

OLD SCHOLARS

Issue 1 July 2019

newsletter



**ST MARK'S
COLLEGE**

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We welcomed back a group of our newest Old Scholars, those from the Class of 2018 who achieved an ATAR of over 90, for the annual Dux Assembly. Photographed are Melissa Gadaleta, Marc Forster, Eden Smith, Ann Russack, Phoebe Keane, Briony Forster, Mia Dennis, Meriam De Vries, Georgia Pisani, Jo Court, Ellie Combe, Katie Pole, Aleisha Finlay, special guest Mayor Leon Stephens and Greg Hay.

Greetings to our alumni, you are remembered and always welcome.

One of the great privileges of being a teacher at St Mark's is to share in the growing achievements of our young people. We watch them in the schoolyard, scurrying around, busy with life, responding to our challenges. They are just young children, innocent and full of potential. And they grow. They make connection in the classroom. They immerse themselves in our community. They become young adults. In all of that time we support the struggles, applaud the triumphs, and feel confident in the maturity. And then they grow into old scholars and we then become inspired by the decisions and pathways. Your lives as Old Scholars become very important to us.

My hope is that we are always there for the ride when you are students. Even if things go a little downhill occasionally we share in it all and, as teachers, we take very seriously the support and guidance that can be needed. We collaborate with parents and hopefully we work well together. You were worth it. There is nothing more precious than supporting the journey towards adulthood of young people at St Mark's.

Eventually you become old scholars, and when we think about you, we always smile. You are well remembered. We always delight in the memories of stumbles and accomplishments. We always reminisce about the characters, the larrikins, the quiet and studious, the courageous and determined. You do make us laugh and you make our work more than just a job.

In the Salesian tradition, St John Bosco always insisted that the quality of the relationship was the priority. The care and affirmation of the student was always the focus because that is the way he achieved success for the student. It is a traditional Salesian priority and something that we value here. St John Bosco used to say, "Love them and make sure they know they are loved". Hmm... perhaps that wasn't all that easy to do. You may remember a moment or two of being unloved but hopefully later forgiven.

All too often a student can finish and we don't hear about their progress. That is why the return of the old scholars is so important to us. The achievements and the journey into adulthood are significant and give us a chance to share your accomplishment. I hope that we get to meet each other. You are always welcome.

Warm regards

Principal, St Mark's College

AROUND THE SCHOOL

Around the College



Breaking the 14-year drought, Bosco were victorious at the Bosco Athletics Day.



The tradition of the Benedict Easter Re-enactment continues with our Year 5s presenting the Stations of the Cross for the students, staff and College families



Feast Day was celebrated in Term 2 with Mass, a sausage sizzle and plenty of fun activities for students, from the youngest to the oldest!



Senior students have started learning skills in Engineering, Automotive and Machinery Operations at the Trade Skills Centre under the guidance of TAFE SA.



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Around the College



St Mark's College hosted Catholic schools from Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Port Augusta for the Spencer Gulf Athletics Carnival and won first place!

Back to School...



Paige Court, Class of 2011 recently ran a Songwriting Workshop for senior music students at the College



Harmony Day was celebrated with the unveiling of the Harmony Piano which is for use by all students of the College during their recess and lunch breaks.



Child Studies students designed a range of fun activities for young children, which our Reception students enjoyed!



Ellen Tefanis, Class of 2015 has been completing her Teaching Prac at the College



Our mid-year Little Lions 'graduated', ready to start school in Term 3.



Boxes and boxes of soup and noodles were donated to the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal.



Year 12 Agriculture students visited North Well Station, managed by Old Scholar Mat Kerin, Class of 1995, and his family



Year 11 Outdoor Ed students explored the great outdoors on a 3-day camp at Wilpena Pound.



Our Year 7s love being at high school - recently they designed their own signature pizza's in Food Technology.



