An old Chinese proverb says:
Tell me and I may forget.
Show me and I may remember.
Involve me and I will understand.

The Indian Pilgrimage 2014 was a lived experience, involving hands and hearts into the service of God. By moving outside personal comfort zones and learning to accept others, the 20-member pilgrimage team served some of the least fortunate in Indian society such as orphans, street children, HIV infected little children, children born with mental and physical disabilities, abused teenage girls, the homeless and elderly in Bangalore, Mysore and Koppa.

Everyone who participated in the Indian Pilgrimage 2014 has been touched in some way and we are all even more grateful for the blessings we have in Australia.
PRINCIPAL’S WORDS

Providing a quality education is at the core of all decisions at St Norbert College as we continuously encourage our students to strive for personal excellence. Educational research strongly suggests effective teaching is essential to student achievement. Given this, the "Teacher as the Reflective Practitioner" has been the focus for the College staff throughout this year. The Professional Standards for Teachers has provided some of the scaffold as we reflect on teaching and learning and endeavour to increase student engagement in the classroom. Student feedback about the learning environment has been an essential element, in addition to data collection through surveys of students, parents and staff. The ongoing development of new resources and methods of providing effective feedback are critical to student achievement. Needless to say the pastoral care of staff and students is always at the core of everything we do at the College.

The Coneqt program for parents, students and teachers has been a welcome introduction and has assisted and strengthened the partnership between home and school. Parents now have access to their fingertips to their child’s academic results, reports and programs of work. Parents as the first and most influential teachers of their children are continuously encouraged to be active in their child’s secondary education.

Providing a range of pathways for our senior students with the view to success in post school destinations has been the focal point for the College Academic Board and Leadership Team. With the upcoming changes to the Senior Secondary Courses for Year 11 2015 in addition to a new literacy and numeracy government requirement, it is essential the College provides a range of courses and pathways to increase the chance of success for each individual student leaving secondary education. The Year 7 and 9 national standardised tests have also gained attention as the students can demonstrate the minimum standard for literacy and numeracy prequalification through Year 9 National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). It is pleasing to note the 2014 College NAPLAN results demonstrated a significant improvement in each strand of numeracy and literacy in Years 7 and 9 resulting in more students having met the new literacy and numeracy requirement before entering Year 10 in 2015.

The area of Performing Arts at St Norbert College has continued to go from strength to strength in 2014. Thanks to the generosity of Mr Peter Yensch, Principal St Joseph’s School, we moved into the temporary new “Coolock Music Centre” at the commencement of Term 3. Recently the Archdiocese of Perth purchased the Queens Park Mercy Convent for future development of the educational precinct. The convent now houses the Music Faculty including individual rooms set aside for instrumental lessons for St Norbert and St Joseph’s students. The “Coolock Music Centre” aptly named by Fr Peter, is named after a place significant in the life of Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy. Drama and Dance have also continued to be very popular this year. The College received many honourable mentions and certificates of merit in the Catholic Performing Arts Festival. The Drama Club also entered the Independent Theatre Association’s Youthsfest, with outstanding results, receiving awards of Most Innovative Production and Best Production thanks to the passion and expertise of Drama Teacher Ms Kerri Hilton. Ms Hilton is to be congratulated for her achievement of Best Director and Best Stage Manager!

The College motto “Prepared for all good works” continues to be a way of life for many students and staff at the College. This year we have been involved in many fundraising and service activities including the Indian Pilgrimage. In September, thirteen Year 11 students, four staff and three members of the St Joseph’s parish embarked on a mission of service to India. Although the actual pilgrimage only involved a small number of our college, the whole community was involved by way of fundraising with the provision of donations for the children in India. The College managed to fund raise $5600, in addition to $1250 from donations from members of our community. The funds raised were distributed to many needy communities for children and the donations were used to purchase beds for the children at an orphanage. The College was overwhelmed by the generosity of families who contributed 240 kilograms of goods including toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, underwear, chocolates and toys for the children. Having true compassion for others in need is our Christian responsibility. I am incredibly proud of the students and staff at St Norbert College as we live out daily, the spirit of service, love and compassion.

