During August eight students and two Staff members, Ms Margaret Kyd and Mr Brendan McGrath visited St Joseph’s School and the extended community in Kununurra. The group was able to work and interact with Aboriginal people of various ages.

Here are some comments from the students who went on the immersion

“The immersion was one of the best experiences of my life. I came home with new friends, some amazing memories and some new goals in my life.” – Lisa Wright.

“The Kununurra Immersion is an experience I will never forget. Kununurra is home to wonderful sights and beautiful people. I have made so many new friends and met some amazing people. The landscape took my breath away and I can’t wait to return to Kununurra one day. It was such a blessing to be given the opportunity to go on this one of a kind experience.” – Katelyn Brown.

“The Kununurra trip has been one of the most fun and most enlightening trips of my life. I thoroughly recommend any person to go on this trip as you will meet some of the most inspiring and kind hearted people in the world. The people I met have inspired me to work harder in my own schooling and to help in some fundraising for them in the future.” - Mathew Walker.
It seems like only yesterday that I wrote for the first edition of the Norbertus with excitement for what lay ahead in our 50th anniversary year. It is with a different lens I write the final reflection for what has been an event filled and very rewarding year.

The focus of the anniversary year provided great direction for the College throughout the year. The College value of Heritage was at the core of many and varied events, conversations and decisions. The aim this year was to visit the past so that we could look to the future with a firm foundation of our heritage and for the Norbertine charism to continue to be alive within the College into the future.

St Norbert Day this year was celebrated at St Mary’s Cathedral with His Grace Most Reverend Timothy Costello SDB Archbishop of Perth and the Norbertine Community including the Most Reverend Hermenigild Noyens O.Praem Abbot General Emeritus and our Prior Rt Reverend Peter Joseph Stiglich O.Praem.

It was a very proud occasion for me as Principal as the Archbishop made reference to the exceptional conduct of our students and their participation in the Mass. The feeling of community was very strong throughout the day including the staff and students’ soccer match, food stalls and finishing the day with a concert and anniversary celebrations whereby the students sang happy anniversary to the College before leaving with a cupcake decorated in St Norbert blue or yellow! It was a fabulous, high spirited day and one that will remain with me for many years to come.

With heritage as the focus, one of the professional development days was set aside for all staff to travel to York to meet with Fr Stephen Cooney our last remaining Founding Father. The timing was incredible as it was the feast of St Augustine and we were accompanied by all of the Norbertines including Abbot Noyens. The day was not only informative, but provided a foundation for staff as we learnt about the Norbertine settlement in Western Australian and in particular, York. The sacrifice and hard work in the foundation years and how our history has formed the College throughout the past 50 years was appreciated by all.

Shortly after the College hosted a 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance held at the Crown on Saturday 5 September. It was a fabulous night as members of the extended College community including past students and staff, danced the night away and enjoyed reminiscing about days gone by and reconnecting with school friends and staff.

The final major event for our anniversary year was the College Awards and Presentation Evening at the Perth Concert Hall. Although this is an annual event, this year the heritage theme was celebrated with an audio visual presentation of photographs of our foundation years and significant events throughout our history. Former Principals Mr Tom Corcoran, Mr Peter Hayes and Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day were special guests and were reintroduced to the current students and staff and presented the year groups awards.

Although there was much to celebrate this year, we were also saddened by the passing of our first lay Principal Mr Des O’Sullivan. I had the honour of attending Mr O’Sullivan’s funeral with 14 students from the current Student Representative Council and Ms Rainford, Mrs Spinks and Ms Tersigni. Mr O’Sullivan was a significant leader within the Catholic Education sector and the Archdiocese and an integral part of the St Norbert College story.

In closing, our 50th anniversary year has been a time to reflect on the past, plan for the future and to give thanks for being a part of a loving Catholic community. My sincere thanks to all staff, students and the Anniversary Committee for a year of many highlights. I would like to particularly thank Maureen Tavani the editor of the Norbertus and College Archivist. Maureen has been associated with the College and Norbertine community for the past 39 years. Her dedication, service and loyalty to the College is admirable. I wish her good health and happiness.

God Bless.
Annette Morey
Our Golden Jubilee year is coming to a close. We have had a number of quality celebrations over the year, coordinated by our committee which did a sterling job preparing, particularly the reunions.

