NORBERTUS

AD OMNIA PARATUS

PREPARED FOR ALL GOOD WORKS

OCTOBER 2016 • ISSUE 28

FROM THE EDITOR

MR FRANK MULLIGAN

Welcome to the 28th edition of *Norbertus*, the publication which keeps you in touch with the alumni of St Norbert College.

In this edition Miss Kerri Hilton is our guest columnist and she shares some of her thoughts, insights and memories of St Norbert College over the past three decades or so.

In the last *Norbertus* we looked through the round window back to 2006 and in this edition we have chosen the arch window to take a quick look at St Norbert College in 1996, when Mrs Carole Hayes was principal and laptops, the ORC, the Br Patrick Doolan Centre, the Cappenburg Centre and the Trade Training Centre were nowhere to be seen. The Class of 1996 allowed *Norbertus* to drop in on their 20th anniversary reunion and the pictures reflect that this group of ex-students is as close as they were all those years ago.

One of the highlights of 2016 was St Norbertus College alumnus Peter Bol's selection in the Australian Olympic team for the Rio games. Although Peter could not repeat the form he showed for Prémontré in the Inter-House Athletics Carnival in 2012, Peter's presence added that extra layer of excitement for all of us here at the College. We were also very fortunate that Peter was guest of honour at the College assembly on September 7th where he addressed the College and shared some some aspects of how he achieved his Olympic dream. Peter is the fourth member of the St Norbert College community to represent Australia at the Olympics and our Olympic Roll of Honour will fill you in on who has gone on from the Ern Clark Athletics Centre to the Greatest Show on Earth.

We also have a special feature which looks at five former students who are making their mark in a range of media including television, radio and the press.

Finally, in a wide-ranging, candid interview, St Norbert College Deputy Principal (and alumnus!) Mr Donald Nield opens up on his life, and in particular the 41 years he has spent in Catholic Education in Western Australia.
A truly remarkable contribution - congratulations Donald!
As always, *Norbertus* appreciates and welcomes news about alumni achievements, graduations, milestones, engagements, marriages and travels.

If you have some news you would like to share, or have a comment about *Norbertus* or any of its stories, please write to the editor:
fmulligan@norbert.wa.edu.au

A special thank you to all the people who have contributed to this edition of *Norbertus*.

THE TIMES, THEY HAVE CHANGED...

MISS KERRI HILTON, GUEST COLUMNIST

Thirty years ago, St Norbert College was a much different place. The theatre had only just been built and was a state-of-the-art facility. Students had no mobile phones to contend with and all work was done in a book with paper and pens . Students were in year homerooms and we had no House system.

It's amazing to think that we have come so far and done so much in such a short space of time. Ask the class of 1986 if they can conceive of a time when students walked around with their own computers, using their own portable phones and texting each other, and they would probably have laughed at you or had you committed.

The backbone of the College has always been the Norbertines. It is such a fantastic thing to have Father Peter still at the College and in charge, for it gives the College that feeling of stability. Sure, things have to change, but sometimes those stable things that don't change allow us to feel grounded and as though we are still part of the place.

The community feeling of the College may have changed slightly, but the essence of community is still very strong. The House system has helped that immensely (go Xanten!), but it is still the idea of looking out for each other that is the core of what the College is about. It is one of the things that is so special about the College. I love the fact that ex-students enrol their children at the College because it means that the connection is still there (even if it does make me feel very old when a fresh-faced young student bounds up to me and says "Miss, you taught my mum!"). I am always delighted to see ex-students coming to visit the College on Open Day or coming to see a production. Talking to their children about what school was like "back in my day" is such a lovely thing and it makes me feel really lucky to be part of that. It is so rewarding to have students remember you and to talk to you about their school days with you.

Buildings have sprung up all over the College and that is great for it allows our current and future students to have better facilities and more opportunities. New subjects come and go and the curriculum is ever changing, which certainly keeps teachers on the ball.

Classes have changed, MacBooks have arrived, new subjects have been born and students have different hair styles, different ways of speaking and so on, but some things never change. Students who love to kick the footy on the oval at lunchtime, students who form social groups that will last for years after they leave school, the happiness you feel when a student discovers they have a talent they didn't know before, and the staff watching the Year 12s graduate, feeling both a sense of pride in them and a sense of sadness at their leaving.

Families gather for the 2016 College Community Mass.

Yes 30 years is a long time, but it's gratifying to know that people will always be people , that the human spirit will always be challenged. Sometimes we fail, sometimes we succeed but at all times , we all remain members of the community that is St Norbert College.

ST NORBERT DAY 2016

This year the Feast of St Norbert on June 6 coincided with the Western Australia Day public holiday so St Norbert Day celebrations were held on Friday June 10. After celebrating mass, enjoying a House morning tea and being entertained by a 3-3 draw in the staff versus students soccer game, students participated in a variety of leisure activities across the Perth metropolitan area. At the conclusion of the day some former staff members returned to Queens Park for a chat and some refreshments. Special guests included Abbot Noyens who had recently celebrated his 60th Ordination Anniversary, Fr CJ Millen (Class of 2000) who was ordained a priest in 2015, and Mrs Joanna Goldsmid who was visiting from Victoria.

Mrs Jenneth Stibi, Mr Chris Reimers and Mrs Debbie Pascoe.

Fr CJ Millen catches up with Abbot Noyens.

Mrs Mollie McPartland, Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day, Mrs Joanna Goldsmid, Mrs Cathy Wallace and Mrs Maureen Tavani.

Mrs Franca Coutts and Mr John Hulshoff.

Ms Marriann O'Neill, Mrs Mollie McPartland and Mrs Cathy Wallace.

WALKING A MILE
IN DONALD NIELD'S SHOES

2016 represents St Norbert College Deputy Principal Mr Donald Nield's 41st year of teaching in Catholic Education in Western Australia. Recently *Norbertus* pulled on the hiking boots and accompanied Donald on a bushwalk to ask him a few questions about his career to date, and also what lies ahead.

***Norbertus* (N.)** Please tell *Norbertus* readers a little bit about your family background, and is there any truth to the rumour that you have an English heritage, and indeed support England in The Ashes?

Mr Donald Nield (D.N.) *I was born in Bedford, 80 kilometres north of London. It was as a child that I read of the heroic feats of fiery Fred Truman and other English cricket stars of the time. My reading and the gift of a cricket bat for Christmas encouraged me to support the English cricket team. It is a loyalty which I have followed through many, many downs and far too few ups. It is a passion which has helped me understand why some people in Perth support Collingwood.*

(N.) *Norbertus* readers might be surprised to learn that you spent a brief part of your primary school education at St Norbert College. Describe what life was like at SNC in the 1960s.

