NORBERTUS

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is such a poignant issue of *Norbertus*, reflecting on the life and 20th anniversary of the passing of our iconic Fr Peter O'Reilly. The accolades and adjectives are really insufficient in describing the impact of Fr O'Reilly on our College foundations, traditions and charism.

In his Canon's Chronicle in the Koinonia of 2001, Fr Peter Joseph thanked those who supported the Norbertine community on the occasion of Fr O'Reilly's passing and spoke of the funeral that;

"It was great to see that the charism of 'communio, koinonia', community is alive and lived out in the apostolates of the Community".

And so it is true of the exploits and deeds of members of our community past and present, as described and depicted in this edition of *Norbertus*. Fr Peter O'Reilly would indeed, be immensely proud of the impact that our College community and members have on the wider society at large.

It is wonderful to reflect, reminisce, to remember and to relate, to the staff, the students, the families and the signs of those times past, and how St Norbert College is so often entwined.

Another sublime issue that I hope you all enjoy and proudly share amongst friends and family – a true testament to the legacy of those involved in our great College community.

I would like to take this special opportunity to wish you all safety and good health through this Christmas, festive season and the new 2021 year ahead.

Please enjoy and keep in touch!

God bless.

Mr Simon Harvey
Principal

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to Issue 36 of *Norbertus*, the magazine for the alumni of St Norbert College.

Twenty years ago, Fr Peter O'Reilly, one of the original Norbertine Founding Fathers passed to his eternal rest and in this issue, we pay tribute to his contribution in founding St Norbert College and ministering to the people of Western Australia for more than four decades.

Fr O'Reilly's contributions are well-documented in the early chapters of Mr Clem Mulcahy's book, *In the Middle of Everything*, the history of the first 50 years of St Norbert College and the Norbertines in Western Australia, and we borrow several excerpts from the book to illustrate how Fr O'Reilly used some slightly unorthodox methods to overcome the many hurdles the College faced in its infancy.

On the subject of *In the Middle of Everything*, *Norbertus* is pleased to announce a special offer for our subscribers. For a limited time only, copies of Clem's book are available from the College office for only $10 – a saving of 60% off RRP. Simply mention the codeword *Norbertus* when picking up your copy. *Norbertus* normally avoids using clichés like the plague, but this book really makes the ideal Christmas gift!

In this issue we look back to what was being reported in *Norbertus*, 10 and 20 years ago, what the College was like in 1980 and 2000, and contrast the level and influence of information technology in students' lives 40 years ago and today.

Franz Schlosser (Class of 1980) reminisces about the fun times he had back then and several members of the Class of 2000 have been kind enough to tell a range of interesting stories about what they have been doing since they left the College at the turn of the century.

Norbertus recalls this year group fondly and is pleased to hear that a relatively large number of them has kept in close contact over the years, resulting in several St Norbert's marriages and lots of offspring!

Class of 2000 Head Boy Daniel East says his experience of the music program at St Norbert College in the late 1990s inspired his life-long love of music and performing, and he has generously donated a copy of a CD recorded by his first band, *Artist Proof*, for a lucky *Norbertus* reader.

Thousands of alumni would recall Miss Desirée Grzenda – or Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day! – from their time at the College and *Norbertus* is very grateful she took some time off from the WA women's seniors amateur golf circuit to reminisce about her 25 years at Treasure Road in our *Where Are They Now?* column.

The COVID-19 pandemic – as readers are very well aware – caused a variety of disruptions to events this year but we are glad to report that reunions were eventually held for the Classes of 2000 and 2010 in November, and our *Norbertus* staff photographers were there to cover the occasions.

We are also pleased to report that SNESA's season eventually got going and, as usual, hard-working Club President, Mr Rafic Aoun, has provided a wrap-up of the shortened season and coverage of the red-carpet glitz and glamour of the awards night.

As usual, Mr Simon Harvey has penned his *From The Principal* thoughts and, for the first time, our guest columnist is one of our very own 2020 Year 12 students, Shania Cura, who brings some youthful insight, energy and enthusiasm to her column.

All this, and more, in Issue 36 of *Norbertus*. As always, if you have any news about former students or staff members of St Norbert College – achievements, engagements, weddings, births, travel or promotions – please contact fmulligan@norbert.wa.edu.au

On behalf of all our correspondents, columnists, operatives, photographers and production staff, *Norbertus* wishes all our readers the compliments of the season and a happy and safe 2021.

Frank Mulligan
Editor

Ave Atque Vale – Hail and Farewell

SHANIA CURA (CLASS OF 2020) – GUEST COLUMNIST

Making it into the last year of high school was akin to stepping inside of a legend – and living up to its every expectation.

Year 12 meant a lot to me. It was the bridge between childhood and real life. Standards to meet, grades to keep up, paradigms to set to younger years – I was set for the busiest, happiest, most accomplished year of my life yet. My year group – the big kids – were getting ready to walk like we owned St Norbert College, with the knowledge that the entire school would adore us for it.

The year started off with the grandest event of most Year 12s lives so far – the ball. Planning started as early as Semester Two 2019, with many of us choosing between Party Buses or limousines, to rent or to buy a dress, who to go with – quintessential choices that we felt at the time would determine our ball experience. In retrospect, the night feels like a blur of camera flashes, good food, and reflection – realising that this was the most grown-up I've ever seen the same kids I see on the schoolyard five days a week. I'll never forget the frenzied, loud mass of well-dressed Year 12s singing Sweet Caroline, reminding me that, despite these new responsibilities imposed onto us as young adults, what I will remember about this year was the memories that I made.

Term 1 introduced us to the privileges of being in Year 12. Being the favourite class of a teacher's timetable, a sense of ownership of the best eating area of the school, and sitting at the very back rows at assemblies were undeniably some of the finest benefits of the final year of school. Several weeks flew by in a flurry of schoolwork and learning, bonding with friends and teachers with inimitable warmth and familiarity – I knew that friendships I was fostering at that time were lifelong. These short weeks were impeded by the start of COVID-19, which determined the rest of our senior year.

The onset of the pandemic felt like a denial of all the rites of passage we've waited over a decade of education for. Undeniably, the start felt like a free, inconsequential and uncertain break from the academic rigour of Year 12. Many decided to leave school for as long as they can get away with when attendance no longer began to be a requirement for graduation. We thought little of the virus, with our hopes for 2020 sustained by the hope of normality which none of us could have expected to be so far away.

For a few weeks, our lives were turned upside down. Technology became our outpost to the outside world, with Teams and OneNote mimicking the classroom environment we realised then that we took for granted. The College displayed its adaptability, with traditions such as Homeroom, the Cross-

Graduation ceremony at St Norbert College on October 23, 2020.

2020 Year 12s from T6 Homeroom: Tristan Harding, Kunal Saini, Shania Cura, Elsa Tan and Kristina Agudo.

Country Carnival and Assemblies not being compromised. Instead they took form in Teams calls and Strava competitions. Away from friends, teachers and peers, this year served as a reminder of the importance of connection and presence.

The gradual return of face to face learning in the last remaining terms finally came, and with it, normality slowly returned. Year 12s were encouraged to return to school, and we again found an opportunity to make the most out of the rest of our year, constricted by the pandemic's demands. It was by necessity, and not choice, that we missed out on events such as Harmony Day and Book Week.

Despite the challenges and the missed time, when time flew fast and every remaining highlight of the year took place, the class of 2020 took it with high spirits. I can confidently say that 2020 is one of the best years of my life, having experienced events and highlights that further bound me to the school. My year group and I were lucky enough to experience Kairos 27, Community Day, the Year 12 Ball, Philosophy Club – events and experiences that made us all part of a proud, uniquely Norbertine tradition. I'll always look back on those days only with warmth and sentimentality as these contributed to a distinctive and fulfilling 2020.

The wait for graduation was a bittersweet in-between. Exams, assessments and commitments made it difficult to focus on the possibilities beyond school – many erroneously believed that our results determined who we are and who we will be. I have been lucky enough to have had teachers who, over the past year, have offered support, kindness, understanding and flexibility not only in their attitudes but also their pedagogy. No longer impeded by fear, but rather the irreplaceable gift of hope, I look to the future of myself and each one of my peers and see only bright things ahead.

Emboldened by the faith given to me by my mentors and peers, every dream I have in front of me feels possible and tangible. I am forever grateful to my teachers, who pushed me to be all I can be, my peers, for overcoming every challenge thrown our way, and to St Norbert College, for preparing us for all good works.

Kairos 27 was attended by 26 Year 12s from August 4 to August 7, 2020.

St Norbert's Modern History ATAR mentor group. Shania, pictured with Dr Alberto Runco, was recognised and awarded a ViSN course award for topping the class.

Ad Omnia Paratus

Blood, Sweat and Prayers in Queens Park

The town of York became the centre of the first Norbertine ministry in Australia and shortly after settling there, Fr Peter O'Reilly successfully negotiated the purchase of Kerry Downs, a farm located about 10 kilometres north of the town. The plan was to build a priory on the property and then a boys' secondary boarding school, but further investigation showed that the region was already well-served by several schools and colleges. So, after a few years, attention turned to the south-east corridor of Perth where Fr Jeremiah Farrell had been lobbying for the establishment of a Catholic school for boys, and in 1964 Archbishop Prindiville invited the Norbertine Canons to establish St Norbert College in Queens Park.

With virtually no government assistance, Fr O'Reilly and the Norbertines had to overcome a seemingly never-ending series of obstacles and hurdles to establish a foothold in Queens Park which laid the foundation for greater things to come, as the following excerpts from Mr Clement Mulcahy's 2017 book "In the Middle of Everything" illustrate ...

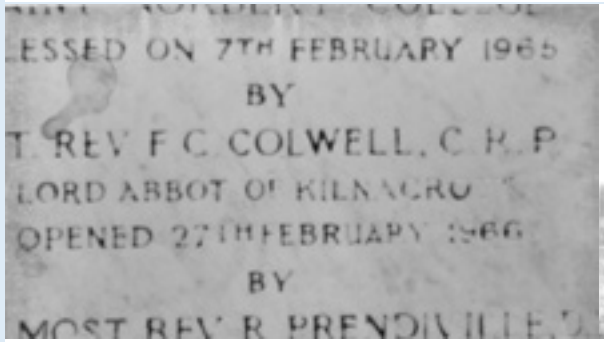
Principal Fr Laurence Anderson had much to grapple with, not the least being the summer heat and a school yard that was virtually a construction site. Kevin Mavric added: "His patience at times was tested sorely by unruly behaviour and the temperament of the boys who were more used to running around the countryside than sitting up politely in class – or taking a short cut downstairs by leaping from the upper balcony on to truckloads of sand below."

The waterlogged nature of the site meant that, in winter, access to the priory was only possible via a series of strategically placed planks. The spartan conditions for the bachelor canons whose studies had been in theology and liturgy rather than domestic science, were offset by the generosity of parishioners. Mr Alec Connell, the proprietor of the Waverley Hotel on Albany Highway, also extended invitations to join him in the hotel dining room for the evening meal; something much valued by the canons.

There had been a rush to have the first buildings ready for use and certainly no funds for landscaping. Fr Stephen and Fr O'Reilly were to the fore in helping to tame the site with the D2 Crawler used at Kerry Downs. (The D2 was a tractor manufactured by Caterpiller Inc. and was so named for its continuous metal tracks rather than rubberised wheels). Initially rocks and dirt could be gouged from the soil and then loaded onto the tray of the truck, using the bucket on the versatile D2. This 'fill' from the farm then commenced a two-hour journey to be dumped at the school site via the farm tip truck. All of this effort was directed at altering the lie of the land which was slowly pushed and levelled by the farm machinery. Because of the high

Fr Laurence Anderson, St Norbert College Principal from 1965 to 1970.

The Founding Fathers in 1960, shortly after arriving in York: Fr John Reynolds, Fr Peter O'Reilly and Fr Stephen Cooney.



The only known photograph of part of the original foundation stone of St Norbert College.

Drainage work on the College oval in 1977.

water table and its variable nature it took years to master the conditions.

In fact, the cash reserves were so limited that the school was unable to offer the staff the standard rate of pay. This disadvantage was offset partly by the Norbertines providing lunches at the priory; meals that were made possible by the donation of vegetables, fruit, meat and groceries, and resourceful negotiations by Fr O'Reilly with his contacts at the Perth Metropolitan Markets, so usefully provided by Fr Peter Garbayo OSB of New Norcia.

The wool sales held more than a little interest for a number of those staff who realised that it was not until the wool cheque was paid into the *Kerry Downs* bank account that the Norbertines would have the wherewithal to meet the salary bill. The bank in fact allowed the canons to operate the school on a deficit account on the basis of the seasonal farm income.

Doug Perrett entitled his recollections from Sixth Grade as: *Days at Nobbies (St Norbert) – A Long Time Ago*: "The first year as I remember was like going to the rubbish tip. This little school surrounded by piles of fill and puddles everywhere. We had it easy for the first Term, no cane or strap. Pelligrini's must have sold out."

Kevin Mavric recalled that the first teachers were retired school teachers well over the 65-year-old bracket: "One particular teacher's interest was to carry a small pocket radio, and he would, in the afternoon classes, disappear from the classroom for two or three minutes to listen to his radio. It was some time before he was spotted at the local TAB (Totaliser Agency Board, a betting outlet) during lunch times that we realised then he was listening to the races for the placing of his 'bets'."

Fr O'Donohoe noted: "It was an uphill struggle from the start. Staffing and finance were the main problems. At that time, it was very difficult to acquire teachers for both State and private schools. Along with that was we were a young school, and not every teacher was willing to throw in his lot with us. I remember receiving 12 replies to an advertisement in the paper for a teacher; not one was qualified."