A special thanks to Sharon Rainford, ‘our oracle’, who made sure that we were as inclusive as possible in our celebrations across the 50 years of our existence. Thanks to all who organised, participated, ‘paid’ and enjoyed the celebrations.

St Norbert College has honoured our past this year. I encourage and welcome ex students to ‘come and see’ the educational experience that is our College. Each person has been part of the building blocks that make the College. Bricks and mortar are one part of our existence; the people who have been the ‘woof and weave’ of the place have been even more important – without you St Norbert’s would not exist. Ad Multos Annos SNC!

Rt Rev Peter J Stiglich O Praem
Prior - Administrator

ABBOT NOYENS’ 50TH ANNIVERSARY POEM

St Norbert College fifty years!
We celebrate with joyful cheers
their staff, their teachers and their youth
who always did the best they could.

The staff with insight and good mood,
the teachers wise, caring and good,
the boys and girls a living batch
who with each other smoothly match.

They are prepared for all good deeds,
this is what their old slogan reads
and what they, with good strength and will
keep always trying to fulfil.

We hope and pray that young and old
on all their ways may keep and hold
to one another and to God
and may remain a happy lot.

That those who want their earthly way
May in God’s house they live, we pray
We, grateful now where they have gone
remember all that they have done.

Most Rev Hermenegild Noyens O Praem
Abbot General Emeritus
Emeritus Abbot of Tongerlo
On Saturday, 5 September 2015 in the Astral Room of the Burswood Convention Centre, about 100 members of the St Norbert College community wined, dined and danced the night away as they celebrated the St Norbert College 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance. It was a wonderful evening and it was so good to catch up with past staff, students, parents and community members.

Congratulations to everyone who played any part in making this event memorable, but especially to Leon Rogers and her hard-working team. The venue was perfect, the food was divine and the foot-tapping music that had many people up on the dance floor was provided by present staff and past students – proving once again that St Norbert College and its community are Prepared for All Good Works.
GRADUATION

CLASS OF 2015
GRADUATION

Photos courtesy of Bliss Studio Photography.
The Creative Arts Exhibition 2015 was held in September and unveiled the talent of our Technology and Enterprise students. Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day, former Principal of the College was the Guest Presenter.

Congratulations to Ms Amanda Marsh, Art Teacher and Coordinator of the Creative Arts Exhibition and to all staff who contributed to its success.
On Friday, 5 June 2015, the St Norbert College Community celebrated St Norbert Day. The day began with a beautiful Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral, celebrated by His Grace Most Reverend Timothy Costelloe SDB, Archbishop of Perth and the Norbertine Community, including the Most Rev Hermenegild Noyens O Praem Abbot General Emeritus and our Prior, Rt Rev Peter Joseph Stiglich O Praem. The Archbishop made reference to the exceptional conduct of our students and their participation in the Mass.

The day continued with a staff and students’ soccer match and concluded with a concert, showcasing the many and varied talents of students and staff. The traditional Happy Birthday was sung, the cake was cut by Fr Peter Joseph and enjoyed by every student and staff member.
REFLECTIONS FROM THE STAFF PILGRIMAGE TO YORK

“It was a day of both enrichment and relaxation and a real sense of community could be felt amongst all” - Miss M Hyland

“A day spent embracing our heritage in community and prayer. Enjoyable experience and one that allowed us to fully appreciate our beginnings and the hard work of our visionary Norbertine Founders.” - Mrs B Murphy

“The pilgrimage to York gave us a genuine opportunity to reflect on the Norbertine and College history and what impact this has had on our current practices as teachers and as a community.” - Mr S McInytre

“I really enjoyed our trip to York. I felt a sense of connection to the Norbertine Community and this is what all humans seek - some form of connection - to people, God, community, life. It was a lovely reminder of how lucky we are to be connected to a loving community that worked hard to build and continue that community. A great time for reflection.” - Mrs M Johnson

“The York pilgrimage was a wonderful journey into a small part of the long history of the Norbertine Order. It was a snapshot into the challenges we all face and the faith and adaptability we require to overcome them.” - Miss B Fabling
In November 1979 I attended a job interview at St Norbert College. I had just turned 21 and recently graduated as a teacher. Of course I was nervous in the interview for the position of a Social Studies and English teacher and in my usual style said what I thought. This included my assertion that I wanted to teach in a Catholic school. I walked away thinking that’s that and left for a trip to Fiji. I’m not sure why but Des waited to contact me on my very remote island and offered me the position. I feel very blessed that he gave me that opportunity, which was to define me as an educator in a Catholic school.

