NORBERTUS

AD OMNIA PARATUS

PREPARED FOR ALL GOOD WORKS

JUNE 2021 • ISSUE 37

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

One of the great privileges as Principal of this marvellous College is to scan, weeks in advance of publication, the contents page of each issue of *Norbertus*. Without fail, reading the list of contents brings back wonderful memories of my time as a student, which I'm certain it does for others. This issue is no exception.

My memories of the sheer presence of Mr Tom Corcoran as the Principal back in the mid to late 80s, are of his dominant personality as leader of the College, a man of great character, authority and respect. In addition, how could one forget his passion for softball and the traditional male teacher attire of shorts and long socks? It is inspiring and somewhat daunting for me, to think that I share the privileged honour of the role of Principal of St Norbert College with someone of the stature of Mr Corcoran and those significant others before and after him. Thankfully for our community today though, those fashion traits of a College Principal in the 80s no longer exist!

My fond memories of Mrs Beth Jepp are of an incredibly caring, knowledgeable and articulate teacher of mathematics. The College still awards a Mathematics Encouragement Award in honour of Mrs Jepp's husband, however this award is also symbolic of the care that Mrs Jepp gave to those who needed that extra assistance and support in maths. I recall a beautiful moment at my Year 11 parent interviews when Mrs Jepp explained to my parents in her exquisite Scottish accent, that as far as my maths ability goes, I had "immaculate handwriting"!

And who could forget the intense rivalry that came with ACC sport on a Tuesday afternoon. Of special note, as a member of the 1st XVIII Football team, were the particularly rough and tough encounters against Mazenod College. Historically, we had the rest of the competition covered and it was the inevitable finals against Mazenod that were expectedly passionate and bruising affairs. Like many, I wait with much anticipation, for the publication of the ACC history being compiled by Dr Ken Spillman.

I have these and many more marvellous memories that possibly would have been consigned to being simple and infrequent recollections without the amazing *Norbertus* publications to keep them fresh and enlivened.

Please enjoy and keep in touch!

God bless.

Mr Simon Harvey
Principal

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to Issue 37 of *Norbertus*, the magazine for the alumni of St Norbert College.

In this issue we look back to the years of 2011 and 1991 to see what the College was like and find out what some of the graduates of those years are up to – graduates like Jordan Jansen (Class of 2011), who has settled in New Zealand where he is mapping out a wonderful career and living life to the full. We also catch up with Class of 2002 graduate, Carrie Pereira, who is achieving great things in virtually every aspect of the music world.

Once again, St Norbert College students performed exceptionally well in the 2020 WACE and VET courses and *Norbertus* examines some of the outstanding individual and collective performances of the Class of 2020 who overcame the uncertainties resulting from COVID-19 interruptions to achieve great academic success.

Speaking of COVID-19, last year the 2020 College Presentation Night was in danger of being cancelled until Miss Kerri Hilton, together with Class of 1995 alumnus Brad Habib and his production company, devised a plan to produce a dazzling online awards night that put this year's Oscars to shame and allowed the College community to enjoy the show in the comfort of their own homes. In this issue, Brad explains what it was like returning to his old school for the first time, and how the production came together.

In our "Where Are They Now?" section, *Norbertus'* Queensland correspondent catches up with former Head of Mathematics Mrs Beth Jepp, who – having survived Nazi bombing raids as a child in Scotland – forged a remarkable teaching career that spanned Scotland and the breadth of Australia, including two stints at St Norbert College in the 80s and 90s.

We also hear from another World War II child, Mr Tom Corcoran, St Norbert College's fourth principal, whose life story – including 57 years in education and being inducted into the WA Softball Hall of Fame – is a lesson in determination, service and the love of family.

As usual, St Norbert College Principal Mr Simon Harvey makes some insightful observations about the College and the people who have helped create it, and our Guest Columnist is Dr Alberto Runco, who is now in charge of MacKillop House at John Paul College in Kalgoorlie. A native Italian, Dr Runco spent five years at St Norbert College and has also taught at St Joseph's College in Albany, so he is certainly getting a taste of life in different parts of Western Australia.

The College has had a couple of visits from Dr Ken Spillman who is writing a book on the history of the Associated and Catholic Colleges (ACC) sports organisation and despite the enormous amount of research this project entailed – there are now 80 schools in the ACC – Ken made time to comment on St Norbert College's contribution to this organisation and nominate some of his favourite St Norbert's sports teams and individuals.

Despite the odd COVID hiccup, the SNESA footy season is well under way and SNESA President Rafic Aoun tells us the latest news from the club and how the various teams and players are faring. Go Saints!

In our "From the Archives" section, *Norbertus'* educational infrastructure specialist reporter looks at how a 1975 masterplan for the College's building program actually turned out!

All this – and more – in Issue 37 of *Norbertus!* As always, if you have any news about former students, feedback or ideas for stories, please contact fmulligan@norbert.wa.edu.au

Mr Frank Mulligan
Editor

Thoughts of an Educational Missionary

DR ALBERTO RUNCO – GUEST COLUMNIST

Teaching and Learning. Teaching versus Learning. Learn to Teach. Teach to Learn ... No matter how we try to link these two terms, it seems they are in an eternal symbiosis, year after year, decade after decade, from generation to generation – we might interpret them differently – but still they stand together. Like yin and yang, they are both clearly defined but still utterly correlated, interdependent. Both ever changing, both still indispensable to human progress and social development.

I have always witnessed this in my own personal experience. Last year, during a professional development session I was attending in Leederville, Monsignor Long asked me where I taught and where I was going to teach in the future. I replied "I started my teaching career in public primary schools a LOTE teacher, first in Perth and then Katanning. After completing a DipEd for high schools in 2010, I went to Albany as humanities and modern history teacher, and after five years I moved to SNC in Queens Park as a humanities teacher and later as acting Head of Learning Area. In 2021 I will move to Kalgoorlie as humanities teacher and House Coordinator." He then looked at me and replied: "You are missionary!". I laughed and thought that probably he was not too far from reality; an educational secular missionary, finding professional inspiration in the eclectic nature of learning, in the past 12 years from various Australian communities. Not sure why, but I feel like my teaching experience has to be nurtured through various forms of human learning, in order to grasp that understanding of education I am yearning for. How and why do we learn? And so, I must and need to travel as much as I can while fulfilling the profession I love.

Since I was a child I have been travelling across Europe thanks to my parents' professions. From Wales to the Netherlands, from northern Italy to its centre and return. And before me, my father and grandfather's experiences reached Argentina first, and Canada later. My family has been marked by the natural need of exploration of new societies, but not simply as visitors or tourists; rather from within, as the pleasure to learn from different communities, mentalities and world views has no match in our personal and professional growth. Humanity yearns for movement, and as we encapsulate its nature in our daily life, we should never stop travelling to learn, sharing what we gather with more new

Dr Alberto Runco is currently working at John Paul College in Kalgoorlie.

In Rome during the 2019 St Norbert College history tour.

people. And teaching is the perfect profession to do that, as younger generations need to understand the beauty of social heterogeneity. Like the difference between a canola field and bushland: while the colour of canola may appeal to us during its season, the hidden magnificence of the bush's chaotic richness certainly mesmerises the traveller.

In my view, both teaching and learning find their *raison d'etre* in key concepts that should underpin each educator's approach to this profession: ongoing research and unrestricted exploration of human study; both concepts essential to master teaching skills. I believe that we cannot grasp the full nature of our job unless we explore the realities of our social contexts, pushing our professional expertise beyond a mere set of techniques and strategies learnt at university or acquired through training sessions. Without teachers' innate yearning for never-ending learning and our acceptance to change the mindset we have grown into, students cannot be intrigued in their own learning, be inspired, be launched into the future; unless we interpret learning as a simple list of curriculum points and career pathways, as a computer, robots or artificial intelligence would also be able to do. We should walk beyond anachronistic educational dogmas and pretentious academic truths, if we want to learn from our explorations of the world. That is why I believe education should return to be prompted again by what ancient minds used to explore more confidently: the philosophy of life. However, we are often reluctant to open up to subjects like philosophy and ethics; not because they are difficult for our children, but because we are aware they can instil in their awareness the challenge to undermine our own understand of the world, and as such are difficult to assess, evaluate without generational bias.

Many of you may already know that I strongly believe a pigeonholing mentality of subject-focused studies can only solidify, calcify the flexibility of young minds; skills more than subject content can only bring progress. Philosophy, ethics and morality will help our need of social development as the human species. And I find this even more relevant for our younger Australian generations, as they certainly know more about what they want to become or do as workers (money and popularity for example), but less often they seem confident when it is time to discuss current affairs, social ethics and solutions to moral dilemmas. We need to inspire them to become critical thinkers and citizens of the world. Pre-established ideologies and monochromatic identities are restraining – not only in Australia – and their understanding of freedoms, rights and duties in an ever-growing global reality. Individualism seems to be prevailing over the concept of global community, especially today that we experience limitations to our movements due to Covid-19. This is why I believe schools need to allow new generations to widen their horizons and further their own professional skills, rather than being a breeding ground for future careers or university pathways. The role of a high schools should return to its true nature: inspire young minds to excel in their human identity. If society procrastinates, it may be too late for many. That is why we need to be active promoters in preparing our students *Ad Omnia Paratus*. And by preparing them for all good works, we should go beyond the concepts of jobs and skills, but rather challenges and critical thinking, faith and self-consciousness.

As I wrote on the first page of my research thesis when I completed University in Milan, focusing on the impact of socio-cultural assimilation on the daughters of migrants in Australian history: "To migrants, borders are not simple decadent walls or obstacles, but curtains you can move with the willingness and curiosity of an explorer. Just move it aside and entire worlds will open in front of you".

Dr Alberto Runco pictured last year with Class of 2020 graduate Shania Cura.

My five years at St Norbert College have been significant for my personal and professional life, as I met colleagues and students who inspired me further in my quest for learning; at times smoothly, other times more abruptly, but always through respect and the delightfulness of teaching and learning. So, please my fellow SNC students and former colleagues, do not stop drinking from the cup of knowledge – sip by sip, experience after experience. And always keep the door of curiosity in our heart five inches open – you will be surprised to see how much we can learn from each other. Learn to travel and, more importantly, travel to learn! And in this, St Norbert College has also contributed to my own *Ad Omina Paratus;* as a community, you have prepared me for more good works. Thank you!

Buona fortuna, amici miei!
Alberto Runco

CLASS OF 2020'S
Academic Performance and Results

St Norbert College's excellent academic record was maintained by the Class of 2020, with fine results being achieved in both the ATAR and VET pathways.

Six students were inducted into the St Norbert College "95 Club" for achieving an ATAR rank of greater than 95. Congratulations to these students who are Amanda D'Cruz, Yen Ngo, Emma Paskett, Sona Abraham, Shin Bawar and Riley Moore.

A total of 15 St Norbert's students received 17 School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) awards, as listed:

SCSA Subject Certificate of Excellence – Mathematics Applications: Emma Paskett.

SCSA VET Certificate of Excellence: Community Services, Health and Education: Ellie Barbato

SCSA Certificate of Distinction: Amanda D'Cruz

SCSA Certificate of Merit: Sona Mary Abraham, Ellie Barbato, Shin Bawar, Anissa Buckby, Jade Cooper, Lorenzo Donatelli, Isabella Ficko, Riley Moore, Yen Ngo, Emma Paskett, Emily Peters, Wei-Le Elsa Tan, Wei-Yu Selina Tan and Grace White.

In addition to these individual achievements, St Norbert College achieved some impressive results overall, including:

St Norbert's median ATAR in 2020 was 83.00, with CEWA schools being 82.80 and State schools 81.85.

Based upon median ATAR scores, St Norbert College's Class of 2020 students ranked in the top 50 schools in the State (42nd), the top 15 CEWA schools in the State (13th) and in the top 10 CEWA Year 7-12 schools (seventh).

VET Achievement: St Norbert College's completion rate of a Certificate III or higher in Years 10-12 was 52.9%, compared to the CEWA average of 33% and the State average of 24.3%.

The number of St Norbert's students who achieved a Certificate II or higher was 93.

The percentage of Class of 2020 ATAR pathway students offered their first preference at a public university was 71% (CEWA average 70.3%).

The percentage of Class of 2020 ATAR pathway students offered a place in the main round at a public university was 92.4% (CEWA average 92.4%).