Ben Dunbar, Class of 1994 recently taught Year 11 Food and Hospitality students how to correctly portion a chicken

The Gibson Family



Jack, Jane, Ella, John and Maddison Gibson

Jane and John Gibson have made an extraordinary impact on the College. They continue to serve with great energy, teach with enthusiasm, they trusted the College with the care of their own children and they have been central in the joy filled experience in the staff room. They have been charged with the care of a two generations of St Mark's students. Their compassionate, demanding approach, their sensitive support and their inclination to a moment of larrikin fun have been so important. Old scholars will remember that Jane looked for excellence from them. She saw the best in them and she expected their best. They responded to her thoroughness and discipline, her joy at achievement and her deep insight. John has been on that windy oval with the PE boys and girls for a long time. He cared for the Year 12s, went on camps and adventures, organised sporting events, teased his students and created a love for a subject and a pride in excellence. Jane works so hard. John likes lists. Old scholars will remember them both as deeply connected to the lives and hopes of the students. They are still full of life and energy for our school. We want them here for another generation of students. We are very grateful for their service.

John and I are humbly teaching our second generation of St Mark's students, having moved to Port Pirie from Portland, Victoria. Then Principal, Father Dennis Hadley offered me a position as Home Economics teacher and we happily returned to the warmth and familiarity of our home state. John was offered contract work at various schools in the region. In mid-January 1994, on a 45 degree day, we unpacked our belongings and moved into a tin house on Esmond Road. In that suffocating heat we made a joint decision, "we'll give it 3 years", somewhere along the way we must have acclimatised and stayed for 25.

John joined me at the College in 1998 as the

Sport and PE Coordinator and taught Physical Education and Maths. He immersed himself in the cycle of sports days, camps, knockout sports and teaching. I reduced my teaching load to part time as we juggled work with our decision to have 3 children in 4 years- Maddison, Ella and Jack. We became involved with the Port Pirie wider community; John and I played a range of sports and took on various coaching roles. This has continued for 25 years. We have coached many sports and I continue my involvement with the St Mark's Netball Club. John has coached nearly every sporting code including football, hockey and tennis.

In 2018, John completed his 13-year tenure as Year 12 Coordinator. He became infamous for his end of year speech, which was presented to the students on their final day of school, it became known as 'The Roast'. He also dedicated himself to nurturing a generation of students through their Year 12 studies. I returned to full time work in 2014, as the Year 10 Co-coordinator and work across the Science and Home Economics faculties. Our children are old scholars of the College, having left their hometown of Port Pirie to pursue tertiary studies in Adelaide. Maddison recently graduated from Flinders University with a Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics, Ella is completing a degree in Occupational Therapy and Jack is studying Primary Teaching (Mr Gibson 2.0).

We continue to enjoy the challenges of contemporary teaching and thrive on the creativity and innovation needed to teach our current generation. There is tremendous joy in teaching the children of old scholars and the opportunity to be part of the reunion celebrations is a highlight of our school year. Our 47 years of combined service to the College has been an honour and we feel very blessed.

Jane Gibson (AKA Mrs Gibson)



Starting School



We love to see the familiar faces of our Old Scholars' as they return to the College as parents enrolling their own children at school and Little Lions!



RYAN SARACINO, Class of 2004, with Finlay and Frankie



ANNETTE LORUSSO (now MUDGE), Class of 2001, with her husband Matthew, Lara and Luke



ERICA BARTLETT (now KELLY), Class of 2002, with Indiana and Parker



KAILAH RAMSAY (now BRADLEY), Class of 2007, and Addison



NICK HUTCHISON, Class of 2004, and Isabelle



KYLAN OXFORD (now REDDAWAY), Class of 2007, and Fletcher



JENNY SCARCE, Class of 1999, and Jayah at the Mother's Day Pamper Party



MATTHEW GALE, Class of 1999, with Darby



JANE MONAGHAN, Class of 1992, and Sophie at the Mother's Day Pamper Party

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Old Scholar Achievements



KELLIE MARTLEW, Class of 1998 took part in the Special Olympics Summer Games in Abu Dhabi, coming home with one gold medal and two silver for tenpin bowling. (Photo courtesy of the Port Pirie Recorder.)



