NORBERTUS

AD OMNIA PARATUS • PREPARED FOR ALL GOOD WORKS •

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we wind down towards the end of another eventful academic year, we reflect positively on the contributions of members of our College community far and wide. And the older we get, the more difficult this becomes.

The solution I recommend is right here in your hands. Issue 38 of *Norbertus* provides a wonderful snapshot not only of what has transpired this year in the lives of our alumni, but takes us back to fond memories that we all shared with peers and colleagues at our beloved school.

The sad reality is my age (Happy 50th to my friends from the Class of 1988 by the way); the positive reality for me is that I get to read about students and teachers from my combined era as both student and staff member of the College. And then there's Peter Bol – I hope you enjoyed the incredible exploits of this young man at the Olympic Games in Japan this year. His achievements captured the imagination of the world and my interaction with him for our College Presentation Night broadcast captured his imagination with my "over-the-head" basketball shot!

I was also a very privileged participant of the inaugural, and sadly yet only, European Pilgrimage of 2001.

But there is so much more to see and read – so sit back and enjoy another incredible issue of *Norbertus*. Congratulations to Frank Mulligan and all of the contributors to this edition.

My deepest wish to all in our College community for a safe, happy and holy Christmas and New Year period.

Keep in touch!

God bless.

Simon Harvey
Principal

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to Issue 38 of *Norbertus*, the magazine for the alumni of St Norbert College.

In this issue our *Norbertus* photographers cover two College reunions – the Classes of 1991 and 2001, and while both were very successful and enjoyable occasions, *Norbertus* can't help but pay special tribute to the nearly-50 enthusiastic members of the Class of 1991 who did not let a cold and wet July winter's night deter them from having a fantastic gathering.

In August, St Norbert College Class of 2012 alumnus and Australian Olympian Peter Bol caused an explosion of enthusiasm across Australia and St Norbert College was firmly in the spotlight, with several staff members almost having to employ media advisors to juggle their interviews and television appearances. And although he wore a green and gold scarf instead of a jacket, some comparisons were drawn between College Principal Mr Simon Harvey and Prime Minister Bob Hawke after the 1983 America's Cup victory! While Peter could not manage to secure a medal, he did all of Australia proud and brought the St Norbert College community closer together. *Norbertus's* sports editor looks back at the story of how Peter discovered middle-distance running and how Mr Brian Moore's interest and support helped to set him on the road to success.

We explore what the College was like in 2001 and 1981 and have two feature stories from these years. In 2001, at the suggestion of Mr John Bird, College staff and students embarked on a pilgrimage to places of Norbertine significance in Europe and some of the pilgrims have written about what that experience meant to them. 1981 was the year Kristen Persels from Iowa, USA, spent a few months as an exchange student at St Norbert College, staying with the Boyce family. Forty years on, *Norbertus's* North American correspondent catches up with Kristen who is currently a professor at Iowa State University.

The fast-walking, fast-talking Dr Killian O'Reilly is our special guest in our *Where Are They Now* column, Mrs Samantha Mark has kindly agreed to pen her thoughts as our guest columnist and St Norbert College Class of 2015 alumna Miss Kelsey Zampino tells us about returning to teach at her former school.

The Jenkins family alumni – Blake, Matilda and Cooper – plus Mr Mark Lawson played integral roles in a recent production of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" at The Old Mill Theatre, our *Family Ties* column meets the White family and outgoing SNESA President Rafic Aoun provides a summary of the Saints' season. All this and more in Issue 38 of *Norbertus*.

On behalf of all our correspondents, columnists, operatives, photographers and production staff, *Norbertus* wishes all our readers the compliments of the season and a happy and safe 2022.