Based upon the historical performance comparisons of the median ATAR for CEWA schools, and compared to the *Index of Community Socio-Economic Advantage,* St Norbert College has consistently achieved in the categories of "Well above" or "Above" their statistical expected performance since 2016.

St Norbert College Principal, Mr Simon Harvey, recently received a letter from Dr Debra Sayce (Executive Director of CEWA), acknowledging the Class of 2020's Year 12 WACE results. Dr Sayce wrote: "I extend my congratulations to you and your staff on the 2020 Year 12 WACE results for St Norbert College. These results attest to the dedication and commitment of your staff and school community in supporting each student to discover their unique gifts and talents."

The College's Dean of Studies, Mr Rod Dowling, said "The results reflect the dedication and effort of students and their teachers over the journey at the College and in light of a year like 2020. For St Norbert College, this continues to be a hallmark of their commitment to achieving personal bests in their academic pathways."

Norbertus extends its congratulations to the Class of 2020 and wishes the Class of 2021 every success as they complete their final year at St Norbert College.

Emma Paskett: "95 Club" and SCSA Subject Certificate of Excellence – Mathematics Applications.

Ellie Barbato: SCSA VET Certificate of Excellence: Community Services, Health and Education.

Amanda D'Cruz: "95 Club" and SCSA Certificate of Distinction.

Lorenzo Donatelli (Class of 2020) was awarded a SCSA Certificate of Merit for his performance in the ATAR examinations last year. He is currently studying a Bachelor of Commerce at UWA with a double-major in accounting and finance. Lorenzo intends to pursue a career in financial consulting.

A PRESENTATION NIGHT *Like No Other*

Last year St Norbert College hosted an annual Presentation Night like no other, to showcase our students' talents and achievements in a year like no other.

Breaking with a 45-year tradition due to audience capacity restrictions still in place at the Perth Concert Hall, the College commissioned a Perth film-making company to produce an entertaining alternative – a pre-recorded production, simulcast on the College's YouTube channel, so students and their families could watch, all at the same time, from the comfort of home.

Class of 1995 graduate and former Magdeburg House Captain and Student Councillor Brad Habib returned to St Norbert College for the first time in 25 years to oversee the recording of the Presentation Night production.

The WAAPA graduate's company, Soundbyte Studios, specialises in everything from feature films (such as the latest movie Rams, starring Michael Caton and Sam Neill) to advertising and web videos – like the one it produced for St Norbert College.

Brad says he has many fond memories of his time at St Norbert College. "Performing in the school theatre productions and working with Kerri Hilton, going on school camps both as a participant and in a support role as a House Captain were all great times," Brad said. "Also helping out with the Year 8 and 9 camps, being a Student Councillor and House Captain, and being part of the school swim team for five years. I still have the t-shirts!"

At the completion of filming the video, Brad was kind enough to share a few insights about putting together such a unique presentation with Mrs Lisa Quartermain, SNC's Community Relations and Marketing Officer.

Mrs Lisa Quartermain (SNC): When and how was Project Presentation Night hatched?

Brad Habib (B.H.): The project was hatched when Simon Harvey and his team determined that hosting the annual Presentation Night at the Perth Concert Hall was simply not going to be feasible due to COVID-19. So, Kerri Hilton reached out to me to discuss the possibility of live-streaming or filming the event as an alternative.

SNC: What did you think about the concept of pre-recording such a traditional school event?

B.H.: I thought the idea or filming the awards was a brilliant alternative. While nothing will ever replace the joy of being there in person to receive an award, or as a parent watching their child get acknowledged for all their hard work, at least this way we would still be able to share some great memories from the year that was 2020 and honour the students for the tremendous efforts they have put in. 2020 has been far from traditional, so it is almost fitting that the annual Presentation Night be different as well.

SNC: What were the challenges – and what was the most important elements needed to make it work?

B.H.: The key elements needed to make the Presentation Night work was firstly figuring out what an online version of it might actually look like. Was it simply going to be filmed as if at the Concert Hall or could we mix it up a little? Filming the award show gave us an opportunity to think outside the traditional constraints of an indoor live venue, so we took every opportunity to move around the school and involve as many people as possible.

Mr Brad Habib pictured during filming of "Project Presentation Night".

On stage in the Xanten Theatre. Brad's former drama teacher, Miss Kerri Hilton, is on the right.

A PRESENTATION NIGHT *Like No Other*

SNC: What were some of the technical issues involved in such a production?

B.H.: While the video makes everything look easy, there was a huge number of logistical and technical hurdles to jump. The main challenges were the time frame; we could only film once the awards were finalised which was only 10 days prior to the Presentation Night. With time being of the essence, we scheduled everything that had to be filmed into a two-day shoot, meaning planning was critical. This was all handled by Kerri Hilton, and may I just say she did an incredible job! Wrangling 100 plus kids, and many staff to be where we needed them, when we needed them, was no easy feat. The other main hurdle was how to keep as many awards a surprise as possible. After all, an awards show where you know all the winners just doesn't seem right.

SNC: What was it like coming back to your old school?

B.H.: I enjoyed every minute of being back. While it has changed so much, it felt so familiar at the same time. I loved seeing how the school has grown, and evolved. The new facilities including the dance studio and gymnasium were truly spectacular. I wasn't sure what to expect the first time I walked around St Norbert's after 25 years, but to my surprise I was slightly overwhelmed by a flood of fond memories of what was an incredible chapter in my life. After all, if not for the influence of certain teachers at St Norbert's, I would not be where I am today.

SNC: What impressed you most about the students your team worked with?

B.H.: We were blown away by the maturity and willingness to help by every student we encountered. On a few occasions during the shoot, my producer commented on how easy the students made it for him to film and how a few of them would no doubt grow up to be future stars in whatever path they take.

SNC: And Miss Hilton, Mr Harvey and the Leadership Team?

B.H.: Working with Mr Harvey, Miss Hilton and the rest of the team was so much fun! I haven't known may principals in my time, but from the little time I spent with Mr Harvey I feel St Norbert's is lucky to have him. His down-to-earth mannerisms and honesty, made him incredibly approachable, and his willingness to create something a bit different and have a little fun along the way was really refreshing.

SNC: What did you enjoy most about Project Presentation Night?

B.H.: For me personally, it was the opportunity to be back at my old stomping ground. Working with an inspirational group of people who believe in collaboration, and working with us in every way possible to help bring the night to life on screen. Plus watching Simon and Peter trying to perform their lines for the Concert Hall sequence! Given the opportunity, I would happily do it all over again.

St Norbert College 2020 Presentation Night and all year awards can be viewed at www.youtube.com/user/StNorbertPerth/videos

An outside scene is filmed.

St Norbert College alumnus, Brad Habib, Student Representative Councillor and Magdeburg House Captain in 1995.

ALUMNI SCENE AT "Cinderella :The Enchanted Edition"

The cast of "Cinderella: The Enchanted Edition" put on four performances from May 5 to May 8.

Mr Aaron McGoorty (Class of 2001) and son Riley.

Kieran (Class of 2009) and Rory Lehane (Class of 2011).

Danica Cannella (Class of 2002) and her aunt, St Norbert College Principal's Executive Assistant, Mrs Angela Hughes.

Café 135@Treasure assistant Mrs Cheryl Curtis and her daughter Allie Curtis (Class of 2012).

Michael McLevie (Class of 2018) and 2020 graduates Regina Ndossi, Jen Darang and Theresa Titus.

2020 graduates Jordan Cirillo and Courtney McCrostie.

Emily Coniglio (Class of 2017).

Head of Prémontré House, Mr Brendan McGrath, and Olivia Palermo (Class of 2009).

Mrs Elizabeth Jepp
A BLESSED LIFE

Mrs Elizabeth Jepp survived German bombing raids in her home town of Clydebank, Scotland, during the Second World War and went on to pursue a university education and carve out an amazing and varied teaching career that eventually brought her to Australia, including two stints at St Norbert College, commencing in 1979. While science and mathematics were her chosen fields of study, Beth combined her love of teaching, nature, music and her precious family to celebrate her love of life which she is still living to the maximum on her bush block full of fruit and vegetables in Queensland. Norbertus' Brisbane correspondent recently caught up with Beth – a remarkable lady who has truly lived the St Norbert's motto of "being prepared for all good works".

***Norbertus* (*N*):** Mrs Elizabeth Jepp, welcome to *Norbertus*. Before we get to your career in education and your time at St Norbert College, could we go back to your younger years – where you were born, your city, suburb and your family?

Elizabeth Jepp (E.J.): Most of my childhood was overshadowed by WWII which broke out in 1939, the year after my birth. I was born in Clydebank, east of Glasgow, Scotland. Clydebank had two main industries, the Singers Sewing Machine factory and John Browns shipyard, famous for the construction of The Queen Mary, The Queen Elizabeth and The Britannia. During the war the shipyard also built naval vessels and so was a target for the German aircraft. The street where I lived, Napier St, was close to the River Clyde and so in March 1941 it was flattened during the German attack on the shipyard. Fortunately for me we were staying at my grandmother's house and sheltering in the bomb shelter. My father was working night shift at the munitions factory so he also escaped.
When I was only about seven, my mother sent me to the town square to collect bottles of orange juice concentrate and cod liver oil which was provided free by the government for children to help supplement the food which was rationed. We also received free milk at school to prevent rickets. While in the square that day I saw and heard people celebrating as the war with Germany was over.

***N*:** Which schools did you attend? Do you recall any teachers who had an impact on your life?

E.J.: I attended two primary schools, the first St Margaret's in Johnstone and in Grade 7, Our Holy Redeemer's back in Clydebank. St Margaret's consisted of one small building for junior Grades 1-3, we had outside toilets with no roofs and a larger red three-storey building for Grades 4-7. All the teachers were female and unmarried, after marrying a female teacher had to resign. The headmaster, Mr Ribchester however was allowed to be married.
My first teacher was Miss Gallagher who taught me to write, initially using a slate and then on specially lined paper. Reading was the "Dick and Dora" series of books and we started counting with wooden blocks but soon we were learning tables. No decimal currency in those days – pounds, shillings and pence for money and miles, furlongs, yards, feet and inches for measurements.
Miss White's room took up half of the middle storey, as it housed the furnace which kept the radiators hot. In the afternoon especially in the winter she would let us sit on the floor near the furnace and read to us.
Grade 7 students had to sit the Eleven Plus Exam which decided which course you followed in high school. I went to Our Holy Redeemer's where one day crates of apples from Canada arrived at the school as we still had food rationing and it was unusual to get many things such as fruit and sweets. This was a present from the Canadian Government.

Mrs Elizabeth (Beth) Jepp on her Queensland property.

At the end of July in 1950 I began my six years at Notre Dame, an all-girls school of mainly day girls but there were some boarders who could afford to pay. In upper school on Friday afternoon we had a music lesson which of course I enjoyed. I sang in the school choir from Years 8 to 12. I was hopeless at tennis but I loved netball and hockey. I was the Senior Sports Champion (still have the miniature cup that I could keep) and represented the school at high jump at the inter-school carnival. I was also the Captain of Chesterton House.
Most of our staff seemed very old in our eyes, especially Miss Walsh, Head of Mathematics. She was a great teacher and made you think for yourself. She walked along the corridors with her academic gown trailing behind her. Students kept to the left when walking along corridors and had to stop to let a teacher pass. Miss Walsh retired and was replaced by Miss Dunne who was a great teacher and became a special friend in later life. In 1973 I took my three children on a trip to Scotland and when I paid her a visit she produced some of my old exam papers that she had kept, to show students the very good presentation of my work. In that last term after the exams we had a crash course in first aid, cookery and needlework and even produced a magazine. I think we were being prepared for the outside world.

N: So, what drew you to a career in education and particularly mathematics and science?

E.J.: While living in Johnstone, I spent a lot of time with my grandparents in Clydebank during school holidays. My grandfather, who was born in Ireland and had very little education, took me on long walks in the country and introduced me to the life of plants and animals which was his passion, and that rubbed off on me. Being the eldest in the family I became my father's right-hand man when repairs or work around house or garden had to be done. From that I developed an interest in how things worked. Again, being the eldest I was always the teacher and I enjoyed that. I was also a member of the Girl Guides and over the years I progressed to patrol leader and eventually captain. In these positions I taught the girls all aspects of the guiding movement and found this very worthwhile.

N: Where did you complete your tertiary qualifications?