Pride in the school and a positive school culture are imperative to a school’s success. Although intangible, many a visitor to our College has described the warm atmosphere and the welcoming and well presented students who are our most important ambassadors. The unique culture of St Norbert College is something we take for granted. The combination of values, beliefs, traditions and rituals is like no other school, thanks to the daily and active involvement of the Norbertine Canons. I look forward to celebrating the unique and vibrant St Norbert College community in our 50th anniversary year in 2015.
1994

20 YEARS AGO

Enrolment: 721 students.
Dux: Phillip Wilson
SRC President: Natalie Dodsley
Prior: Fr Peter Joseph Stiglich O Praem
Principal: Mr Tom Corcoran
Deputy Principal: Mrs Carole Hayes
Assistant Deputy Principal: Mr Christopher Houlihan

- Blessing of the new Link Block and improvements to Administration by Bishop Healy.
- Fr Peter Joseph O Praem represented the Australian Norbertine Canons at the General Chapter in Germany.
- Mr Tom Corcoran resigned the Principalship.
- SNESA introduced a Colts Team.
- Interhouse Athletics Carnival was won by Kilnacrott.
- Interhouse Swimming Carnival was won by Kilnacrott.
- House Points Trophy was won by Prémontré.

2004

10 YEARS AGO

Enrolment: 635 students.
Dux: Alexander Vo
SRC President: Sarah Monaldi
Prior-Administrator: Fr Roman Vanese O Praem
Principal: Mr Peter Hayes
Mr Shaun Kenny (Acting Terms 2 & 3)
Deputy Principal (Learning): Ms Shaun Kenny
Mr Donald Nield (Acting Terms 2 & 3)
Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care): Ms Jenneth Stibi

- Fr Augustine Heron O Praem died.
- House Co-ordinator title replaced by Heads of House
- P & F Leadership Award renamed the “Phil Mountford P & F Leadership Award”
- Interhouse Athletics Carnival was won by Magdeburg.
- Interhouse Swimming Carnival was won by Kilnacrott.
- House Points Trophy was won by Xanten.
The Reunion dates and Year Captains’ details are all included in this copy of Norbertus. There are still many EX-STUDENTS we have been unable to contact and we are looking for Year Captains for 1972 and 1973. You can help us add to our records by emailing your Year Captain your phone number, postal and/or email details or Maureen Tavani – mtavani@norbert.wa.edu.au

There are many PAST STAFF MEMBERS of St Norbert College whose details we don’t have. If you have been a member of our College Community and would like to be part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations, please send your contact details to Maureen Tavani – mtavani@norbert.wa.edu.au.

JOIN IN THE CELEBRATIONS

The St Norbert College 50th Anniversary preparations are well underway. You are invited to attend the group reunion planned for your year, (see list below).

Cost: $40 • Venue: CANNINGTON LEISUREPLEX, SEVENOAKS ST, CANNINGTON • Time: 7.00PM - 11.00PM

- Cost covers finger food, venue, entertainment and security. Drinks can be purchased.
- Confirmation of attendance by payment to Reunion Account. BSB: 016263 Account # 3821 75518
- Payment reference required - Date of Reunion, plus first three letters of surname and first two letters of first name, example: 20feb monbe
- Please email confirmation of payment to your Year Captain with payment reference code used
- Early payments are requested to assist the planning work of our volunteer Ex-students Reunions Task Force.
- Final RSVP byTuesday 3 February, 2015
- Unfortunately refunds are not available.
- Dress code - Neat Casual

NUMBERS ARE STRICTLY LIMITED, SO BOOK NOW! Reunions for ex-students ONLY.

Please visit the College Website www.norbert.wa.edu.au (Alumni) regularly for any updates.

ST NORBERT COLLEGE REUNIONS

Friday 6 March 2015:  1992 – 1996
Friday 13 March 2015:  1982 – 1986
Saturday 14 March 2015:  2002 – 2005

Friday 20 March 2015:  2006 – 2009
Saturday 21 March 2015:  2010 – 2014
Friday 27 March 2015:  1997 – 2001
Saturday 28 March 2015:  1965 – 1976

Please visit the College Website www.norbert.wa.edu.au (Alumni) regularly for any updates.
YEAR CAPTAINS

1965 – 1971: Gerry Connell (gconnell@iinet.net.au)
Mick Devine (info@mbdconsulting.com.au)

1972:

1973:

1974: Henry Janissen (henry@bsmcpa.com.au)
Tony Gucciardi (tony.gucciardi@oamps.com.au)