Clare Pigram (nee Sampi) came from the Kimberley and boarded with the Pallottines while she attended St Norbert College. She came to appreciate the sacrifices made by the Norbertines and many people to create the College: "As a child I think you are not as aware of these sorts of pressures or tensions as one might imagine ... with the benefit of hindsight I certainly think now that the achievement of building the College in what was very much a working class area was something for which the Norbertine order should be congratulated. No doubt, the early years in particular must have been quite challenging, daunting even."

Fr Cooney and Fr O'Reilly with some contract workers at Kerry Downs.

The original classrooms taking shape in 1964.

Exclusive Offer to *Norbertus* Subscribers

"In the Middle of Everything", Clem Mulcahy's meticulously researched and refreshingly written story of the first 50 years of the achievements of the Norbertines in Western Australia carefully weaves together the historical facts and personal stories of the brothers and priests, staff, students, families and benefactors who have contributed to this magnificent story of survival, achievement and success over numerous obstacles.

Attractively formatted and reflecting the savvy publishing style of Steve Little of Data Documents and the distinctive flair of Yvette Ricciardello's creative design expertise, this 134-page, full-colour book is a necessary addition to the bookshelves of everyone who has links to St Norbert College and the story of the Norbertines in Western Australia.

Norbertus is pleased to announce an **exclusive offer** for all our subscribers. For a limited time only, copies of "In the Middle of Everything" are available from the College for a mere $10 – a saving of $15 or 60% off RRP. Just mention the promotional code "Norbertus" when you purchase the book at the front office.

Someone kicked a football, smashing a couple of window louvres and of course everyone scattered. But, alas, not all of us were quick enough and Fr Anderson caught a fair few. Didn't matter f you were involved or not, everyone got 12 of the best. **Jeff Williams**

In Memoriam:
FR PETER O'REILLY
(5 OCTOBER 1919 – 6 DECEMBER 2000)

Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.

Fr Peter O'Reilly O.Praem, one of the Norbertine Founding Fathers, passed away on December 6, 2000 and Norbertine Prior, Fr Peter Joseph O.Praem, devoted his Canon's Chronicle article in the 2001 Koinonia to the life and memory of Fr O'Reilly. It is repeated in this edition of *Norbertus* to mark the 20th anniversary of his passing into eternal life.

2001 Canon's Chronicle
Fr Peter Joseph O. Praem

Fr Peter O'Reilly O.Praem, one of the founding fathers of the Norbertine Community in Western Australia died on Wednesday morning, December 6, 2000. He passed to his eternal reward after a short illness. Fr Peter had been Prior of the original foundation from Kilnacrott Abbey in 1959 and was the leader of the Australian Norbertines until 1985. He then became actively 'retired' from leadership as an assistant priest in the parish of Dianella and in 1991 became the parish Priest of York up to November 1999. He retired back to the Priory at Queens Park at that time.

Peter Columbia (his religious name) O'Reilly was born in Annaclue, County Cavan, Ireland on October 5 1919, and was clothed in the white habit of St Norbert on October 3, 1942, and was professed as a Norbertine on October 8, 1943. He was ordained a priest on July 28, 1946. After serving the community at Kilnacrott as Prior and novice master, he, Fr John Reynolds and Fr Stephen Cooney arrived in Perth to found a community at York on May 11, 1959.

Fr Peter was always interested in the development of St Norbert College, and was instrumental in its foundation, ensuring Norbertine presence through the ministry of Fr Lawrence Anderson O.Praem RIP (1965-1970) and Fr Joseph O'Donohue O.Praem (1965-1974) in the early days of the College. With the advent of lay leadership in the person of Mr Des O'Sullivan, Fr Peter was there to ensure the abiding presence and influence of the Norbertines in the College.

Students provide a guard of honour as Fr Peter O'Reilly commences his final earthly journey.

Fr Peter O'Reilly (right) with Fr John Reynolds in Ireland in 1959, just prior to their departure for Western Australia.

Fr Peter O'Reilly in the 1980s.

Fr Peter O'Reilly was also a particularly practical man. His contribution to the development of the College ranged from dealing with the banking fraternity to make sure that monetary matters were taken care of, to significant involvement in the fundraising projects of 1975 and 1984 and the subsequent building programs. Even more practical was his physical involvement in the actual building insofar as he was able. The sand pads on which Magdeburg, Tongerlo and Xanten blocks are built were constructed from sand carted by truck by Fr Peter from various venues. The main College/Priory entrance drive was built on materials 'carted' by Fr Peter. You can imagine his chagrin when on the day of the blessing of one of the new buildings, when because of the heat, the legs of the chairs of guests started sinking into the bitumen of the drive as guests sat down! In his eulogy at Fr Peter's funeral,

Mr O'Sullivan spoke of a time when Fr Peter had allowed others the 'privilege' to drive the truck with sand. The police had stopped a driver because the load was uncovered and seemingly delivering sand to half of the area. The driver simply said to the policeman that "Fr Peter O'Reilly wants the sand at St Norbert's" – it seems that the mention of Fr Peter's name was supposed to solve all problems. It was for this and his great influence on the life and ethos of the College that the new multi-purpose recreation centre was named the 'Fr Peter O'Reilly Centre' in 1999.

Fr Peter was very much interested in the SNESA Football team and was a great supporter in the early days – and it was interesting to find his honorary life membership badge among his effects after his death. Because of his long association with the College, he was able to remember individuals and families who had been great benefactors of the College. He had a way with him in nearly all aspects of life where it was almost impossible to say 'no' to Fr Peter. He had a way of making each person feel that his or her contribution was essential to the project and that its success depended on your personal 'yes'.

All of this was possible because of Fr Peter's enormous faith in the goodness of God and God's love for his people which it was the ministry of the priest to show to others. The guiding force of all Fr Peter's actions was his simple, yet strong and constant faith that

The Queens Park Norbertine community pictured in the 1970s.

Celebrating Mass during a College camp in the 1970s.

Fr O'Reilly chats with former St Norbert College Principal Mr Des O'Sullivan at the opening ceremony and blessing of the Fr Peter O'Reilly Centre in 1999.

Ready for some hard yakka on the Kerry Downs property in the early 1960s.

he was doing God's work in building up the Kingdom of God. This was the reason for this unbounded energy and confidence.

In retirement at the Priory he was content to participate in community life and prayer. He was often out and about visiting 'old friends' and looking at and enjoying the fruits of his labours. His last official duty as a Norbertine at St Norbert's was his attendance at 'Grandparents and Senior Friends Day' in 2000. He liked the idea of being a senior friend and being feted by the newer students who cared for him so well even though they didn't really know him that well.

A measure of the esteem in which Fr Peter was held was evidenced in the great numbers who attended the Vespers (Evening Prayer) at the Vigil and the Mass of Christian Burial on December 10-11, 2000. Darlene McGoorty (Eckhart), Carl Wieman, Maureen Tavani, Damien Flanagan, Wayne McGoorty, Frank Tillemans and Lee Cherry assisted with the ceremony. It was truly wonderful to see the cross section of people from the life of Fr Peter praying for him and celebrating his ministry as a Norbertine Priest in Western Australia for over forty years. He would have been particularly pleased to see members of staff and past staff members, so many members of the College community gathered in prayer in St Joseph's Church for his Christian farewell. The guard of honour of our present students was a really beautiful gesture to a man who had given so much to the St Norbert College community, but in his quiet faith- filled way only wanted the best Catholic education for our part of Perth for many generations.

The Norbertine community would like to thank all those who offered their support and sympathy on the occasion of Fr Peter O'Reilly's passing to eternal life. It was great to see that the charism of communion, 'Koinonia', community is alive and lived out in the apostolates of the Community.

May Fr Peter O'Reilly's soul rest in peace. Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.

A Very Special Place

Fr Peter O'Reilly's Address on the Occasion of the Opening and Blessing of the Fr Peter O'Reilly Centre – the ORC

St Norbert's is a very special place. Not because of its location, or even its buildings, including this magnificent one. But it is very special, special because of the community who live here, the people who give it a loyalty and are in turn valued for their own inherent goodness.

I speak here of the many people – Norbertines, staff, students, parents and families, who, since the College opened some 33 years ago, have each added in so many ways to the rich tapestry that makes up this place.

While the students and their families, the staff, the Norbertines give St Nobert's its real worth, the buildings, the gardens, and the grounds are a reflection of the quality that lives here. They are a sacrament of that worth, a sign of the striving for growth and excellence, of the dawning reality that is learning, of the growing awareness of the leadership that exists in us all, of the development of skills that help us each contribute to our own personal communities and to a wider society.

I cast my mind back to the time when the College was four classrooms and a canteen sitting in the middle of what was in winter a minor lake. I remember the excitement of the opening of this first building, the sense of accomplishment and the dreams for the future. Each little step forward in those days was fraught with difficulty and not a little financial worry. They were little steps when measured against that we enjoy in the opening of this centre, but each of these steps, like this one, carried its own excitement and its own challenges, many of them seemingly insurmountable at the time.

In looking back I feel a little nostalgic, you know. I remember each of the developments as they occurred and was so excited to be involved in them all. I enjoyed the many working bees, down in the bottom of the dusty drainage ditches, carting sand for the building pads for each of the centres, borrowing a road roller for the new cricket nets and driving it through the middle of Queens Park, clearing out the swamp that is now the tennis courts.

I'm a little sad that I couldn't get into working clobber to help this fantastic centre become a reality, but that's life. You get a little old, become a part of history, and move on. But that, too, has its own excitement. Handing over to a younger generation, full of enthusiasm and new ideas, on top of the new technologies, dedicated to the spirit of St Norbert and embued with the values so evident in the Christian message, is itself an important step in allowing growth to continue.

I welcome this grand addition to the College. How splendid it is and what a fitting crown it is to the capital development of St Norbert's. I'm sure that what takes place in its confines will be a reflection of the search for excellence that is part of all we do.

I congratulate you on its achievement and thank you all for graciously giving it my name. I look upon it as a witness to the many people, who have in the past and will in the future, reflect the Norbertine spirit in which we all help each other be prepared for every good work.

Fr Peter O'Reilly delivers his speech at the official opening and blessing of the ORC in 1999.

The ORC is an integral part of College life – particularly for the members of the Specialised Basketball Program who represent the College as the St Norbert College Canons.

Rest in Peace

MRS MAUREEN LOVELAND

MISS KERRI HILTON

Mrs Maureen Loveland was a much-loved and admired teacher at St Norbert College for many years from 1986 to 2004. As a teacher of English and English as a Second Language, she was devoted to her profession and to her students. Maureen went out of her way to make sure that students knew she cared and she was determined to help them achieve. Many students fondly remember Mrs Loveland's classes and her sense of humour, her laugh and her genuine love and care for them.

Maureen was a proud member of Kilnacrott House and would always be there cheering on her House and her Homeroom. Maureen was a lover of reading and literature. She would make reading exciting and fun. Maureen always supported the College in every way she could. She even played a crew member of a spacecraft in the staff musical production of "Return to the Forbidden Planet".

It was a true delight to see Mrs Loveland working with small groups of students and to watch them develop a love of reading and books. She was a very special person with a very special gift.

Maureen Loveland passed away this year. Her funeral was attended by a number of her ex-students who had beautiful memories of their Homeroom teacher. A number of staff who had worked with Maureen were also there and the memories of a wise, devoted, caring and fun-loving woman were strong among all of them.

Maureen hamming it up in "Return to the Forbidden Planet" alongside Kathy Lovasz in 1989.

Mrs Maureen Loveland (centre) helping out on St Patrick's Day in 2001 with Br Pat and Mrs Margo McLennan.

Maureen with some members of the Class of 2004.

Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day
A BLESSED LIFE

With the exception of the Norbertines, very few people have exerted more of an influence on St Norbert College than Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day. Her association with the College commenced a mere 15 years after its foundation when she accepted a position teaching social studies in her first year out of university, and went on to see her secure various middle-management positions and a stint as Deputy Principal before becoming Principal in 2008 after several years at Catholic Education, Western Australia.
Although Desirée resigned in 2011 after a particularly busy construction phase at the College, she still keeps a close eye on her beloved St Norbert College and all that goes on there. Norbertus was grateful she agreed to answer a few questions about her outstanding career at Treasure Road and beyond.

Norbertus (N): Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day, thank you very much for your time and welcome to *Norbertus*.

Desirée Grzenda-Day (D.G-D.): Thank you for having me. It is an honour to be interviewed for this great publication. I enjoy reading it and catching up on what our former students are doing.

N: You are a member of a very impressive group of long-serving staff members of St Norbert College.

D.G-D.: Yes, I spent altogether some 25 years at the College with a nine-year break in between.

N: Before we examine and get your thoughts about your extensive relationship with the College, could you please give a bit of background about your early life, your family, suburb and schools?

D.G-D.: My parents had a business in Belmont called Eagle Motors. So, our family life revolved around the demands of the business and the fact that my parents were very hard-working and my father was securing a future for us all, but in particular for my brother Ramses and me.

I attended St Joachim's School in Victoria Park for my high school years and my brother attended Trinity College. I loved school although I wouldn't exactly say I had a "quality" education. I did have some great teachers though. I developed a love of history and my history teacher, Mrs Bolding – together with my father who was a great history buff – influenced my decision to become a teacher.

I also loved my sport and music; I learnt the piano for 12 years and learnt initially from Sr Baptist at the convent in Victoria Park. I developed a love of netball under the tutelage of Mrs Joan Aggiss, my phys ed teacher and played netball, ice skating, indoor cricket – and now golf four times a week!

Most girls I went to school with left at Year 10 to go to employment so the number of girls who did complete Year 12 was quite small. I remember that our retreats were done in silence, we did dancing lessons with the boys from Xavier College and I don't remember ever going on an excursion!

I live in South Perth, on the site of my former family home where my husband John and I have built a new house. I am blessed to still have my 87-year-old mother living with us and she is a gem.

Meeting former students in 2011.

1989 staff production of Return to the Forbidden Planet, The Musical: Anne Becker, Desirée, Maria Carbone, Melissa Anthony and Chris O'Donoghue.