PAUL CLAYTON-CAPUTO, Class of 1986 has been named the 2018 Leader of the Year by Ed Tech SA. Paul attended the College from Year 6 - Year 11 and completed his education at Sacred Heart College. You can read more about Paul's career and his award [here](#).



MARK GIANCASPRO, Class of 2004 has been named the new Director for the Sport SA Board.



MARIA PALUMBO, Class of 1987 was named a finalist in the Telstra Business Women's Awards. Maria is the CEO of Junction Australia, you can read more about her nomination [here](#).



St Ann's College have recently announced their prize winners for 2019. This includes:

- James Hunter, Class of 2016
Foundation Prize
- Jessie LaForgia, Class of 2018
E.D.J. Symon Bursary
- Lucy Wood, Class of 2016
Daryl Feather Prize



SAL CAPUTO, Class of 1981 put Port Pirie on the map while he was a contestant on the recent My Kitchen Rules along with College teacher Lyn Ellbourn.

Celebrating Love



NICOLE CLOTHIER, Class of 2004

Nicole married James Hanson on 20 April 2019 at the Bundaberg Botanic Gardens. Nicole and James live in Bundaberg, Queensland where Nicole works in finance at Impact Community Services.



KYAL KIRK, Class of 2010 and ROSIE WALLACE, Class of 2012

Kyal and Rosie were married on 7 February 2019 in Las Vegas, they celebrated an Elopement Party with friends and family on their return. The couple live in Crystal Brook, where Kyal is an electrician working for O'Dea's Electrical and Rosie a Nurse/Midwife at the Port Pirie Regional Hospital.



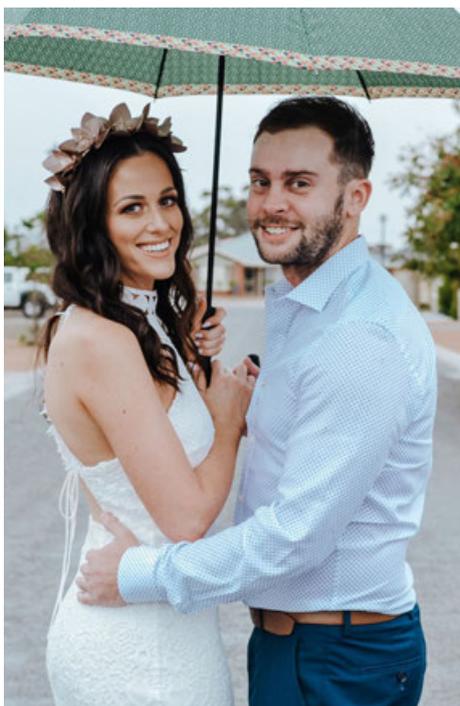
RHIANNA CAPUTO, Class of 2003

Rhianna married Edward Ethridge on 11 May 2019 at Serafino Winery. The couple live in Adelaide where Rhianna is a Records Coordinator at SAPOL.



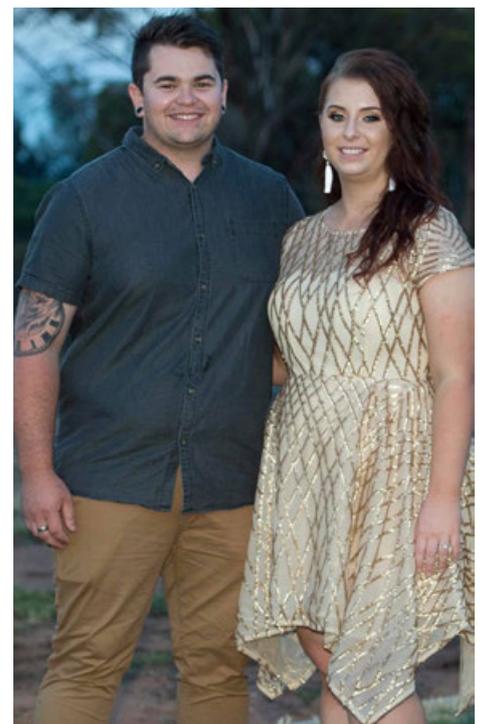
LEWIS JOHNSTON, Class of 2008

Lewis married Rachel Meyer on 2 March 2019 at Glen Ewin Estate. The Johnston family, including daughter Mila live in Adelaide where Lewis plays SANFL football for Norwood Football Club.