E.J.: In my Scottish Leaving Certificate, I qualified to study for a bachelor of science at Glasgow University. I wanted to study engineering, but in those days, there were no facilities for women in the engineering faculty, so science and mathematics it was. Very few girls studied these courses and had to sit in the first few front rows of the lecture theatres. I enjoyed uni, it was a growing up time after my sheltered upbringing in the Catholic schools. I made new friends including an Australian girl called Robyn. In my final year I failed double chemistry – maybe I was having too much fun – and spent the next year working in the Clydebank Public Library while I revised the subject.
I passed and enrolled at Notre Dame College Dowanhill, Glasgow – girls only – to gain a teaching diploma. Once again, the teaching staff were mainly Sisters of Notre Dame and they ran a tight ship. Subjects included ethics, gym, religious education and surprisingly elocution; I think the teacher was trying to eradicate our common Glaswegian accent!
I enjoyed my time there and learned a lot about all aspects of teaching. On my first science practicum some of the boys thought it was great fun to wrap tea towels round a tripod under which sat a Bunsen burner. You could say this was my "baptism of fire" and my supervising lecturer was not impressed. Now a fully qualified teacher, Elizabeth Green BSc TDip, I was let loose on the world!

N: Prior to your arrival at St Norbert College, where had you taught and what positions had you held at other schools?

E.J.: I taught in Scotland and three different states in Australia. My husband, Laurence, was a naval architect and planning engineer and every time he was transferred, the children and I moved too. I was always fortunate that after settling the children, my qualifications and experience stood me in good stead and I found a job teaching. Laurence said I was easier to live when I was teaching although it did take some planning.
As time passed by and I changed from school to school, there were constant changes and development in curriculum and technological. In my first teaching post

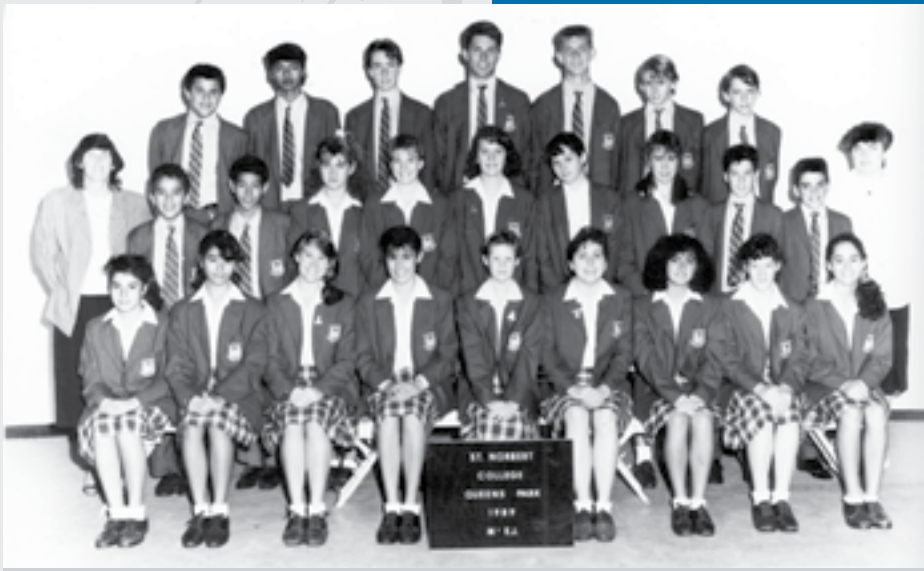
Beth Jepp and André Papineau in 1982.

Beth (second from left, rear) always involved herself in school musical and singing productions during her teaching career.

in Scotland I taught in a brand-new school that I could see from my bedroom window. There were two problems here – firstly my brother was a pupil and secondly, the head of science, who had taught my mother, was not interested in the developments in science teaching, so she taught the lower level classes and left the teaching of atoms and molecules to me.
In the late 1950s, the British Government reduced shipbuilding grants on the Clyde and my husband and I decided that we should emigrate to Australia. So, in late October, 1963, we left Scotland with our six-month-old son, sailing on the ship Fairsea. We arrived in Fremantle the day President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 and, after a visit to St Patrick's Basilica, we returned to the ship and sailed on to Adelaide. We finally settled in Whyalla, where BHP had a shipyard and also steelworks.
During my career I mainly taught religious studies as well as maths and science. I was offered a teaching position at Whyalla High School but that had to be deferred for a while as I discovered I was pregnant. Eventually I was given the girls from a Year 8 class and I taught them most subjects. Thankfully my teaching diploma qualified me to teach primary so I had had some practice. I even produced a play, "The Jewel Box", for the end of year festivities. Mr Dungey the principal, would ask to see your corrected exam papers and make some suggestions as to how each teacher could improve.
When my third child was just 18 months, I had a visit from the parish priest to offer me a position at the Good Samaritan School, a two-classroom school with only two sisters and myself. There was one classroom and a demountable. As I was the only maths and science teacher, I suppose that I was head teacher in these subjects. I loved teaching the girls who were so receptive and helpful. At the end of each term one or two girls turned up at my home with their mothers to take my children away for the day so I could concentrate on marking exams. I even took part in a fashion parade in my wedding dress at the end of one year for a Christmas concert for the parents. I was sorry to leave, but my youngest child Michelle was soon going to kindergarten, so I wanted to spend more time with her.
A year later when Michelle had started school, the principal of St John's Christian Brothers College offered me a position. I had 40 boys in Year 9, and 40 boys in Year 10 for both maths and science, a Year 11 maths class and I also taught English grammar to Years 6 and 7. I loved the boys and made great friends with some of the parents and I still have contact with some of the staff.

N: How and when did you eventually commence teaching at St Norbert College?

E.J.: Once again, in 1979 my husband was transferred, this time to Perth and our family of five were on the move. One Sunday at church we had a visiting priest who introduced himself as Fr O' Reilly. Having settled the children into school, I had developed the desire to teach again, so after Mass, I approached him and asked if there were any vacancies at St Norbert College. I was dragged back into church and, after a discussion, was ordered to phone Des O' Sullivan, St Norbert's Principal, as soon as I got home. Well the rest is history. I arrived at a time when St Norbert's was growing and developing, and I taught two of the first girls in the school – Julie O'Sullivan and Bernadette Clare –who by that time had reached Year 11.
Over the years I taught mainly mathematics and science in the lower school, Maths IV in Years 11 and 12 and religious education to my Homeroom. We had only one computer, a Commodore with a cassette tape and a colleague, Andy, who taught the second class at the same time had the most use of this as he was more familiar with the system.
One year, however, I taught home economics where Kathy Jones set up all the lessons. As well as theory, I demonstrated every second lesson and took the results home for the family dinner.
I had some very good students in my Year 10 maths class and one of them, Alice Alibrandi, went on to teach at St Norbert's some years later.
At the end of each year the Head of Mathematics, Dudley Pinto, always asked each teacher to list which classes they would like to take next year. I often asked for Maths I, II or III but I always got the same answer: "But you do so well with the Maths IV students!"



Beth and her 1989 Magdeburg Homeroom class.

Beth, pictured during her second teaching stint at St Norbert College, in 1992.

Beth and her family migrated from Scotland to Whyalla in the 1970s when the city was booming and had a population of over 30,000 people at its peak.

N: Were there any more work transfers for your husband's employment?

E.J.: Yes, once again my husband was transferred and we were now off to Melbourne. Loyola College was only four years old and developing rapidly, with once again, different curriculums and textbooks. I happened to mention to the principal, John Kennedy, that the school diary was very impractical and was given the job of producing a better one, so I turned to the one I had from St Norbert's. At the end of my first year I secured the position of Head of Maths, Science and Computer Studies. Three lots of department meetings each month, I was blessed by a wonderful group of teachers and was so grateful for their assistance.

N: So how and when did your second stint at Treasure Road come about?

E.J.: In 1987 we moved back to Perth and St Norbert's welcomed me back with open arms. There had been a fair deal of change for the better: vertical Homerooms, no bells, new House names and of course four terms, not three. I felt that I had never left. I was in Magdeburg House and was eventually was promoted to Head of Mathematics.
In every school that I taught I always became involved in the extra-curricular activities such as camps, excursions and – of course – singing. At St Norbert College I helped form a staff and student group to sing at masses and Presentation Night.
After retiring from St Norbert's, I was approached by a friend's husband to teach at a tutoring college. I worked there and also tutored private students for several years, each year buying and planting approximately one hundred native trees for our large block to fulfill the plans my husband and I had made for our future.

N: So, what do the next few years hold for Beth Jepp?

E.J.: Well I am healthy and active, still driving and having now reached the ripe old age of 83, I hope to live long enough to see my great-grandchildren. I belong to two choirs and have even made an appearance on YouTube! At present, the choirs are preparing for the Eisteddfod in Maryborough in Queensland at Easter. I sing the psalm on the fourth Sunday of the month at my local church and lead the singing at mass. I also belong to U3A and have joined an exercise class. If I am not at the cinema with my friend Josephine, I am usually in my garden. I live on a 33-acre bush block and mainly grow fruit and veggies. I love sudoku but am still learning.

N: How do you think you would sum up your life to date?

E.J.: I have had a blessed life, initially having been born into a wonderful supportive Scottish-Irish Catholic family and then receiving a great education in Catholic schools. Add to that being educated in a prestigious university at no cost and having the privilege and experience of teaching wonderful (mostly!) students in both state and Catholic schools, I have made some wonderful friends and learnt so much from all of them.
I have been blessed with a remarkable husband, three lovely children and seven grandchildren. I am so proud of all their achievements, all growing into people who support others and have chosen careers that look out for others.
My greatest sadness is the death of Laurence, 26 years ago. We had planned to tour Australia when we retired and I still miss him so much. Thanks to the staff and students of 1995 who made his funeral so beautiful. Once the current border issues are settled, I hope to see you all when I can bring my friend Jo to Perth.

N: Mrs Elizabeth Jepp BSc TDip, thank you very much for sharing your wonderful story with our *Norbertus* readers. Thank you very much for your contribution to education across Australia, and thank you in particular for the years of hard work and dedication you put in at Treasure Road, much appreciated. See you in Perth soon.

E.J.: My pleasure, thank you very much.

1982 St Norbert College staff members Sheryl Gardner, Dudley Pinto, John Hammond and Beth Jepp.

Excerpt from *Koinonia*, 1996

Mrs Elizabeth Jepp decided in May of this year that it was time to put her teaching career behind her and to have more time to devote to her family and her other interests, many of which are centred around her parish church.
We salute Mrs Jepp for her long and distinguished career and thank her for the way she has touched the lives of so many people at St Norbert College.
Thank you. By your life and your example, you have been a true witness to Christian values for our students. Our prayers go with you!

Part of Mr Brian Rogan's Koinonia article farewelling Beth on the occasion of her retirement from St Norbert College.

The Life, Times and Work of MR THOMAS PATRICK CORCORAN

Mr Tom Corcoran joined St Norbert College as deputy principal in 1983 before becoming the College's fourth principal in September, 1985, when Mr Des O'Sullivan resigned to take up a position at the Catholic Education Office. Born in self-described "inauspicious circumstances" just prior to the commencement of World War II, Tom fulfilled an ambition to become a primary school teacher and then a secondary mathematics teacher in the government system, before joining the Catholic sector in 1979.
During his time at Treasure Road, Tom was credited with guiding St Norbert College through a range of curriculum and structural changes in the late 1980s, as well as implementing innovations such as adopting a vertical Homeroom system. Now retired after a total of 57 years' involvement in education in Western Australia, Tom was kind enough to tell Norbertus about his remarkable life story ...

Wartime Beginnings

I was born Richard Heal, two weeks before hostilities commenced in World War II, to a single mother who put me up for adoption with the Sisters of St Joseph six weeks later. After 15 months under the care of the nuns, I was adopted by Mr Thomas (Tom) and Mrs Violet (Sadie) Corcoraran and young Richard was soon baptised Thomas Patrick Corcoran.
For the next four years I lived with my new parents in the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle where my father was manager. The influence of the war being so close to home – blackouts, wailing sirens and underground shelters – gave me vivid memories which I will never forget.
With the presence of so many American soldiers on R&R leave displaying colourful language and behavior, my parents thought I was learning about life too quickly and was enrolled at school with the Sisters of St Joseph.
We left Fremantle and travelled by boat to Sydney where my mother's family lived in suburban Como. After several months we returned to Perth by train to be greeted by the grim news that the converted hospital ship HMAS Mulbeira had been torpedoed by the Japanese with all lives lost.