N: Apart from Mrs Aggiss and your father's influence, what drew you to a career in education and where did you pursue your tertiary studies?

D.G-D.: As I mentioned, I loved history and English so the decision was easy for me. My mother tells me that I wanted to be a teacher from the age of 10. I attended Nedlands College of Advanced Education (Secondary Teachers College) across the road from the University of Western Australia. Former St Norbert College staff member Chris Reimers was one of my peers in our group. I remember that he was very conscientious. In our break I was on the lawn drinking coffee with our classmates and he was in the library studying. I would eventually work with Chris at SNC. Interestingly, I completed my long-term practicum at St Joachim's. My supervising teacher left and at that time Integrated Studies was the norm. I loved the experience.

N: *Norbertus* hears that from quite a young age you used to go skiing in Europe each Christmas holidays. Is it true you toyed with the idea of becoming a professional skier, or were you more interested in the social side of things, the après ski gatherings and so on?

D.G-D.: That is funny – a professional skier – I don't think so! I did love skiing, although the social side definitely was what took me back year after year to St Ulrich Am Pillersee in Austria. The first time I went was the result of a 21st birthday present from my parents. I think my dad wanted me to see a bit of the world before getting too serious with my boyfriend at the time. It worked, I developed a love of travel and every school holidays, I was off somewhere in the world.

N: Upon completion of your studies in 1979 you secure a position at St Norbert College. How did this come about, and what are some of your memories of your first year or two of teaching – the students, the teachers, the subjects?

D.G-D.: I remember clearly my interview with the Principal Des O'Sullivan. After the interview I thought I hadn't got the position and I was leaving for Fiji to celebrate the end of my four years of study. I was on a Fijian island where the phone could be used once a week on a Sunday. When I rang home my mum had organized for Des O'Sullivan to talk to me and he offered me the position. It was the only job I applied for as I really wanted to teach at SNC.

My first years were hard, a full load of social studies, English and sport and a lot of time in preparation like all beginning teachers. I remember that I had a lot of support from my work colleagues, particularly in the Social Studies Department. Peter Murray was my Head of Department and I worked with dedicated people like Lou Morrison, Paul Andrews, Damien Flanagan, Paul McAllister, Br Patrick and John Pollaers.

The students were friendly, fun and a product of their families, some in "struggle street" who would work hard to give their children a quality education. I enjoyed my classes (maybe more than they did?) and I hope in some little way that I helped them develop a "love of learning".

There are far too many outstanding teachers that I would like to mention and they would forgive me for not mentioning them, however, I must say three people played a big part in my early formation. Kathy Jones (initially Teacher in Charge of Girls) who I truly admired for her no-nonsense approach and her style of teaching. I'm sure your readers who had Kathy as a teacher would know what I mean.

Carole Hayes throughout my time at SNC was encouraging me to develop my leadership skills in such roles as Magdeburg Coordinator, then Head of Department and Deputy Principal. She was always acknowledging the good work of teachers and students. Her time as Deputy Principal and then Principal also enabled me to work closely with her and learn from her. She is sorely missed.

Des O'Sullivan was a saint in my eyes – well he employed me! No seriously he was an intelligent and innovative educator, he genuinely loved our College and took SNC to a new level as a co-educational Catholic College that was respected in the community. He had the admiration

Desirée's principalship was always student-focused.

Lynn Moxham, Desirée and John Pollaers pictured in 1989.

and love of our staff, our students and the parents. He was on the shovel when it was needed, fitting soak-wells on a Saturday morning in our swampy school driveway, dealing with the river on the oval, all the while completing all his Principal duties. He taught me that there is good in all children and what it means to be an educator in a Catholic school.

I would like to mention the "engine room" of SNC. The non-teaching staff were and still are as dedicated as the teaching staff. In my early time Silverry Murphy would take herself to the post office with her umbrella each day. Eileen Wraight solved a million problems for the students who came to her. Eddie McGoorty and later Mark the grounds people always had a smile for staff and students alike. I worked closely with Mollie McPartland, the Principal's Secretary and Enrolment Officer, at various stages. Mollie loved SNC as much as we did and went out of her way to make people welcome and experience SNC as a great place.

Visiting or temporary staff would always comment on how organised SNC was, how welcoming and warm it is, and how friendly. It was because we were all working towards the same goal for the students in our care. I still catch up with my previous colleagues at the St Norbert ladies dinner held twice a term.

Perhaps the most influential in my formation as a Catholic educator were the Norbertine Canons. I taught with both Fr Peter Joseph and Br Patrick. I received holy cards in my pigeon hole from Fr Cusack. I was patted on the head a number of times by Fr O'Reilly. I always asked Fr Stephen Cooney about his Austin A40 (never saw it but it did exist), experienced the gentleness and holiness of Fr John Reynolds and the professional support of the Prior, Fr Peter Joseph, in my leadership role. They were also very supportive in my personal times of need.

N: Norbertus recalls some of the old-timers at the College talking about some of the exotic cars you used to drive in your early years at the school, including a rather vivid Porsche. How did a young teacher manage to arrange that?

D.G-D.: I was born into it! My mother used to take me to school in a 1967 Laurentian Pontiac in primary school. I was so embarrassed that I would ask her to drop me around the corner. My father and then my brother were into American muscle cars – Corvettes and Trans Ams at the time. My father was responsible for my cars; we were in the automotive business so I was spoilt for choice.

N: Of course, nothing in life is free, so *Norbertus* assumes you put in a lot of hours helping your parents with their business as you were growing up.

D.G-D.: Yes, I couldn't tell you how many oil bottles I filled, how many invoices I typed, the number of cars I washed, the workshop floors I swept or the bins emptied. We maintained fleets of vehicles for large companies. My father was also always building so I was hands on there when needed. It gave me a great experience beyond my teaching role.

N: You demonstrate a very professional aptitude for the teaching profession and begin to teach a wider range of subjects and attain some middle management positions. Could you please give our readers a brief overview of your career in the first decade or so at the College? Which of these positions did you prefer?

D.G-D.: After seven years of teaching I took a year off and lived in Germany and travelled throughout Europe. I wasn't guaranteed a position at SNC but I was accepted back on my return. Other than the humanities, I also taught business studies and accounting. As I had a bus licence, I spent each Tuesday at ACC Sport. I had a wonderful netball team which I coached for the five years and remember those girls fondly. I even played with them once they left school.
Together with Paul McAllister I edited *Koinonia* for maybe 10 years or so. When we started, we had to physically

Desirée and St Norbert College's 2012 new Principal, Annette Morey.

Morning tea and a chat in the staffroom during Desirée's first year of teaching in 1980.

paste every line of text. Paul took and developed all the photos and – on reflection – it was a huge and time-consuming project for full-time teachers.
I have mentioned my roles with reference to the encouragement given by Carole. I don't think I preferred any particular role; I was also always studying and this was fueling my progression within the school. As Deputy Principal I kept my precious history class until you came along and took it from me!

N: Sorry about that! After several years as Deputy, you successfully apply to become the Coordinator of Secondary Curriculum and Teaching at Catholic Education Western Australia. What prompted this decision and how satisfying was this new direction in your career?

D.G-D.: I needed a new challenge, I needed to learn more if I was ever to be a Principal which was actually not a primary goal of mine. Schools are dynamic places, I was out of my comfort zone at the CEO which was good. I learnt a lot in the nine years, firstly in the above role in an extreme time of educational change. Then as Coordinator of the Executive Secretariat working with the Director Therese Temby followed by Ron Dullard and finally as Coordinator of Research and Innovation.
I was on a huge learning curve, I had the opportunity to visit all Catholic schools in the State and beyond to the eastern shores. I spent a very formative time in Toronto with Barry Bennett from OISIE which challenged my understandings about contemporary schools and quality teaching. I worked with leaders of Catholic schools and with government agencies. It was a great foundation for a return to SNC.

N: Is it true you had been so indoctrinated and accustomed to the Norbertine influence in your life, that when you led a prayer session at CEWA you would always finish with a St Norbert blessing?

D.G-D.: Absolutely! We needed St Norbert to pray for us.

N: You met new people and were exposed to new ideas at CEWA, and experienced a wide range of new educational contexts when you travelled extensively to a lot of schools. What impact did this have on your outlook as a leader in Catholic education in Western Australia, and to what extent did it help you prepare for the role of Principal at St Norbert College?

D.G-D.: I initially came back to SNC for a six-month appointment before the Principal's role was advertised. I still had a five-year contract with CEWA. I had nine years of experience in a variety of contexts and roles however the opportunity to return to SNC was a blessing for me. It also meant that I had a clear vision of how SNC could develop in the next chapter both pedagogically and as a contemporary 21st century learning environment. The industrial model of schooling did not suit our students.

N: *Norbertus* assumes you would have been fairly comfortable in your position at CEWA. Why did you apply to become the Principal of St Norbert College?

D.G-D.: I don't know about comfortable, we also had portfolios and goals that needed to be achieved in CEWA. After my six-month acting role, it became apparent that I missed the vibe of school life. I had the skills and knowledge to take SNC to the next stage. I always needed to be challenged and I essentially loved the SNC community.

N: How did you feel when you received the news that you had been successful?

D.G-D.: Elated and aware of the challenge. I had a great Leadership Team: Donald Nield, Franca Coutts and Sharon Rainford and again the support of the Prior, so it was a team effort.

N: What challenges did this position bring? The Kevin Rudd pledge to have 1:1 lap-tops plus the school building program to combat the global financial crisis must have added significantly to your workload.

D.G-D.: It was bigger than I could have imagined. The transition of Year 7 to high school needed to be fast-tracked by one year because of falling enrolments from

1987 Koinonia: Desirée on a history excursion in Kalgoorlie.

Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day in 2011, during her time as Principal of St Norbert College.

Fr Peter Joseph, Desirée's mother Vera, Carole Hayes and Desirée.

our Catholic primary schools. As for the laptops, we had two options – I had visions of laptops belonging to the College being ferried around the school on trolleys and potential disaster. Anyway, why should SNC children not have a laptop if children in other schools had them? I did have a few sleepless nights however our College Management Advisory Board and the parent community were 100% behind our decision.

N: What buildings were constructed during your time at the College?

D.G-D.: Many! The previous Principal with the Management Advisory Board had put in place a plan for renovation of the science labs and the administration area in my first year. The College administration was based in the Priory for that time. It was very pleasant time, not sure for the Norbertines, though! Maybe check with Fr Peter.
We committed to the Br Patrick Doolan Learning Centre, a contemporary open plan educational centre, connected learning spaces with an extension to the library and a designated reading room. The canteen was moved to accommodate much needed office space, and the surrounding area redesigned to accommodate students for lunch and recreation. The BBQ area behind the O'Reilly Centre, the lunch area outside the same venue, the lunch area between Tongerlo, Magdeburg and Xanten. It was a busy but productive time.

An opportunity presented us with an application to have either a science centre or language centre built. Very competitive, as it included schools across Australia. We picked a language centre and our application was successful! It became like the Br Patrick Centre – a hub for exams (extra sound proofing in the ceiling), art exhibitions, language classes, it made cooking of ethnic foods possible and so on. I wonder now if users of the area realise that the map of the world was created in the laying of the carpet.

N: *Norbertus* recalls a certain staff member winning a competition to name the new canteen who is still waiting to receive his prize! Plus, the map of the world is a bit of a stretch of the imagination! It was an amazing era in the College's history when you achieved so much though! What were some of the good times and rewards you experienced during your time as Principal?

D.G-D.: Leaving my office and going into the yard and a student offering me a chip! Seriously that was my "ah ha" moment as to why I loved being at school on my return. I think like all teachers our special moments are related to our student achievements, which there were many. Assemblies where students received acknowledgement, graduation is a very emotional community-shared pride, Presentation Night, sport events, the Christian Service Learning students returning from their service. Sometimes it is after the fact, when students leave school, and you hear through the SNC grapevine of their achievements.

N: In fact, all your hard work was recognised in 2010 when you were awarded the Br Patrick Doolan Award for all your outstanding achievements for the College.

D.G-D.: Yes, I didn't see that coming at all. In fact, I could have given you a number of names of people who were equally deserving of such an honour. I still appreciate that it was a special recognition of my work and, in importance to me, sits well above completing my degrees and such.

N: And some of the difficulties and challenges?

D.G-D.: They come with the role. I had such supportive SNC members along the way. Fr Peter especially, the College Leadership Team, the Management Advisory Board under Bernie Kerwin's leadership, the Parent Committee under Peter Palermo's leadership and the staff in general.

N: How supportive was the staff during this very busy time?

D.G-D.: They would be better positioned to answer. I can only say despite some challenging circumstances and the ongoing dynamics of the school environment, I personally felt very supported.

N: *Norbertus* recalls that your time as Principal coincided with the publication of a satirical staff magazine edited by Stacey Fairhead called The Blackboard. You were

2010 opening and blessing of the new buildings that were constructed during Desirée's principalship: Fr Peter Joseph, St Norbert College alumnus and Principal of Scotch Mr Alec O'Connell, Desirée and Lucy Mancini.

Catching up with some colleagues and former colleagues.

going through a Mercedes phase at that stage as far as *Norbertus* recalls and your car featured in the magazine with the number plate "$$$$$$". Did you enjoy reading that publication?

D.G-D.: Well I'm still waiting for the $$$$$ promised by The Blackboard. Did I miss something? There must be interest accruing. Need to contact Stacey Fairhead.

N: After four years in the top job you decide to step down from your position to have some time off. Could you comment on this decision? What did you do?

D.G-D.: I was stuck between and a rock and a hard place. I loved my role, I always loved St Norbert's, however my father died, I had the family businesses to deal with and wind up, plus the 100% commitment I needed to give to SNC and I didn't have enough hours in the day. My husband John told me that I needed a reality check. He helped me do that. SNC needed a person with the time and commitment. I reluctantly tendered my resignation.