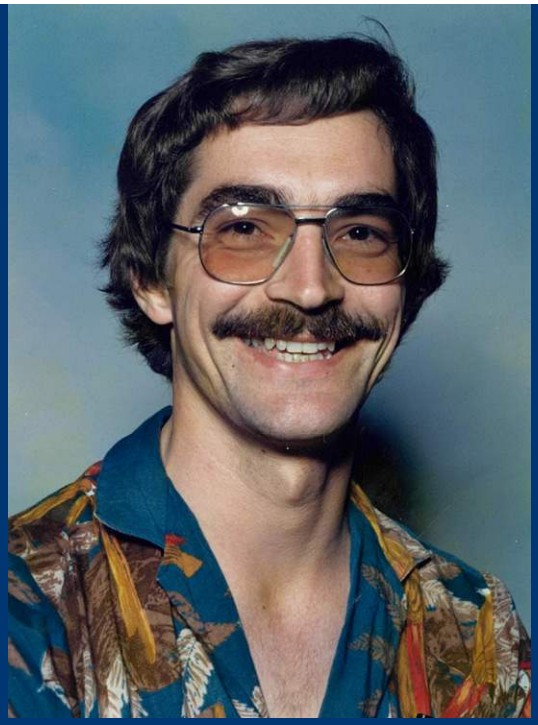
(D.N.) *My parents along with seven brothers and sisters moved to live in East Cannington in 1967. I attended St Norbert College and the next two siblings (numbers five and six) attended St Joseph's Primary School.*

I sat in the back desk by the window in K5. It was a tradition I was to take to Cannington Senior School the following year. In those days St Norbert College only had three classes of students, Year 6, 7 and 8, who occupied three rooms. What is now K1 served as the reception, the Principal's office and a section was walled off for the students to use as shelter. Lunch time provided a great range of vigorous sporting activities for the boys because no teacher was on duty.

(N.) Upon completing your high school education you decided to pursue a career in teaching. What drew you to this profession, and in particular to the teaching of English and English Literature?

(D.N.) *My family are by and large avid readers and I had a fabulous English and English Literature teacher. My mother and many other relatives were teachers and so making the connection seemed a logical choice. I didn't initially become an English teacher. I trained first to become a teacher*

WALKING A MILE
IN DONALD NIELD'S SHOES



librarian. Wanting a little more action, I then trained as a Drama/Media teacher. The broad training has proven to be very useful and yes I have appeared in a few plays and even had a singing role in one. The reviews were positive, the singing wasn't.

(N.) 2016 represents your 41st year in Catholic education. Please give *Norbertus* readers a brief run-down on the various schools you have worked at.

(D.N.) *I was first employed by Bunbury Catholic College at the start of 1976. The school had recently amalgamated the two existing single sex schools onto the Marist Brothers site in Bunbury. It was a three stream school where, as happened in those days, a large number of students left at the end of Year 10. I was fortunate to start my teaching in a school where about half the teaching staff were either Marist Brothers or Mercy Sisters.*

I was invited to stay at teacher's house to assist me to organise a place to rent and so forth. Mrs Lou Morrison, who later worked at St Norbert College, was the teacher and at the same house was the then student, Annette Waters, my first official student. Annette is now on the St Norbert College Board and I also had the opportunity to teach her sons at St Norbert College.

I returned to Perth to take up a teaching position at Xavier College in 1981. This small school was the result of another amalgamation, only this time the product was a K-10 high school. Later it added Years 11 and 12 and then shortly afterwards it too amalgamated with St Joachim's to form Ursula Frayne Catholic College.

I joined Seton Catholic College in 1996. The pattern continued, as this too was the result of the amalgamation of two previous single sex schools. 2001 saw me break that pattern and join St Norbert College as Head of English.

(N.) You have witnessed a lot of changes in the teaching profession over the many years you have been involved in education. In your opinion, what have been some of the more important developments?

(D.N.) *School structures and process have evolved to match the needs of the changing times. The vertical Homeroom system, possibly first introduced at St Norbert College, has proved very useful at responding to the pastoral needs of students. Students are now supported by a wide range of professional support staff e.g. educational psychologists, counsellors and literacy support to help ensure that individual needs are met.*

(N.) Are students still the same today as they were 40 years ago?

(D.N.) *The core needs of the students haven't changed even from when I was a student. The situation is just more complex. It is an increasing challenge for staff to respond to that complexity.*

(N.) Since Semester 2, 2006 you have been a member of the St Norbert College Leadership Team including various roles and responsibilities as a deputy principal. Which part of your teaching journey has given you more satisfaction – teaching in the classroom or contributing to the College's administration in your role as a deputy principal?

WALKING A MILE
IN DONALD NIELD'S SHOES

(D.N.) *Helping students has given me the most satisfaction – the role I have had has just been a means to do that.*

(N.) Sorry to be frank, but like the editor of this publication, you are getting on in years and considering your options as you approach retirement age in a few years. What do the next few years hold in store for Donald Nield?

(D.N.) *I already volunteer and assist in my local parish. I imagine that role will continue. When available, I assist my walking group to maintain a section of the Bibbulmun Track. I am interested in other volunteer opportunities and am at present considering becoming a Department of Parks and Wildlife volunteer.*

(N.) What are some of the enduring memories you have of your 41 years in Catholic education?

(D.N.) *Your first appointment is always memorable. The staff room was so small you had to get your cuppa and then sit outside. I remember Sister Martha, who was the mistress of the gestetner – what you used before the photocopier. She was a spirited woman who really looked after the staff.*

Cyclone Alby was an experience. It closed the school down in Bunbury for a day.

Then there are the students, lots and lots of students. Some of the memories are sad. I remember the name of the first student of mine to die in a car accident. Some are very humorous. One student chose to write about me in a Senior English exam. The result was amusing.

All those amalgamations: all the building projects. Half staffrooms covered in black plastic with the rain dripping down and in the dry, the dust. Riding my motorcycle from one campus to another, to continue your teaching across four sets of lights and three significant feeder roads was a challenge.

(N.) You are a very keen bush walker, you were the model during the sculpting of the St Norbert statue in Adrian Court and you recently completed a course of study in Israel. Please tell the *Norbertus* readers about these points, and add any others you think we ought to know. For instance do you have any funny little teaching idiosyncrasies or superstitions?