At Home in Kenwick

My parents purchased a fifteen-acre house and land package in semi-rural Kenwick on the outskirts of Perth, complete with chickens, orchards and Flossy the horse. This was to become the Corcoran family home.
My primary education was spent at Kenwick Primary school. I had a wonderful time there but failed to secure a scholarship to attend Perth Modern School. I actually attended Kenwick with Graham "Polly" Farmer and Ted Kilmurray, so – not surprisingly – our school footy and athletics teams performed very well indeed.
Tom and Sadie eventually enrolled me at CBC Terrace where I was initially petrified as I knew no one, and the Year 12 prefects all appeared to be least 7ft 6ins tall! However, I settled in well and used my skills as a handy sprinter, footballer player and quite a successful student. Cadet training was also a useful discipline.

Teaching Beckons

During my high school years my dad became very ill and passed away when I was in Year 10, so Sadie and her adopted son continued on in Kenwick. With mum's strong support I pursued my preferred career of primary school teaching and my Year 12 leaving results were good enough for me to obtain a bursary to help me through my teacher training course.
I completed the two-year course at Graylands Teachers College in 1958 and the following year I was appointed as a primary school teacher to Cunderdin Agricultural Junior High, where – at the tender age of 19-years-old – I thought I knew it all! However, with wonderful help from experienced staff, deputies and district superintendents, and the fact I was given appropriate

The Corcoran clan: Daniel, Stephen, Julie and Matthew, with Tom and Margaret in front.

classes to teach, I began to find my way as a teacher. Following the advice I had received at Graylands, I became very involved in Cunderdin's community, especially playing football and tennis, and I even had a brief go at water polo – all very enjoyable and worthwhile activities.

A "Strange Little Building"

Apart from a brief six-month relief-teaching stint at Shannon River, I had four years of wonderful teaching at Cunderdin which laid the foundation for my future career. Sadie had some health problems so I transferred to Perth and was appointed to Kewdale Primary School which was quite close to Kenwick. My good friend Dennis Chum taught at Queens Park Primary School and occasionally I would take him to school. One day, as we drove along Treasure Road, I noticed a strange little building in the middle of a paddock and Dennis informed me "That is St Norbert College." Little did I know how important that College would become! I stayed at Kewdale for seven years and that included two years as Acting Deputy Headmaster.

Important Women

During that time, I met Margaret and we became very close. Around the same time, I lost my mother in tragic circumstances. In 1964 Margaret and I married and we settled into our old house in Kenwick for the next three years. Shortly before my mother's death, she told me I was adopted and although at the time it had no real impact, this revelation certainly played a part during the rest of my life.

Margaret and I tired of the old property in Kenwick where our family now numbered three after the birth of our son, Stephen. Our old home was built in 1901 and beginning to look its age, so we moved to a new house in Dianella.

Secondary Steps

Dennis and I decided to leave the primary sector and pursue a career in secondary mathematics teaching. Following successful completion of holiday courses, I was appointed to Kewdale High School where I taught maths and science. After 11 years' primary teaching I very quickly had to learn and implement some different classroom management techniques. I loved Kewdale and got involved in other areas such as contributing to the establishment of the student council and starting the annual school ball.

After four years at Kewdale I transferred to Mirrabooka Senior High School which suited our family situation much better as all four of our children were attending Catholic schools in the northern suburbs.

I established myself at 'Booka and became a year master, a newly created position in government schools, and looked after one cohort of more than 300 students from Year 8 through to Year 10. A visiting superintendent advised me that a transfer was imminent due to a shortage of maths teachers in the country, so after discussing this possible development with Margaret, I thought joining the Catholic system might be a means of staying in Perth and not disrupting our children's education. My Mirrabooka principal agreed, saying "Who knows, you might even be a principal in ten years."

The Catholic Connection

With experienced maths teachers in extremely short supply, I applied for several positions and received several offers, finally settling on Mercy College, Koondoola where I would be Head of Mathematics and Year 8 Master. This was a wonderful opportunity

At this time of my life I became heavily involved in the sport of softball as a player, coach, administrator and umpire at State level. While Mercy did not win too many competitions we all enjoyed the efforts of the team. As in other schools, I became very involved in the life of Mercy College. I introduced computers to the College and obtained a government grant to purchase six Compucolour computers which added to the advent of the computer age in the school.

I enjoyed my administrative work at Mercy College and developed a desire to seek out a position as deputy principal at a Catholic College.

That "Strange Little Building" Again

After various enquires and applications I was eventually offered a deputy position at St Norbert College by Principal Mr Des O'Sullivan.I realised very quickly what it was like to follow someone as efficient as Mr Michael Devine, the previous deputy, whose organisational skills were impeccable. However, with plenty of assistance, particularly from fellow Deputy Mrs Carole Hayes as well as the Prior, Fr Peter O'Reilly, I learned a lot and settled into the responsibilities of boys' discipline, timetabling and teaching one class. One of my first disciplinary tasks was to implement and maintain a ban on students smoking. As a smoker, the hypocrisy of my stance became apparent and I gave up smoking after nearly 30 years. My health could only improve and the guilt would surely disappear! However, the controversy continued as I set out to make St Norbert College smoke-free. The staff finally agreed and I have not had a cigarette since.

Tom and Margaret, together with some members of one of their host families, during a student exchange visit to Japan in 1991.

The Principal of the Thing

I was only really becoming comfortable in the role of deputy principal when Des came into my office and closed the door, something he only did when something serious was happening. He informed me he was resigning his principalship in order to accept a position at Catholic Education and he also said he thought I should apply for the vacant position. His statement took my breath away and I immediately expressed my doubts about my readiness for such a position. Des allayed my fears by saying that he had spoken to Fr O'Reilly and a previous principal about my candidacy for the position and all had agreed I could fill the role and maintain continuity in the College's leadership team. The position was advertised and all due processes put in place, interviews done and it was finally announced that I had been offered the position of Principal of St Norbert College. I accepted.

My first day as principal was spent ill, in bed, with some sort of gastric situation and my first telephone call was from a Mr Lyons from an address in South Perth which turned to be the zoo. I found that sometimes a touch of humour can relieve tensions and, alternatively, found out sometimes it does not!

Special Highlights

My time as principal was punctuated with many special highlights such as the introduction of Year 11 vocational education programs for students who did not want to pursue a university education, and the implementation of subjects that did not lead to immediate tertiary study but would allow students to graduate with very acceptable WA Certificates of Education.

St Norbert College underwent a significant enrolment growth which required some infrastructural changes including the renovation and modernisation of the science rooms and the creation of the computing room, complete with state-of-the-art student furnishings designed by staff. The Japanese and AFS student exchange programs were working well and assisting those who studied Japanese in Year 11.

Marathon Man

I had known Fr O'Reilly before going to SNC as he relieved our parish priest in Dianella on many occasions. He eventually retired as Prior to do parish work and a new Prior, Fr Tom McNulty, was appointed. My first encounter with Fr Tom was when I had left my office to return home and discovered quite a distressed, red-faced, prone body covered in perspiration stretched out on the lawn in front of the priory. I subsequently found out that this gentleman had just run a marathon distance as a training run and, while March was probably not the best time to engage in such an activity, he was an experienced long-distance runner and had previously completed the New York marathon. I spent many Masses, meals and meetings with the Norbertines and got to understand to some degree their lifestyle and their focus on St Norbert College. Fr Peter Joseph was a particularly strong monastic force and I had to adjust my lay upbringing and attitudes on more than one occasion.

I became very involved in the administrative demands of my position which required flexibility due to educational changes, all the while basking in the achievements of the hard-working staff and receiving the interest and help of Fr Tom McNulty and the Norbertine community, the planning of the school board and feeding off the energy of the students. There were times when some actions were required to be taken with unsettled students – fortunately I had only to deal with a few – but that goes with the territory and the support I had was wonderful.

Superb Staff

The staff of the College, many of whom I was involved in selecting, were like nothing I had experienced in other schools. That is not say that the other school staff members were not up to it, but the teaching, administration and support staff of St Norbert College were superb. I also had the luxury of some great deputy principals in Mrs Carole Hayes, Mr Peter Glasson and Mr Chris Houlihan, all of whom became Principals at later dates. I could write a book on the many and varied activities that I shared with staff. Presentation nights were wonderful opportunities to reward students for their efforts on behalf of themselves and others. I introduced Principal's Medallions which recognised students who – in addition to academic success – made personal sacrifices for others in the interests of the College community. As a staff we introduced vertical homerooms which initially proved to be quite a challenge but is now popular in different models throughout the State.

One especially useful activity I took a particular interest in was put to me by a Year 11 girl who had had quite a bit of personal medical treatment in PMH. She began a blood donor program at SNC, maybe the first in the State, because of what she had witnessed in PMH as a patient. There are so

Students farewell Tom as he prepares to leave St Norbert College in 1994.

Tom was recently inducted into Softball WA's Hall of Fame.

St Norbert College Principal, Mr Tom Corcoran.

Mr Tom Corcoran pictured in 1983 when he was Deputy Principal, St Norbert College.

many occasions I remember when St Norbert students shone but they are difficult to document as the number is enormous! Suffice to say that the student body was great. I will never forget the great bus ride home after winning the high school softball championships.

Wonderful Birth Mother ... and Father

My school trip to Japan was particularly memorable as Margaret and I accompanied seven students to Kagoshima for seven weeks. The need for a passport required an original birth certificate, which eventually enabled me to locate my birth mother and her family. It was wonderful experience for me.

It was some time later that my birth mother finally told me who my biological father was. The whole revelation was very fulfilling and I did spend some moments, separately, with them and their families and I am still in touch with some of my half-brothers and sisters. Both parents have passed away since, within six months of one another.

It Was Time

Occasionally there were worrying incidents and occurrences but that is the life of a school as young people take risks, create and solve problems, test themselves and learn – mostly safely. I believe that society is not making it easy for students, teachers or parents today but so long as we have educational institutions like St Norbert College with its religious support and behaviour codes implemented by enthusiastic and capable staff, there will always be a rewarding and healthy environment for the students who attend, to learn.

A principal I encountered in my early teaching career once told me that ten years of administration was about long enough and my mum always said "all good things must come to an end". My life and some attitudes were changing, so following informal discussion with Mrs Temby, Director of Catholic Education, some principals and Fr Peter Joseph who was prior at the time, I decided to resign from my cherished position as Principal of St Norbert College, somewhat late in the year. My resignation was accepted graciously and Mrs Carole Hayes assumed the role of Principal of St Norbert's; a more worthy choice could not have been made.

Following my stint at St Norbert's, I spent four years a mathematics teacher at Mercy College where it had all started, so to speak. I thoroughly enjoyed those years when I could focus on the classroom experience without distraction.

Down South

At this time in my life our family had grown up and moved on, so we sold up in Dianella and built on our block in Prevelly, Margaret River. I made some enquiries at the local junior high school where I took up a position of relief teacher and vocational education officer which involved supervising student holiday work placements in businesses from Busselton to Augusta. I soon found that employment grew beyond day relief to semester relief at Margaret River Junior High School and St Mary MacKillop College in Busselton.

After 11 years down south, we sold up and moved back to Perth for family reasons to a house in Connolly for nine years before moving into a Life Style Village in Darch, known as College Park, where we are now.

Thank You, St Norbert

During this time, I did relief work at several schools in the area including Mater Dei College, Joondalup Baptist College and St Stephen's College in Carramar. In 2017, after 57 years' involvement in education, I finally decided to have a rest, and resign from all teaching duties.

Nowadays, as indeed when teaching, we keep busy with caravanning and camping, travelling around this huge country twice and making many other shorter WA trips, including to favourite spots such as Barn HIll, Exmouth and Bremer Bay. We also did a three-week river cruise through Europe on the Danube.

I am still umpiring softball and recently received a Life Membership of Softball WA and was inducted into the Softball Hall of Fame WA. Wheelchairs for Kids occupies some of my time as does assisted reading with Year 1s at Ashdale Primary School. To maintain a bit of fitness I clock up 1000 strokes in our pool every day, and for the soul – despite no music experience and very little knowledge – I have been learning how to play the banjolele. Generally I stick to playing Australian folk or the blues, so nobody really notices or cares!

Despite two unrelated bouts of cancer, life has been good and I now take it easy. I pray to St Norbert every day – more as a thank you – and often think of St Norbert College in Queens Park.

Tom introduced Principal's Medallions during his time at St Norbert's.

Lachlan Honter, 2011 St Norbert College Dux

Tarryn Bradshaw, 2011 SRC President.