N: The following year you find yourself back in education, this time as a teacher at the University of Notre Dame in Fremantle. How did this come about and how did you enjoy the role?

D.G-D.: Michael O'Neill, the Head of the School of Education, asked me to teach some classes. God at work I think, it was a perfect transition for me. I shared my love of teaching, my experience in how to love and help children in crisis, how to develop high educational standards and how to love this wonderful career. I met some incredible young people, including some ex-SNC students. The future of teaching is in safe hands.

N: Many of our readers would be familiar with your outstanding contribution to St Norbert College in a variety of roles and capacities but would you care to share some of your other interests and pursuits, especially what you have been up to lately? Have you done any overseas travel, or house renovations for instance? Family?

D.G-D.: Well COVID put a stop to the travel this year although in September John and I joined True North for 10 nights and explored Rowley Shoals and the Kimberley. It is a very special part of the world and reminded me very much of my years at school with children from the Kimberley at St Joachim's, and teaching the children from there at SNC. A special moment was at Cockatoo Island when I met the very talented Steven Pigrim (Trinity College Class of 1976 alumnus) who remembered fondly my brother in his class.
The blessings other than John in my life are the grandchildren: Jayde (nearly 21) talented, and making efforts to study; Amy, 11, a champion swimmer; Lexi, 7, and losing teeth but not her quirky sense of humour; Summer, 5, a bug lover; and her brother Harvey, 3, the superhero. All blessings to my life with John.

N: Looking back on your association with St Norbert College, what are some of your favorite memories?

D.G-D.: Too many. I am blessed that the Norbertines and St Norbert College employed me initially and defined my faith and my values; I found my home. They taught me the importance of caring for others, I developed lifelong friends, I developed my own sense of what is important for family. I was blessed to be a teacher at SNC.

N: No doubt you have bumped into many ex-students you taught over the years in a variety of contexts. How rewarding has this been for you?

D.G-D.: Very! We can never underestimate the capabilities of our young people. It makes me so proud when young people reach their potential. It also makes me realise how old I am!

N: Desirée, congratulations on your magnificent contribution to St Norbert College and Catholic education in Western Australia and thank you very much for taking the time to talk to *Norbertus*. Best wishes to you and all your family

D.G-D.: A pleasure and thank you for asking me.

Fr Peter Joseph, Diana Tersigni, Desirée and Br Patrick.

Some present and former staff members enjoyed dinner at Desirée's home earlier this year. Seated: Desirée with pet Daisy, Sharon Rainford, Debbie Pascoe and Lyndsey Cardenia. Standing: Tatia Sly, Jenneth Stibi, Marriann O'Neill, Mollie McPartland, Kym Chegwidden, Maureen Smith, Katherine Branchi, Samantha Mark, Jen Jansen, Maureen Tavani and Deidre Fleming.

Norbertus 10 YEARS AGO

Ten years ago, Issue 15 of *Norbertus* was the first issue to be published electronically and made available via the St Norbert College website. Printed copies were also available but they were eventually phased out when, in 2016, Issue 27 was only available to alumni who registered to receive an emailed copy, or via a link on the College website. Today a link is also published on the College Facebook page.

In Issue 15, Principal Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day was pleased to report that the College's recent building program was finalised with the completion of the Cappenburg Language Centre and the Floreffe Trade Training Centre, with the latter ready to open its doors to students from St Norbert College and several other schools in late January, 2011. St Norbert College students participating in school-based plumbing and painting and decorating pre-apprenticeship programs would benefit greatly from the opening of the centre and be assisted enormously in their successful transition from school to the world of work.

The College's 1:1 laptop program also featured in this issue with an article pointing out that students in Years 7 to 11 would be issued with a MacBook device in readiness for the 2011 academic year. The program would enable St Norbert College students to "have every educational advantage to empower them for the digital future – anywhere, anytime and any way". Pens and pencils were not being made redundant, however, as "hand-written work will continue to be a critical and highly valued part of the students' education at the College".

Other stories and events covered include: students Brandon Ovens (Class of 2011) and Donna Dumas (Class of 2011) attending the Governor's Prayer Breakfast at the Grand Ballroom, Burswood; a visit by local community police officers to speak to the Year 7s; the College's participation in the St Vincent de Paul Society's Christmas Hamper Appeal; Language Week with Italian and Japanese foods, movies and activities including a spaghetti eating competition using chopsticks; SNESA President Mr Nick Rynne (Class of 2004) announcing the club would be introducing a women's team, and; Year

Principal Desirée Grzenda-Day, winner of the Br Partick Doolan Medal.

Year 9 student Mehdi Nawa's essay on the ANZAC spirit was rewarded with a place on the Premier's ANZAC Student Tour to Greece.

The St Norbert College 1:1 laptop program was finalised and unveiled.

Norbertus 10 YEARS AGO

9 Proxime Accessit, Mehdi Nawa (Class of 2013), who successfully entered an essay writing competition to win a trip to Greece in 2011 as part of the Premier's ANZAC Student Tour.

Mehdi's win was remarkable because – as Premier Colin Barnett said in his media release – "Year 9 student Medhi Nawa from St Norbert College in Cannington is a brilliant example of a young Western Australian deeply interested in the history of our country and the impact of the ANZACS. Mehdi first came to WA in 2003 as a refugee from Afghanistan and he could not speak English. Since then he has studied hard, participated in a wide range of activities, made strong friendships and adopted to the Australian way of life. His essay looked at the sacrifice and courage of the ANZACs who fought the Germans in Greece ... and ended on a very personal note – acknowledging the ongoing efforts of the Australian soldiers in Afghanistan now." This issue of *Norbertus* includes a story on Medhi on page 20.

Mrs Grzenda-Day was the recipient of the Br Patrick Doolan Medal which is awarded to a member of staff who most exemplifies the College motto of "Prepared for all Good Works". In her column Mrs Grzenda-Day expressed her honour and thanks in receiving the award, recognised the outstanding dedication and contribution of Br Pat, and also thanked Mrs Maureen Tavani, whose "contribution to St Norbert College as an administrator, teacher, editor of Norbertus and community relations officer has always been enthusiastically driven by her undying spirit and enthusiasm for all things Norbertine".

An interview with Mrs Grzenda-Day appears on page 12 of this issue.

The Floreffe Trade Training Centre and the Cappenburg Language Centre were completed in 2010.

Cappenburg Language Centre.

Issue 15 of Norbertus, December 2010.

SNESA announced plans to add a women's team to the club.

Mehdi Nawa
A SECOND CHANCE IN LIFE

Mehdi Nawa (Class of 2013) had a different childhood to that of most St Norbert College students. When the Taliban started their reign of terror in large parts of Mehdi's native country Afghanistan, his father's life was threatened because he was a former member of the Afghanistan army. His father fled the country and Mehdi and his mother and siblings departed shortly after. After a long and hazardous journey to Australia, including stints in the Christmas Island and Nauru detention centres, the family was finally reunited in Australia in 2000 after five long years of separation. Mehdi could not read and write in his mother tongue and could not speak English when he started school in Australia, but worked incredibly hard to reach his academic potential, as illustrated by his winning submission in the 2010 Premier's Award ANZAC essay writing competition.
Having completed a degree in politics and international relations, Mehdi is currently studying law and volunteering in a range of community organisations, and recently spoke to Norbertus during a break from his studies.

Norbertus (N): Mehdi Nawa, thank you for your time and welcome to *Norbertus*.

Mehdi Nawa (M.N.): No worries at all and thank you for having me in *Norbertus*. I want to extend my warm greetings to all the past and present staff members at St Norbert College, as well as all the students.

N: You graduated from St Norbert College in 2013 and, as such, you are only in your mid-twenties, so Norbertus is pleased to inform you that you are one of the youngest alumni to grace the pages of this publication!

M.N.: Thank you. I'm honoured. It means a lot to be reconnected with my high school after so many years. It's great to know that St Norbert's is keeping in touch with their alumni and I hope more young alumni appear in this publication.

N: The reason *Norbertus* got in touch with you is that some of this issue looks back to 2010 to see what the College was like then, and it was in that year –as a Year 9 student – that you brought honour to St Norbert College by winning a position on the Premier's Award tour to Greece for an essay you wrote about the ANZAC spirit. This was made all the more remarkable by the fact that 10 years before your won this award you were a refugee in a detention camp on Nauru, unable to read or write English. That is quite a story and quite an achievement, congratulations.

M.N.: Thank you very much. It would not have been possible without the support of my teachers Mr Stewart, Mrs Silva and Miss Hilton. They were very passionate, and encouraged us to apply for these competitions. It demonstrates how impactful teachers can be in assisting students realise their potential and in fostering a growth mindset – where consistent effort can lead to awesome results.

N: *Norbertus* has seen first-hand the dedicated effort the teachers of St Norbert's put in, so it's great to see success achieved by students such as yourself. Before we discuss that in more depth later on, which House and Homeroom were you in during your time at the College?

Mehdi is currently studying a post-graduate law degree at the University of Western Australia.

M.N.: I was in Kilnacrott House and originally had Mrs Stacey Jones as Homeroom teacher, then Mr Roger D'Almeida.

N: Going back to your early years, you were born in Afghanistan but your family left there when you were young. Can you remember anything about life there?

M.N.: My family left Afghanistan around the mid-1990s. I was very young and don't have any clear memory of our life in Afghanistan. We are from the province of Ghazni, and our village is situated in the Ghazni's district of Jaghori.

N: Why, how and when did your family come to be in Australia? Did you remain together at all times, or were there periods of separation?

M.N.: The decades of war in Afghanistan and the emergence of the radical terrorist group, the Taliban, in the 1990s caused widespread instability in our province. Being members of the Hazara ethnic group made our family targets for the Taliban, who conducted widespread massacres against the Hazaras. The conflict and massacres caused a massive exodus of Afghan refugees to neighbouring countries and abroad. My father had been a soldier who fought against the Taliban. Once it was clear that the Taliban would consolidate all of Afghanistan, he had to quickly leave the country as he would face harsh repercussions. My mother, brother and myself left shortly after and we made our way to Australia around the year 2000. We had to live in the Christmas Island and Nauru detention centres while we waited for our asylum application to be processed.

N: When did you see your father again?

M.N.: Fortunately, our application was accepted and we were reunited with my father towards the end of 2002. Upon arrival, I did not recognise him because it had been five years since I last saw him.

N: What do you personally remember about the journey and the detention centres?

M.N.: I have a lot of memories of my time in the detention centres. Being a young energetic kid, I spent most of my time playing with the other kids – playing all sorts of games to kill time. I remember the large swarms of Christmas Island crabs that would plague the whole island and how frenzied the kids would get. For the adults, it was a different world – marked with despair, confusion, stress and nervousness. The Howard government was adamant in rejecting asylum seekers so many families faced a lot of uncertainty. My family was very lucky as we were one of the first to be accepted, while the majority stayed for a couple more years before acceptance and many others were rejected.

N: What happened when you arrived? How did you settle into life in Australia?

M.N.: I attended Highgate Primary School's Intensive English Centre for a year before moving to a mainstream school in Woodlands. Living in Australia was so much different to living in Afghanistan – fortunately we had some Australian friends who assisted us. The local church and refugee support NGOs such as CARAD were also very welcoming and had donated goods such as furniture. My dad had a job working as a stone mason, where he designed and fitted kitchens bench tops.

N: What was it like starting school trying to use a second language?

M.N.: I never had the opportunity to read and write in my first language. I struggled in class and very often needed support from my teacher. I didn't make any friends in the first year of mainstream school because I struggled to understand my peers. The Aussie slang and pop culture references made conversations even more confusing.

Laying a wreath in Greece.

N: How did you come to be enrolled at St Norbert College, and how well did you settle in?

M.N.: My long-time family friend had recommended that I enroll at St Norbert College. Initially, I was a little skeptical because I came from a non-Catholic background and I thought I would not assimilate. I had this misconception that I would spend half of the day doing Bible classes. I settled in remarkably well, however, and found the College to be very welcoming. I took many extra-curricular activities such as athletics, cross country, art club and inter-school soccer, and really enjoyed activities such as playing dodgeball in phys ed class.

N: What were some of your happy, memorable or significant experiences at St Norbert College?

M.N.: I was always a sports enthusiast and enjoyed the competition and social sports at St Norbert's. My favourite memory was when I finally achieved Champion Boy in both cross country and athletics in my final year of school. This was because in all the previous years I had always come second or third. It was such a relief to finally achieve my goal.

N: Did you have any favourite subjects during your time at St Norbert College?

M.N.: I really excelled and enjoyed the humanities subjects such as society and environment, and history. I also enjoyed art and woodwork, as they allowed me to be creative.

N: What about your teachers? Do any stand out in your memory?

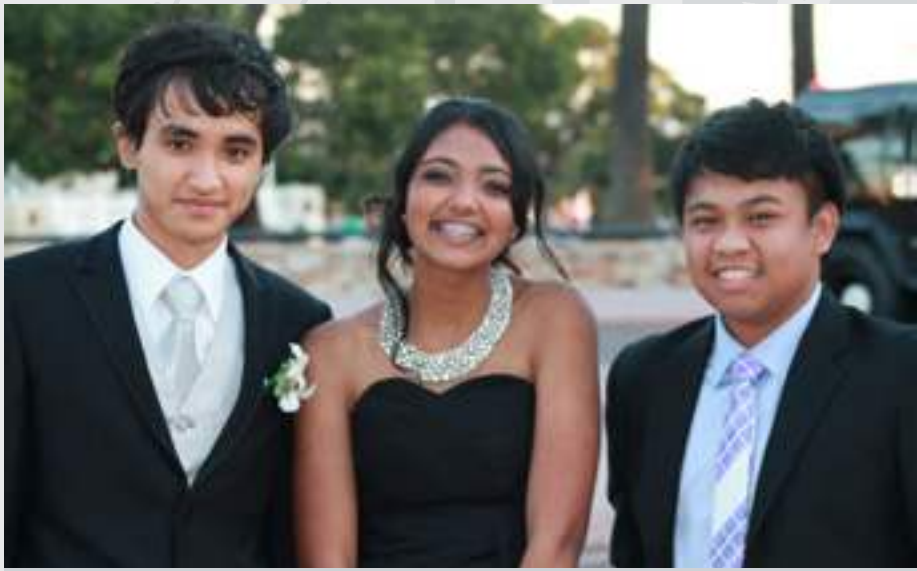
M.N.: My favourite teacher was my humanities teacher, Mr Paul Stewart. He was very passionate and knowledgeable about the world's issues. He would always encourage his students and make them realise their potential. I also enjoyed Miss Fairhead's chemistry classes. Miss Fairhead was very fond of her students and made learning very enjoyable. I also admired my drama teacher Miss Kerri Hilton. She puts a lot of effort into her work and has fiery passion for her subject. She always made drama lessons entertaining and knew how to make the class roar with laughter. I want to wholeheartedly thank all of my teachers for the way they contribute towards positive change in our lives.