1975: Peter Salter (robberdog@iinet.net.au)
Andy Volaric (chris.andi@bigpond.com)
Bernard Monneron (berniermonneron@bigpond.com)
David Bianchini (anitabit@iprimus.com.au)

1976: Henry Janissen (henry@bsmcpa.com.au)
Tony Gucciardi (tony.gucciardi@oamps.com.au)

1977: Alec O’Connell (familyoc@gmail.com)
Vince Bianchini (vincent.bianchini@uwa.edu.au)
Julie Waylen (jwaylen@westnet.com.au)

1978: Stephen Bevis (stephen.bevis@wanews.com.au)
Darren Devereux (sandar@vianet.net.au)
Clare Cox (riverspan@iprimus.com.au)

1979: Kaye Savage-Morton (savagemorton.kaye@cathednet.wa.edu.au)
Cynthia Keith (keith.gen@gmail.com)
Sam Connor (moondyne@iinet.net.au)
John Wilson (john_wilson133@hotmail.com)
Vanessa Williams (vanessa@hanssen.com.au)
Adrienne Throssell (adriennethrossell@me.com)

1980: Patrick Quigley (pquigley@gosnells.wa.gov.au),
Simon Harvey (harvey.simon@trinity.wa.edu.au),
Brad Richards-Scully (tmscullis@aal.net.au)
Peter Shinnick (peter@liquidsurf.net.au),
Cameron Oxford (davidzddad@hotmail.com)

1981: Jeni Donald (jenstern1@hotmail.com)
Kerry Dowson (kerrydowson@hotmail.com),
Chenoa Anderson (chenoa.matt@bigpond.com),
Belinda Stockton (belinda217@live.com.au)

1982: Fiona Salmons (Speechley) (flee33@live.com.au)
1983:

1984: Natalie Whittle (nwhittle@sandf.com.au)
Marnie Lester
Stephanie Veza (stephaniev@satterley.com.au)
Caroline Webb (carolinejewkirkby@gmail.com)

1985: Sharon Williams (tigger311277@yahoo.com.au)
Aoiife Cooksley (cooksley.aiife@cathednet.wa.edu.au)
Angela Thomas

1986: Renee Baker (russ-renee@bigpond.com)
Narelle Marisnecu (danandnarelle@gmail.com)

1987: Rebecca McKinnon (bemcckinnon@hotmail.com)
Summar Bowden (sumo_sk1@yahoo.com.au)

1988: Natasha Waterford (natasha.waterford@sjog.org.au)
Meghan Williams (meghan.williams10@gmail.com)

1989: Kaye Savage-Morton (kaye@cathedn.net.wa.edu.au)
Cynthia Keith (keith.gen@gmail.com)
Sam Connor (moondyne@iinet.net.au)
John Wilson (john_wilson133@hotmail.com)
Vanessa Williams (vanessa@hanssen.com.au)
Adrienne Throssell (adriennethrossell@me.com)

1990:

1991:

1992:

1993: Anthony Lo-Presti (bullant8@hotmail.com)

1994: Natina leraci (natina_1107@hotmail.com)

1995: Yohan Vales de Menezes (yohanv@allpest.com.au)

1996: Casey Koken (caseykoken@gmail.com)
Peter Quan (peter_q@iinet.net.au)

1997: Kate Wedge (kcranley@coulsonlegal.com.au)
Jessica Halliday (jessthalliday89@yahoo.com)

1998: David Colace (dcolace@hotmail.com)
Aidan Torpy (aidan.torpy@gmail.com)
Emma Lee Lawrence (emmaleebroadway@gmail.com)
Chris Daniels (chrismdaniels1990@gmail.com)

1999: Hannah Preston (h.p.g1@hotmail.com)

2000: Olivia Palermo (oliapiamor@gmail.com)

2001: Demi Walter (dgough@swantransit.com.au)
Caitlin Smith (caitlin-smith03@gmail.com)

2002: Luke Palier (l.p.palier@gmail.com)

2003: Daniella Palermo (daniellapalermo6@gmail.com)

2004: Maddison Galliot (maddisongalliot@gmail.com)

2005: Richard Kalukal (richard.kalukal@student.curtin.edu.au)

2006:

2007: 2008:

2009:

2010:

2011:

2012:

2013:

2014:

COMMUNITY MASS
Sunday, 15th February 2015
St Norbert College Oval at 6.30 pm

ST NORBERT DAY MASS
Friday, 5th June, 2015
St Mary’s Cathedral, Perth

PRESENTATION NIGHT
Tuesday, 3rd November 2015
Perth Concert Hall at 7.00 pm

DINNER DANCE
Saturday, 5th September 2015
Crown Entertainment Complex, Astral Room
Mrs Aoife (Delany) Cooksley was President of the SRC in 1995 and was a special guest speaker at a College Assembly held in August 2014 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the St Norbert College Student Representative Council.