Norbertine Canons' Award recipient, Melissa Crosthwaite.

Winner of the 2011 Br Patrick Doolan Medal, Miss Kerri Hilton.

2011 St Norbert College Captains.

2011 St Norbert College

PRIOR: Fr Peter Stiglich O. Praem
PRINCIPAL: Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day. (Mr John Bird, Acting, Term 3)
DEPUTY PRINCIPALS:

- Years 7,9,12: Mrs Franca Coutts
- Years 8,10,11: Mr Donald Nield

DEAN OF STUDIES: Ms Sharon Rainford (Mr Mark Pavy, Acting, Term 2)
HEADS of LEARNING AREAS:

- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Ms Michelle Ronchi
- ENGLISH, LOTE & DRAMA: Ms Katie Fielding
- MATHEMATICS: Mrs Joan Davies
- SCIENCE: Mrs Kylee Chung
- SOCIETY & ENVIRONMENT: Mr Bronson Gherardi
- ARTS/TECHNOLOGY & ENTERPRISE: Mrs Samantha Mark
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Mr Mark Pavy

COORDINATORS:

- VET: Mrs Karen Infanti
- KERN: Mrs Kim Walker
- YEAR 7: Ms Carrol Abel

BR PATRICK DOOLAN MEDAL: Miss Kerri Hilton
ST NORBERT COLLEGE DEVELOPMENTS INNOVATIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Br Christopher Jacob Lim Han Lee celebrated taking the solemn Profession (Life Vows) on August 28 in a Mass officiated by Abbot Noyens
- Two Norbertine chaplains, Fr Joshy Chacko and Fr Shajee Puthanenpurayil, join the Queens Park Priory from Kerala in India
- The inaugural plumbing and gas fitting, and painting and decorating courses commence in the new Floreffe Trade Training Centre in January
- Isfrid Court is constructed behind the Fr Peter O'Reilly Centre
- The College's Specialised Basketball Program celebrates its first graduate to be signed by an American university – Courtney Bayliss heads to the University of Mobile in Alabama
- The 1:1 MacBook laptop program is adopted by students in Years 7 to 11
- The College claims victory in the C Division of the ACC Athletics Carnival

Courtney Bayliss (Class of 2010), pictured with Mrs Celeste Grosser, was awarded a basketball scholarship to the University of Mobile, Alabama.

Senator Mark Bishop unveils the plaque to commemorate the completion of the Floreffe Trade Training Centre.

The College hosted some Japanese exchange students.

'E'! The Musical.

The College's 1:1 MacBook laptop program was rolled out to students in Years 7 to 11

- Miss Kerri Hilton's musical 'E'! receives rave reviews and wins two awards at the Catholic Performing Arts Festival
- A revised Mission Statement was developed, to be adopted from the commencement of 2012

HEADS OF HOUSE:
- KILNACROTT: Mrs Lyndsey Cardenia
- MAGDEBURG: Dr Killian O'Reilly
- PRÉMONTRÉ: Miss Alesha Haynes
- TONGERLO: Miss Erica Bursey
- XANTEN: Miss Regina Bourke

ST NORBERT COLLEGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD: Mrs Dianne Begg (Chairperson), Fr Peter Joseph Stiglich, Mrs Desirée Grezenda-Day, Mrs Franca Coutts, Mrs Annette McRae, Mr Keith George, Mr Michael Papali, Mr Paul Kelly, Mr Bernard Kerwin and Mrs Gloria White who:
- Work towards promoting excellence in Catholic education at St Norbert College
- Oversee financial accountability and advise the Principal on strategic decision making
- Monitor changes to the Catholic education funding system

PARENT COMMITTEE: Mr Carl Pallier (Chairperson), and fellow committee members who:
- Develop four aims: fundraising for specific projects; social and "friend-raising" activities; pastoral care through the Norbertcare program; and engaging the parent body in the future of the College
- Arrange various forums, including: study skill techniques for parents; cyberbullying; social media networks and their impacts; and managing teenage parties

ENROLMENT: 804 students

DUX: Lachlan Honter

PROXIME ACCESSIT: Shenali Perera

NORBERTINE CANONS' AWARD: Melissa Crosthwaite

95 TER CLUB INDUCTEE: Jordan La Fontaine

PRINCIPAL'S MEDALLIONS: Sarah Bradley, Donna Dumas, Luke Pallier, Shenali Perera and Nkazimulo Sibindi

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL: Tarryn Bradshaw (President), who, with fellow councillors:
- Organise an Easter treasure hunt and the spaghetti eating competition during Language Week
- Help organise the Year 12 Ball, the Year 8 and 9 socials, the Year 10 river cruise and the Year 11 dinner-dance
- Organise the inaugural "Minute to Win It/Amazing Race" activity night for the Year 7s
- Secure a College Captain position for the SRC
- Participate in the running of College assemblies

HOUSE CAPTAINS:
- KILNACROTT: Rory Lehane and Kolbe Burgoyne (House Captains), and Katie Burnett (College Captain)
- MAGDEBURG: Jordan Jansen and Tinika Bennett (House Captains), and Tayla Fiegert (College Captain)
- PRÉMONTRÉ: Nicholas Parrish and Jordanna Cipriano, and Cassandra Fisher (College Captain)
- TONGERLO: Katie Griffin and Daniel Thaung (House Captains), and Anna Htut (College Captain)
- XANTEN: Michael Maguang and Sarah Silvestri (House Captains), and Luke Pallier (College Captain)

WINNERS OF SPORTS CARNIVALS:
- SWIMMING: Prémontré
- ATHLETICS: Prémontré

CHAMPION HOUSE: Xanten

STUDENTS FROM 2011

Jordan Jansen
Happiness in New Zealand

Jordan Jansen was a cheerful, enthusiastic and friendly student during his five years of school at St Norbert College and nothing seems to have changed as he lives life to the full in his adopted new homeland of New Zealand. Norbertus' South Pacific correspondent recently caught up with Jordan in Wellington.

***Norbertus* (*N*):** Jordan Jansen, thank you very much for your time and welcome to *Norbertus*. You've certainly picked a nice part of the world to settle in.

Jordan Jansen (J.J.): Thanks for having me and welcome to Wellington. Yes, it is a beautiful city. It's great to be in touch with St Norbert's again.

***N*:** You spent five years at Treasure Road from 2007. How would you sum up your time there?

J.J.: Life-shaping and loving! I miss St Norbert's terribly. Now I know why adults always used to say "I wish I could go back to school".

***N*:** That is very kind of you to say Jordan. What were some of the positive experiences you recall from your St Norbert's days?

J.J.: There are so many – the Year 10 adventure camp, KAIROS retreats and being a KAIROS leader and all the Student Ministry activities in general. Oh, and, cheesie days at the canteen of course!

***N*:** Well you might be interested to hear that in October 2019, the canteen sold its 200,000th cheesie. It was pretty big news in Perth, so I assume the New Zealand media were all over that milestone, were they?

J.J.: I'm sure it was, I don't pay too much attention to the news, it often doesn't lift my spirits but I wish I tuned in for that story. Hearing that has delighted me entirely! In fact one of the monologues I wrote for drama was based about being obsessed with them.

***N*:** Drama was one of your favourite subjects, wasn't it?

J.J.: Yes, that's very true. I have very happy memories of being in Year 11 and 12 productions and landing a role in *E! The Musical* which Miss Hilton wrote herself.

***N*:** Why did your time in Miss Hilton's classes appeal so much?

J.J.: Miss Hilton was a teacher who brought life to the subject, she was inspirational and hilarious through and through. It was always fun and I always looked forward to it. I would love to sit in that class again even at the age of 27! You didn't feel like you were learning but you certainly were and other students in the class treated you like family.

***N*:** Wonderful stuff, Jordan. Do any other teachers or subjects stand out in your memory?

J.J.: Yes, there were several. English with Mrs Chung – a teacher you would always pay attention to, who knew her stuff and was obsessed with the news! I learnt heaps.
And graphic design and photography with Mr Italiano. He was just cool and always kind.

***N*:** That is excellent, Jordan ...

Mr Jordan Jansen (Class of 2011) currently lives in rural New Zealand.

J.J.: Sorry, I better mention your boss, too – Mr Mulligan and Social Studies. He was a teacher connected with the people and didn't take things so seriously.

N: Well it sounds as though he has changed a bit! What about your classmates? Do you keep in touch with some of them?

J.J.: Yes, I sure do. Rose Kyaw Maung now living in the UK, an avid WWE fan and working as a legal secretary, and Donna Dumas who owns her own ethical clothing company and is very happy with her two chihuahuas. I wish mine could meet hers!

N: Donna will be alongside you in this edition of *Norbertus* with little Gucci, and it's excellent to hear Rose is doing well in the UK. A great Kilnacrott girl, from memory. Please pass on *Norbertus'* best wishes to her.

J.J.: I will pass that on, she and I video call often and St Norbert's always makes its way into our conversations.

N: So, here you are in New Zealand. How did you end up here?

J.J.: After working at an ice cream parlour and shoe shop throughout high school I found a job in a call centre for a health insurance company where I was promoted to a real time analyst watching the calls come through and reporting on them. Then I unfortunately experienced a few negative personal events and decided to move to New Zealand, as a half kiwi it felt fitting enough and more appealing than bigger cities in Aussie.

N: Sorry to hear that, Jordan, but you seem to have fallen on your feet here in Wellington. How did the decision to move turn out?

J.J.: It's been great. I live in New Zealand, the most beautiful country in the southern hemisphere, I am sorry to say to my Australian friends – *not*!

N: Jordan, you do realise the vast majority of our readers are Australian!

J.J.: Well, they're missing out! HAHA! But I do love exploring this amazing place – snowboarding, hiking and taking photos of just about every breath-taking landscape I come across. I am renovating a colonial cottage on a rather large section and adding lots of modern things to it. I am engaged and have two dogs, a staffy and a chihuahua who are in love with each other. And, we have chickens, however tending to them I've decided is strictly my partner's department.

N: Certainly sounds as though you have your hands full. What are you currently doing for work?

J.J.: After I arrived in NZ I initially worked in an up-market retail store until I landed a job as a receptionist for a massive social development government agency. I've since worked my way up the corporate ladder and am now a senior executive assistant to the chief executive of the Cancer Control Agency. I would say my role involves a lot more than a typical executive assistant, sitting on executive boards at 27 is a little out of the ordinary.

N: Congratulations, Jordan, that sounds like a very interesting role. Are you content in this role, or do you have any other goals?

J.J.: It pays the bills! I would like to be a helicopter pilot but there are lots of things to consider with that, so I'll probably do that when I'm rich enough to own a chopper and get a private licence. Plus, it's probably safer to leave it until I am a bit older. I also would love to be a graphic designer but that doesn't seem to pay the bills so well, unfortunately. I do like doing short courses for adults and recently I've completed sign language, astronomy basics and am looking for floristry, pottery and further graphic design stuff that fits around my work hours.

N: A man of many talents, Jordan, well done. Just finally, thinking about your experiences in life to date, what advice would you give to a 17-year-old Jordan Jansen as he was walking out the gate at Treasure Road back in 2011?

J.J.: The advice I would give to 17-year-old me is "don't worry, be happy!" We sung it a lot in my cohort around KAIROS and the Year 11 and 8 peer support program and I didn't really listen to the lyrics even though I thought I did. I worried a lot about trying to have my life sorted out by 21, and that was totally unrealistic! Now I'm 27 I feel extremely fit, settled and very happy about life. An older person will always tell you "it gets better", so believe it!

N: Nice work, Jordan. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and experiences with our readers, congratulations on all you have achieved to date and best wishes for a wonderful future. Hopefully we will see you later on in the year at the Class of 2011 reunion.

J.J.: Thank you, it's been a pleasure. The only thing in the way of me getting to that reunion is this pandemic. Although I work for the government and have close connections to ministers, I don't think Jacinda Ardern and Scott Morrison would agree to opening the borders just for me ... so fingers crossed!

Pictured outside his gym: "I wasn't a fan of team sports at school but now I find fitness is good for mindfulness."

Jordan and Shane.

Jordan Jansen in the 2011 Koinonia.

DONNA DUMAS
A Passion for Fashion

Donna Dumas went very close to going down the path of becoming St Norbert College's first ever nuclear physicist, but a last-minute discussion with her father prompted Donna to determine which career path was really right for her.