My new Principal was not quite what I expected; not from my own schooling experience anyway, nor from my teaching practicums. Des was very welcoming to each and every one of us ‘new teachers’. By this I mean he was always engaged in staff room conversations, with students and parents, and genuinely interested in all of us. He was there when we coached a team or had a debate or a concert; he seemed to be there all the time. Brian Rogan wrote in Koinonia 1985 ‘...the most efficient and effective way Des sought to bring about the reality of fellowship was by his peaceful example. The open door of his office, his availability to staff members and students, joining with staff members at lunch time, his participation in staff or student functions and attendance at sporting fixtures’. All so very true of our Principal, Des O’Sullivan.

He also actively got his hands dirty and busy in whatever needed to be done at the College. I remember him together with parents digging holes for soak wells to alleviate our water problem in the car park and the time the College swimming pool needed resealing and painting. He went through the Parent Information lists and found people he believed would be willing and able to get the job done – and they did. He was there too wearing his signature floppy hat, in the recently drained pool, working side by side with parents and friends of the College community.

He was also a visionary, a great builder and an innovator. There were so many new buildings he was responsible for and the Xanten Theatre was unique for its day in Catholic schools. The College grew rapidly under his leadership. In 1981 we had enrolments to 1995. He promoted the development of relationships with students rather than ‘authoritative’ teaching. He also encompassed ‘excellence’ for our students. Former students have expressed fond memories and sincere gratitude for his leadership in this aspect of their schooling.

With a deep respect for the Norbertine Canons and possessing an unshakeable faith, Des made me understand that a Catholic school is more than just faith formation. He believed passionately that our students must be loved and that we find the good in all of them. At times, in the beginning, I found this really hard to imagine! Under his tutelage I found that it is true, there is good in every single child. Des is solely responsible for shaping me as an educator and for helping me understand our role in a Catholic school. He also helped me understand our College motto, ‘prepared for every good works’.

While Des eventually moved on and shared his skills with Catholic Education on a State level and then at Notre Dame University, his love of St Norbert College was evident for many, many years. He attended our Presentation Night each and every year (except the year he went with the Bianchinis and the Kerwins and had a meeting with the Pope!). He was always particularly proud and supportive of the students and their accomplishments. He was the same with the teachers and I know parents and students deeply respected Des.

I remember specifically something he said often and also used to sign off his Principal’s Report that really represents the wonderful person and Principal we had:

“Our strength is in each other and together, through Christ, we grow in the wisdom of God”

Koinonia 1981.

Mrs Desiree Grzenda-Day
The dream of directing a feature film is close to becoming a reality for Class of 84 member, Chris Richards-Scully. The film, titled *The Last Drop* is the 2015 recipient of the ScreenWest, West Coast Visions initiative that provides $750,000 towards the production of the film.

“We were extremely excited to have been selected for the initiative as it validated the hard work the team has been putting into the project,” Chris said.

The sci-fi comedy follows the story of Englishman Gary Shaw who after running away to Australia to pick up the pieces of his life, finds himself battling an alien menace alongside the locals of a near deserted outback town.

“West Coast Visions has helped the team to make important industry links and proved a strong platform to raise the remainder of the budget and secure distribution deals,” Chris added.

The film follows the tradition of successful films such as *Shaun of the Dead* and *Attack the Block*. The project has attracted Executive Producers Tania Chambers (*Kill Me Three Times, A Few Less Men*) and David Lightfoot (*Wolf Creek*), who were keen to support Chris and his fellow filmmakers.

Actors Dustin Clare (*Spartacus, Strike Back*), Peta Sergeant (*Iron Sky, House of Hancock*) and Laura Gordon (*Hunters* - New SciFi TV series currently being shot in Melbourne), are already attached to the film and the team is hoping to secure a big name for the lead role.

The film’s producer Michael Facey has just returned from pitching the film at the American Film Market and hopes to begin in production by September 2016.