During 1981 the SRC held the inaugural “Walkathon” to raise money for the purchase of books for the school library. All the students aimed to walk 20 laps around the Queens Park Oval near the old Queens Park Recreation Centre. Prizes for the winners included a radio cassette player and a bike. Also that year, many social events were held for the students. The Year 8s had a movie night, Years 9 and 10 had quiz nights and the Year 11s and 12s had a coffee night.

With the completion of the Xanten Centre, the SRC raised money for the purchase of its technical equipment. In 1984, the SRC organised the Cheer Squad Committee led by Mr Richards-Scully. The Cheer Squad performed at the carnivals and College events.

In 1985 the first Leadership Camp was undertaken at Yanchep Sun City by the Year 11 and 12 Student Councillors, to plan the events for the following year. During the 90s one of the highlights from the camps was Miss Hilton’s improvisation games, which allowed the SRC students and staff to get to know each other better. That same year a school newspaper was established, known as “The Rad”. This enabled students to know what was happening throughout the College.

In 1996 the SRC was privileged to chair the College Assemblies.

In 2013 St Norbert College and the SRC were privileged to meet the then Prime Minister, Mr Kevin Rudd. Mr Rudd spent an hour with the SRC students in the Cappenburg Centre, engaging in a Question and Answer session. This was an extremely exciting time for the students and was a memorable experience in the history of the Student Council.

As you may know, some of our Staff are ex-students of the College. During their time as students the following teachers have been part of the SRC: Mr Richards-Scully, Ms Abel and Miss Stevenson.

The SRC has had many fantastic staff coordinators who have worked alongside the students. The ex-SRC staff includes Mrs Silva, Miss Smith, Miss Hilton, Mr D’Almeida, Mrs Cardenia and Miss Chung. The current SRC staff includes Mr Schirripa, Miss Fairhead, Mrs Quinn, Mr Nield, Mrs Garton and Mrs Rogers. On behalf of the SRC and the College we would like to thank the staff for their ongoing support of the SRC at the College. Their guidance and dedication over the many years have been remarkable.

Looking back over the past 40 years, the SRC has achieved so much, since commencing with only 14 students and now currently numbering 45 boys and girls. We have all striven as the Student Council body to make a difference in the College by fulfilling our main aim as “The Voice of the Students.” Moving into the future I hope the SRC will continue to work strongly with the College community to make a difference.

I would like to end with a quote from John Quincy Adams.

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

(Caiden has recently been elected as the 2015 SRC College Captain.)
STUDENT COUNCIL AND STAFF 2014

STUDENT COUNCIL 1974
SITTING: T Francas, P Serafino (Treasurer), J Fantasia (Vice-President), E Webster (President), E Bottecchia (Secretary), V Guarino. STANDING: G Veen, K Duncan, B Voysey, R Moro, S Bouwman, T Hood, J Kraszian.
BIG HEARTED DOCKER MAX DUFFY’S TRIBUTE TO HIS FRIEND

As Max Duffy prepared to make his debut for the Fremantle Dockers on Saturday, 9th August 2014 he got a text message with the initials “SJR”.

It was from Phil Rigg, the father of Duffy’s good mate Stephen Jack Rigg (Class of 2010), who died suddenly in 2011 age just 17 and whose memory is a source of continuing inspiration for the 21-year-old footballer.

The 24 on his jumper marks the date in January 2011 when Stephen died in Royal Perth Hospital, eight days after an ectopic heartbeat caused him to collapse at a cricket match.

Duffy was a regular visitor to hospital when Stephen was in an induced coma and since his death has kept in regular contact with the Rigg family.

On that Saturday he donated half his match payment from his debut to HeartKids WA, a support group for families of children with heart disease.

Mr Rigg recalled how Duffy visited them at Christmas in 2012 to tell them of his decision to choose the number 24 in Stephen’s honour.