"At the start of Year 11, I actually signed up for physics, chemistry and specialist mathematics courses but my dad sat me down and asked why I had dropped all my art and design subjects which he knew I really enjoyed. He helped me realise how much I loved textiles and sewing and from there I started looking into a career in the fashion industry," Donna recalled. She realised that photography with Mr Italiano and textiles with Mrs Mark were the first elective subjects she selected every year at St Norbert's and the world of fashion and design was her real calling.

A year later Donna was well on the path to planning a career in fashion, but not everything was smooth sailing. "The Ball was one of my most memorable experiences at St Norbert College, but I decided to make my own dress and almost didn't finish it in time! I remember I stayed up to 3am the night before trying to finish sewing it."

After graduating from St Norbert's, Donna completed a three-year fashion and textile design course at North Metropolitan TAFE and pursued further studies at the University of Technology in Sydney. "Sydney opened up a lot of doors and opportunities for me, including work experience in the Himalayas, and a student exchange placement in Toronto," Donna said.

These opportunities, coupled with some internships at a variety of labels, led to Donna working in Sydney for four years for brands like Camilla & Marc, Cue Clothing, Dharma Bums and Cooper Street.

Returning to Perth in 2019, Donna initially worked for another brand before deciding to start her own. "In June last year I decided to pursue my own ethical and sustainable clothing label

Donna Dumas has experienced and achieved a lot in a wide variety of fashion contexts since leaving St Norbert College in 2011.

called Etikal and now work full-time on the business. I also do a lot of freelance design work helping young, emerging designers bring their ideas to life, which I hope to expand on further in the coming years."

With 80-plus hour working weeks and Covid restrictions, travel and her other interests have taken a back seat for the time being, although keeping in touch with her fellow alumnae Heather Rodger and Tori Forward is a non-negotiable. "It's tough trying to juggle everything, but I am definitely working towards cutting that down and bringing back a bit of balance," Donna said. "As for Heather and Tori, we are still in touch and talk almost every day!"

One piece of advice Donna wanted to offer the students of St Norbert College related to her busy life and how quickly the years pass by: "Enjoy your youth because one day in the near future you'll receive an email from *Norbertus* reminding you that you left high school ten years ago!"

Norbertus certainly hopes Donna does take time to smell the roses occasionally but understands that her passion for design and fashion is unrelenting but ultimately very rewarding. We wish Donna every success with Etikal and all she decides to pursue.

Donna, pictured with her dog Gucci, featured in an earlier issue of Norbertus which focused on past students in the fashion industry.

One of Donna's designs.

Donna was College Media Captain in 2011.

GEORGIA NESTER
Marine Girl

Georgia Nester (Class of 2011) was a little uncertain of which vocational pathway to follow when she left St Norbert College but finally settled on a degree in Coastal and Marine Sciences at Curtin University.

"I was always passionate about the marine environment and conservation," Georgia said, "and after completing an honours degree, I was invited to undertake a PhD with the Trace and Environmental DNA (TrEnD) Laboratory at Curtin."

Georgia's PhD focuses on examining biodiversity patterns and monitoring endangered species in marine environments using any DNA – genetic material – left behind in the environment by the organisms.

"My PhD has taken me to estuaries in South Africa, deep sea canyons off the coast of Exmouth and Antarctica. I love what I do and am very fortunate to be pursuing a career I am truly passionate about." Georgia's goal after completing her PhD is to pursue a career in conservation and environmental management.

Georgia enjoyed her time at St Norbert College and remembers teachers such as her Kilnacrott Homeroom teacher Mrs Jones (nee Lidell), Mr Italiano and Mr Mulligan being "kind and supportive". One of her best friends to this day is fellow Class of 2011 alumna, Georgia Lukosius. "Even though Georgia lives in South Australia, where she is currently in the army, every time I speak to her it's as if nothing has changed."

Georgia on board Aurora Australis during its last voyage to Antarctica.

Georgia is glad she took some time 10 years ago to finally decide on which career path to follow. "If I could give any school leaver some advice, it would be to take some time to figure out what you want to do before jumping into anything. There's no rush to choose a career!"

Norbertus congratulates Georgia on her academic achievements to date and hopes she continues to find fulfilment and success in what promises to become an increasingly important realm of science.

Georgia Nester's Year 12 photograph in 2011's Koinonia.

Collecting water for eDNA analysis for a project to determine the habitats of the weedy sea-dragon in Australian waters.

The less-glamorous side of being a marine scientist: collecting water for eDNA analysis in a South African estuary.

KATIE BURNETT
Born to Run

Katie Burnett (Class of 2011) was an excellent sportswoman during her five years at St Norbert College where she was Champion Girl in athletics in Years 8 to 11, before capping off her outstanding running career at the College by captaining the winning St Norbert College team in the ACC "C" Division athletics carnival in September, 2011. Katie was in Mr Borello's Kilnacrott Homeroom and – not surprisingly – her favourite subject was physical education with Ms Erica Bursey.

Katie has kept very busy since leaving school, gaining a diploma in events management, working fulltime in the hospitality industry and running a vehicle leasing and car battery business with her fiancé Alex, whom she plans to marry next year. Despite her heavy workload, Katie has managed to find time to travel extensively and also get involved in the property investment field.

Katie is still very good friends with fellow Class of 2011 member Brooke Vosbergen and will be maid of honour in Brooke's wedding in November this year.

Looking back over the past decade, Katie believes working hard, setting and achieving goals and managing pressure has led to a satisfying and comfortable life.

Thinking back to her time as a student at St Norbert College, Katie said she kept her options open, avoided unnecessary stress as much as possible and focused on enjoying the positives that a St Norbert College education provided. "I loved my time at St Norbert's and would highly recommend the school to any prospective students," Katie said.

Norbertus wishes Katie and Alex well as they enjoy a busy and rewarding life together.

Meeting a member of the local fauna.

Katie was Kilnacrott's College Captain in 2011.

Class of 2011 alumna Katie Burnett with some South American friends.

CLASS OF 2011

St Norbert College

CLASS OF 2011

Art class, 2008.

Fr Peter presents Melissa Crosthwaite with the Norbertine Canon's Award.

Swimming carnival, 2011.

Donna Dumas and friends.

Year 10 outdoor adventure camp, 2009.

Year 9 social, 2008.

CLASS OF 2011

2011 Dux Lauchlan Honter receives an award from Principal Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day.

Daniel, Georgia and Andrew.

Relaxing at the Year 12 retreat.

Tigers at the athletics carnival, 2011.

Ready to take on the world; 2011 graduation day.

Tayla and Jordanna.

Year 12 graduation is such sweet sorrow.

Samantha and Lena enjoy lunch.

NORBERTUS IN 2011

There were three issues of *Norbertus* in 2011.

In **April** St Norbert College Principal, Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day, reported the tragic loss of Class of 2010 graduate, Stephen Rigg, who died in January after collapsing while playing cricket. An obituary for Stephen was also included in this issue.

Mrs Grzenda-Day commented on the smooth roll-out of hundreds of MacBooks for students in Years 7 to 11 and also mentioned the blessing and opening of the Floreffe Trade Training Centre in January, a joint venture between St Nobert College and several other schools. MLA Mr Bill Johnston, Senator Mark Bishop and City of Canning Mayor Joe Delle Donne attended the occasion.

One article pointed out that the College Dux of 2010, Jordan La Fontaine, was inducted into the St Norbert College 95 Club and many other students performed strongly and were rewarded with high ATAR scores and Certificates of Excellence.

As usual the College community gathered to celebrate Mass at the start of the year and the College was fortunate to have Abbot Noyens and Monsignor Tim Corcoran co-celebrate the Mass with Fr Peter Joseph and Fr Stephen Cooney.

There was an article on what St Norbert College was like 10 years ago in 2001, plus some stories from a range of members of the Class of 1991, including one about Head Boy Chris Dunne who was then currently teaching in England, provided by his father, Gerard Dunne (Class of 1973).

St Norbert College 2011 Principal, Mrs Desirée Grzenda-Day.

Year 7s: Emmerson Nicholson, Kala Henneberry, Nicole Yovich, Michelle Denver and Amanda Benedict.

Serena Earsman, pictured with her mother Ms Susanna Santostefano, was the first St Norbert College student to collect her MacBook.

Opening of the Floreffe Trade Training Centre: Mr Bill Johnston MLA, Senator Mark Bishop, City of Canning Mayor Joe Delle Donne and Principal Desirée Grzenda-Day.

NORBERTUS IN 2011

There was a story about the Class of 2000's tenth reunion held in December 2010, and an update on SNESA's season to date, including news the Club now had a girls' team – the SNESA Angels.

In **August** Mrs Grzenda-Day made some observations about the progress of the College's 1:1 laptop program and commented that every student at St Norbert College was encouraged to maximise their true potential and given "the opportunity to shine".

Mrs Grzenda-Day made special mention of Caiden Vales de Menezes of Year 8, whose postcard design was chosen as one of four official postcards for the CHOGM meeting held in Perth in October; Kurt de Luis, who was selected in the U/15 Australian rugby league merit team; Courtney Bayliss, who was a graduate of the College's Specialised Basketball Program and earned a scholarship at the University of Mobile, Alabama; and Mehdi Nawa, who featured in an article that covered his trip to Crete and Greece as a result of winning the Premier's Award for an essay on the ANZAC spirit.

Other articles in this issue included photographs of St Norbert Day celebrations at the College; a look back at the College in 1991 and interviews with some members of the Class of 1991, including Kerri (Class of 1991, nee Hall) and Brad Richards-Scully (Class of 1984) who married after rekindling their friendship at a College reunion; a story about Daniel Bianchini (Class of 1984), Carim Armanios (Class of 1985) and Neil Edwards who completed the 42.2km Marathon de Paris; and a story about the foundation of the Norbertine Order in Western Australia, focusing on the purchase of the Kerry Downs farm near York.

Caiden Vales De Menezes with his winning CHOGM 2011 Student Postcard.

St Norbert Day fun in June.

Marathon de Paris competitors Neil Edwards, Daniel Bianchini and Carim Armanios.

Alumni Kerri (nee Hall) and Brad Richards-Scully became engaged a couple of years after meeting again at a SNESA function. Abbey, Nicholas, Jack and Ben complete the family.

NORBERTUS IN 2011

In **December** Mrs Grzenda-Day celebrated the success of 'E'! – the quirky musical written by St Norbert College drama teacher Miss Kerri Hilton – after it won two awards at the Catholic Performing Arts Festival, announced a review of the College's strategic plan, and reported her difficult decision to resign her principalship at St Norbert College, after spending more than half her life at the College she loves so dearly.

Fr Peter Joseph gave a farewell address to Mrs Grzenda-Day at Presentation Night and excerpts of that speech were featured in this issue, including: "You truly embody our motto – 'Prepared for all good works'!"

The College was fortunate to welcome two new Norbertine priests to the Queens Park Priory, Fr Joshy Arimana Chako and Fr Shajee Puthenpurayil, and articles on them and several Norbertine visitors to the College were featured in this issue. There was also special recognition of Br Christopher Jacob Lim Han Lee, who made his Profession of Solemn Vows in front of his Norbertine confreres, his family, several Diocese of Perth priests and the St Joseph's Church congregation.

Other articles in this issue included a Tina Tomeo's reflections on her experience of being part of the Norbertine Tertiaries program at the Queens Park Priory; a photograph and article on the 1965 foundation Year 6 class that completed Year 12 in 1971; a look at the College in 1981 with some stories about that year's graduating class; pictorial reports on the reunions of the Classes of 1971, 1983 and 2001; a story on SNESA's season including premiership success for the Girls and Colts teams; and reports on the College's victory in the ACC "C" Division athletics carnival and the Year 12 Graduation Night and Mass.

SNESA enjoyed a successful 2011 season.

Year 8 activity day fun.

The Class of 2001 enjoyed a 10th anniversary celebration at the Windsor Hotel.

Ms Carrie Pereira
HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE

St Norbert College has produced several graduates who have gone on to carve out careers in the arts and entertainment world, but it would be difficult to nominate a more polished, successful and all-round singer, musician, actor and teacher of the arts than Class of 2002 graduate and former member of Mr Peter Chandler's Prémontré Homeroom, Ms Carrie Pereira.

Carrie is a specialist vocalist performer and coach, and this has seen her perform in a wide variety of musical contexts, including securing a role in the smash-hit musical "The Boy from Oz", teaching singing at the world-renowned West Australian Academy of the Performing Arts (WAAPA), performing onstage with some very famous artists, as well as locally with some bands and choirs at various venues, private functions and corporate events.

