I was able to reassure the Old Scholars in my speech that the school is in good shape and that what they valued most about the place, what they remembered as essential and formative, remained. I said that the College is very committed to its history and to the people who created this enduring legacy. The old scholars of the anniversary years are the people who have created a particular spirit. Their fun, their scholarship, their relationships, their graciousness and care, created so long ago has been sustained. We wanted to affirm to our Old Scholars that they were an important foundation to what we have now.

So we shared happily drinks and nibbles and a beautiful Mass conducted by local priest Fr Francis. We toured with about a dozen members of staff offering reflections and pointing out developments. The old scholars laughed and shared reminiscences. It was a joy to see their reunion and to sense the part played by the school in their lives.

Finally there were some speeches offered by representatives of each group. They were funny, poignant, significant and engaging. We toasted the past and then the groups went off to individual dinners in the town. The gatherings were very successful. The 1965 group got home at 11.00pm. I believe that ‘85s stayed out until after 2.00am. The 95s actually played up and the sun just about rose on the last of them and 2005 have all been accounted for. Phew! What happened to them after that last bottle of bubbly?

We are richer for our alumni. They were delightful visitors.

Greg Hay Principal
Old Scholars’ Reunion

Welcome Back to our Old Scholars

St Mark’s College Principal Mr Greg Hay greeted the Old Scholars as they returned to the College.

It was lovely to hear representatives from each year speak about their time at and memories of St Mark’s College.

Teacher Tess McKeough with Brian Bearman (2005)


Morgan Nutt (1995) with Teacher Graham Ford and Bosco Deputy Principal Kate Kilpatrick.

Martine Wright (1995) and Maria Silvestri (1995) with Old Scholar & now Teacher Katie Pole and Teacher Jane Gibson.
Thank You Letters

To St Mark’s College,

Well! What a fantastic time was had by all........

There are many people to thank including our organising group headed by Cathy Parker (Hunter) - I’m not talking out of school when I say, Cathy’s efforts went beyond the call and made the difference. Thank you also to Daryl Parker (Cathy’s husband) for his hospitality and allowing us to kick-on after the dinner at their Arthur Crescent residence. Man Cave Envy!

The Organising Group: (as we knew them) Therese Lauritsen, Sharon Evans, Helen Thornton, Denise Robinson, Cherie Sheridan, Ann O’Connor, Beth Connelly and Maurie Capurso. Thank you all!

The Travellers: Thank you also to those who travelled far and wide especially from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria - your presence was special given the time, distance and expense attributed to you being there.

The Partners: Thank you to the partners of our classmates - our reunion was enriched by your presence. We trust you were made to feel welcome and an important part of our celebrations. A comment from one of our “partners” was that it was immensely enjoyable making new friends over the course of the weekend.

The Teachers: To Sister Moya, Mr John Mullin and Mrs Merril Reichelt - thank you so much for being there - the smiles on your faces matched only by the joy of past students. To Mr Greg Hay and Father Arno Vermeeren for their kindness in conducting the school tours and class Mass respectively. The tours were amazing in that it demonstrated the technological advances not seen or dreamt of in our day. At Mass, the offering of the sign of peace to each other was a beautiful touch.

The Classmates: Last but not least - you made the weekend the success it was - to see the way we all greeted and hugged and laughed and cried (a bit) and engaged after 40 years was the greatest reward. Some still think they can dance!!!!

Thank you - Thank you all - it speaks volumes for the friendships we had 40 years ago and we will continue to have because of our reunion.

Take care - good health and happiness to all.

Tony - Class of 1974 Old Scholar

Dear Greg,

I would like to thank you so very much for the genuine and generous welcome you gave to the group celebrating 50 years since leaving St Marks, Gertrude Street. You and your staff could not have done more for us, and we appreciated it all.

It was wonderful to see St Mark’s now, to feel the ethos of the College, to see the wonderful facilities offered to students and to meet some of the current students.

Our group of ten former students were very pleased to see each other, some of us not in contact since we left school, as some went to Adelaide for their nursing, one went for teaching training, and some of us travelled around the country with our husbands and their work. We enjoyed our dinner at Flinders on Main, there also we were welcomed. Then my husband Wayne cooked a BBQ for us on Sunday morning. This became a feast with other contributions and more talking. If there had not been planes to catch and driving to be done I think we would still be talking and laughing!

We managed to find some photos, and I will make a copy and send to you at the College so that there is a small record of our attendance at St Mark’s. I am in Victoria now, on my way to a cousins gathering near the Victorian High Plains, so it will not be for a few weeks.

Thank you again Greg and for your support and encouragement during the past year.

With kind regards,

Marie - Class of 1965 Old Scholar

To St Mark’s College

Thank you for organising the Reunion on Saturday afternoon. It was fantastic – although we probably would have liked to have had more time to be able to look through the memorabilia!