(D.N.) *I have walked the Australian bush since my arrival in Australia in 1965. I go walking as often as circumstances allow. Early in my time at St Norbert College I arranged for staff to walk sections of the Bibbulmun Track. At the Franklin River campsite we even had an evening of dancing under the stars.*

More and more of us should remember St Augustine's answer to a problem he faced when we reflect on our own - "solvitur ambulando" (It is solved by walking).

As to the statue, Amanda Marsh needed someone to model the Norbertine habit so that she could sketch how the habit "fell" on a person. So my body is at St Norbert College. The rest of the sculpture is not me.

One of the places I did get to walk in 2015 was through Old Jerusalem. I was there undertaking a course on St Luke's gospel. Being physically present there and wondering how Christ moved in this landscape was a significant influence on how I responded to the course. I was also fortunate to be there during the start of Ramadan and witness how faithful Muslims responded to the call to prayer and at evening time, when

they could eat, met as families in their shops and shared their food with the poor.

As to idiosyncrasies, I am known to wear vests. They are really good at keeping you warm without restricting your movement. I have had quite a few vests over the years, in many different styles and colours. Then there is my black briefcase. It contains all you need to teach. It is my moveable desk.

FIVE PAST STUDENTS IN THE MEDIA

FOOTY FANATIC

Nick Rynne (Class of 2004) is a sports reporter with Seven West Media who specialises in writing football articles for *The West Australian* newspaper as well as occasionally acting as the boundary rider on Channel Seven's Saturday afternoon WAFL broadcasts.

After leaving St Norbert College Nick initially opted for a computing and mathematical science degree but changed course to pursue a career in football journalism, a seed that may have been sown when he was at school. "On reflection, it was teachers like Rob Holt, Don Parnell, Br Pat and Simon Harvey who helped turn a kid from a rugby league background into a footy nut, which led me to where I am now", Nick said.

The footy bug is not just limited to Nick's professional career; he is a long-term member of the SNESA Football Club where his resume includes "three years as president, one as colts coach, about 40 games, one fractured skull and four missing teeth."

Nick has many fond memories of his time at school including starring in and producing an existentialist movie for his Talented and Gifted class, as well as his proudest moment – holding aloft the swimming champions cup as a Kilnacrott House captain. "Realistically I had contributed very little in the swimming stakes, but it was the first time Kilnacrott House had claimed a major event during my time at St Norberts", Nick recalled with a mixture of pride and nostalgia.

Happily married to Elizabeth, Nick is enjoying a great work-life balance including pursuing a career he loves, going on overseas holidays or just enjoying being home in the great city of Perth. Based on his own experiences, Nick advises the Class of 2016 at St Norbert College not to panic if they haven't worked out their career or life path yet, and not to try to be anything other than themselves. "Sometimes what we see ourselves doing after school isn't the right fit at all," Nick said. "Let things happen and take some risks, more often than not they'll pay off."

LIFE SKILLS LEARNED AND FRIENDSHIPS FORGED

Gabriella Rogers (nee Rossitto) graduated in 1989 – the same year the internet arrived, the Berlin Wall was toppled and Taylor Swift was born. Gaby is a published author and successful television journalist who is currently working for the Nine Network in Sydney.

When asked about her time at St Norberts Gaby recalls the practical skills she learned such as touch typing (a definite requirement for 1990s journalism), Italian lessons and the public speaking and analytical skills she derived from her participation in the debating team. Gaby treasures the friendships forged at St Norbert College and values some life skills she gained including respect, maturity and a deep appreciation of diversity. Gaby says her friends and plenty of laughter helped her negotiate her teenage years successfully and set her up for a career in journalism, which she had settled on from the age of 11. Gaby encourages current students to set their sights high and focus on the end goal, while also enjoying the journey: "Remember to have fun along the way as the years fly too quickly!"

Gaby is one of the first St Norbert College ex-students to become a prominent journalist and we congratulate her on her success.

AM I HAVING FUN YET?

Peter Curilli (Class of 2002) is one half of radio station Mix 94.5's successful Lisa and Pete show which airs from 4 to 7pm on weeknights. After spending some time as a fishmonger at his family's Curilli Seafoods business in Midland, Pete completed a degree at Curtin University before heading over east and getting involved in the radio industry in Canberra for just over a year and Brisbane for two years.

Pete enjoyed his time at St Norbert College and credits Miss Hilton's drama class as one of the most important influences on his life and career, and had this to say about it:
"Drama taught me how to be a person, how to think on my feet, how to be creative and how to channel that creativity into something. It taught me to look past people's skin colour, or background, or accent, and see them as an equal, because on stage everyone has a role and the perfect execution of a play is only equal to the sum of all of its parts. It taught me to never be afraid of a crowd and to trust my gut feelings about a project I might be working on, and it also taught me how to take direction which is so important in life. Drama taught me how to negotiate and how to sell myself. Drama gave me a unique skill set that I can apply to every aspect of my life and most importantly, it taught me to be confident. For a kid who weighed 100kgs and was bullied for most of his youth, drama gave me a way to fight back."

Pete played a leading role in the 2002 Year 12 production of "Death by Chocolate" and still recalls the roar of the audience as the cast took their bow at the end of the night.

Pete believes all St Norbert students can make a success of themselves if they have a plan and put in their best effort. "The most important part is that you never stop trying to be the best you - and that means you're going to fail at things. Make those mistakes, learn from them, and put the knowledge to use. And always ask yourself the question - am I having fun yet?"

IN THE NEWS

Cyndi Lavrencic (Class of 2009) is a young journalism graduate who is making a name for herself as a reporter with Ten Eyewitness News Perth.

Recalling her time at St Norbert College, Cyndi said Kairos taught her a lot about herself, and the notes and cards she received on the retreat still serve as reminders to reflect and to be grateful for her opportunities.

Cyndi has often encountered negative views of the media but says standing by her values in life always gets her through.

When contemplating a career path, Cyndi was initially unsure recalling "I honestly didn't know what I wanted to study at university - maths and science were always my strong points. Ms Rainford encouraged me to do my best in everything. Mr Schmidberger gave some memorable physics lessons, and despite my distaste for essays - I guess Mr Parnell with English somehow swayed my choice!"

Cyndi recommends current students do not panic about career choices, saying "It's okay not knowing what you want to do and where you want to be. Enjoy the time you have now and take it day by day. You'll miss these years!"

