has been 20 years since we left here, and I am incredibly grateful to be back here again. I appreciate being asked to speak today, as it has given me an opportunity to really sit down and reflect on who I am and how invaluable my experiences I had here at Saint Mark’s have contributed to this.

As I said earlier, in the bigger scheme of things, it is only 5 years of our lives, but felt like forever at the time. If only we could tell our teenage selves to really breathe in each moment, each learning experiencing and each friendship, as it really is instrumental in shaping who we become – and I am thankful that my 5 years of high school were here.
Celebrating Graduation

The ‘night of nights’ on our school calendar is made even more special as we see Old Scholar’s, mum’s, dad’s, grandparents and siblings of our graduates celebrating this milestone.

Merina Caputo (centre) celebrated her graduation with her parents and Old Scholars Sebastian and Kerry (Freer).

Old Scholar Serina Arnold (Tattoli) and her son Beau who graduated this year.

Graduate Maggie Peterson with her sister, Old Scholar, Hollie.

Old Scholar Rosanne Smith (Caputo) with her daughter Adriano from the Class of 2016.

Old Scholars Martin and Trish Hunter (Bowers) with her sons James (graduate) and Daniel.
Gen Richter was a teacher from Benedict for over 30 years, she worked so hard for our students, prepared lessons, guided and nurtured and she delighted in young people.

Gen Richter was a teacher from Benedict for over 30 years. She passed away suddenly in October and left us all quite bereft.

She had been such a vital presence and the suddenness of her passing left us quite shocked. At the funeral we saw in the packed Cathedral that she had made a huge impact on the Port Pirie and St Mark’s community. The tributes were beautiful. The messages of support were deeply affirming of Gen’s graciousness and contribution.

Gen left her husband Stephen and four children, Lilian, Hugh, Annie and Harriet who were all past students of the College.

In the eulogy we heard: We remember Gen Richter as the teacher who had a profound sense of the preciousness of children, who worked so hard for them, prepared lessons, guided and nurtured, delighting in young people and telling them that the world was good. We remember the storyteller who understood the power of narrative and took children into a thousand worlds and introduce hundreds of tantalizing mysteries and then empowered young minds with language and expression.

We remember the person of deep spirituality who searched for truth with her keen intelligence and intuition. She honoured God and then gave children a pathway towards the sacred because she opened hearts. Gen was never indifferent and this moment, the moment she was in, right now, mattered. She was never cynical and life had purpose, right now, things were important. It made everything more important to us.

We remember Gen who brought so many gifts, so much quality into her professional and church life. Mostly she brought a heart that loved. Her defining quality was always a heart that loved. She was a person of reverence and humility with a touch of the larrikin, and we laughed. Perhaps that is how she opened our hearts and how we became better people because we were better people when we were around her. She opened and enriched hearts through the larrikin and the laughter. We shared goodness. Things seemed interesting, she offered insight and it was fun. Gen had such an impact on us.

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May she rest in peace.
Emma Barratt from the Class of 2010 is busy bringing new lives into the world as a Registered Nurse and Midwife.

I graduated from Year 12 at St Mark’s College in 2010 and I moved to Adelaide, living on-campus at Flinders University in where I commenced my Bachelor Degree of Registered Nursing in February 2011.

Post completing my Bachelor Degree of Registered Nursing in November 2013, I was successful in gaining a graduate position at the Port Pirie Hospital. While starting in the Registered Nursing Graduate Program, I also commenced studying my Post Graduate Degree in Midwifery- my dream job!

I completed my Post Graduate Midwifery degree in July 2016 and am now currently working in C Ward in Port Pirie Hospital as a Registered Nurse and Midwife and loving it! There is nothing more amazing than bringing a new life into the world.

My closest friends in Year 12 were Hayley Combe and Alyse (Polly) Lynch who I am still great friends with today. Hayley and I have just returned from travelling Europe together after developing our relationship all the way back in Year 8.

While I don’t have a specific favourite memory of St Mark’s, the whole of Year 12 was unforgettable. The closure of my schooling life and deepening friendships throughout the whole year, including teachers, validated our development into young adults who were ready to grab hold of their futures.

My favourite teachers that I valued so greatly and still do to this day- is Fi Clarke and Ann Russack, my music teachers throughout my high school years; who provided wisdom, guidance and encouragement when I needed it most. Phil Hodges, my Care Group teacher and PE mentor; always pushing and supporting me, teaching me life lessons and study habits that I still use to this day. A big shout out also to my remaining Year 12 teachers, Mr Rochette, Mr Griffin and Mrs Gibson. Lastly the most irreplaceable librarian Mrs Sard; always helping me out with texts and a good read.

I sadly don’t have any connection with the College today. I have one cousin left at school, Brigid Connelly, who is the last of a long line educated at St Mark’s College from the family of Geraldine and John Connelly.
Out and About

Lifelong friends (front) Julie Scavarelli (Lemm), Mary Noack (Brown), Janet Goold, (back) Kerry Wade (Ryan- not an Old Scholar), Patricia Dernedde (Threadgold) and Margie Harvey (Lemm).