"I just looked at him and thought ‘your world’s just changed forever and for you to think of that, it’s just amazing,” Mr Rigg said.

He said he would not have missed Duffy’s debut for the world and on match day he was in Geelong cheering when the debutant was subbed on to the ground in the third quarter.

“I must admit, I cried”, Mr Rigg said. “It’s wonderful, humbling and inspiring. I caught myself reflecting at the weekend on the plane home and thought, ‘Geez, I’m lucky that Stephen lives on in him.”

Duffy told Mr Rigg he thought immediately of Stephen after kicking his first AFL goal and in an emotional interview after the game, he said his mate was never far from his thoughts.

“I’m proud to have played, to have done it for him is very good … and to have Phil there supporting me means a lot,” he told Docker TV.

Mr Rigg visited the rooms after the game, which Fremantle lost by two points, to congratulate Duffy on his two goals. He believed his sports-mad son, a talented cricketer, was looking down and would have been extremely proud.

Taken from an article written by Rhianna King, “The West Australian” Tuesday, August 12, 2014

CLASS OF 2005

SINÉAD LEHANE

Since graduating from SNC in 2005 I completed a BA in Journalism in 2009 and after six months abroad, which I spent with family and friends in Ireland, I came back and completed a Masters in International Relations. I worked at Curtin Volunteers as the Director of Remote and Indigenous programs for two years before moving to Future Directions International, a research institute in Dalkeith. I’m currently the Research Manager for the organisation’s Global Food and Water Crisis Research Program and will have a Graduate Diploma in Integrated Water Management by the end of the year.

Entering the International Rose of Tralee Festival has been something I have thought about doing for a very long time.

This year when applications opened I knew the timing was right (winning requires a commitment to represent your centre for 12 months) and saw being involved in the Perth festival as a wonderful opportunity to celebrate my community, my family and what it means to be an Irish-Australian. I never dreamt I would be selected as the Perth Rose.

The International Rose of Tralee Festival is a celebration of young Irish women from around the world. As taken from the festival itself, a Rose “represents the collective aspirations, social responsibilities and ambitions of a variety of communities and backgrounds, united by a desire to celebrate Irish heritage”.

I am so fortunate to have been selected to represent the Perth Irish Community. In August I travelled to Ireland for a two-week whirlwind tour and festival, joining 31 other young women of Irish heritage from around the world. It was the most incredible experience of my life. The festival was beyond words and a true celebration of Irish culture. More importantly it celebrated Irish women and the role we all play in our communities.

I am very honoured to have been selected to join an incredible group of Irish women as a role model for other young women and girls and as a representative for my community here in Perth. I’m now looking forward to the remaining six months of my time as the Perth Rose and embracing the wonderful opportunities that lie before me.
20 years ago, ER began on TV, we were listening to Oasis on the radio for the first time and Forrest Gump was on at the movies. “Life was like a box of chocolates” and “I didn’t know what I was going to get!” Honestly I had no real direction on what I wanted to do after leaving in 1994. All I did know was that I was enjoying studying photography, computing and having the joint responsibility of Tongerlo House Captain.

When I was at St Norbert’s, it felt like an eternity, when I think back now it feels like I was there for five weeks rather than five years! Along with my fellow House Captains, Raymi Medina, Laurel Smith and Neil Nicholson, we managed to leave our mark in the history at the College. Prior to 1994 the Tongerlo House Mascot was the Giraffe and while he was a great mascot we, like most of the students in Tongerlo, thought it was time for a change. We organised a voting process within the House, which included choices like Panthers and Red Back Spiders. Once approved by our then House Co-ordinator, Mr Byrne and Principal, Mr Corcoran, the winning Mascot was unleashed at an assembly in the Xanten Centre. Amongst clouds of smoke and dramatic lighting, the “Red Kangaroo” was introduced, high fiving students up and down the aisles and attempting cartwheels on the stage (and I mean attempting)! He was also seen at lunchtime on the back of a Hilux doing laps of the oval as an introduction to the rest of the College. Not just any Kangaroo, the “Red Kangaroo” the largest and the strongest of all the Kangaroos!