Aspiring journalists can see Cyndi's reports each evening on Channel Ten from 5pm.

THE TIMES AND TIES THAT BIND

Class of 1980 graduate, Stephen Bevis, studied to become a journalist and is currently Arts Editor at *The West Australian*. Recently *Norbertus* caught up with Stephen and asked him a few questions about his time at St Norbert College, and what advice – if any – he might offer to students currently studying at St Norberts.

***Norbertus* (*N*):** What were the most valuable skills and knowledge you took away from your time at St Norbert College?

Stephen Bevis (SB): I was blessed to have had some inspirational teachers such as Marie Collins (history), Rob Craig (chemistry), Andy Chalkley (physics), Homeroom teacher Lou Morrison and, of course, Principal Des O'Sullivan. Mentors and role models such as these taught me the importance of empathy combined with critical inquiry. I learnt teamwork, to be grateful for many things in life and to not take things for granted. That meant questioning orthodoxy and considering other points of view. Plus I received a great grounding in the humanities, English and history in particular, which paved the way for my career in journalism.

***N*:** What is your fondest memory of your time at SNC?

SB: My warmest memories blur into the present because in just the two years I was at St Norbert College, in Years 11 and 12, I made some close, life-long friends. This has been the great continuity of my life, maintaining the friendships that began all those years ago. I remember being a leader of a student sit-in rebellion (I can't remember what it was about!) which Mr O'Sullivan suppressed with great patience and tolerance of our impertinence. I often think of terrific times on the footy field and the bonding experience of Year 12 final exams and graduation as well.

***N*:** Is there any advice you would give to young students currently studying at SNC?

SB: While your schooldays may not necessarily be the best of your life, given all the years that will follow, I'd suggest you do your best to treasure them. It can be an intense period of growth, physical, emotionally and scholastically, which may at times be overwhelming. Appreciate what your teachers can impart and appreciate what you can teach each other as students on a shared journey, the experience of going through it all together as a group. These hopefully will be the times and ties that bind.

1996 Snapshot

ENROLMENT: 733 students.
PRINCIPAL: Mrs Carole Hayes, who oversees:

- The introduction of accredited Religious Education subjects in Years 11 and 12.
- A change in approach to pastoral care at the College with the appointment of Mr Robert Henderson as Assistant Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care) who joined Miss Desirée Grzenda (Deputy Principal) and Mr Christopher Houlihan (Assistant Deputy Principal Curriculum) on the Leadership Team.

PRIOR: Rt. Rev. Fr Peter Joseph Stiglich. O. Praem.
CANONS' CHRONICLE NEWS:

- December 8, 1995: The Norbertine Canons of Queens Park were granted autonomy from the Kilnacrott Canonry, Ireland.
- Fr Peter O'Reilly celebrates 50 years of priestly ordination.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: Planning and loans approvals sought for the construction of a multi-purpose recreation centre to commence in 1997.
ST NORBERT COLLEGE DEVELOPMENTS, INNOVATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Individual instrumental music lessons introduced.
- Uniform code amended to allow long pants for girls from 1997.
- St Norbert College victorious in the C Division Interschool Athletics Carnival.
- $6241 raised at the School Fair in September under the leadership of School Fair Committee Chairperson Mrs Mavis Carruthers.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN: Dr David Harris.
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRMAN: Mr Carl Weiman.
DUX: Melissa Tan.
SRC PRESIDENT: Alison Pano.

- Vice-President Michael Saunders.
- Secretary Melissa Bonetti.
- Treasurer Jamie Chong.

House Coordinators:

- Kilnacrott: Mr Damien Flanagan.
- Magdeburg: Mr John Hulshoff.
- Premontre: Miss Simone Tomic.
- Tongerlo: Mr Anthony Byrne.
- Xanten: Miss Joanna Goldsmid.

HOUSE CAPTAINS:
Kilnacott: Robert Sherlock, Aloma Reid, Candice D'Castro, Adam Barbabanto.
Magdeburg: Daniel Wywiorski, Diana D'Auria, Anna Dickson, Justin Gauder.
Premontre: Ben Halse, Melanie Bruyer, Fleur Mortimer, Sam Halse.
Tongerlo: Craig Samuell, Tamica Mola, Amanda Szlezak, Neal Dodsley.
Xanten: Vaughn Roberts, Dale Mitchell, Elissa Quinti, Brendan McDermott.
PRINCIPAL'S MEDALLIONS: Ben Boyd John Devereux, Dale Mitchell, Alison Pano and Alana Reid.
INTERHOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL: Kilnacrott.
INTERHOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL: Kilnacrott.
HOUSE TROPHY: Xanten.

REMEMBERING CAROLE HAYES
PRINCIPAL 1995-1996

Mrs Carole Hayes (29 August 1940 – 20 March 2013)

Excerpts from a farewell speech delivered at Presentation Night 1996 by Rt. Rev. Fr. Peter Joseph Stiglich. O. Praem.

"When I asked Carole to take over the mantle of leadership of St Norbert's two years ago, she agreed wholeheartedly, not because of ambition or need for power, but because of her genuine love of the College and her passion to see that the College was the best educational institution that it could be as a centre for Catholic education and as a place where the development of the young committed to us by parents and guardians could be undertaken in an atmosphere of trust and confidence....

"Carole has always mirrored all that is the best in Christian feminism. She is a person of the highest integrity, whose honesty and plain speaking means that she is not prepared to take the easy road when Christian principles are at stake....

"Carole was the driving force behind the formulation of a mission statement for the College and has been one of its staunchest promoters. Carole has always been a person who sees the infinite benefits of working as a team, the principles of collegiality and subsidiarity have always been part of the way that she operates, and as such I have seen first hand the belief she has in the whole notion of collaboration at every level of the school's development....

"When Abbot Noyens, now the Abbot General of our Order, visited Queens Park last year, he commented on the fact that one could almost feel the welcome of St Norbert's, and he remarked to me, "Your Principal is a very special woman." I told him (probably a bit boldly) we knew that. All who really know Carole hold her in the highest esteem, and many Norbertines, staff, students and parents are pleased to call her a friend."