N: As mentioned earlier, winning the Premier's Award when you were in Year 9 was a great achievement. What did that mean to you and to what extent were you touched by the ANZAC legacy you wrote about?

M.N.: I was really shocked when I won the Premier's ANZAC Award. It was the first time I had won anything academic. It made me realise my potential and that hard work would trump talent. The award was a great opportunity to commemorate the sacrifice ANZAC soldiers had made in their efforts to defend their Greek allies during the Second World War. It was also about fostering Australia's ties with the Greece and the impact the war had in fostering a vibrant Greek community in Australia. The ANZAC campaign in Greece draws many parallels to the ANZACs of today in liberating Afghanistan from the Taliban.

N: If you could sum up your time at St Norbert College in a handful of words, what would you say?

M.N.: My time at SNC was memorable and welcoming. The teachers are very helpful and passionate in their work – they always encouraged their students and made them realise their potential. I liked how the school offered an array of extracurricular activities and competitions that catered to the interests of many students.



Mehdi at the 2013 St Norbert College Ball.

The Premier's Award ANZAC tour.

N: Could you please give our readers an overview of your studies since you left St Norbert College? What you are doing now?

M.N.: I enjoyed history and the humanities during my time at SNC. It helped me pursue an undergraduate degree in political science and international relations. I am currently in my second year of doing the Juris Doctor (post-graduate law degree) at the University of Western Australia.

N: Well done, Mehdi, that's excellent. *Norbertus* hears that you also give a lot back to the community by doing volunteer work.

M.N.: I have been heavily involved with Oxfam as a community organiser and advocate for about three years at UWA. Oxfam is focused on alleviating poverty and promoting social justice. I have been involved in Oxfam's campaigns involving refugee rights, fair trade, indigenous health inequality (Closing the Gap) and international women's rights. It has been a wonderful experience raising awareness and funding for critical issues in our local and global community. I'm really hoping that upon graduation I could work as a human rights lawyer or continue working in the NGO sector helping to tackle critical issues that exist in our society.

N: Sounds like you are quite the busy young man. Do you have any sporting pursuits or other pastimes?

M.N.: I still enjoy playing tennis and have been a long-term member at my local tennis club. I enjoy the complexity of the sport and the rigorous training it requires.

N: How would you sum up your and your family's experience in Australia to date?

M.N.: I am very grateful towards Australia for providing my family a second chance in life. We had lost everything and had nothing to live for. Australia provided us many opportunities such as an education, security, peace and prosperity. We should never take these benefits for granted. We are all very lucky to have them.

N: Beautifully put, Mehdi. *Norbertus* thinks that a story such as yours should serve as a reminder of how good we have it in Australia. Congratulations on all your hard work and successes to date, and best wishes for a long and successful career which will hopefully give you a lot of satisfaction and also help a lot of people.

M.N.: Thank you very much. It's been a pleasure.

N: Perhaps in a couple of years you might be able to come back to the College and share your story and insights with our students. The offer will always be there if you have the time.

M.N.: I would love to do that. As I said, warm regards to all St Norbert staff and students, and the broader St Norbert College community.

A village in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan.

Mehdi Nawa in Year 9 in 2010 (rear, centre) with members of Mrs Stacey Jones' Kilnacrott Homeroom.

CLASS OF 2010 Reunion

The Camfield
21 November 2020

Class of 2010 Alumnus Remembered

Mrs Denise and Mr Phil Rigg visited St Norbert College on September 24 this year as special guests at the Kilnacrott House assembly where the Stephen Rigg Trophy, named in memory of their son Stephen (Class of 2010), who passed away in early 2011, was presented to K3 Homeroom. The Riggs are pictured with K3 Homeroom member Rohan Jones who accepted the award on behalf of his classmates.

Emmet Forrester and Donna Yovich.

Jessie Louis and Oscar McCulloch.

Lucy Wallis (nee Mancini), Zoie Scott (nee Smith) and Caitlin Smith.

Oliver Hockin, Oscar McCulloch, Mitchell Gard, Allen Dyke, Shannon Robertson and Mitchell Cippriano.

2010 Reunion

Meredith Aguero, Oliver Hockin and Tim Aguero.

Tim Aguero and Ronald Chamboko.

Monica Bongiorno (nee Godwin), Alyssa Wallwork and Jasmin Lilly.

Oscar McCulloch and Nicholas Whelan.

2010 Reunion

Donna Yovich, Lucy Wallis (nee Mancini), Zoie Scott (nee Smith), Caitlin Smith and Jasmin Lilly.

Mitchell Cippriano, Blake Verren, Brayden Fakhoury and Brandon Nicholas.

Daniel Raschilla, Blake Verren and Oscar McCulloch.

Allen Dyke, Nini Savann and Mitchell Read

Tim and Meredith Aguero, and Rebecca Williams.

2000

St Norbert College

Principal Mr Peter Hayes.

Fr Augustine Heron pictured at a special Mass held to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood.

2000 Head Boy, Daniel East and Head Girl, Andrea Pontré.

Student Representative Council President Angela Sherlock.

PRIOR: Fr Peter Stiglich O. Praem
PRINCIPAL: Mr Peter Hayes
DEPUTY PRINCIPALS:

- LEARNING: Mr John Bird
- MIDDLE SCHOOL: Mr Robert Henderson
- SENIOR SCHOOL: Ms Jenneth Stibi

ST NORBERT COLLEGE DEVELOPMENTS AND INNOVATIONS:

- Several working parties were established to focus on improving student learning outcomes
- The Talented and Gifted program was extended to include Year 9 students
- The College becomes one of only two schools in WA to engage in the Virtual School for the Gifted program which uses leading computer technology
- The inaugural Creative Arts Exhibition was held in the O'Reilly Centre
- New photography facilities including a new darkroom were commissioned
- A new music learning area was opened
- The swimming pool underwent a significant upgrade including shaded seating for 150 students
- The St Norbert College Fair 2000 raises $8000 to go towards air-conditioning student learning areas

ST NORBERT COLLEGE MILESTONES:

- Fr Augustine Heron celebrates his fortieth anniversary of priestly ordination in June
- College Principal, Mr Peter Hayes, is awarded a Churchill Scholarship in July to study service learning programs in the USA
- A Jubilee Family Mass was held in St Joseph's Church on August 13.

HEADS of DEPARTMENTS:

- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Mr David Byrne
- ENGLISH & LANGUAGES: Mr Anthony Byrne (Semester 1), Ms Jennifer Jansen (Semester 2)
- MATHEMATICS: Mrs Sue Dyer
- SCIENCE: Mrs Jennifer Oaten
- SOCIETY & ENVIRONMENT: Mr Chris Reimers, Mr Damien Flanagan (Acting Term 1)
- CREATIVE ARTS: Mr Brian Rogan
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Ms Lynn Moxham

Graduation Night.

Year 11 and 12 river cruise.

After 22 years of dedicated service to St Norbert College, Mr Damien Flanagan moved to Emmanuel Catholic College.

HOUSE COORDINATORS:

- KILNACROTT: Miss Marriann O'Neill, Mr Damien Flanagan (Acting Term 4)
- MAGDEBURG: Ms Maria Leone
- PRÉMONTRÉ: Mr Simon Harvey
- TONGERLO: Ms Megan Wride
- XANTEN: Mrs Tricia Van Nus, Mr Damien Flanagan (Acting Term 3)

ST NORBERT COLLEGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD: Fr Peter Joseph Stiglich O. Praem, Br Partick Doolan O. Praem, Mr Peter Hayes, Mr Robert Henderson, Mr Michael Papali, Mrs Gay Dyer, Mr Chris Webster, Mr Carl Wieman, Mr Robert Tavani and Mr Peter Correia

St NORBERT COLLEGE PARENTS & FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION: Mr Keith George (President), Mr Albert Raphael (Vice President), Mrs Cathy Salvia (Secretary), Mr Ian White (Treasurer) and committee members Mr Stirling Dawkins, Mrs Jennifer George, Mrs Olga Hayley, Mrs Carmen Millen, Mrs Barbara Monaghan, Mrs Tecla Pontré, Mrs Jan Sheridan and Mrs Gloria White, and volunteers Mrs Patti Rangitoheriri, Mrs Michelle Wheaton, Mrs Jennifer George and Mrs Mavis Carruthers who oversee:

- Providing morning tea and organising a Parents & Friends' display board at the College Open Day
- Social and fundraising occasions including a Mother's Day breakfast, an evening at Mulberry Farm and a sausage sizzle set up outside FAL in Canning Vale
- The organisation and running of the successful Fair 2000
- The delivery of talks to assist parents such as a drug information night and a seminar by Ian Lillico on the subject of boys' learning

ENROLMENT: 732 students

HEAD BOY: Daniel East

HEAD GIRL: Andrea Pontré

DUX: Sylvn Ryan

PARENTS & FRIENDS' LEADERSHIP AWARD: Tara Ratnayake

PRINCIPAL'S MEDALLIONS: Andrea Pontré and Angela Sherlock

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL: Angela Sherlock (President), Tara Ratnayaka (Vice President), Andrea Pontré (Secretary), Sandy Nutt (Treasurer) and 31 SRC members who:

- Participate in a three-day planning camp in February
- Encourage friendship by organising Rose Day on February14
- Help organise river cruises, socials and the Year 11 and 12 St Norbert College Ball at the Hyatt Regency, Perth
- Fundraise for an Ethiopian Catholic school affected by floods with casual dress days, a 3-on-3 basketball competition and hot dog days

HOUSE CAPTAINS:

- KILNACROTT: Ryan Gielingh, Kylie Cooper, Narelle Nieman and Bryan De Rozario
- MAGDEBURG: Simon Janiec, Rayne Grant, Jessica Palermo and Christopher Arrow
- PRÉMONTRÉ: Ryan Lowther, Karen Taylor, Melissa Scricca and Lester D'Silva
- TONGERLO: Matthew Degois, Allison Williams, Patrice Berthold and Daniel East
- XANTEN: Shane McDermott, Rita Caltanissetta and Beau Tann

WINNERS OF SPORTS CARNIVALS:

- SWIMMING: Magdeburg
- ATHLETICS: Magdeburg

CHAMPION HOUSE AWARD: Magdeburg

2000 ST NORBERT COLLEGE

students and staff

St Norbert College

STUDENTS FROM 2000

JESSICA CAYOUN
A busy but Connected Life

***Norbertus* (*N*):** Welcome to *Norbertus*, Jessica and thank you for your time. Can you believe that it's been 20 years since you left St Norbert College?

Jessica Cayoun (J.C.): Definitely not. But this has not been a normal year!

N: You enrolled as a Year 8 student in 1996 and graduated in 2000. What were some of the happy, memorable or significant experiences during your five years at St Norbert College?

J.C.: The music program which started when I was in Year 8 at St Norbert's, I think. There was a huge range of talent and musical experience which made for hilarious sessions trying to get just one "groove" or composition played in time, in tune, and in unison. Needing to suddenly go to music lessons in the middle of a class was one of the perks of doing music, too. More perks included performing at school events, competitions and hanging at the old music house. And being the student of an actual composer and performer, Mr Mondia.

N: Yes indeed, Nunzio Mondia was a very talented musician who even used to join tours of international bands and singers when they came to Australia. Any other memories?

J.C.: Being a student who caught the train to and from school until we were old enough to have friends that could drive, St Norbert's and the train are forever forged together in my mind. I have vivid memories of feeling independent and free, of the fun walks through St Joseph's to and from the train station each day, of being watched warily by teachers who caught the train, and running so you didn't have to catch the "late train".

N: Usually when *Norbertus* interviews alumni, the Year 10 survival camp invariably cracks a mention. Same for you?

J.C.: Yes, the Year 10 camp is probably top of everyone's list. Conquering the abseiling and star jump was terrifying and somewhat of a formative experience; I am no thrill seeker and that greatly strengthened my resolve! Icy Creek and drying our drenched shoes by the fire, and the teachers losing their patience with our hyped-up silliness at Nanga Bush Camp were also memorable.

N: Do you still keep in touch with any of the friends you made at St Norbert College?

J.C.: Actually, most of my closest friends are those I made at St Norbert College and the friends I made in Years 10 to 12 are some of my most cherished. These friendships even spanned continents. I moved to London in 2007 and lived or travelled with other Class of 2000 members including Cathy Puga, Luke Wheaton, Ross Milbrandt, Ryan Hook, Simon Janiec, Steve Bennett and Steve Totaro. As the years have passed, many of our siblings, friends of friends and partners from St Norbert's became part of a wide circle. And now all our kids are growing up together! There is nothing like reminiscing about our St Norbert's days and all pitching in to recall the details of something. People I meet in life are always struck by how my friends are so "connected"!

N: That is fantastic, Jessica. *Norbertus* recalls the Class of 2000 being a particularly close-knit group, so it's good to hear you have all stuck together over the years, and around the globe. And what about your favourite subjects and teachers?