Margie Harvey (Lemm) and Michelle Murdoch (Condon) caught up recently in Adelaide.

Renee Brentson and Jade Pisani, Class of 2014, were at the launch of the Bosco Art Prize.

Old Scholars from the Class of 1985 caught up at the Ellen Hotel recently- Allison DeGennaro (Caputo), Maria Smale (Farinola), Sara Davies (Mac Gary), Marie Harvey (Dwyer), Tracey Sandoow (Elding), Stephanie Connor (Gorman), Sarah Watt (Langston), Kylie Coombes (Cuillen), Pepita Arbon (Raftery) and Lynn Swearse (Clark).

Old Scholar Tim Richens was at the 2016 Bosco Art Prize, he is pictured with his Mum, Lorraine.

Celebrating Jayden Barnes’ 21st were Old Scholars (Back) Kaleb Head, Dominic Button, Jayden, Marco Caputo, Lachlan White, Jake Nitschke (Front) Lachlan Turner, Matt Condon, Dylan Adams, Caleb Brown.

Margie Harvey (Lemm) and Michelle Murdoch (Condon) caught up recently in Adelaide.
-around-the-uni-

Congratulations to our Old Scholar’s who are being recognised for their achievements at St Ann’s and Aquinas!

If you have recently received an award we would love to hear about it!
Email: oldscholars@smc.catholic.edu.au
JESS DUNKLEY, Class of 2007

Jess Dunkley married Daniel Hill on 21 October at Paradise Square in Melrose.

Jess and Daniel’s bridal party included Old Scholar’s Kylan Oxford, Kailah Bradley (nee ramsay), Kelli Dunkley, Joseph Slattery, Sam Heinjus, Tim Dunkley and Kyal Kirk.

Jess, who works as a Personal Banker at ANZ Bank loves playing sport (particularly hockey and netball) and spending time with her family and her friends. Jess and Daniel reside in Port Pirie.

ASHLEIGH KUPSCH, Class of 2005

Ashleigh Kupsch married Michael Lynch on 21 November at Hillsview Estate in the Clare Valley.

Old Scholar’s Jordan Schumacher, Bec Noonan, Therese Slattery, Christie Roros (Capurso), Jenna Tiller (Gale), Emily Lowe (Zubrinich) and Sally Hurst were in attendance to celebrate Ash’s special day.

Ashleigh, Michael and their daughter Ava live in Laura.

CHELSEA DAVIES, Class of 2012

Chelsea Davies married Ben Harmer on 26 November in Port Pirie.

The couple celebrated their wedding ceremony in Memorial Park and the reception was held at the Northern Festival Centre.

Chelsea and Ben live in Port Pirie, Chelsea is currently training to be a nurse.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Our Newest Arrivals

MELISSA CLARKE, Class of 2000
Melissa and Andrew Taylor welcomed their third son Spencer Patrick on 19 September. Living in Port Pirie, their older son Mitchell attends St Mark’s with Harrison due to start Reception next year. Melissa is currently on maternity leave from the Port Pirie Regional Health Service, where she works as a Registered Nurse.

LISA BROCK, Class of 2000
Lisa Brock and Corey Connor welcomed their little girl Charlie Marie on 16 July. The family lives in Port Pirie with their older son Eddie who is starting school in 2018. Lisa is currently on maternity leave from her job as the Regional Manager, Yorke and Mid North region for the Department of State Development.

ANNE WILLSON AND SIMON HAYES, Class of 2005 and 2003
Anne and Simon Hayes, along with their son Brodie, welcomed Isabel Grace on 7 July. The Hayes family live in Crystal Brook, with Simon working at Rocky River Ag Services and Anne is on maternity leave from SA Water.

OLIVIA DEGENNARRO, Class of 2009
Olivia and Shaun Sadler welcomed their son Bentley Joseph John on the 6 August. The family are living in Port Pirie.

NYREE YOUNG, Class of 2000
Nyre Young and Christian Wood welcomed their son Finn on 13 May. The family live in Port Pirie, with Finn’s older brother Kale who is in Year 2 at St Mark’s.

ADRIANA PORCELLI, Class of 2006
Adriana and Seth Roberts welcomed their first child Hazel Lorna Roberts on 14 September at the Lyell McEwin Hospital.
The Blessing of the Fleet Débutante Ball is a remarkable gathering, a celebration which is deeply embedded in the annual traditions of the College. We reminisce fondly as we look back on the photos as our Old Scholar’s ‘made their deb’.
The Arbon Family has had a long time association with St Mark’s College. David and Denise’s children Michelle (Shelley) and Shane both competed Year 8-12, Michelle 1990-1994, Shane 1992-1996.

Michelle especially enjoyed art throughout her secondary years excelling in Year 12. Art continues to be a passion that she practices in her spare time whilst raising a family is her main focus. Michelle married Mick Lorenz in 1999, they have two children Gemma (12 years) and Oscar (10 years) and live in Piccadilly in the Adelaide Hills.