SOPHIE PORCELLI, Class of 2011

Sophie and Aaron Cominos celebrated their engagement in March at their home in Port Pirie. Sophie is one of our Reception Teachers and the JP Coordinator at St Mark's. The couple plan to marry in 2020.



ANNIE JOHNSON, Class of 2013

Annie and Jayden Hannaford announced their engagement last year and plan to marry at the end of 2020. Annie is a Registered Nurse at the Port Pirie Hospital.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Antonia Bellifemini

Many of you may know me as Antonia Bellifemini, I graduated in the Class of 2004. I currently reside in Melbourne Victoria, with my husband, Reymon and cheeky dachshund Moses, but am still a proud 'Port Piriean' and fondly remember my time at St Mark's College (Go Bosco!).

Since finishing at St Mark's College, completing my university degree at Flinders University, I have had dedicated myself to extending my career in the philanthropic world.

Having started my working life in the bright and vibrant world of the 'Arts' and working for two of the State's flagship theatre companies, Windmill Theatre and The State Theatre Company of South Australia I moved my passion for connecting people to cause in to health care or as I call it in to a world where it was "tugging on the heart strings" a little more. A jump in the deep end with my first role being at the Mary Potter Foundation working with donors supporting palliative and end of life care, my husband and I then moved to Melbourne in 2015, which saw me take on a role with the Royal Children's Hospital in their foundation team - creating and implementing their 'major donor' program and raising more than \$2M in my 2 years there for vital programs at Victoria's premier children's Hospital.

I am currently the General Manager, Philanthropy at the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute where I am responsible for a team of five and a very large budget of \$50M for a capacity building campaign to bring the Institute's vision of 'Australians living healthier for longer' alive with support from major philanthropists contributing to the research our scientists are conducting in the areas of heart, diabetes and the complications associated with these diseases.

Recently, and a highlight in my professional life, I attended the Association of Fundraising Professionals International Conference (AFPICON) which was held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Centre in San Antonio, Texas. I was invited to be a part of a panel with four other speakers from around the USA to present at a session in their 'Rebels Renegades and Pioneer's Track'. Our interactive presentation was centred around tools for helping those difficult conversations - whether they be a (rogue!) board member, a colleague or a donor and was called "You didn't just say that!" Our session attracted around 90 people - which was equal parts exciting and nerve wrecking, and as the 'Aussie' everyone wanted to hear from me (maybe just to hear my accent!!)

This conference is the largest in the Northern Hemisphere for professional fundraisers and is attended by 3,400 people, mostly from North America and Canada but amongst that a small number of Internationals. They have a conference party and this years, given the Mexican influence in San Antonio was a 'fiesta' - a fun night of tacos and margaritas with my colleagues and new friends from all over the world!

I was fortunate that my husband was able to join me on the trip (albeit most of my time was spent conferencing and fighting jetlag!). I loved exploring San Antonio, having travelled extensively and to a number of places in the US, it was my first time in Texas, and it is true what they say, everything is bigger in Texas!



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Antonia as a Year 12 student back in 2004



Antonia in 2019, speaker at the AFPICON Conference held in Texas

Our Newest Arrivals



CHELSEA DAVIES, Class of 2012

Chelsea and Ben Harmer welcomed Andie Mae Harmer on 1 June 2018. The Harmer family live in Port Pirie where Chelsea is a Registered Nurse.