Jessica Cayoun and Wineti Wano.

In 2000, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veteran Mr Reg Bandy addressed the St Norbert College Year 12 history class. Jessica is pictured immediately to the right of Mr Bandy.

J.C.: I loved the humanities – English literature and history. I built a strong foundation in, and passion for, reading, writing, analysing and constructing an argument through these two subjects. My favourite teacher was Mr Mulligan.

N: *Norbertus* is familiar with that bloke.

J.C.: I'm sure I'm not alone. Everyone has Mr Mulligan memories! Ours was a tumultuous relationship with highs and lows but you are a talented teacher who left a lasting impression. You taught me many things about America between the wars, the Russian Revolution, inflation… but more than that, you took your job and your role in our lives seriously. This brought me great amusement as an adolescent, but great admiration now as an adult.

N: That is very kind of you to say, Jessica. Did you have a particular subject or a particular year or time period which helped you decide on your career path after leaving school?

J.C.: School didn't really determine my eventual career path but it did certainly crystalise my desire to go to university and get a bachelor degree.

N: Could you please give an overview of your studies and career path after you left St Norbert College?

J.C.: The year after school finished I started a four-year Bachelor degree in Human Communication Science at Curtin University. Since graduating I've practised as a speech pathologist. I worked in the Southwest before embarking on a European/Middle East/North African adventure that lasted two years and spanned many countries.

N: Two years? Quite the adventure. Do you mind if *Norbertus* asks how you funded your travels?

J.C.: While I was overseas I was based in London and Belfast, working as a speech pathologist in a number of specialist roles for which I was completely underqualified, but forced me to learn quickly! I returned to Perth in 2009, and since then I've worked in community health and private practice, helping children with speech and language delays or disorders, stuttering, autism, and motor speech disorders and their families. I've been with the WA Health Department for over 10 years, working across much of the metro area in varied roles including clinical speech pathology, management and supervision, research and evaluation and service development.

N: That is quite an impressive CV, Jessica. What does your current role specifically entail?

J.C.: I'm currently working in the service development arm of the Child Development Service. We are responsible for developing and evaluating programs that improve services for children and families, and at the moment I'm working on a project that's going to change the way we help children with complex developmental issues. Project work involves lots of stakeholder consultation, data analysis and report writing. I also provide therapy for kids privately on a Saturday.

N: It sounds as though your work is very important to you and you really enjoy the variety and challenges it provides.

J.C.: I love my job. There are constantly new challenges, different areas to work in, and consistent demand for our service. And of course, helping people is very fulfilling.

N: And what about life away from work, Jessica? You have a young family yourself, don't you?

J.C.: Yes, that's right. I am not married, and am in no rush, but I live happily with my partner Wineti Wano (St Norbert's Class of 2001) in the house we have renovated. We have two little boys, and another baby on the way.

Members of the Class of 2000 including Jessica Cayoun, Ryan Hook, Stephen Bennett, Catherine Puga, Aimee Hook (Class of 2001), Ross Milbrandt and Luke Wheaton celebrate the West Coast Eagles 2006 premiership victory in London.

Skyworks, Australia Day 2018: Jessica Cayoun, Catherine Puga, Jarrod Bunter and Ross Milbrandt and children.

Jessica Cayoun in the 2000 Koinonia.

Five different years of St Norbert College students and their families, Christmas 2019: Richard Gill, Andy Janeczek, Siobhan Reynolds, Jessica Cayoun, Wineti Wano, Catherine Puga, Daire Reynolds, Ross Milbrandt, Adam Neindorf, Scott Owen, Trent Verren and children.

N: Busy, busy by the sounds of things with all your family and work commitments.

J.C.: Yes, although before we had kids, Wineti and I took a year off and travelled the world, with one of the highlights being three months bussing around South America during the Brazilian World Cup. We dream about doing more big adventures eventually but we both know it's camping, and more camping for the next few years, which fortunately we love. Just before COVID hit we did a huge camping trip with some St Norbert's friends and 25 kids in Yallingup. Life is exhausting and fun with young kids.

N: Let's hope the COVID issue can be sorted out before too long, although with or without it, it seems like you, Wineti and all your friends are making the most out of life, and – as mentioned before – it's nice that the St Norbert's connection is still strong among you all.

J.C.: Definitely. Special mentions go to the Wanos, Rangitoheriris, Barclays, Hooks, Pugas, Milbrandts, Smiths, Zabels, Wheatons, Reynolds and my oldest St Norbert friend Andrea Harvey.

N: One final question, Jessica. If you could go back to 2000 and give yourself some advice as you graduated, what would you say?

J.C.: Work hard enough to achieve your goals but have plenty of fun while you're at it. Believe in yourself and your own agency.

N: *Norbertus* thinks you have certainly fulfilled that brief, Jessica, and recalls you as an enthusiastic, creative, inquisitive student who always had time to offer an opinion, quip or quote to engender a positive class atmosphere and inject a bit of humour! Those were the days!

J.C.: Wow, thank you. It's been great reflecting on my time at St Norbert's!

N: Thanks again for your time and for telling our readers about your wonderful, event-packed, world touring, family-oriented, hard-working life, Jessica. Best wishes to you, Wineti, the boys and the new bub, and please pass on *Norbertus*' regards to all the St Norbert's alumni you keep in touch with.

J.C.: Absolutely. Thank you for your interest in our lives.

ALDO MONTERIE
Brothers for Life

In May 1998, Jakarta and several regions of Indonesia were wracked by civil unrest, demonstrations and violence – a lot of which was targeted at Indonesians of Chinese heritage. When Aldo Monterie (Class of 2000) was offered the opportunity by a family friend to complete his high school education in Australia, his parents arranged for him to study English at St Mark's College in Mt Lawley for a semester, before enrolling him as a Year 11 student at St Norbert College in 1999.

On top of the dangerous situation confronting his family back in Indonesia, Aldo faced the daunting prospect of adapting to a totally different culture, language and society, but was relieved when he received plenty of support from all the staff and students he met at his new school, St Norbert College. "It was very challenging for me but luckily all the teachers and staff, and the students who were to become my close friends, were always there for me," Aldo recalled. "It was a very welcoming environment at St Norbert College."

Specialist literacy support teacher Mrs Maureen Loveland was singled out by Aldo because of the personalised academic program she provided him and all her ESL (English as a Second Language) students. "She paid close attention to my academic progress and somehow managed to do the same for all the other students in the class, too."

As supportive and important as the teachers like Mrs Loveland were to Aldo, he says the students he met at St Norbert College were even more important to his survival and success in Australia — and they were not just new friends, they were more like new family members. "Damien Jones, Bryan De Rozario, Tuang Chung, Marc Oakes, Zaw Yee and Hilmar Aevarsson are all my brothers and we are still connected, often on a daily basis through a WhatsApp group," Aldo said. "When I visited Perth in late January this year, we all got together and caught up to talk about the good old days back at school."

Aldo also really enjoyed the camaraderie and competition that came with representing the College in basketball, one common link with his life in Indonesia that he enjoyed while coming to grips with the cultural changes he faced in Australia. "I believe being a foreign student, where

Aldo pictured with his wife Sevti Puspitasari, son Breeza Everand Tirta and daughter Mercy Evenaar Tirta.

Zaw, Damien, Bryan and Aldo back where their friendships began in 1999.

I had to learn and adapt to a new way of life here in Australia indirectly contributed to my decision to study psychology at university when I returned to Indonesia."

Upon completing a degree at Atmajaya University in Jakarta, Aldo commenced a career in human resources and is currently in charge of HR (Australia - New Zealand) for a large paper manufacturing company. "Work has been very dynamic and exciting and soon I am moving to Melbourne for a promotion," Aldo said.

While his career is very important to him, Aldo says his main priority is family. "I have been happily married for seven years and have a lovely six-year-old daughter and very handsome four-year-old son! My future goals always revolve around my family – being able to provide a good living for them, a good education for my children and ensuring they grow up to be great human beings."

Thinking back to his time at St Norbert College, Aldo says while academic achievement is very important, there are other lessons to learn to enjoy a successful and happy life, including being a positive influence on people you come into contact with. Aldo believes St Norbert College provided him with a true sense of being "prepared for all good works".

"I would like to thank the teachers and students of St Norbert College for the opportunity to study there, be part of the College community and have a great time. I hope the College continues to have a positive impact on students' lives and the wider community for many more years to come."

Norbertus has been touched and inspired by Aldo's positive approach in embracing his new experience at St Norbert College in 1999 and wishes him and his family well as they settle into the next stage of their lives together in Melbourne.

An Icelander and an Indonesian meet in Queens Park. Aldo and Icelandic exchange student Hilmar Aevarsson celebrate the end of the school year in 1999.

Catching up with his "brothers" during a trip to Perth in January, (clockwise from left): Aldo, Tuan Chung, Zaw Yee, Damien Jones, Marc Oakes and Bryan De Rozario.

The end of school in 2000.

Aldo Monterie (centre) as part of Ms Meney's Magdeburg Homeroom class in 2000.

STUDENTS FROM 2000

BRIEFNE MCCONNON
The Quiet Life in New Zealand

Briefne McConnon (Class of 2000) was a member of Dr Killian O'Reilly's Magdeburg Homeroom class and sums up her time at St Norbert College as a "time of enjoyment and personal growth".

Briefne counts Japanese as her favourite subject at school and enjoyed lessons with Mrs Sam Mark and Mr Rod Westerveld. "The teachers were great and the class was small, so we really got to know each other well," she said.

Briefne said studying at St Norbert's prepared her well for Edith Cowan University where she completed a primary teaching degree which led to teaching posts in Mullewa and Woodanilling in Western Australia, and then further afield to London and eventually rural New Zealand, where Briefne currently lives with her partner of 10 years and daughters Isla (4) and Ava (2).

Living in London for four years allowed Breifne to get some of the travel bug out of her system and rates trips to Croatia and Iceland as highlights, but says now she is very content living in a quiet corner of New Zealand. "I am a Year 4-5 teacher at a small, rural school where the students are predominantly farmers' kids who are motivated and excited to learn. I am happy in my career and can see myself continuing to teach."

Breifne keeps in touch with some of her former classmates through social media although living overseas and being so far from Perth since 2008 has led to a more independent outlook, with family duties and work taking up a lot of her time.

When asked what advice she would give to current St Norbert College Year 12 students setting out on adult life, Breifne thought about her own life's journey and said it was a matter of going with the flow. "Life works out no matter which path you take. It will lead you to wherever you need to be and, when you get there, make the most of the opportunities that come your way."

Norbertus wishes Breifne and her family well as they enjoy life together in New Zealand.

Breifne McConnon with daughters Ava and Isla.

Breifne (centre) as part of the Magdeburg Year 12 tug of war team on Maggies Day in 2000.

EMMA LENANE
An Outdoor Life

Emma Lenane (nee Brown, Class of 2000) is currently working as recruitment advisor in the mining sector where she specialises in mine shutdowns as well as mobilising teams to various mine-sites.

Emma's favourite subject at St Norbert College was outdoor education and – together with her husband, Ben – she still loves camping, hiking, off-roading and rodeos. A planned adventure trip to the United States this year was unfortunately put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Emma fondly recalls the occasion her boyfriend sent her flowers to school and naturally she enjoyed the Year 10 adventure camp with its hikes and fireside cooking, but rates meeting her best friend, Simone McMahon (Class of 1999), as the highlight of her time at St Norbert College. "Simone is one of the most inspirational people I have ever met; her determination and resilience encourage me to live my best life, like the time she encouraged and supported me to compere the 1999 talent quest despite my fear of public speaking," Emma said. "She is my best friend and we are frequently in contact."

Norbertus agrees wholeheartedly with Emma. The recipient of a kidney transplant at a young age, Simone has devoted her life to promoting organ donations and is the founder and executive director of the Organ Donation and Transplant Foundation of WA, a role that saw her receive an Order of Australia award in 2013.

Norbertus wishes Emma and Ben many more years of adventure together and Simone continued success in her inspirational work.

Simone McMahon and Emma at the 2018 College production of "Oliver!".

Emma's Year 12 portrait in the 2000 Koinonia.

Emma Lenane takes a breather during a hike on the Darling scarp.

DANIEL EAST
A Passionate Musical Life

Daniel East (Class of 2000) secured a place in the annals of St Norbert College when his peers voted him to become the inaugural Head Boy at the College – one of several proud and memorable moments he recalls from his time at Treasure Road.

Participating in the arts was also a source of great enjoyment for Daniel, with some of the music and drama opportunities he experienced having a strong influence on his shaping his life to this day.

"Ye Gods, the first stage production I was part of in the role of Hades, remains one of my fondest memories of my time at St Norbert's. The whole experience was exhilarating and uplifting," Daniel said.

Mr Nunzio Mondia and Miss Kerri Hilton, Daniel recalled, were his favourite teachers who happened to teach his favourite subjects, music and drama respectively. "Music remains my greatest passion to this day and Nunzio was a source of great encouragement, giving me many opportunities to gain experience in the art of live performance."

Miss Hilton also fostered Daniel's passion for the arts. "The stage productions Kerri directed were always a ball to partake in and she was always someone who related to you as an equal," he recalled.

Daniel was a member of Ms Megan Wride and Mr Anthony Byrne's Tongerlo Homeroom class and says he is still in close contact with many members of the Class of 2000, but especially with one fellow Homeroom member. "My Homeroom buddy Tim Barnes is still my best mate today – my 'brother from another mother'. We are in contact on an almost daily basis in one form or another."

Daniel East performs onstage for Larry Leadfoot. (Image courtesy of Shadow-World Photography).

After school Daniel commenced a career in primary school teaching but soon decided it was not for him and he began working in management roles in a variety of industries. Currently based in Melbourne working as a team manager in the automotive sector, Daniel says he draws great satisfaction from achieving team goals. "One of the most rewarding things is seeing the efforts and dedication of your team pay off, as well as the genuine elation that comes with celebrating those wins collectively."