CLASS OF 1996 Reunion

SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

A small but close-knit group of ex-students from the Class of 1996 caught up recently at the Merrywell to reminisce about times gone by, and to marvel at how quickly 20 years had passed. Copies of the 1996 *Koinonia* were pored over and a few laughs were shared when the former students' ambitions were read out from the Class of '96 section. Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day, 1996 Deputy Principal, popped in for an hour or so and was able to tell the group what most of their former teachers were up to. Thanks to Shiree Walker (nee Fonseca) who coordinated the arrangements for the reunion and a special mention to Steve Williams who came all the way from Cairns, Fiona Judge who was in Perth from Canberra, and Melanie Piantoni (nee Bruyer) who timed a visit home from the United Kingdom so that she and her husband could attend the gathering. See you all in ten years!

Adrian Tilby, Sean Htun, Melanie Piantoni (nee Bruyer), Steve Williams, Shiree Walker (nee Fonseca) and Scott Walker.

Gavin Moraday, Fiona Judge and Vaughn Roberts.

Vaughn Roberts, Melanie Piantoni, Steve Williams, Kristy Herbert (nee Lakeman), Michelle, McKee (nee Matthews), Justin Gauder and Adrian Pereira.

NOT LONG TO GO TO THE ... CLASS OF 2006 Reunion

SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER 5PM

The Merrywell, Burswood

No tickets or booking required

Enquiries to fmulligan@norbert.wa.edu.au

ACHIEVING BIG DREAMS

Aloma Reid (Class of 1996) is an enthusiastic drama teacher, actor and performer who credits skills she learnt in Miss Hilton's drama classes as being central to her successes in her professional life in Australia and London, where she is currently based. In addition to teaching drama and acting in many prominent stage shows and musicals, Aloma fronts the cover band Aloma which has performed and recorded in Australia, throughout Europe and South America. Aloma gained confidence and communication skills in her drama lessons and also says her morals, values and outlook on life were also shaped during her time at St Norbert College. When asked to provide some advice for current students Aloma encouraged them to work hard, immerse themselves in College activities and enjoy every minute of their time at St Norbert College. "Dream big and don't let anything stop you pursuing and achieving those dreams," Aloma said.

Gavin Moraday and son Valentine who hopes to become a St Norbert College student in 2021.

FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Gavin Moraday (Class of 1996) formed a strong group of friends at St Norbert College and still keeps in touch with them some 20 years after leaving school. Gavin is a qualified carpenter and tiler and recalls how deputy principal Chris Houlihan and other staff assisted him apply for pre-apprenticeships and job interviews. While still keeping a hands-on approach with the tools at work, Gavin is also a director of the building company he works for. One of his fondest memories at the College was the time he did a drum solo that brought the house down at an assembly. Gavin is enrolling his son Valentine at St Norbert College where hopefully he will enter Tongerlo House like his father. Gavin encourages the current students of St Norbert College to take advantage of all the educational opportunities provided, carefully consider career choices and don't be afraid to seek help or guidance when necessary.

THANKS FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT

Melanie Piantoni (Class of 1996, nee Bruyer) is absolutely delighted with life in the UK at the moment and she largely attributes this to being married to her husband Steve and being mother to little Amelie Rose, who was born in December, 2015.

Melanie has several business interests including a vintage dance academy and performance troupe, and she is also involved in producing dance festivals and competitions. Melanie partly traces the origins of some of her various careers as costume maker, lingerie designer, production manager and performer back to her days at St Norbert College where she also had the opportunity to perform in the talent quest over several years with some of her friends. "This was so much fun, gave me an outlet to express myself and a great way to to be involved in the school community," Melanie recalls.

Melanie also remembers discovering her artistic side in Mrs Meaney's sewing class in Year 9. "Mrs Meaney was a great teacher for me. She was inspirational and had a positive and motivating attitude and I will always thank her for the encouragement she showed me." Melanie said sewing opened up a whole new world for her. She completed a tertiary course in costume making and design, and this laid the foundation for her first career as a costume maker.

Melanie says the College motto of "prepared for all good works" resonates in every part of her life and helps her overcome personal and business challenges by putting in the preparation, keeping a positive attitude and by treating people how she would want to be treated.

Melanie encourages current St Norbert College students to embrace all the opportunities on offer. She certainly did!

Melanie Piantoni and baby Amelie Rose

MAKING TODAY COUNT

Bernard Mackin (Class of 1989) has forged a distinguished business career in a wide variety of industries and businesses including Telstra, Clough and INTECSEA, both in Australia and overseas. Currently he is a business consultant offering commercial, strategic and human resource management coaching and advice to senior business leaders and business owners.

Looking back on his years at St Norbert College, Bernard said learning to act in the Xanten Theatre in Miss Hilton's drama classes, memorable times on incredible school camps, and a range of other experiences helped him develop the emotional intelligence to deal with the many opportunities and challenges life has presented him. Like many former students, however, Bernard rates the enduring friendships formed at St Norberts as probably the College's greatest impact on his personal development.

From his extensive experience in human resources, Bernard has identified four key points he considers important for personal and vocational growth: Life is a marathon, not a sprint; know and use your strengths; take the time to work on your weaknesses, and; make today count. Bernard provides an excellent role model for any students aspiring to enter the world of business, and embracing these principles could form a strong starting point.

Bernard is still studying at Edith Cowan University where he is enrolled in a Masters of Business and Human Resource Management, and in his spare time is a surf rescue volunteer at Trigg Island Surf Life Saving Club, supporting the development and safety of the junior club members.

BUILDING CHARACTER AND RESILIENCE

Peter Shinnick (Class of 1989) was a Tongerlo House Captain and also captained a number of sporting teams at St Norbert College in the 1980s, and he says this laid the foundation for him to develop leadership skills which have come in useful in life. Previously in private business for himself, Peter is now in charge of Target's training division. Given these experiences Peter encourages today's students to be open minded and embrace the opportunities on offer at St Norbert College. "Don't let your mistakes define you," he said, "rather see them as learning opportunities that build character and resilience." When asked what his fondest St Norberts memories are, Peter is quite clear: "The friendships formed. I am pleased to say the friends I made at St Norbert College remain great friends of mine. We often reminisce about our times at SNC."

MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

After serving in the Western Australian Police for 16 years, Cameron Oxford (Class of 1989) is now an investigations manager in charge of seven senior investigators at the Department of Environment Regulation who monitor issues such as land clearing and illegal dumping of waste. Looking back on his time at St Norbert College, Cameron says he learned to appreciate others, have the confidence to express his opinions and have a go, but most of all to "live my life as a positive member of society, to live with purpose and to make a solid contribution".