Everyone was very impressed with the celebrations and for those who hadn’t been back in a while, the school itself!

Please pass on our thanks from all of us in the Class of ’85!

Regards,

Francine - Class of 1985 Old Scholar
On Saturday 17 October, ten girls gathered to celebrate 50 years since our class completed Intermediate at St Mark’s. We were unable to contact some of our former classmates, and others were unable to attend for various reasons. A couple of our group live in Port Pirie, others in the Mid-North, some in Adelaide and one attended from Perth.

We were thrilled to see each other again! Some of us had not seen each other for 50 years or almost that long, but the years melted away. Others have remained good and supportive friends.

We talked and laughed about our memories and shared contact details. We took our own photos to display - and a school tie. All of our education was provided by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan in the Benedictine tradition, and we remembered the teachings of those strong women. We marvelled at St Marks now and the wonderful feeling of sound education and support for students and staff.

Our afternoon was hosted very generously by Mr Greg Hay and the College and we appreciated the welcome given to us. We continued with an excellent dinner at Flinders on Main, and then met again at 10 am on Sunday for a four hour brunch (more talking and laughing!) in Memorial Park, opposite our old classrooms.

We had a wonderful time.

Marie Francis (née Lauritsen) Class of 65 Old Scholar
Old Scholars’ Reunion

Class of 1965 Reunion

Class of 1965 Old Scholars set off on a tour of the College.

Class of 1965 Old Scholars catching up.

Class of 1965 Old Scholars enjoyed returning to St Mark’s College for the Old Scholars Reunion. They had the opportunity to chat to staff and marvel at the changes to the College over the last 50 years.
In 1974 Salesian College and St Mark’s merged and the Year 10 class of that year became the first St Mark’s class to go completely ‘co-ed’. On the long weekend in October we all met up again, some of us having not seen each other for 40 years! What fun we had ...

In our Primary school days the students of Fatima, St Anthony’s and Saint Mark’s became one class in Year 6 with the boys going to Salesian College and the girls joining the others at St Mark’s Primary School in the red brick building near the Cathedral. In Year 8 the girls then went to high school to what is now known as Benedict Campus. We were across the paddock and scrub from the boy’s school at what is now Bosco. Our class was huge with 48 students and it may have been for this reason that no class photo was taken that year... which is a real shame...of course it could have been that we were all a little too much like over enthusiastic teenagers!

Our reunion was really well attended with 34 old scholars, partners, and three teachers, Sr Moya Weissenfeld, Mrs Merril Reichelt and Mr John Mullins making the effort to be at one or all of the functions on the long weekend. Those who were unable to make it had a variety of reasons, but some of them are already asking when we will have another one!

We had an icebreaker event at the Port Room on the Friday night and had casual dinner, which was great, as were the staff on that night. It was so much fun firstly recognizing (or not) old faces and having so many laughs about our shared experiences and memories. Those who were at first apprehensive were soon feeling much more relaxed and relieved that after all those years people could still connect and laugh together.

On the Saturday the Principal of St Mark’s College, Mr. Greg Hay, gave us a comprehensive and informative tour of both campuses. We all found it really interesting and more than one person felt they would like to return to make use of the fabulous facilities the College now boasts. We then shared Mass at Benedict, which was a beautiful calming event after the emotion of returning to our old school grounds and classrooms. On Saturday night we had dinner at Saied’s Café Savafi and thanks to Cathy Parker’s (Hunter) husband Darryl, we were able to trip and dance down memory lane with a great collection of 70’s music. We also had many old school photos on display and these were fabulous conversation starters! Some of us went back to Cathy’s to party on and were still reminiscing at 4am that morning, there was so much to talk about!

A much quieter Sunday picnic in Memorial Park culminated our event. Thank you to Greg Hay for his enthusiasm and assistance in making our reunion dream a reality, to the wonderful group of people who got their heads and talents together to organize the weekend and to all those fabulous students of the class of ’74 who made the time and in many cases the long trip to be there.

Our class of 1974 reunion was an occasion to remember for another 40 or so years!

Therese Hicks (Lauritsen)
Class of 74 Old Scholar
Old Scholars’ Reunion

Class of 1974 Reunion

Girls Class of 1974.

First Matriculation Class 1974.

Martin Pepe, Paul Sideras, Therese Hicks, Cathy Parker and Tina Owens.

Brian Smith, Therese Hicks, Laura Rosa, Anne Spadavecchia & Helen Thomas.

Marina Davidson, Rob & Rose Watson, Tony and Anne Spadavecchia.

Cherie Hodges, Sharon O’Neil, Lorraine Murphy and Denise Rohrsheim.

Barry Pearce, Ray Lee, Tony Keane and Martin Pepe.