Frank Mulligan
Editor

The Path of Destiny

MRS SAMANTHA MARK – GUEST COLUMNIST

I started my teaching career back in 1994, as the sole teacher of Japanese at the College (I bet this comes as news to some readers, right?). A friend of mine from the University of Western Australia had been doing his teaching practice at St Norbert's, and he told the rest of our language teacher's group that a job was coming up here. I remember the job application closed at 4pm on a Monday and I think I got here about 3.50pm to hand in my application. I didn't really think I'd end up getting this job, but I thought that it would be good to come to a practice interview anyway. I was super-relaxed for the interview with Fr Peter, then Principal Tom Corcoran, and the outgoing teacher, Donna Lewis. Despite half the questions being asked in Japanese, I felt that the answers I'd given weren't too bad for a first job interview. Turns out I was right! I think it was only about half an hour after I got home that the phone rang, and I was offered the job. I was still on my final practice at Methodist Ladies' College, and they actually offered me a job there on the same day that I got offered a job at St Norbert's. It was so strange to be in a position to have the two jobs to choose from but instinctively I knew that St Norbert College was where I needed to go. With 2021 being my 28th year at the College, I was obviously right.

I was based in X7 classroom, in Xanten House, which is the current S5, and I taught every Japanese class from Year 8 through to Year 12. I had to hit the ground running, as an exchange group from Kagoshima in southern Japan arrived early in Term 1, and it was part of my job to organise their itinerary and host families. It was a pretty big learning curve that first year, no doubt about that, because come November we also sent a group of students over to Japan, and I had to organise that trip as well. We used to fundraise throughout the year to reduce the cost for the kids going overseas. There were plenty of chocolate drives, and lamington drives, and we always had a stall at the school fete called the "bottle store", which always raised plenty of money to go towards the exchange programme.

I remained the Japanese teacher at St Norbert's for five years, until the end of 1998, when I left to begin my first period of maternity leave. Upon returning in 2001, the existing textiles teacher coincidentally was going on six months of long service leave. As I hoped to have a second child and go on maternity leave again, I thought maybe I could do that position instead of Japanese, as there was already my replacement in place, and the College was struggling to find a textiles teacher for just six months. From the age of 13, I'd been passionate about textiles, sewing and making things for myself. Designing and creating my own unique fashion pieces whilst at high school, and then at uni, was a true pursuit of mine. I loved it! So, I convinced the Principal, Peter Hayes, to let me teach textiles for that six-month period and a new career began to take shape. Plus a new House – I was now in Magdeburg!

Mrs Samantha Mark commenced her teaching career at St Norbert College in 1994 before she was married, as Miss Samantha Hamor.

Once again it was a massive learning curve, being the only teacher of textiles at the College, and not really having anybody there for back-up support. Everything I knew was self-taught, so I suddenly had to learn how to be a teacher of a subject that I haven't been formally trained in.

I started my next lot of maternity leave after that six month period, returning to the College full time in 2005. As it turned out, that same teacher I'd replaced previously, had just resigned. So it made perfect sense for me to slip back into that role on a permanent basis, as I was really enjoying it.

It was at this point that I changed house from Xanten to Prémontré, taking up the mantle of P2 Homeroom teacher, which I really enjoyed. I remember doing lots of activities in Homeroom to really try and bring the kids together because I understood and valued how important it was for them to have good relationships, not only with me, but also with each other. We would often have breakfast together, with the kids ordering from McDonald's, and I would go down and pick it up before school, and we'd all eat together in Homeroom.

In the mid-2000s I had two separate stints as House Co-ordinator of Prémontré, both times when Mr Simon Harvey stepped up to fill a Deputy Principal position, as the short-term leave replacement. At that time my office was just above the stairs outside P5, where the current Counsellor's office is. That was my first step up into middle-management at the College, and on both occasions, it was a frantic but also an enjoyable experience. I felt that I brought a lot of creativity to the role, and I was able to share some of the good vibes that I'd created in P2 with the rest of the House.

It's quite well-documented now that it was during my time as P2 Homeroom teacher in 2009 that a young Year 9 boy by the name of Peter Bol joined our Homeroom. With his amazing efforts in the recent Tokyo Olympics, following on from the Rio Olympics, Peter's story is now one that is well-known across this country. It's nice to know that in a very small way, the nurturing nature of the Homeroom and the school environment has helped him to become the amazing young man that he is.

The textiles room used to be in D Block, where Café 135 @ Treasure is now. Back in about 2009, Principal Desirée Grzenda-Day decided that she wanted to move the canteen to its current location, and so therefore I had to relocate my classroom. I was told I'd be heading into X3 and X4, which would be converted from two rooms into one open room, and she gave me the freedom to design a brand-new textiles room, which I did, thanks to IKEA and their online design software!