In his role as a police officer and and now as a custodian of Western Australia's environment, Cameron has truly had the opportunity to live out the College motto of being prepared for all good works. "There's nothing more satisfying than someone telling you that you have helped change their life for the better", he said. "I'm glad to say that's happened to me a few times. It's the greatest".

Cameron's life after St Norbert College could have taken a different path if The OFF-Tones – one of Australia's first authentic boy bands - had won the 1989 Talent Quest. "We were awesome", Cameron recalled, "but were robbed of first prize!" Cameron has plenty of good memories of his time at St Norbert College including ACC sport, camps and successfully pulling off some practical jokes on certain teachers, but one of his biggest highlights was captaining Xanten to swimming and athletics victories.

Cameron said his years at St Norbert College flew past and would encourage current students to focus on the moment. "If you don't understand something, don't stress – the smart kids go to their teacher and work on problems until it's all good," Cameron said. "I wish I could go back in time to do more of that when I was at SNC."

Cameron's dedicated service to the people of Western Australia is appreciated by all of us here at St Norbert College.

Cameron Oxford (standing) with (left to right) Richard Veza, Bernard Mackin and Peter Shinnick.

STRIVING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Jacki Tucker (Class of 1989, nee Burke) is a passionate primary school teacher who has been happily married to husband Martin for 20 years, and has two children, Ben, 12, and Lara, 10. She takes great delight in watching her Year 2s and her own children grow and develop: "I love being around people and cherish the time I get to spend with my family and friends," Jacki said.

Mention St Norbert College to Jacki and the memories come flooding back. Theatrical, singing and musical performances at Presentation Night were highlights, as well as reading the "warm fuzzies" (affirming notes from her classmates) on camps and retreats she attended. "I also remember laughing a lot and meeting many terrific people, many of whom I still call friends today".

Teachers who motivated and inspired Jacki included John Pollaers, ("who won his students over with good humour and even made economics fun"), John Van Nus, ("who taught us to consider different perspectives in RE") and Kerri Hilton ("who encouraged us to laugh at ourselves, be creative and to step out of our comfort zone").

Teaching in the Catholic sector, Jacki has seen the link between the Norbertine ethos and the Mercy traditions as being strong, and acknowledged the role of Fr Peter who celebrated her marriage and dropped everything to deliver the last rites to her dying grandmother. "As a parent, I have recalled the College motto with my own children and it always comes to mind when I see anything written in Latin," Jacki said. Today Jacki continues the fine tradition of teaching synonymous with the Norbertine and Mercy Orders, striving to make a difference by caring for, and believing in, her students, just as she was encouraged to strive for her best all those years ago at St Norbert College.

PEITER VAGG

Peiter Vagg (Class of 2013) joined the Canning South Perth branch of the State Emergency Service in his final year at St Norbert College and has gained valuable skills and experience during his three years as a volunteer. Peiter's contribution has not gone unnoticed by Val Donovan, the deputy manager at the South Perth Canning SES branch. "Peiter is a valued member of our unit who regularly attends training and has acquired many skills which have assisted him during call-outs during storms, search missions and other community emergencies," Val said. "We appreciate his commitment to training and his assistance to the community.

Peiter has enjoyed contributing to the Western Australian community and recalls a missing person search near Sandstone and being on duty during tropical cyclone Olwyn as two of his more important missions.
"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a volunteer in the SES and highly recommend it as way for anyone to put something back into society," Peiter said.

Peiter is a real-life example of someone from St Norbert College who is "prepared for all good works." Congratulations and thank you, Peiter.

CALL OF DUTY

David Martin (Class of 1988) is a squadron leader and air combat officer in the Royal Australian Air Force and is currently on a seven-month deployment to the Middle East.

Looking back on his time at St Norbert College David said the years flew past so he encourages current students to enjoy their opportunities and keep study and life pressures in perspective. Despite being an extremely well-trained pilot, David still appreciated learning skills such as touch-typing, courtesy of Mrs Tavani, and public speaking as a result of his participation in theatre arts activities organised by Miss Hilton. Some of David's fondest memories include the Year 10 camp at Dwellingup and participating in Student Representative Council planning days. The St Norbert College community is grateful for the sacrifices Squadron Leader Martin makes for the benefit of Australia, we are proud of his efforts and we wish him a safe return to his family.

A BALANCED APPROACH TO LIFE

Distinguished scientist and medical researcher, Dr Giuseppe Verdile (Class of 1991) is an Associate Professor and head of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Group at Curtin University who has fond memories of his time at St Norbert College, crediting Miss Hilton and his other teachers for contributing to the person he is today. St Norberts instilled in Giuseppe the principles of hard work and perseverance, and now as a leading medical researcher he instills these traits into his medical research team and students at Curtin University.

But life has not been just about work for Giuseppe as he believes that a balanced approach to life has contributed to his success. In addition to recommending that current St Norbert College students work hard he believes spending quality time with those you love, and travel can open your eyes to the world. "Love your family and friends, work hard, explore the world and always eat the good cheese!" was Dr Verdile's parting advice.

St Norbert College is extremely proud of Dr Verdile's achievements and in him current students are presented with an outstanding role model who has always been *prepared for all good works.*

Dr Giuseppe Verdile pictured with his wife Corinne

JESSICA PAYNE

Jessica Payne (Class of 2009) and Adam Leadbetter (Class of 2008) met at St Norbert College and now have two daughters, Stephanie (six years old) and Aleira (three). The girls attend Sacred Heart Primary School in Thornlie and are hoping to follow in their parents' footsteps by completing their secondary schooling at St Norbert College. Jessica worked at the Town of Victoria Park before motherhood became her primary focus and Adam is a termite inspector with Termico. The family are a very close unit and have many interests they pursue together such as fishing, four-wheel driving, camping and cruising on the Swan River. They recently returned from a family trip to Victoria where they celebrated Stephanie's sixth birthday. Jessica has a lot of fond memories from her time at St Norbert College, but the Year 10 adventure camp stands out from the rest: "The Year 10 camp was an awesome experience, especially going on the flying fox with Miss Rice (now Mrs Kylee Chung) and pelting the teachers' tents with honky nuts in the middle of the night!" Jessica laughed.

OLYMPIC FEVER GRIPS ST NORBERT COLLEGE: NAGMELDIN PETER BOL SELECTED FOR AUSTRALIA!