TARA-MARIE SARACINO, Class of 2007

Tara-Marie and Shane Walshe welcomed Jordy Lee on 3 October 2018. The Walshe family live in Adelaide where Tara-Marie is a primary school teacher.



EMILY D'AGOSTINO, Class of 2007

Emily and Marc Patterson welcomed Louie Dean on 22 December 2018. The Patterson family live in Port Pirie where Emily is on leave from her position as Office Manager at R.A. Aughey & Associates Pty Ltd.



SIMONE COMBE and NICK HEWETT, Class of 2008

Simone and Nick welcomed their first child Luca Grace Hewett on 9 February 2019. The family live in Moonta Bay and both Simone and Nick are teachers at Kadina Memorial School.



CLAIRE HARVEY, Class of 2011

Claire and Jordan Demarco welcomed Archie William Demarco on 22 April 2019. The Demarco family live in Port Pirie where Claire is on leave from Elders Insurance.



JUDITH SUTTON, Class of 1999

Judith and Robert Muenster, along with big sisters Zoe and Charlotte welcomed Harrison Robert on 1 May 2019. The Muenster family live in Bordertown where Judith works at JBS Australia and is a Tupperware consultant.



Left:

CARA MUROLO, Class of 2006 and NICK CAPURSO, Class of 2005

Cara and Nick Capurso, along with sons Aiden and Rocco welcomed Adele Maeve on 7 May. The family live in Port Pirie, where Nick works at Nyrstar and has his own cabinet-making business and Cara works in finance at the Port Pirie Hospital.



Right:

KELLIE MATTHEWS, Class of 2008

Kellie and Tom Kerr welcomed Eve Clementine on 10 December 2018. The Kerr family live in Sydney where Kellie is working as a Speech Pathologist as well as a freelance Interior stylist and Product Merchandiser.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Around the Uni's



ELLA STEWART-PETERS, Class of 2008 has recently completed her PhD in History, and is now working at the College of Medicine and Public Health at Flinders University.



BROOKE CAPUTO and ALEXANDER YOUNG, Class of 2014 have recently graduated from Uni SA. Brooke completed a Bachelor of Physiotherapy and Alex completed a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy.



SASHA DE VRIES, Class of 2014 has graduated from Adelaide University, completing first class honours in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. She is photographed with her brother Ruben from the Class of 2011.



FELICIA HALFACRE, Class of 2013 has graduated from Uni SA with a Bachelor of Nursing.



MADDISON GIBSON, Class of 2014 has graduated from Flinders University with a Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics. She is photographed with her proud Mum and Dad (Jane and John)!



ELLIE SJOSTROM, Class of 2014 has graduated from Uni SA with a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood).



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Out and About



Celebrating the elopement of Rosie and Kyal were Jordan Mezzino, Demi Freer, Lauren Proctor, Rosie Wallace, Sheridan Raftery, Marika Capurso, Hannah Horsnell and Taylor Grenfell from the Class of 2012



Old Scholars' Emma Hayes, Sophie Porcelli and Alexa Johnson from the Class of 2011 celebrating Sophie and Aaron's engagement.



Karina (Costello) Hill and Jade (Darley) Inglis from the Class of 1996 celebrating Jade's 40th birthday.



Rhianna Ehridge (Caputo) with her brother Dominic Caputo (Class of 2009) and her sister, a current student, Georgia Murray



Sarah Cooper (McAlpine - centre) exchange student from the Class of 2007 returned to Port Pirie to meet new baby Louie Paterson. She is pictured with Becky Lagoudis, Kylan Reddaway (Oxford), Sarah, Emily Patterson (D'Agostino) and Jess Hill (Dunkley)



Celebrating Annie Johnson's engagement were Ashleigh Schrader, Annie, Scout Remphrey and Amber Steff from the Class of 2013

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Social Snaps



Catching up at the McNally Farm Ag BBQ were Old Scholars Nathan Crouch (Class of 2013) and Jade Inglis (Class of 1996)



Cheering on the St Mark's teams were Lisa Manners (Mezzino), Jane Dickeson (Waters) and Megan Congdon (Griffin)