Looking back now it makes sense that I worked at Perth Camera House after leaving school, at Retravision Belmont and then had a stint of eight and a half years as Audio Visual Manager at The Good Guys in Cannington. My photographic, computing and general people skills that I had started learning way back at school had carried me through my early working life. Looking for a change away from retail and electrical, I switched to wholesale as an Account Manager with KC Tools which gave me the challenge to learn new products completely removed from what I had known since leaving the College. Little did I know it in 1994, but I would follow on from the subjects I enjoyed most and utilise and expand on the people and management skills I learnt from being House Captain. While I thought I didn’t have a clear direction, I actually did, I just didn’t know it yet!

Outside of work life has also been busy. 1994 was also the year I started “going out” with my now wife of 14 years. We love to travel and have managed to do three trips to the UK and Europe (including a cruise in the Mediterranean) and cruises to the South Pacific and Asia regions before finally starting our family in 2009. We now live in Byford with our two beautiful daughters, Sydney 5 and Elise 3, who keep us on our toes every day!

Can’t believe it’s been 20 years already! And in the words of Forrest Gump – “That’s all I have to say about that!”
For most of my time at St Norbert's I stuffed around, played up, and yet somehow landed on my feet. I guess life since then has pretty much followed the same theme.

After graduating at the end of 2004 I tried my hand at a computer and mathematical science course at UWA, quickly ditched that and moved back to Queensland for a year to figure out what I wanted to do with my life. The 'aha' moment finally came via my step-mother Anna, who said “You spend half your life watching, playing or reading about sports, why don't you try being a sports writer?”

I came back to WA to study journalism at Curtin but soon got itchy feet (clearly I’m not cut out for academics) and applied for a cadetship at The Kalgoorlie Miner. I spent two years in Kalgoorlie-Boulder covering crime and the courts for the daily newspaper, met my beautiful partner Liz Watson, and loved every second of it. From there I was offered a job as an online news producer at The West Australian. I spent another two years in that role before a job unexpectedly opened up in the sports department.

For the past two seasons I’ve been part of The West’s AFL team, covering every Fremantle and West Coast game at Patersons Stadium and all the news that comes along with it. The WAFL and cycling are also part of my beat. It’s a sweet gig and one I’m grateful to have every day.

One of the great things I’ve taken out of my time at St Norbert’s is the bond with the mates I made during my five years there. Ten years down the track, I am still stuffing around with the same group of blokes. A lot of that is due to the SNESA Football Club, which has also become a major part of my life. I can’t speak highly enough of the way the club has preserved old friendships and fostered new ones.

It’s scary to think it’s been 10 years since we graduated, but I’m sure the bonds will still be as strong over the next decade and beyond.

I left St Norbert College in 1993 to pursue an apprenticeship as a pastry chef and baker. I have to thank Mrs Kathy Jones for suggesting the trade. I once made an apple pie in her cooking class and was highly marked for it.

I’ve completed my apprenticeship and have been qualified now for 21 years. I have entered competitions in the Perth Royal Show and won 1st prize in Scones and Best Apprentice at the Show in 1996. Last year I entered the Brunswick Junction Show and again won 1st prize in Plain Scones and Lamingtons.

I’ve made cakes for The Queen and dignitaries, and a range of television stars when they visited Perth.

My range of cakes includes wedding cakes, slices, mud cakes, sponge cakes and my favourite - novelty cakes.
Ravi/Ratnayake

Ravi commenced Year 8 in 1990 after suffering some ill health. He was a proud member of Xanten House and was in Mrs Tricia Van Nus’ Homeroom. During his time at the College, Ravi made many friends and was very well liked by his peers and his teachers. Additional to his studies while at school, Ravi participated in the Peer Support Program. He graduated from St Norbert College in 1994. Ravi continues to enjoy his life with his family. Some of his favourite pastimes are playing pool, working on his computer and listening to music. He is also an active and involved member of his Notre Dame Parish Community.

Barbaro

Whilst finishing high school in the Class of 1994 and not really being academically strong I knew my future would probably follow the path of a trade apprenticeship. So taking that into consideration I pursued an apprenticeship as a cabinet maker with a company called Fremantle Furniture Factory. During my apprenticeship years the company undertook some work as shop fitters where we would fit out retail outlets such as pharmacies and clothing stores.