“If you are interested in following the progress of the film, ‘Like’ our Archangel Pictures Facebook page, where there will be links to all the behind-the-scenes news”, Chris said.

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**CHRIS RICHARDS-SCULLY, CLASS OF 1984**

**CURRENT STAFF MEMBER – COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

During Term 3 we were pleased to receive a visit from Mr Noel Dawkins, his youngest son Jordan and granddaughters, Anna and Ruth. Jordan (Class of ’87) his wife, Louise, son Joel and the girls were visiting from the UK where Jordan is Deputy Principal of St Gregory’s Catholic School at Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Noel, his wife Lurline and their family were very involved in the establishment of the College from its beginning. Sons, Wayne, Stirling, Martin and Jordan along with their daughter Monica all attended St Norbert’s. Because we were still an all boy school prior to 1976, their older daughter, Teresa, was educated elsewhere. One of our faculty buildings bears the Dawkins name in appreciation and recognition of that family’s contribution to St Norbert College during the past 50 years.

Much has happened at St Norbert College since Noel became the inaugural Chairman of the Management Advisory Board in the early 1970s, and Jordan graduated in 1987. There was much reminiscing and delight at what they saw during their tour of St Norbert College as it is in 2015.

It is always an occasion for delight when St Norbert College community members who share our history and endeavours visit us.
Enrolment: 28 boys in Year 6
Prior: Fr Peter O’Reilly O Praem
Headmaster: Fr Laurence Anderson O Praem

7 February
- College blessed and opened by Abbot Felim Colwell O Praem, Abbot of Kilnacrott.
- Fr Laurence Anderson O Praem, founding Headmaster, assisted by Fr Joe O’Donohoe O Praem and Mr Graham Quinn.
- Priory building was erected.

Enrolment: 894 students
Dux: Jessica Ingram
Leadership Team
Prior: Fr Peter Joseph Stiglich O Praem
Principal: Mrs Annette Morey
Deputy Principal: Ms Sharon Rainford
Deputy Principal: Mrs Natasha Quinn
Dean of Studies: Mr Mark Pavy

- 95 Club – Ashley Tullet, Jern Cabral, Clare Bradley, Mehdi Nawa
- Visits to the College by Abbot General Thomas Handgratinger, Fr Vincent Mattamel, Prior of the Norbertine Community in Manathavady, India and Emeritus Abbot Hermenegild Noyens O Praem.
- Reunions were held throughout first half of the year
- Ex-Student, Carmine (CJ) Millen was ordained to the priesthood
- 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance was held
- Interhouse Athletics Carnival was won by Kilnacrott
- Interhouse Swimming Carnival was won by Magdeburg.
- House Points Trophy was won by Tongerlo
- Br Patrick Doolan medal was awarded to Bridget Murphy

1965
50 YEARS AGO

2015
50TH ANNIVERSARY
LAST WORDS
FROM THE EDITOR

In 2008 I was invited to produce Edition 9 of St Norbert College Ex-Student and Community Magazine, Norbertus. Edition 26, December 2015 is to be my final publication.

In the seven years I have been involved with the production of Norbertus it has been my great pleasure to renew acquaintances with many past students I knew and/or taught from 1976-1996.

I would like to say a very special thank you to our past Principal, Mrs Désiree Grzenda-Day, present Principal, Mrs Annette Morey, Fr Peter Joseph and the Norbertine Community for encouraging and supporting me in the production of Norbertus. Thank you also to the very many past students who have contributed articles, photos and memories over the years.

Thank you is also extended to Yvette Ricciardello of Silverback Creative for her tireless energy and for ensuring that every edition of Norbertus was professionally designed, and Steve Little of Data Documents who always went out of his way to see that our ex-student and community magazine was printed and mailed out to our very extensive postal subscriber list. In recent years many subscribers have elected to receive Norbertus electronically. This has proved to be very popular. Thank you to our ICT team for enabling this form of subscription.

2015 has been an exciting and busy year for everyone at St Norbert’s. This edition records many of the 50th Anniversary events, which took place in the second half of the year.

I hope you will continue to read Norbertus for many years to come, keep in touch with what is happening at St Norbert College, attend class reunions and always feel welcome to contribute to the magazine.

CONTACT DETAILS

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