A group photo of the Class of 74 meeting up again.
Meeting up with school mates from 30 years ago takes on a comic feel when the meeting place turns out to be the actual school grounds. We all rushed toward each other knowing each face as though we’d just left Mr Fantinel’s Maths class. A few wrinkles and some extra pounds didn’t make a scrap of difference to the immediate recognition and familiarity within the group.

About 15 or so of the old scholars attended the tour of the school and were equally impressed and enthusiastic about the changes that have occurred in the school over the last 30 years. Although there were a few groans of “gee, we didn’t have this sort of stuff in our day”.

The Mass was uplifting and fun, with quite loud singing ringing out. This was followed by a good old catch up over nibbles and drinks in the BGC, with an entertaining speech by Kelly McInerney (Meyer). Sai Lucivero provided the “after party” location, along with the late night entertainment (not much has changed there!).

What a top afternoon and night!

Simone Atkinson
Class of 85 Old Scholar
Girlfriends from the Class of 85 had a great catch up at the Old Scholars Reunion. (Back) Antonietta, Annette, Stehpannie, Teresa, Sarah, and Allison (Front) Simone and Maria.
Class of 1995 Reunion

On Saturday 17 October 2015 members of the St Marks College Class of 1995 were reunited after 20 years.

The reunion commenced at the Bosco Campus and what an eye opener it was! We were cheerfully greeted by current students and also teachers – some who were very familiar to us all!

We were given a tour of the school and were in awe of how the facilities had progressed. Although many of us now have our own children attending the College at the Benedict Campus the tour of the Bosco Campus was an absolute treat.

Father Francis shared a blessed and relaxed Mass with us and also the classes of 1965, 1985 and 2005 who were reuniting that weekend. We then all swapped stories, viewed old photos and listened to a representative from each decade reminisce of their time at St Marks College.

Our reunion then continued at the Savoy Soccer Club where we continued to laugh, relive our youth and re-connect with friends long into the night. Pacts were made to stay in touch and not leave it for another 20 years.

A wonderful event to attend and to truly be thankful for the impact St Mark’s College had on our lives.

Martine Wright  Class of 1995 Old Scholar
Old Scholars’ Reunion

Class of 2005 Reunion

This year, saw the Class of 2005 gather for their 10 year school reunion. It was hard to believe 10 years had passed since we completed our schooling at St Mark’s but many took the opportunity to gather, catch up over a drink and share some memories of our time at St Mark’s College.

Many of us gathered at the College during the afternoon for the school tour to check out the many changes that have occurred since leaving. Something I take for granted as I’m lucky enough to use the facilities each day. The group were amazed at Mrs Sard’s library that was in such great condition, it couldn’t be 5 years old! They were impressed with the new Trade Skills Centre and the Ag Centre, some envious it wasn’t around when we were at school. Others had a go on the piano in the music centre, testing their memories from Music with Ms Clarke. We then gathered in the Chapel (which wasn’t in the same spot it used to be!) for Mass, and met in the BGC to share a drink and reminisce on the old school photos that were displayed so well.

The festivities continued later that night at the Portside Tavern, where around 50 students plus their partners gathered to celebrate the Class of 05, it was a great turn out. Amanda Caputo put in so much time and hard work to ensure every detail was included in our reunion. It was great to catch up with people we hadn’t seen since school and others we see all the time to catch up on each other’s lives and reminisce about the good times we had at St Mark’s.

We all had a fantastic night, and we look forward to gathering again in 10 years’ time to celebrate our 20 year reunion!

Jeslyn Oxford Class of 2005 Old Scholar
Our Year 12’s

Year 12 students at their Farewell Mass in St Mark’s Cathedral.

Year 12 students enjoying their Farewell Breakfast on their last day of school.

Congratulations to our Class of 2015 students pictured above at their Year 12 Graduation.

Our newest Old Scholars
Our Year 12s are our newest ‘Old Scholars’ and gathered beautifully on three occasions as part of their farewell from the College. They met at the Cathedral with families for Mass and then for a traditional farewell breakfast and ‘goodbye assembly’. Our Year 12s then completed exams and finally crossed a stage at the Festival Centre in a moment of radiant Graduation.

The gatherings were a time of family support to applaud achievement. We were able to share an experience with wonderful young people who seem ready to take on the world. The Mass was a truly beautiful moment of symbols and ritual. The Year 12s walked into the cathedral with great dignity and unity. It was the bacon and eggs on the Friday morning with streaming sun, relaxed Year 12s in spring frocks and coloured shorts and a festive table set to celebrate. The generous staff offered a morning banquet of farewell. There were moments of fun and speeches that made us laugh.

The Graduation was when we all dressed up and gathered with family to applaud achievement. The 12s nervously waited to walk across the stage and receive a certificate that makes sense of being educated at St Mark’s. After so many years they had finished and joined the ranks of old Scholars. They were truly beautiful on that night. It is our gala event and it is a profoundly important gathering. They will be truly beautiful as they begin their adult lives.

Greg Hay
Principal