Kayla Hastings (Siviour) and Rhianna Ethridge (Caputo) from the Class of 2003 photographed at Rhianna's wedding recently



Celebrating Stephanie Dix's 21st were Erini Seindanis, Stephanie, Georgia Afford and Vyanah Lethbridge from the Class of 2015



Celebrating the engagement of Annie Johnson were Old Scholars' Millie Johnson, Eve Cappelletto, Alex Johnson, Annie, Esther Cappelletto and Meg Johnson



Hannah Mezzino, Maggie Dickeson and Caitlin Brooks from the Class of 2017, ready for the Clare Races



Celebrating the wedding of Mallory Leal were Dani Kirchner, Alex Scollin, Emily Patterson (D'Agostino), Kirsten Thomson and Connie Atkinson (Irvine) from the Class of 2007



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



**ST MARK'S
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In Memory



LYN CIBICH, Teacher

*A beautiful soul with a
passion for life*

Written by Kathryn Crouch

Lyn Cibich came to St Mark's College in 1996 from Our Lady Help of Christians, Whyalla, when her husband Peter became the Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Port Pirie. Their children Daniel and Amy had begun careers in Adelaide and Luke and Adam completed their education at St Mark's College.

A warm, friendly and happy personality enabled Lyn to develop strong and lasting relationships within the school, parish and local community.

The students adored Mrs Cibich as she was a caring teacher with a warm sense of humour, who always strived to help each child to reach their full potential.

A highlight of her teaching career was the 2000 Jubilee Train trip to Adelaide, closely followed by the annual Year 3 excursion on the One and All sailing ship. Excitement and adventure always appealed to Lyn.

Deep care for the environment was shared with the students and great pride was taken in the school grounds. Recycling and growing veggies in the garden plot was very important.

Lyn had a strong belief in nature play for children. Her hard work and determination was the making of a large sandpit at Benedict. She felt very proud that it was so popular with all students.

Lyn loved to sing. She would lead singing lessons, Masses and her strong faith was reflected during sacramental programmes. The Christmas message was always beautifully delivered in her class nativity play at the end of year concert.

Lyn loved to dance. No better time than when her favourite team Bosco won Sports Day.

Lyn loved to dress up. Book Week and theme days were a wonderful opportunity for fun.

An encouraging and positive nature were also evident in the community. Lyn was actively involved with the Pirie Theatre, she played basketball for St Mark's Patriots and followed her family and St Andrew's hockey with great enthusiasm.

Lyn remained at St Mark's College after her beloved Peter passed away in 2002. We all missed her when she moved to Adelaide in 2008 to be with her family.

It was with such deep sadness that we learnt of the loss of dear Lyn last December.

"Let your words be gentle, patient, kind and loving. Make yourself friends to all. Be quick to forgive and never rake up the past. Kindness in speaking, in working, in giving advice will win over everyone." Don Bosco.



AIDEN JOHANSON

We remember Old Scholar Aiden Johanson from the Class of 2012 who sadly passed away on 14 October 2018.



These memorials are shared with consent from the families. If you would like us to include the memorial of an Old Scholar in an upcoming edition, please contact the College via email: info@smc.catholic.edu.au

UPCOMING EVENTS



**ATTENTION
ALL PAST STUDENTS**
of
St Mark's College
Port Pirie



You are invited to a
SCHOOL REUNION
Saturday 19 October 2019

Celebrating Anniversaries for Graduating Classes of
1969, 1979, 1989, 1999 and 2009.

- 4.00pm** Tour of the College
- 5.00pm** Drinks and nibbles in the
Bishop Gallagher Centre
- 7.00pm** Celebrations end

RSVP to the College on 8633 8800 or info@smc.catholic.edu.au

College Musical



FLASHBACK! The 2015 production of
High School Musical



FLASHBACK! The 2013 production of
Alice in Wonderland



The cast of the 2019 College Production
Beauty and the Beast



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