As most aspiring artists and performers soon come to appreciate, forging a successful path in the entertainment industry is fraught with setbacks and disappointments and Carrie is very grateful that all her hard work has allowed her to reach the level of success she has achieved. "I really count myself lucky that I found a career in music – it's not that easy," Carrie said.

Thinking back to her time at St Norbert College, Carrie said she loved her time at school and feels it definitely played a role in shaping her as a person. She liked all her teachers and thoroughly enjoyed the companionship of her friends, many of whom she had met at St Joseph's Catholic School. "Some of my happiest memories at St Norbert's were playing and performing music with my friends."

Not surprisingly, Carrie rated music as her favourite subject and it did tend to absorb most of her energy. "Music was definitely my favourite subject, and in hindsight perhaps I could have worked a little harder in other areas," Carrie said. "But believe it or not one of my most favourite moments was attending outdoor survival camp in Year 10, being completely pushed out of my comfort zone and facing my fears head on. Mostly heights!"

When Carrie was considering possible career options during her senior years at St Norbert's, a musical career beckoned, and studying at WAAPA seemed a logical choice. Carrie's dad had always supported her musical calling, some of her friends were planning to audition and her singing tutor, Katina, offered her

Carrie sang as part of the Melonie Daniels show.

Backstage at "The Boy from Oz".

Carrie and other performers pictured with Guy Sebastian.

support and guidance too. "I had learnt so much from my teachers and tutors who had really set me up with all the knowledge I needed to enter WAAPA, so I started to work towards that goal and embark on my career."

After three successful and enjoyable years at WAAPA honing her musical talents, Carrie expanded her career, performing in local bands and festivals as well as being lucky enough – and talented enough – to perform with stars such as Guy Sebastian, Christine Anu, Mama Kin, Katie Steele from Little Birdy, and Draft.

In 2012, Carrie decided to add to her qualifications by studying education at Edith Cowan University but that plan soon had to be shelved when she received an invitation to teach part-time at WAAPA from Vinnie Crea, who had been Carrie's band tutor at St Norbert's, and the Head of Contemporary Music, Mike Eastman. "A few hours turned into way too many hours to study at the same time so I made the decision to stop studying and focus on work."

The position at WAAPA soon developed into virtually a full-time position teaching vocal instruction for advanced students with a focus on technique and performance. The role involves the whole range of teaching, curriculum and assessment duties, as well as the more practical arranging, directing and mentoring of individuals and ensemble groups. In 2019 and 2020 Carrie was Head of Contemporary Vocal Studies, involving additional administrative duties and responsibilities.

Carrie also performs in the WAAPA Gospel choir and has been been lucky enough to perform and record with some amazing artists including the talented Melonie Daniels-Walker who was a backing singer for Mariah Carey and many other notable artists. "She was a huge inspiration and backing her at a local show was a massive highlight," Carrie recalled. Little, did she know, however, there was another career highlight she could soon add to her CV.

Earlier this year Carrie's outstanding talent was recognised and rewarded when she was lucky enough to land a role in the musical "The Boy from Oz" at Crown Perth, playing the role of one of Peter's angels in a story about the life of Peter Allen. "That was the most incredible experience as it was whole new world for me," Carrie said. "It was super interesting to learn about the theatre world and to perform in such an elaborate space. I met a whole new network of people and can't wait to see what it could lead to."

Carrie and daughter, Emerson.

At the 2002 College Ball.

Pictured with close friend and fellow St Norbert College alumna, Jenn Tufilli.

While Carrie would love to embrace any more musical theatre opportunities that come her way, she would love to spend more time writing some original material and possibly record an EP or two. "I'd love to have something my daughter can hang on to," Carrie said, referring to her seven-year-old daughter Emerson she shares with her former husband and Class of 2002 alumnus John Leotta.

Carrie loves her career and finds watching her students – especially the singers – grow and develop extremely rewarding, but is endeavouring to adopt a more balanced lifestyle, taking a small step back from performing to spend more time with her family at home. "Being a musician means having to spend of lot of after work hours performing or networking. I think I have been in the industry long enough now that I can do a little less and make more time for Emerson".

In addition to John, Carrie keeps in touch daily with former classmate and one of her best friends, Jenn Tufilli who lives just around the corner, as well as Nicole Heeley. "All our kids play together and are great friends," Carrie said. "I recently attended Open Day and was thoroughly impressed with the advancement of the school and the incredible facilities. Emerson wants to go there with all her St Joe's friends. She's also super sporty – don't know how that happened! It looks like they've got a great sports program at Norbert's so it might be a nice fit for her."

Returning to Treasure Road after nearly 20 years brought back a lot of happy memories for Carrie as well as thoughts about the educational opportunities Emerson might experience if she joins the College in a few years. When *Norbertus* asked Carrie what advice she would have offered a 17-year-old Carrie Pereira as she left school, Carrie said she would say not to be so self-conscious about being yourself. "Once I left school, I figured out very quickly how to appreciate who I was as a person instead of trying to blend in," Carrie said.

Norbertus believes only one person could have crafted such an amazing career mastering so many facets of the music and entertainment world, congratulates Carrie on her outstanding achievements to date and wishes her and Emerson every success and happiness for the future.

Ms Carrie Pereira's 2002 Koinonia Year 12 photograph.

Perched in a tree in King's Park during a Year 12 geography excursion.

Carrie and Jade Robinson perform at a St Norbert Day concert.

Fun with the girls on the 2002 Years 11 and 12 river cruise.

STUDENT AND TEACHER HAVE Historical Reconnection

Dr Mathew Trinca AM, Director of the National Museum of Australia. (Image by George Serras, courtesy of NMA)

National Museum of Australia Director and St Norbert College alumnus, Dr Mathew Trinca AM, recently intimated in a Norbertus interview that he would like to make contact with his former history teacher, Maria Collins, whom Mathew largely credits with engendering his love of studying the past.

With the help of some of our readers, Norbertus played a small role in putting student and teacher back in touch, 40-something years after they both left Treasure Road, heading in different directions. After completing a teaching career that spanned Ireland, England, Australia and Canada, Maria is now retired, living a quiet life, an hour or so north of London, where she was contacted by Mathew.

Maria was pleasantly surprised to receive the call late last year from Mathew after so many years and was humbled to hear that her history classes had significantly contributed to Mathew's study and career choices when he left St Norbert College. Maria was reluctant to accept Norbertus' invitation for our UK correspondent to visit her for an interview, but asked to pass on her best wishes to all in the St Norbert College community, especially Mathew, who was kind enough to pen the following sentiments ...

I had the great pleasure in reconnecting by phone with Maria Collins, a teacher from the time I was at St Norbert's in the late 1970s. Thank you to *Norbertus* for helping me track Maria down in the United Kingdom, where she now lives. Maria Collins had a great influence on me as my history teacher in Years 11 and 12, to the extent that I ended up following the passion she instilled in me for the subject at university and then in my later career as a museum historian. For years, I had wondered where she was, so it was great to call her recently and have a long talk by phone. I suspect she was more than a little surprised to learn how influential she has been in my life choices!

It was great to talk again after more than forty years, and I look forward to catching up with Maria when I am next in the UK. She sounds very well, and thinking as we all are about the effects of COVID-19 on our lives and the challenges of dealing with climate change. In talking to her, I was taken back to my time as a student at St Norbert's – she sounded just the same as she did when she was drilling us on the arms race that led to the First World War!

Dr Mathew Trinca AM
Director, National Museum of Australia

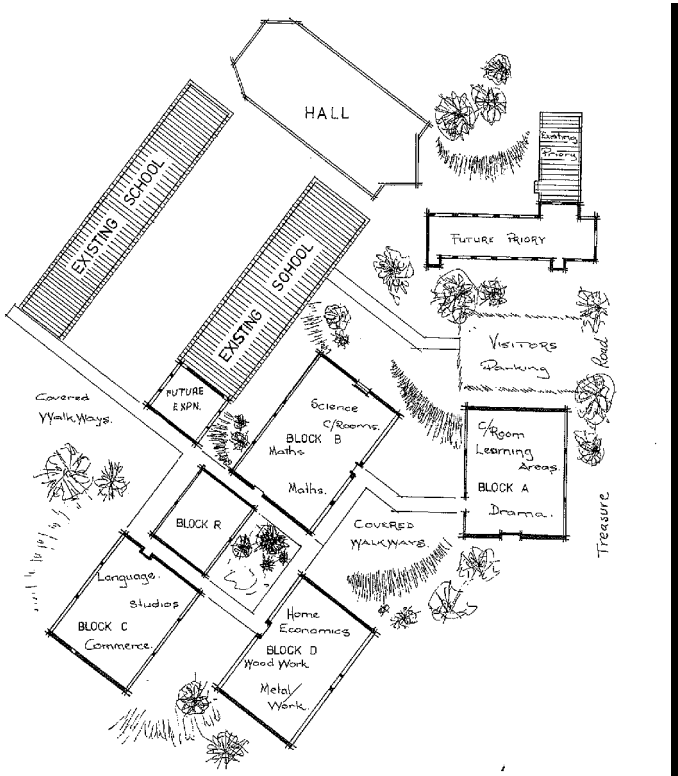
Miss Maria Collins, pictured front left in Koinonia, during her final year at St Norbert College in 1984.

Maria Collins:
Maria has been at St Norbert's since 1977 teaching in a variety of subject areas. However, she has been very active in both English and history preparing her students for a successful TAE and further studies at tertiary institutions. Maria plans to work in Victoria next year and we are sure God will bless her efforts abundantly.

Mr Brian Rogan's farewell message to Maria in the 1984 Koinonia.

Maria, centre, in 1977 which was her first year at St Norbert's.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



A vision for the future of St Norbert College drawn up in 1975. (Treasure Road is indicated on the right-hand-side of the sketch).

The current site plan of St Norbert College. (Treasure Road is to the top of the plan).

Magdeburg block (left) and St Joseph's Priory (right) under construction in 1978.

The Xanten Performing Arts Centre which was opened in 2017.

1975

A Vision for the Future of St Norbert College

The St Norbert College site plan, far left, was the result of some planning work done by a committee of staff and parents during the 1975 academic year. Girls were being admitted into Year 8 in 1976 and, with a growing school population and an expanding school curriculum, expansion of the College facilities was required. In 1973 St Norbert College had made a submission to the Catholic Education Commission to improve the College facilities and the Commission was largely in agreement with the proposals.

While some buildings such as B block and the priory were built approximately in accordance with the plans, there are some notable exceptions such as the hall not being constructed and various subjects and departments established in other locations.

The current site plan, left, reproduced reflects the magnificent facilities students now have at their disposal. The 1975 planning committee would probably be amazed at the College facilities today, including the College pool, the Fr Peter O'Reilly Centre (commissioned and blessed February 14, 1999), the Floreffe Trade Training Centre (February 13, 2011), the Cappenburg Language Centre (September 6, 2010), the Br Patrick Doolan Learning Centre (September 6, 2010) and the Xanten Performing Arts Centre (February 19, 2017).

Discussions are currently being held with architects to plan the next development stage at St Norbert College. *Norbertus* will reveal all the details in the next issue.

1991

St Norbert College

Jenny Kelly, 1991 St Norbert College Dux.

SRC President Belinda Stockden.

Fr Thomas McNulty, Prior.

1991 Magdeburg Years 8 and 9 camp held at Stoneville.

PRIOR: Fr Thomas McNulty O.Praem
PRINCIPAL: Mr Tom Corcoran
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mrs Carole Hayes
ASSISTANT DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr Chris Houlihan
HEADS of LEARNING AREAS:

- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Mrs Sheena Barber
- ENGLISH and LANGUAGES: Mr Christopher Kowald
- MATHEMATICS: Mrs Elizabeth Jepp
- SCIENCE: Mr Mark Johns
- SOCIETY & ENVIRONMENT: Miss Desirée Grzenda
- CREATIVE ARTS: Mr Brian Rogan
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Miss Lynn Moxham

ST NORBERT COLLEGE DEVELOPMENTS INNOVATIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS:

- The St Joseph's Priory Parish Church was blessed and opened on March 19, with Bishop Healy as principal celebrant
- Br Martin Roestenburg was ordained on April 13 in St Joseph's Church
- The Queens Park Norbertine community was granted the status of "sub-canonry" which permitted more autonomy and local decision-making
- The former Priory Church was renovated to accommodate two bedrooms, a Chapter Room and a kitchenette
- The "linking building" which now houses the staffroom and toilets, and K3 and P6 classrooms was constructed between the current Kilnacrott and Prémontré blocks

HOUSE COORDINATORS:

- KILNACROTT: Mr John Pollaers
- MAGDEBURG: Ms Audrey Klein
- PRÉMONTRÉ: Ms Sharon Rainford
- TONGERLO: Mrs Kathy Jones
- XANTEN: Mr John Van Nus

Year 12 collage fun.