Throughout Shane’s secondary years he excelled at playing sport for the College and was the Captain for the McNally House in Year 12. Shane celebrated his 300th football game with the Crystal Brook Football Club this year including coaching the A Grade Football side. Shane married Abbie Williams in 2008. They have two children Georgie (3 years) and Adele (11 months). They currently live in Crystal Brook. Shane now is teaching at St Joseph’s School in Gladstone.

Both Michelle and Shane made lasting friendships at St Mark’s College and keep in regular contact with many of their class peers.

David has 4 brothers, 2 of whom attended St Mark’s College, Peter and John. The other brothers, (Jock and Chris) and himself all attended Sacred Heart College in Adelaide.

Out of the next generation of Arbon grandchildren, 13 out of the 14 grandchildren all attended Saint Mark’s College in Port Pirie. Thomas Arbon, the son of Peter and Jo Arbon is currently teaching at St Mark’s Benedict Campus.

David and Denise became Boarding House Parents in 2000 and are currently in their 16th year. They moved from the Sacred Heart Home in Crystal Brook to Port Pirie Salesian House in 2007. As Boarding House Parents, it has been an extremely rewarding experience looking after many students, some 2 or 3 children from the same family, including some students for 5 years.

The interaction and the connection with these children and their families has been a wonderful experience and a huge and meaningful part of their life.
The talents of our creative Old Scholars were exhibited in an exciting showcase of works at the College in August.

Showcasing the talents that have passed through St Mark’s over the years, our Old Scholars and teachers (current and past) displayed their creative pieces in a College exhibition which was part of the SALA festival this year.

The exhibition, which was officially opened by Old Scholar and popular artist Ross Morgan, was an eclectic mix of Visual Artists and Designers featuring a variety of different media and techniques. The community who gathered for the launch, and who enjoyed the exhibition the week following, were impressed by the works on display.

Many thanks to our artists and designers who participated in the exhibition, it’s success ensures that this will be a regular event for the College.
Old Scholar’s from the 1990s onwards would remember the familiar faces of the Williams family from Carrieton. All six children attended the Bosco Campus of St Mark’s College, boarding at the then Crystal Brook “Sacred Heart Home”.

Fast forward to today and the family has grown, and each of the Williams “Old Scholar’s” has taken a unique path through life.

Letitia (Ratley) attended St Mark’s College between 1991 - 1993
I am a Registered general Nurse working for Mid North Community Health, based in Peterborough and Jamestown. I live in Jamestown with my husband David and three children; Kent, Austin and Zoe.

My time at St Marks was initially daunting but then fantastic. The boarding house and the school provided life long friendships and we all do our best to keep in contact through Facebook and Christmas cards!

The experience provided me with an education and a determination to succeed. It also gave me independence.

Mr and Mrs Stokes (House Parents) attended our wedding in 2002 and we will always remain in contact.

I attended my 20 year school reunion in 2013. It was great to tour the school and see all the changes (new buildings, etc). There were a few of us there and it was great to hear what other people were up to. We caught up with some teachers like Graham Ford (who suggested this article!), Janet Haskett, Peter Munday and others. I would highly recommend attending your reunion!

Kym attended St Mark’s College between 1992-1993 and is now the owner of “BSR” in Adelaide.

Stacey attended St Mark’s College between 1993 - 1995
Stacey has had various roles in financial institutions since she left school. She currently resides near Burra with her husband Craig and their two boys, one of whom will be commencing at St Mark’s as a boarder in 2017.

Leah attended St Mark’s College between 1997 - 1999 and is now the owner of “Live Better Physiotherapy” in the Riverland.

Abbie attended St Mark’s College between 1998 - 2000
Abbie lives in Crystal Brook with husband Shane and their two daughters. When working, she promotes Federal Government grants in Port Pirie.

Abbie enjoyed her time at St Mark’s, made some life-long friends. The boarding house was good fun - I remember Monday night ‘street nights’ where we would walk down the Main Street and line up for hot chips at Harry’s Deli!

Heidi attended St Mark’s College between 2001 - 2003 and is working on the family farm.
ATTENTION
ALL PAST STUDENTS
of
St Mark’s College
Port Pirie

You are invited to a
SCHOOL REUNION
Saturday 21 October 2017

Celebrating Anniversaries for Graduating Classes of

5pm    Tour of College
6pm    Drinks and nibbles in the
        Bishop Gallagher Centre

To register your interest please contact
Maryann on 8633 8800.
Keep up to date with news and events via Facebook.

We want to hear from YOU!

New baby? Just tied the knot?
Maybe you have graduated from Uni?
Or simply caught up with old school friends.

Send your photos or news to:
oldscholar@smc.catholic.edu.au
and we will include it in the next newsletter!

Sending Christmas Wishes to you and your families from the College!

Our 2016 Receptions ready for the Port Pirie Christmas Pageant.