One of the most exciting stories to sweep our Treasure Road campus and broader St Norbert College community this year was the selection of St Norbert College Class of 2012 graduate Peter Bol in the Australian athletics team which competed at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games. In the few weeks before the team was finalised and Peter's selection was confirmed, social media was swirling with best wishes, prayers, rumours, false alarms, and – finally – it was real. Peter was officially selected for the team and became the fourth member of the St Norbert College community to represent Australia at the Olympics. Congratulations Peter!

Nagmeldin Peter Bol was born in Khartoum, Sudan in 1994 but due to the ongoing turmoil in Sudan, his parents emigrated in search of a better life for their family. After some time spent in Egypt, the Bol family eventually settled in Toowoomba, Queensland, before making one final move to Western Australia where Peter enrolled at St Norbert College. When he arrived in Australia Peter could only speak Arabic but he soon adapted to the Australian way of life and embraced the opportunity to study hard and get involved in sports and other co-curricular activities at St Norbert College. Peter was a Prémontré House and College Captain and was Champion Year 12 Boy at the 2012 Interhouse Athletics Carnival. Peter credits Mrs Hels Leahy, his Head of House, as being an inspiration to him, and Hels' father, Mr Brian Moore, also took Peter under his wing and became his mentor and supporter, as Peter developed his running skills and athletic ability.

Recently Peter moved to Melbourne to hone his running skills under coach Justin Rinaldi and this year he has competed at athletics meets in nearly every Australian state and mainland territory, as well as Spain, Belgium and Germany. Peter came into Olympic contention in June when he smashed his 800m personal best with a time of 1:45.78.

Peter was selected to run for Australia in the heats of the 800 metres, but was unfortunately knocked out of the competition when he finished sixth.

Lucas Kinnimonth, Naomi Diong, Kaitlyn Fashho, Sophie Spanghero and Stefanie Price pictured with Peter after the assembly.

Peter Bol surrounded by admiring students after he addressed a College assembly.

OLYMPIC FEVER GRIPS

ST NORBERT COLLEGE: NAGMELDIN PETER BOL SELECTED FOR AUSTRALIA!

Peter is proud of his St Norbert College heritage and was pleased to return to school to address an assembly on September 7, which coincided with the 2016 St Norbert College ACC Athletics Team being presented to the College. Peter spoke of three steps he followed to achieve his dream of representing Australia at the Olympics and provided the following insights:

- Faith. "One of the most important elements in achieving a goal is to have faith and confidence that in time, and with patience, you can be the fastest in the country. I personally had faith that God would never let me dream a dream that I couldn't handle or achieve".
- Support. "One of my favourite African proverbs is 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together'. I truly believe I wouldn't be where I am today without my family's support during the most difficult times and the great support of my mentor and friend Mr Brian Moore (Mrs Hels Leahy's dad) who shared the same vision and showed the greatest interest. I am forever grateful to Mrs Hels Leahy (former Prémontré Head of House) for having her as a teacher and a role model, guiding me towards my talents when I didn't see them, and to all of you here at St Norbert College for the encouragement you have given me".
- Enjoying the process. "Most importantly, enjoy the process – the good, the bad – literally everything that comes along the way. I can truly say running is my passion and regardless of results and outcomes, I will always enjoy it. I would like to wish the ACC team all the best for the upcoming carnival. Remember while we may be from different Houses, we are going as St Norbert College. Support each other and enjoy it. To all of the Year 12 students, enjoy your final months and all the best with the exams".

In addition to his athletic pursuits, Peter is also currently studying a Bachelor of Construction Management and Economics from Curtin University.

Norbertus congratulates Peter on his achievements and wishes him well over the next four years as he strives to reach great heights in Tokyo in 2020.

Mrs Hels Leahy (Peter's Prémontré Head of House) and Mrs Sam Mark (Peter's Prémontré Homeroom teacher) welcome Peter back to St Norbert College. Hels' father, Mr Brian Moore, had a big influence on Peter's athletics career.

Dean of Studies Ms Sharon Rainford congratulates Peter.

ST NORBERT COLLEGE

OLYMPIC ROLL OF HONOUR

Congratulations Lorraine

Gold at Seoul

Robyn Van Nus in action at the 2012 London Olympic Games. Part of the coverage in the 1988 Koinonia devoted to Lorraine Hillas who won a gold medal in the women's hockey at the Seoul Olympics in 1988. Scott Walker (third from left) with his fellow bobsleigh teammates who competed in the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, in 1994.

Peter Bol was not the first St Norbert College ex-student to represent Australia at the Olympics and hopefully he will not be the last.

In a story that some people can't help compare to the 1993 classic film *Cool Runnings*, St Norbert College alumnus Scott Walker (Class of 1989) was the first ex-St Norbert College student to represent Australia at the Olympics. Scott's specialty was the four man bobsleigh event which he competed in at the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway - the same Olympics where Steven Bradbury became famous. Unfortunately Scott and his teammates did not win a medal.

Robyn Van Nus (Class of 1999) represented Australia at the 2008 Beijing and 2012 London Olympic Games in the Women's Air Rifle and Women's Small-Bore Rifle events. While Robyn did not win a medal in these competitions, she was successful at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, where she performed magnificently to win a bronze medal in the Women's Air Rifle event.

Physical education teacher Lorraine Hillas represented Australia in hockey at the 1984 Los Angeles, and at the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games where she won a gold medal! The Australian Olympic Committee website reports that "Hillas came on in the last two minutes but made some vital plays in Australia's 2-0 victory over the host nation, South Korea." Lorraine returned to a hero's reception at Treasure Road where she was promptly dubbed "The Golden Girl." In the 1988 *Koinonia* principal's report Mr Tom Corcoran said "I must sneak a mention of staff success – Mrs Lorraine Hillas won Gold at Seoul. Many of us know the painstaking preparation involved, having seen the work Lorraine puts into the preparation, together with her work at school. We are very happy and proud to be associated with a sportswoman of her calibre."

Current Dean of Studies Ms Sharon Rainford was a mathematics teacher at St Norbert College in 1988 and said Lorraine's gold medal victory certainly brought the Olympic spirit to the College. "The atmosphere was electric when Lorraine returned to school with her gold medal. We had a green and gold day which added to the already high level of excitement," Sharon recalled.

Robyn Van Nus's mother, Mrs Trish Van Nus, who taught for many years at St Norbert College, has been a prominent figure in Australian women's shooting and has coached several shooters who have represented Australia at the Olympics.

KONNICHIWA!