Kilnacrott Years 8 and 9 camp at Waroona.

Construction of the "linking building".

Masquerade Ball.

1991 St Norbert College staff.

ENROLMENT: 722 students
DUX: Jenny Kelly
PRINCIPAL'S MEDALLIONS: Chenoa O'Rourke, Jodi Van Nus, Belinda Stockden, Jenny Kelly, Spencer Flay, Peter McNally and Tanya Wilson
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL: Belinda Stockden (President), who, with fellow councillors:

- Help organise the Year 12 St Norbert College Ball, the Year 8-9 disco, Year 10 river cruise, the Year 12 Graduation Dinner and the Year 11-12 river cruise
- Attend the ANZAC Day ceremony at the City of Canning
- Represent the College at a multi-faith observance meeting, a Commonwealth Youth Rally and a combined schools' student council meeting held at St Norbert College
- Contribute to the production of the 1991 Koinonia
- Organise a College triathlon, fundraising and various other projects to benefit the College community

HOUSE CAPTAINS:

- KILNACROTT: Mark Veza, Neville Panizza, Monique Davies and Sophie Ardizzone
- MAGDEBURG: Stephen Millsteed, Jackie Sleap, Jackie Daly and Matthew Drake-Brockman
- PRÉMONTRÉ: Deborah Payne, Salvatore Barbaro, Craig Newbold and Chenoa O'Rourke
- TONGERLO: Geraldine Richards, Stuart Ginbey, Mark Marcello and Christine Kusal
- XANTEN: Mark Versaico, Kerry Richards-Scully, Claire Watts and Luke Marquis

WINNERS OF SPORTS CARNIVALS:

- SWIMMING: Xanten
- ATHLETICS: Xanten

CHAMPION HOUSE: Prémontré

STUDENTS FROM 1991

ASHLEIGH PANOZZO

Do or do Not, There is no Try

Ashleigh Panozzo (nee Astill, Class of 1991) attended St Norbert College from 1987 to 1991 where she was a member of Mrs Maureen Tavani's Xanten Homeroom and had dreams of becoming an anthropologist – possibly as a result of studying some history and ancient history units taught by her favourite teacher, Miss Desirée Grzenda.

"St Norbert's was a good school, but I didn't achieve the grades to get into university because I was lazy," Ashleigh said. "I'm glad that period of my life is over as being a teenager is tough. My only regret, though, is not trying a little harder."

After school Ashleigh attempted university a few more times but working fulltime and being married with two children, required too much of her time.

Ashleigh did complete a business diploma, however, and has worked in several states around Australia, returning to Western Australia eight years ago, working in the field of capital procurement. "I have gained promotions within my company and am currently capital manager for procurement, issuing tenders and negotiating with vendors on machines worth millions of dollars."

Despite time constraints, Ashleigh is currently studying a Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply Diploma which is directly relatable to her current role and a qualification that is recognised worldwide.

Ashleigh, a devoted *Star Wars* fan, stays busy looking after her family and still keeps in touch with five former St Norbert's classmates on a Messenger chat page as well as at social gatherings. She is also supportive of cancer charities, completing a 200km fundraising bike ride in 2017 and signing up for the upcoming 35km Walk to Conquer Cancer. "My mum died of cancer and it's pretty prevalent in her family, so it's important to me."

Thinking back to her days at St Norbert's, Ashleigh remembered some good times including a shaving cream fight at Point Walter on graduation day and the fun experiences she enjoyed on school camps. "I think some of the teachers were even involved in the shaving cream episode, and the camps were a great way to get to know my peers," she said.

When asked what advice she might offer the Class of 2021 students, Ashleigh adopted a balanced approach: "Enjoy the good times but try your best and study hard so – unlike me – you're not an adult trying to complete your qualifications!"

Norbertus believes Ashleigh has done just fine, congratulates her on her career success and wishes her family well for the future.

Ashleigh Panozzo (nee Astill, Class of 1991) was in Mrs Maureen Tavani's Xanten Homeroom.

Ashleigh's Year 12 portrait in the 1991 Koinonia.

Ashleigh in Year 8 in 1987, sitting immediately left of Mrs Tavani.

Dr Ken Spillman

THE HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATED AND CATHOLIC COLLEGES (ACC) OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

During his student days at Marist College (now Newman College), Dr Ken Spillman was encouraged by one of his English teachers to believe in his ability to become an author, which indeed he did. With more than 80 fiction, non-fiction, children's and history books to his name, Ken's writing has been translated into many languages across four continents. In addition to being one of Australia's most published authors, Ken is also an editor, critic and internationally acclaimed public speaker and motivator.

In late 2019 Ken was commissioned by the Associated and Catholic Colleges of WA to write the association's history and – as a former swimmer and swimming coach of some note – he gladly accepted the role. Ken believes sport plays a vital role in education and that healthy competition with peers instils lasting memories and values that are important in life. In fact, Ken still has a recollection of boarding a bus to attend a triangular swim meet at St Norbert College way back in 1976!

As part of researching information for the book, Ken visited St Norbert College on a couple of occasions where he was kind enough to answer a few questions from *Norbertus* about his latest book.

***Norbertus* (*N*):** Dr Ken Spillman, based on your research, what insights have you gained into the ACC?

Dr Ken Spillman (K.S.): The central and recurring theme of the ACC's history is its inclusiveness. It was established as a Christian Brothers' association for boys only in 1937 but did not hesitate to open itself to other Orders in the 1950s and 1960s. Since then it has opened up further – first to girls, then to non-Catholic schools and subsequently to non-Christian schools. In addition, it has led the way in para sports for young people. It's a remarkable story.

***N*:** From your research to date, what has been your impression of St Norbert College's impact in the ACC?

Denis Rees, Senior Master Physical Education at St Norbert College from 1975 to 1980.

St Norbert College Principal Tom Corcoran coached this team to the ACC softball premiership in 1986. ***Back row (from left):*** *A. Giancola, M. Ralston, T. Corcoran, T. Nicolson, H. Pallier.* ***Front row (from left):*** *C. Bean, L. Hayes, N. Tozer, M. Gehrman, A. Battiglia.* ***Absent:*** *A. Jaxon, J. Kerwin, O. Samuels, M. Mulvey.*

The 1985 St Norbert College First XVIII football team was undefeated and brought the premiership trophy to Queen's Park for the first time. ***Back row (from left):*** *L. Kinley, P. Massang, S. Derham, A. Egan, J. Sciorilli, S. Gunn, P. Dal Passo, G. Jahn.* ***Middle row (from left):*** *D. Hamaguchi, G. Kelly, D. Harvey, P. Koweleff, C. di Prinzo, P. Jones, B. Cable.* ***Front row (from left):*** *P. Sceresini, D. Flanagan (coach), P. Robert, R. Harvey, D. Daly, D. Moran.*

K.S.: The words that come to mind first are: 'It has punched above its weight'. Many factors shape sporting results, and three of the important ones are student numbers, facilities, and the capacity of parents to pay for private coaching. From the time that Denis Rees arrived at St Norbert as physical education head in 1975, the College has had a tradition of giving more 'entitled' schools a hard time.

***N*:** Have any prominent St Norbert College sportsmen or sportswomen or teams emerged during your research?

K.S.: I can't go past the story of Peter Bol. That's a classic tale of talent identification by a school leading to opportunities in elite sport – in his case, the Olympics! Caring about the various potentials of students is clearly a central part of the St Norbert's mission. Former student Daniel Bianchini related to me the story of a running group formed by teacher Mark Carroll in 1984 – it was confidence-building because it led to his first selection in an ACC athletics team. The commitment of teachers at St Norbert's has been very evident to me. For example, former Principal Tom Corcoran coached softball teams for years!

***N*:** How are you finding the whole researching and writing process and how has this project compared to other history books you have written?

K.S.: After writing more than 20 history books, I did not expect this one to be the most difficult of them all. And yet, it has. With the expansion of the ACC to a membership of more than 80 schools and the increased number of carnivals and sports played, it has been difficult to research. As a writer, too, it is hard to do justice to the material and weave it into something that tells a bigger story. All I can do is my best!

***N*:** *Norbertus* has every confidence in you, Dr Spillman! What else have you discovered while compiling this book?

St Norbert College's champion Year 11-12 girls' volleyball team, 1993.
***Back row (from left):** B. Mangini, E. Modica, N. Broadbent, J. Ridley.*
***Front row (from left):** L. Smith, P. D'Auria, B. Kane, K. Warren*

St Norbert College students celebrate a race result at Beatty Park Aquatic Centre, 1981.

Olympian Peter Bol (Class of 2012) pictured with senior students during a visit to the College after the 2016 Rio De Janeiro games.

K.S.: In researching this project, I've been in contact with all ACC member schools. Many, including St Norbert's, have been wonderful in providing assistance and cooperation; others have been difficult nuts to crack. I've also seen schools that are good at preserving key materials from the past, and others that are not. Finally, if I were to offer one piece of advice to those putting together yearbooks for their schools, it would be this: name the people in the photos! It will not be long before it becomes difficult to do so... and what if we're looking at a future Nobel Prize winner, or prime minister, or superstar?

N: Dr Ken Spillman, congratulations on all you have achieved in your magnificent career to date and we look forward to the launch of your history of the ACC later this year.

K.S.: Many thanks. I'm grateful for the support of St Norbert's throughout this project and hope that past students will enjoy one of the few histories of interschool sport ever written, which will, of course, include many great photos and anecdotes.

Morgan Doecke (Class of 2014) receives her ACC Letters award from Mr Kyle Marche (Class of 1979), ACC Executive Officer and alumnus of St Norbert College.

Jaco Jensen van Rensburg (Class of 2019) was awarded ACC Letters for his cross country performances in 2017-18.

Class of 2021 accomplished ACC Letters recipients, Jordan-Blaze Lightbourn (athletics) and Shenae Hartree (basketball).

2021 SNESA
The Season to Date

The first half of the 2021 season has been rocky but overall positive. The season was partially interrupted by the snap lockdown in April and several events had to be rescheduled.

The player morale and feeling has been great although a significant number of injuries have meant we haven't had our strongest teams out on the field.

Thankfully we have a whole second half of the season to go. Senior coach Mark Lupica (Class of 2005), Reserves coach Brendan Colkers (Class of 2004) and Third team coach Matt Thomas (Class of 2003) are all positive about the club playing finals.

Covid-19 may have interrupted some of our plans. However, last week our annual Brother Pat Memorial Day went extremely well and on June 12 we will have our annual Ladies' Day from 1pm.

The club remains in good financial shape, and culturally sound, making it the place to be when it comes to playing and enjoying your footy.

Work is being done in the background regarding junior football in Queens Park as well as women's footy. We are excited to announce we will be working in cooperation with the WAFC, the Perth Demons District and the City of Canning to kick off a new Auskick program at Queens Park Reserve.

The ten-week Auskick program begins and runs every Sunday from June 20 at 10am.

Auskick ages are 5-7 and we welcome all @snesa_fc to get involved as well as all our friends, family and members of the greater Queens Park, East Cannington and Cannington community. Kids from all playing abilities are welcome to attend!

For more information click on our link in our instagram bio @snesa_fc, visit play.afl/auskick or contact Gabby Simmonds from the WAFC on gsimmonds@wafc.com.au

We look forward to updating you all again later this year.

Mr Rafic Aoun
SNESA President

SNESA Football Club President Rafic Aoun and League Coach Mark Lupica at the Br Pat Memorial Game post-match presentations.

2021 Br Pat Medal recipients: Hayden Burgoyne (Reserves), Matthew Blackburn (League) and Jack Howe (Thirds).

Tyson Kelly runs out for his 100th game for SNESA.

SNESA *Snapshots*

SNESA *Snapshots*

SNESA *Catching Up at the Footy*

ST NORBERT COLLEGE
135 Treasure Road, Queens Park WA 6107
T: (08) 9350 5433 **E**: snc@norbert.wa.edu.au **W**: www.norbert.wa.edu.au