When not working, Daniel devotes a lot of time to his real passion, music – a passion that was enhanced and encouraged during his time at St Norbert's. "I knew very early on that I wanted to pursue a life in music, both creatively and in performance, and music at St Norbert's reinforced this determination and desire, particularly the experience of performing at music nights, College competitions and assemblies," Daniel said.

Daniel has one full-length album to his name recorded with his former band *Artist Proof*, and is currently a member of *Larry Leadfoot* which was scheduled to tour Japan in October this year before COVID-19 struck. *Norbertus* readers can keep up-to-date with Daniel's music and band through the usual social media channels.

Daniel enjoyed his high school years and would encourage current St Norbert students to do the same. "Stop worrying. Your high school concerns will mean nothing once it is over. Enjoy it as much as you can," he said, "but be sure to keep your attention focused while in the classroom."

Norbertus agrees and congratulates Daniel on his contribution to St Norbert College.

Daniel's half of a two-faced robot in the Year 12 production of "Thumbs Up" in the Xanten Theatre.

Daniel says St Norbert College Music Coordinator Mr Nunzio Mondia was a great source of encouragement and inspiration for his development as a musician.

2000 Head Boy Daniel East (second from right) and friends after chairing a College assembly.

WIN A COPY OF ARTIST PROOF'S FIRST ALBUM

Variously described as artistic, difficult to categorise, unique and visually rich, *Artist Proof* were as much a part of the Melbourne art scene as they were part of the Melbourne music scene in the mid-2010s.

Showcasing the writing and musical talents of Chris Pattenden, Drew Schapper, Daniel East and Chris Rourke, Artist Proof released their only album, AP1, in 2016.

In an exclusive offer to *Norbertus* subscribers, to win a copy of AP1, simply send an email to *Norbertus'* head office in Queens Park naming the country where Daniel's current band Larry Leadfoot was planning to tour later on this year prior to the COVID-19 disruption. The first correct emailer will win an iTunes download voucher of AP1, courtesy of *Artist Proof* and Daniel East (Class of 2000).

PATRICE BERTHOLD
Around the Grounds

A talented sportswoman during her time at St Norbert College, Patrice Berthold (Class of 2000) went on to represent Western Australia in cricket for four years and showed such promise that she was selected in an Australian women's cricket youth squad.

Having qualified as a teacher in 2004 with a Bachelor of Education from Edith Cowan University, Patrice was drawn to a role in education and spent the next ten years in teaching, education and management before taking up a role as women's team and operations manager at Cricket Australia, based in Brisbane.

After two years in Brisbane, Patrice moved to Melbourne where she continued to manage the women's team before being promoted to team operations manager, overseeing all matters related to the Australian men's and women's teams, pathways teams, as well as all international visiting teams. Patrice is also involved in the organisation of important cricket events such as the Australian Cricket Awards and the Big Appeal which was held over the 2019-2020 summer.

Patrice's current role at Cricket Australia is a very demanding one that involves her overseeing a team which does a lot of the important behind the scenes work that most Australian cricket fans probably don't consider when they go to a ground to watch a match.

The work requires meticulous planning and preparation and involves completing pre-tours to overseas destinations, completing venue and hotel inspections, negotiating memorandums of understanding with international cricket boards, as well as working with

Patrice during a pre-tour preparation visit to Newlands Stadium, Cape Town.

Patrice Berthold pictured with former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull at an official reception at The Lodge in Canberra.

Ms Patrice Berthold (Class of 2000) has forged an impressive management career with Cricket Australia.

Australia's respective High Commissions in various countries to set up community events and engagements.

In the current international climate, health and security matters are increasingly important, not to mention the basics such as securing appropriate visas and entry requirements for players and officials. In addition to managing all the travel and tour logistics, Patrice and her team also handle player contracts and payments, as well as other matters such as player apparel requirements and deals with ASICS.

Patrice has travelled extensively and repeatedly to countries such as New Zealand, Sri Lanka, India, UAE, the UK and South Africa, as well as making countless trips around Australia.

When not touring the world, Patrice loves nothing better than an early morning cycle along the bay, getting out in nature and attending to her indoor plants. A qualified personal trainer and indoor cycling instructor, keeping fit and healthy is a top priority, as is self-development and the continual exploration of the human psyche, a quest Patrice often attempts to satisfy with a good podcast or audio book.

Norbertus recalls Patrice as a hard-working, cheerful and dedicated student and sportswoman at St Norbert College back in the late 1990s, and is not surprised she has emerged as a leading sports administrator and manager in Australia today. Despite the current turbulent and uncertain international sporting environment, Australian cricket could not be in safer hands.

Patrice and fellow Year 12s lend a hand at the 2000 Year 8-9 social in St Joseph's hall.

Graduation Night in 2000, Patrice is the first girl on the left.

Koinonia portrait.

2000 Cross Country captains Anthony Merkl and Patrice Berthold are pictured with coaches Mr Nunzio Mondia and Mr Chris Brehaut.

ADRIAN GALLYOT
Challenging but Rewarding Times

Adrian Gallyot (Class of 2000) was a member of Prémontré House who only joined St Norbert College in Year 11 during a period of time when his family was experiencing some difficulties. As a result, Adrian summed up his time at the College as "challenging but rewarding", but was generous in his praise of the College in helping him to settle in to his new school.

"I was a very late entrant into the College and I felt as though the College did everything it could to give me as easy an adjustment as possible. I do remember the support I received, especially around exam time, and I do have some fond memories of playing sport for the school," Adrian recalled.

Apart from his basketball, Adrian also enjoyed his physics and history classes where the teachers – and even some of the interesting assignments – helped to make the classes enjoyable and stimulating.

Having completed a Master's in Business Administration at Murdoch University, Adrian is currently working for the City of Canning as a business system analyst which involves the analysis and development of business systems to help support key activities at the City.

"I did feel that Year 12 at St Norbert College was a critical year in formulating my movement towards the sciences, and I have found great satisfaction in my career since," Adrian said, adding that he was also planning on launching an online business retailing a variety of environmentally friendly solutions for consumers and businesses.

Adrian is currently in a long-term relationship and is looking forward to starting a family in the not-too-distant future.

Thinking back to his couple of senior school years at St Norbert College, Adrian believes the structure and support he received helped instill a sense of resilience and commitment which has been of assistance in his life to date. "My advice to senior students today would be to never waste time stressing over what might happen, always believe in your ability and instincts and do what your feel is right for you!"

Norbertus recalls Adrian's positive contributions during his time at St Norbert College and wishes him well for the future.

Adrian Gallyot works as a business systems analyst at the City of Canning.

Adrian plays a snooker shot on St Norbert Day in 2000.

CLASS OF 2000 Reunion

Broken Hill Hotel
14 November 2020

Tim Barnes, David White and Matthew Degois.

Michaela Campbell (nee Low), Chris Macmillan and Karen Taylor.

David White and Nando Guzzomi.

Jessica Cayoun, baby Naia and Andrea Harvey.

Matthew, Chris, Karen, David, Andrea, Michaela, Tim and Brendon Heatherly.

NORBERTUS IN 2000

There were three issues of *Norbertus* in 2000 which covered a wide variety of school events and started to broaden its scope and report on past events and former students and staff members.

In the June issue, College Principal Mr Peter Hayes unveiled and explained the new College crest that was adopted in 2000 after comprehensive consultation with the College community throughout 1999. Peter also updated readers on the completion of the new photography darkroom and the new music building which were warmly welcomed by staff and students alike.

A new student leadership structure was in place for 2000 and was expanded to include a Head Boy, Daniel East, and Head Girl, Andrea Pontré, whose responsibilities included chairing College assemblies, representing the College at community events, contributing to the running of the Year 12 graduation, as well as performing an important role at House level. In addition to these positions, 28 other Year 12 students also assumed leadership positions as either House Captains or senior Student Representative Councillors.

Other articles in June included a welcome to new staff members and new students, a look forward to the Year 10 camp and a story on the College's reciprocal Japanese student exchange arrangement with Immaculate Heart College in Kagoshima that commenced in 1979.

In the September issue Principal Peter Hayes announced an exciting plan to conduct a 2001 College pilgrimage of a small number of St Norbert staff and students to visit places in Europe associated with the life of St Norbert and the Norbertine Order. He also outlined how the College was setting out to renew its mission, values and vision statements to ensure the College community was living the gospel message and respecting its Norbertine heritage.

The information technology revolution marched on at the College and there were now 150 computers available for use by students around the campus. This development allowed the 30 members of the College's Talented and Gifted Students (TAGS) program to be members of only two schools in Western Australia to participate in the Virtual School for the Gifted program.

Other articles covered success for some St Norbert College art students such as Grant Werner who displayed work at a number of art exhibitions around the city; a preview of the College's

Deputy Principal Mr John Bird and Year 10 student Zoie Vo were selected to be part of the 2000 Sydney Olympic torch relay.

St Norbert College Principal, Mr Peter Hayes.

Class of 1980 former students Vivienne Cantem and Roslyn Salter share a laugh with teachers Mr John Hulshoff and Mr Shenton de Rozario at a reunion in April.

Year 12 art students Marianne Deliu, Melissa Aroozoo and Chelsea Fonseca pictured with Mrs Fonseca at the Creative Arts Display in October.

Creative Arts Exhibition on October 12; a grand final game for the senior football team in front of a large crowd at Subiaco Oval; publicity for the 2000 St Norbert College Fair; and a drug information evening which included guest speakers and a dramatic presentation by some Year 11 drama students.

In the December issue Principal Peter Hayes updated the community on developments in the College's information technology plan which included the appointment of two full-time computer technicians and the creation of the College's new website. He also announced that the College had appointed a coordinator to oversee the new service learning program that was to commence in 2001, coincidentally the year of the volunteer.

On a very sad note this issue of *Norbertus* included news that Fr Peter O'Reilly had passed away on December 6 and that his Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on December 11.

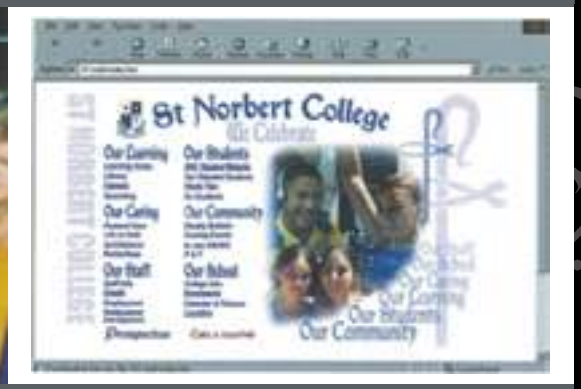
Other articles featured in Issue 15 included Grandparents and Senior Friends' Day; orientation day for the Year 8 students joining the College in 2001; an update on the proposed pilgrimage to visit Norbertine historical sites in Europe; a talk by renowned boys educator Ian Lillico which was organised by the College's Parents and Friends Association; the launch of a new mathematics numeracy resource package which was developed by St Norbert College staff members Mrs Sue Dyer and Ms Alice Alibrandi; a report on the Creative Arts Exhibition; a review of the 2000 College Fair held on October 15; and some promotion for a planned ex-students' musical called "Planet Pres", written by Dave Warner and produced by Miss Kerri Hilton and Mrs Trish Van Nus.

Proposed designs for the new College crest.

Year 12 Class of 2000 boys Steven Totaro, Ryan Hook, Beau Tann and Philip Cuccovia pictured with some Japanese exchange students during a river cruise in February.

Mrs Kathy Jones with some prospective members of the Class of 2004 during the Year 8 orientation day in December, 1999.

Graham Farmer presents medallions to Luke Wheaton, Simon Janiec, Ryan Lowther and Jarrod Bunter after their narrow loss to Prindiville College in the Graham Farmer Division of the Smarter than Smoking Cup.



The inaugural St Norbert College website.

The St Norbert College Ladies' Auxiliary committee.

The ordination of Australia's first Norbertine priest, Fr William Fitzgerald.

Christine Boyce and Andrea Bottcher at the conclusion of a tennis match.

Exchanging gifts during a student exchange visit to Japan.

1980

St Norbert College

PRIOR: Fr Peter O'Reilly O.Praem
PRINCIPAL: Mr Des O'Sullivan
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr Michael Devine
TEACHER-IN-CHARGE – GIRLS: Mrs Kathy Jones
HEADS of DEPARTMENTS:

- CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Fr G. Cusack O.Praem
- ENGLISH & LANGUAGES: Mr J. Pryce
- MATHEMATICS: Mr D. Pinto
- SCIENCE: Mr R. Craig
- SOCIAL SCIENCES: Mr P. Murray
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Mr D. Rees
- GENERAL STUDIES: Mrs K. Jones

ST NORBERT COLLEGE MILESTONES, DEVELOPMENTS AND INNOVATIONS:

- The first Australian-born Norbertine priest, Fr William Fitzgerald, and Br Peter Stiglich join the St Norbert College staff
- The O'Sullivan – Devine Centre (now Strahov) was blessed by Archbishop Goody and opened by Premier Sir Charles Court
- Fr Stephen Cooney visits Ireland for his Silver Jubilee holiday
- The College purchases its first computer, a Commodore PET (Personal Electronic Transactor)

ST NORBERT COLLEGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD: Mr N. Dawkins (Chairman), Fr P. O'Reilly, Mr M. Devine, Mr P. Miller, Fr G. Cusack, Mr N. Rees, Mr R. Tavani, Mr D. O'Sullivan, Mr A. Connell, Mrs K. Jones which oversaw:

- The completion of the O'Sullivan – Devine Centre
- The introduction of a Careers Education Programme and the appointment of a Careers Development Officer
- An operating budget that exceeded $1m for the first time
- A review of the College's enrolment policy to ensure better fairness
- The introduction of a long service scheme for the College's teachers
- The College purchases its first computer, a Commodore PET (Personal Electronic Transactor)

College Dux Michael Bailey receives his award at from Guest of Honour Sister Denise at Presentation Night.