Ayumi Soda spent some time at St Norbert College as a Japanese language assistant in 2014. Recently she wrote to *Norbertus* outlining some of the lessons she learned from her experiences living and working in the St Norbert College community.

Konnichiwa!
My name is Ayumi Soda from Kagoshima in Japan and in 2014 I was a Japanese Teaching Assistant at St Norbert College. It has been two years since I finished my program at the College.

When I first arrived at St Norbert College the language barrier made it difficult to communicate with students and staff. However, now I come to think of it, I should have not worried so much and just "had a go!"

The most impressive thing at St Norbert College was that everyone said "konnichiwa" (hello) to me. Even though they could not speak Japanese, I was really touched that they would use the one word they knew to be friendly to me!
I came to St Norbert College for teaching but actually everyone taught me much more important things!

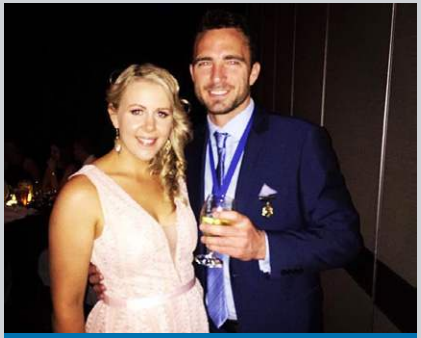
The most important thing which I learned was continually trying everything without fear. Previously I often avoided trying new things because of mistakes. A lot of the experiences I had at St Norbert's were new for me and I was afraid of problems with my English. However, now I really remember nobody made fun of me, rather students and staff helped me a lot every time. Such a great environment made me improve and realise that good things can come from making mistakes! Although I used to feel embarrassed then, every mistake I made then has become a happy and nice memory and cheers me up now.

After the teaching assistant program in WA, I moved to Tokyo and have worked as a receptionist at a hotel. Probably because our hotel is located in an area popular with foreigners, most guests are coming from countries such as Korea, Thailand and China. Unfortunately I cannot speak Korean, Thai, Mandarin and other languages properly but I try to to learn as many words as I can to be of assistance to our guests.

Looking back at my time in Perth I can't say thank you enough! I hope I can visit St Norbert College again to thank you in person.

Arigato!
Ayumi Soda

Ayumi Soda pictured with some Japanese students during her stint at St Norbert College in 2014.



Images from top - bottom: Vinnie Keynes, Mark Colace and Jadon Gielingh pictured at the SNESA Football Club Awards Night. Ben and Phil Rigg. Nick Rynne, Daniel Williams, Christian Tufilli and Chris Millsteed. Dean Nelson with partner Emma Henderson.

SNESA SEASON WRAP UP

The St Norbert Ex-Students Association Football Club did not achieve its objectives of finals football in 2017. However, there are a lot of achievements of which the club can be proud.

Financially, the football club is in sound condition, thanks to the hard working committee of former students and great response from the playing group.

SNESA also looks forward to continually working closely with the College and the Queens Park Junior Football Club to help players and youth in the local community develop their skills, love for footy and achieve their full potential.

Next year, in its 40th season, SNESA will ensure it continues to stand by its members, supporters and their families and friends, just as they have stood by the club since its establishment in 1978.

The club would also like to thank ex-student Christian Tufilli (Class of 2004) as he departs the role of senior coach. The mission is underway to secure a new senior coach for the club for 2017. If you or someone you know with the relevant experience and qualifications is interested, you are welcome to contact the club at president@snesa.com.au

League

The league team finished the season in eighth position, maintaining SNESA's spot in the C3 Grade competition. While the objective was always to play finals football, injuries, player availability and some close losses earlier in the season cost the team their chance in the top five. With some sound recruitment, a new coach and new approach, we look forward to a bigger and better 2017. Congratulations to captain and ex-student Mark Colace (Class of 2009) for winning the club's Kevin Kelly award voted by the players and runner-up best and fairest, voted by the coach. Jadon Gielingh (Class of 2009) won the league team's best and fairest, while Dean Nelson (Class of 2004) was also runner-up. Chris Millsteed (Class of 2004) was awarded best utility player. The awards were presented at the recently conducted SNESA Football Club Awards Night.

Reserves

Our reserves team only just missed out on finals, finishing sixth and only two games out of the top five. Again, it was injuries, player availability and some losses that should've been wins that hurt their chances. Coach and ex-student Mark Lupica (Class of 2005) awarded the best and fairest to Dylan Mitsopolous (former Lynwood SHS/John Curtin), who also took out the Wilson-Dent Medal voted by the players. Ex-students Ben Rigg (Class of 2007) and Suman Das (Class of 2002) were runners-up. Blake Wilkinson (Class of 2010) was presented the coach's award.

Colts

Our colts' on-field results did not reflect the quality and ability of the playing group. Although the team only won one game for the year, the players' commitment and character showed plenty of potential for the years to come. Low number of players did not give the team enough time or opportunity to develop the necessary structure. With the club developing strong ties with Queens Park Football Club Juniors, St Norbert College's senior players as well as some relationship development with other schools in the area, the club looks forward to strongly continuing and improving its colts program in 2017. Congratulations to ex-student Vinnie Keynes (Class of 2013) for taking out the colts' best and fairest, while Marcello Campo (Sevenoaks SHS) was runner-up. Ex-student Sam Caughey (Class of 2015) was presented the coach's award.

Mr Rafic Aoun
SNESA Football Club President

ST NORBERT COLLEGE

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

If you are contemplating hiring the services of a professional or a tradesman, take a few minutes to check out the St Norbert College Business Directory which can be accessed through the Alumni section of the College website. Here you will find dozens of businesses which have links to our College and many that offer reduced fees and charges upon mentioning your St Norbert College connection. Goods and services range from cupcakes to computers, pools to party planning, fashion to financial services and much more. Support the businesses of former students and save some money at the same time! If you would like to advertise your business in the St Norbert College Business Directory, it's simple and free. Please send the details of your business to fmulligan@norbert.wa.edu.au

Feature Business

Donovan (Don) Bolar MIPA, AFA (Class of 1991) from A.I.Clynk and Associates is keen to be of assistance to ex-students of St Norbert College with a range of services including personal and business taxation, business activity statements and instalment activity statements. Mention you are an ex-student and receive $20 off your first tax return or consultation. Please feel free to phone Don to discuss your taxation queries and receive great service and advice.

If you would like your business to feature in the next edition of *Norbertus* please send some details and photographs to the email address above.

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