In my second year of my apprenticeship at age 18, one particular job I was working on was a pharmacy fit out; this was where I met my wife to be, who is still the love of my life today. Two years later we were engaged and two years further on we were married. So, I was married at 22! We had our first child when I was 23 and we have had two more children since. Now with three children aged 12, 11, and 7, my eldest child is a student at St Norbert’s. It was a strange feeling on Orientation Day, taking my son to school and seeing how St Norbert College has changed and also how it hasn’t changed. I’m sure, like some other ex-students, it brought mixed emotions!

With the completion of my apprenticeship, the enjoyment of working within the construction industry and on the back of an off-the-cuff conversation with a family member, I decided to go back to school (TAFE) at night to learn more about construction, in the hope of becoming a builder someday. Seven years of night school and through seven years of career changing roles within the construction industry, which included scheduling, supervising and being the building manager of a new but very successful building company, I gained knowledge and completed my course, which enabled me to obtain my Certificate of Builders Registration and my Builders Registration License.

In 2011 I decided to start my own building company, Barbaro Homes, which has now been successfully running for the last three and half years. Barbaro Homes was created as a boutique building company focusing on predominantly new builds with a contract value of $500,000 plus. We have also completed a small amount of renovations over the past three years for particular clients. In the past three years since our inception into the building industry we have won an award for construction excellence for one of our projects in the 2014 Master Builders Housing Excellence Awards in our category and were also a finalist in the overall category. Recently we have been nominated on behalf of and to represent the Master Builders Western Australia for a national award in Canberra for one of our projects.

During my time at St Norbert College I made a lot of good friends, some of whom I still see. Giovanni Pezzano is still one of my best mates today. For some of us, high school was a challenging time but I look back now and think, I had the time of my life and I wouldn’t change a thing.
I am Gabriele and I come from Naples. That is in the south of Italy.

I've been here for three weeks and I can say that I really like Australia.

During the holidays I have visited some places. I went to Caversham Park to see Australian animals like kangaroos and koalas. I also went to the beach even though I didn’t swim because it was cold. I have been to the city as well.

About the food I can say that I like meat pies and Tim Tams a lot.

Another thing I like about Australia is AFL. In fact I watched many games on TV and I also went to watch my host brother’s games.

In the end I just want to thank the teachers and all the students for being very gentle and hospitable with me.

Hi I am Valeria!
I come from Bari (South of Italy).

Thank you for hosting me in this school and for allowing me to study here. This is a chance, which only few people can have.

I spent my holidays with my hosting family travelling up North. We visited Cervantes, the Pinnacles, Kalbarri where we saw Kangaroos (they are lovely) and the Ocean, (amazing). The last towns we went to were Denham and Monkey Mia. There we had the chance to feed the dolphins! I loved the holidays and all the time spent here so far.

I love Australia and Italy too. If you can, go and visit. I love your multicultural ways about habits, food, sharing, lifestyles, your freedom and surely your nature from the grass next to my Aussie home to the scenery of the ocean, the bush, the sand dunes. I hope I will experience the real Aussie life with all its rules, habits and finally I will be able to say, “I am a middle Auss-Italian person”.

My name is Arianna
I am from Milan, Italy, which is the fashion capital of the world. This is good because I love shopping.

On the holidays my family took me to Busselton and Margaret River. We did lots of stuff like horse riding through the forest with kangaroos. We went to the Chocolate Factory. I saw the ocean for the first time and we walked all the way to the end of the Busselton jetty!

I went to Hillary’s and the Zoo and many other places in Perth. I got to try Nando’s for the first time and now I am in love! Other food that I have tried for the first time is Vegemite, which I really do not like! And meat pies, which I love, and pizza with pineapple, which we do not have in Italy but I love it!

My first impression of Australia was everything is bigger! Even the sky seems bigger! Australia is so open! The houses are bigger and very different. We live in flats, but here there is much more space. I especially love how Australia is filled with all different birds. In Italy we only have pigeons. Here you have a lot of coloured and pretty parrots instead of my boring and grey pigeons.

Another thing that struck me is that you drive on the opposite side of the road. This to me is very unusual. I keep going to the driver’s side instead of the passenger’s side, but now I have learnt to say “shotgun” before Kelsey (my host sister) so I get the front seat. Other things I learnt that are different, was when Kelsey asked me if I like Subway, she did not mean the train line she meant a sandwich place. My host father is also teaching me Australian slang like, “G’day mate” and “Cya mate”.

And to finish I would like to thank Kelsey, Maddy, my host family and the school for having me here and welcoming me greatly.