The St Norbert College 1st XVIII football team.

International Dress Day, 1980.

PARENTS & FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION: Mr P. Miller (President), Mr R. Malacari (Vice President), Mrs M. Jones (Secretary), Mr R. Carroll (Treasurer), Mrs P. Isaia, Mrs F. Glasson, Mr R. Jahn, Mr J. Pudney, Mr J. Nicholas, Mrs M. Park, Mr D. O'Sullivan, Mrs D. Pollaers, Mrs N. Jones, Mrs D. Clappinson, Mrs S. Alberts, Mr I. Drummond and Mr B. Kerwin help:

- Organise the St Norbert College Fete and various other College functions and meetings
- Run the St Norbert's Shop, including a uniform and book order service

LADIES' AUXILIARY: Mrs M. Park (President), Mrs D. Pollaers, Mrs P. Isaia, Mrs V. Muckerjie, Mrs D. Clappinson, Mrs J. Black, Mrs M. Bianchini, Mrs M. Dempsey, Mrs F. Williams and Mrs S. Alberts who:

- Establish the St Norbert's Shop
- Set up a uniform and book order service

ENROLMENT: 616 students

DUX: M. Bailey

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL: Mathew Trinca (President January – July) and Steven Bevis (President July – December), Angelica Porecca (Vice President), Helen Pollard (Secretary), July Piggott (Treasurer) who, with their fellow councillors help to organise:

- $100 of funding to purchase sports equipment to be used at lunchtime
- $60 of funding for the St Norbert College Sports Incentive Scheme
- Funding towards the purchase of a water cooler for students
- Raffles to raise funds for a number of projects and to subsidise the cost of the Year 12 Graduating Dinner – Dance
- St Norbert College Funday on St Norbert Day
- Sponsorship of an 11-year-old Indonesian girl named Salasmi
- A Year 8 film night and a Year 9 quiz night with the latter raising funds for the St Norbert College Cheer Squad
- A dunking machine stall at the St Norbert College Fete in October
- The Year 11-12 river cruise, Year 8-9 social and the St Norbert College Ball on September 7th at the Government House Ballroom
- Representation of St Norbert College at the Cannington ANZAC Day service

WINNERS OF SPORTS CARNIVALS:

- SWIMMING: St Luke's
- ATHLETICS: St Luke's
- CROSS COUNTRY: St George's

CHAMPION SPORTS HOUSE: St Luke's

THE COMPUTER AGE
Arrives at St Norbert College

1980: The Commodore 2001 Series PET Arrives

Forty years ago, in 1980, the purchase of St Norbert College's first computer caused a wave of excitement around the College and was described in student John Wojdylo's Koinonia article about the arrival of the solitary Commodore PET as "a great leap forward".
John wrote:
At last! Space-age technology has caught up with St Norbert College! With the purchase of the PET microcomputer, we enter a whole new spectrum of programmed learning which was never even dreamed of 10 years ago. The Commodore PET (Personal Electronic Transactor) is, in itself, a complete teaching system capable of completing several impressive tasks. With the correct software, the PET can teach languages, instruct in mathematics, and of course, teach BASIC, the most popular language used by present day microcomputers. This service to the students of St Norbert College is indeed a great leap forward.

M. Ballantyne and A. Murphy use the Commodore Personal Electronic Transactor in 1980.

2020: Wireless Access to the World Wide Web and Beyond

The St Norbert College students of 1980 were thrilled with the arrival of the Commodore PET, but could have only dreamed about the amazing ICT facilities which are available to students and staff, 40 years later, as the Director of ICT at the College Mr Colin Tyler points out ...

St Norbert College has moved on from our solitary stand-alone Commodore PET in 1980 to a 1:1 program where every student and staff member has their own computer or personal MacBook.

The computers at St Norbert College are connected to the College datacentre, Cloud or the Web via either ethernet or one of our 52 wireless access points which are strategically placed around the College, providing wireless data access from almost everywhere on campus.

Year 9 media arts students had the following to say about the vital role computers and ICT play in their day-to-day education:

Aaron Vijapure: *My computer is vital to my learning; without it, education would be exponentially more complicated. The internet benefits everyone's education and is a crucial tool in learning new information.*

Jai Sambhy: *Access to my computer has allowed me and all the students at St Norbert College to have a better education. It is important in my education because it gives me answers to all kinds of questions.*

Jaycee Lavrencic: *I am very grateful to have a computer at my disposal because it plays a vital role in my education.*

Kalisto Ubu: *I am very thankful to have the use of a computer. My computer is very important to me because I use it in all aspects of my everyday life.*

To show how much computers have evolved over the past 40 years, it is interesting to look at the performance specifications of what was available back then and now. Some technical facts and figures for the computer geeks among us; a comparison between a PET 2001 Series (1980) and a 15-inch MacBook Pro (2019):

PET 2001 SERIES (1980)		**15-INCH MACBOOK PRO (2019)**	**NOTES**
8-bit Microprocessor, 1 MHz	CPU	2.4GHz Intel Core i9 processor (octa-core, up to 5.0GHz)	PET: 1,000,000 computer instructions per second versus MacBook: 2,400,000,000 instructions per second (2400 times faster)
8 KB	RAM	32GB (2,400MHz DDR4)	PET: 8000 Bytes versus MacBook: 32,000,000,000 Bytes (4 million times more)
18 KB, including BASIC 1.0 / 20 KB, including BASIC 2.0 (disk drives not supported on the original 2001)	ROM	Somewhere from 4 to 8 MB (even today not much is required)	PET: 18,000 Bytes versus MacBook: 4,000,000 Bytes (222 times more Read Only Memory storage)
9" monochrome monitor (white phosphor on the original 2001, green on 2001-N PETs), 40×25 character display	SCREEN	15.4-inch, 2,880 x 1,800 Retina display backlit LED, 500 nits brightness	The nit is the standard unit of luminance used to describe various sources of light. A higher rating means a brighter display. Displays for laptops and mobile devices are usually between 200 and 300 nits on average. A rating over 300 nits is solid and a rating above 500 nits is extremely good
None / single piezo "beeper" (optional external speaker driven by MOS 6522 pin)	SOUND	Stereo speakers with high dynamic range and three microphones	
2 MOS 6520 PIA & MOS 6522, 1x IEEE-488	PORTS	4x Thunderbolt 3 (USB-C), 3.5mm headphone jack	Although the MacBook appears limited with ports, there are multiple extenders available to support extra USB/SD cards/HDMI cables
69 key chiclet keyboard Built-in Datassette	NOTES	78 key scissor switch keyboard	

Some of the technical data and analysis was generously provided by Mr Greg Hulshoff.

PET 2001 SERIES (1980)		15-INCH MACBOOK PRO (2019)
11.5 kg	WEIGHT	1.4 kg
$5000 (in 2020 $ equivalent)	COST	$1829
Very little! 8KB	MEMORY	Four million more times than the Commodore PET – 32 GB
Stationary	PORTABILITY	Take it anywhere
1:570	RATIO OF COMPUTERS TO STUDENTS	1:1. Every student and staff member has one. If you include mobile phones that number goes up to almost 2:1, although students are not permitted to use their phones at school
No	DOES IT COME IN OTHER COLOURS	Yes
Just!	WILL IT FIT IN MY BOOT?	Easily!

Year 9 media arts students Kalisto Ubu, Jai Sambhy, Aarush Vijapure and Jaycee Lavrencic.

FRANZ SCHLOSSER CLASS OF 1980

Physics, Fishing and Fun!

Franz Schlosser (Class of 1980) holds the rare distinction of being one of only a couple of former St Norbert College students who has worked on no fewer than five continents. An experienced mining engineer who has visited more than 40 countries, Franz has worked in Africa, Central America, the Middle East, the former Soviet Union and is currently in charge of a small gold mine in country Victoria.

Back in the late 1970s at St Norbert College, Franz was a bit of a self-described "nerd", but that persona gave him a fair degree of cover to allow him to demonstrate his prowess as a practical joker. "Being the class nerd allowed me to go undercover and pull a few pranks without anyone suspecting it was me," Franz laughed. "I got egged by my good mate Heffer in Year 9 but turned the tables on him in the great lackey band wars of 1977!"

Known for his distinctive, loud motorbike, Franz remembers the time he and some mates picked up a student teacher's Honda Scamp and gently placed it between a garden bed and a classroom for a bit of fun. Academically, however, Franz was a gifted mathematician and physicist (he scored 93% in his T.A.E. physics exam despite leaving after only 90 minutes), and although English was not his strongest subject, Franz recalled a teacher once reading out a humorous story he had written in frustration at his perceived lack of writing skill which went down a treat with the class!

Despite knowing deep-down he was preordained to pursue his interest in maths and physics, Franz spent the early 1980s moving around and trying different jobs, including sales, a stint as an office equipment technician, courier driving and even managing a wine shop at the tender

Franz Schlosser (Class of 1980) with his wife Anna and daughter Liesl.

age of 20 or so. "With my maths and physics, though, I knew I would end up being an engineer of some sort, so I eventually enrolled in a Bachelor of Engineering (Mining) and gradually added more qualifications during my career, including an MBA in 2005 as well as a variety of other trade and management certificates and diplomas," Franz said.

Franz's current work position is general manager for Austar Gold Ltd's Woods Point mine, located about 180km north-east of Melbourne. In addition to overseeing the production of gold ore and concentrates, Franz is also drawing up plans to expand the mine and develop other mines in the region.

On a personal level, Franz is married to Anna, has a six-year-old daughter, Liesl, and has three adult daughters from his first marriage – Jessica, who manages an investment fund; Tamara, who is a post-doctoral researcher based in San Diego; and Winona, who is a department manager with accounting firm Ernst & Young in London. Of the very little time he has to himself, Franz relaxes by watching a good movie, cooking and travelling.

Thinking back 40 years or so to his time at St Norbert College, Franz still recalls the great school morale that existed despite the fairly limited resources at the College. Franz remembers physics classes fondly due to the positive input of Mr Andy Tuia, and the time Mrs Kathy Jones took a group of students to her Mandurah holiday home for a weekend of fishing. "There was a great school spirit and a real sense of comradery," Franz recalled, "and you could tell that the teachers had a genuine interest in teaching. The multicultural feel also added another dimension."

Franz's advice to current school leavers is to find what you enjoy and make a life out of it and Norbertus congratulates Franz on doing just that! And yes, the student teacher eventually got to drive her Honda Scamp home.

Franz was 1st XI Hockey team goalie in 1980.

Franz Schlosser (centre, rear) with some fellow Year 12 Homeroom members in the 1980 Koinonia.

2020 SNESA
Football Wrap-Up

The St Norbert's Ex-Students Association Football Club made its third grand final in just four years, when the C2 Grade Reserves team took on the 2018 B Grade and 2019 C1 Grade premiers, Hamersley Carine. Unfortunately, it did not go as well as expected, with the Saints going down by four goals in wet, windy and difficult conditions.

Our League team also made finals for the first time in the Club's history, at the C2 Grade level. Both the League and Reserves teams finished second on their respective ladders, giving them a double chance during the finals campaign. The League team fell short in their preliminary final against High Wycombe, meaning SNESA will again play in the C2 Grade in the 2021 season. Unfortunately, our E4 team did not make finals.

In a year with a COVID-19 delayed start, the Saints still managed to host several home games with an average attendance of 200 people per game. Our biggest day was the Round-9 Family Day match featuring a bouncy castle and pet farm, along with over 400 supporters, resulting in a great day for the local community.

Looking ahead, SNESA will be looking to go "one better" next year. We have secured commitment from the same players who took the field in 2020, including former AFL player Ryan Crowley and former Perth Demons players Chris Vidot, Matthew Blackburn and Chris Rodgers.

Our biggest challenge, as it has been for many years, is assembling a Colts team. But with a growing social vibe, great culture and values, SNESA is the perfect club if you are looking to play footy with your mates. Training recommences in December, with preseason officially starting in January. Training is at Queens Park Reserve on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6pm.

Mr Rafic Aoun
SNESA President

SNESA President Mr Rafic Aoun (Class of 2004) gives a warm welcome to St Norbert College Principal Mr Simon Harvey (Class of 1988) at Soklich & Co Oval.

Dayne Whalan (left) and David Frawley (Class of 2004) are chaired off the ground by teammates after notching up 150 and 200 games respectively.

Former Fremantle and Essendon AFL player Ryan Crowley made his debut for SNESA in Round 5 against Hamersley Carine.

Marcello Campo is congratulated on his 100th game for SNESA.

SNESA President Rafic Aoun pictured with Br Patrick Doolan Memorial Medal (Reserves) winner Dean Nelson (Class of 2004).

THE 2020 SNESA
Kevin Kelly Medal Awards Night

Mark Colace (Class of 2009) collects his fifth Kevin Kelly Medal for Best and Fairest League player, 2020, from League assistant coach Anthony Lo Presti (2002).

Darrell Cowie is recognised for 20 years of service to SNESA.

Josh Dobbs (Class of 2017), Lennon Butler (2018) and their partners.

Noel Mancuveni (Class of 2018), David Frawley (2004), Justin Baptist (2004) and Walter Julien (2015), front.

Dean Nelson (Class of 2004), wife Emma and his Best and Fairest and Wilson Dent trophies.

SNESA Life Members.

THE 2020 SNESA

Kevin Kelly Medal Awards Night

The SNESA faithful listen to a speech.

League coach Mark Lupica (Class of 2005), right, and assistant coach Anthony Lo Presti.

Caius Kelly (Class of 2009), Joel Parker (2012) pictured with their partners.

Tyson Kelly (Class of 2005) and wife Ellice.

Vinnie Paparone (Class of 2011) and partner.

Congratulations are extended to award winners.

SNESA *Snapshots*

SNESA *Snapshots*

900
YEARS
NORBERTINES