Textiles was going strong at this point, as I'd been able to build up the class numbers, so that we were able to offer Stage 2 MDT-textiles in Year 12, a course which counted towards generating what is now an ATAR score. About 10 to 12 years ago, we had a couple of opportunities to join up with the Year 12 history class, run by Mr Mulligan, and head over east for the combined "History and Textiles Tour" to Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra. It was really enjoyable and successful, and I'm sure it remains a highlight of Year 12 for the students who had the opportunity to come along.

Pictured on Bondi Beach during the 2009 History and Textiles Tour, when highlights for the textiles students included behind-the-scenes tours of Project Runway Australia and "Wicked".

Mrs Samantha Mark, standing centre, hosted a group of Japanese exchange students who arrived at St Norbert College three weeks into her teaching career in 1994.

One of my favourite memories, for my textiles students, was giving them the opportunity to walk the catwalk for Project Runway Australia, which was being filmed at The Whitehouse, in Melbourne. We had a behind the scenes tour of the workspace, the modelling and makeup rooms, the David Jones accessories wall, and all the things used in the filming of the show. Another highlight was going behind the scenes, into the costume room and onto the stage, of the production of "Wicked". I can distinctly remember standing on stage, holding the most sparkly wand a girl could ever wish for. Giving students those sorts of opportunities is what teachers live for.

At the end of 2008 Mrs Grzenda-Day asked me to step into the role of Co-ordinator of the Technology and Enterprise Learning Area, which I did on a yearly basis for four years. Then in 2012, that position was upgraded to Head of Learning Area, and I've been in that position ever since. It's been a huge time of personal growth because I've had to get my head around three separate learning disciplines – home economics, design and technology, and everything computing! I have to look after 10 to 12 staff, including non-teaching staff. It hasn't always been easy, and they have been some really challenging and difficult times, but at the end of the day, it has been worth the challenge.

I've been teaching textiles predominantly since I filled in, in 2001. However, like most teachers, there are times when we get asked to use all of our skills and talents, to step sideways into teaching other areas. So I've seen myself teaching humanities, visual art, coding and mathematics to name a few. If I'm perfectly honest, teaching mathematics is probably one my favourite memories of my entire teaching career. I genuinely love maths, and have an affinity for numbers, as many of my textiles students know from the amount of times we do "textile maths" in my classes!

Along with teaching textiles came teaching early childhood studies (now referred to as CFC) and one of the great delights of that course was running the "Norbert's Gnomes" playgroup, which ran for many, many years, and was a great delight for the students in Year 12 and the families from our community, who brought their children in to play. Quite a number of those little children have since come to St Norbert College as students themselves, and I've watched them graduate!

I never thought I'd stay this long in a job I wasn't expecting to get, all those years ago. But in truth, I've never felt a reason to leave. This place, these people, these kids, even though they come and go, and change – to me – they are my people, my tribe. I love working here. I love the job I have. I cannot believe I turned my favourite hobby into my full-time career, and a successful one at that. If there's a lesson to be learned through my experience, I suppose it's to never write off any opportunity that comes your way, whether you want it or not. It may well put you on the path you were destined to follow. Like me.

ALL BECAUSE OF *Textile Class*

Tamara Loo (Class of 2012), below, has pursued a career in the fashion industry since leaving school and is currently working as an accessories designer for Rusty Australia.

Following is part of an interview she gave in Issue 33 of *Norbertus*:

Norbertus: That's excellent that the skills your learnt at school apply directly to your occupation. When did you decide to pursue a career in fashion? Was there a particular year or moment, or a subject you studied?

Tamara Loo: It was all because of textiles class with Mrs Mark in Year 10. It was my favourite subject and I wish I could have done it all day.

Tamara Loo.

A Tamara Loo design.

Dr Killian P.J. O'Reilly

THE GOOD DOCTOR

Dr Killian O'Reilly commenced his teaching career at St Norbert College in 1996 and retired in 2016. Born in Glasgow from Irish ancestry, Killian migrated to Perth with his thick Scottish brogue and his wife Janie and switched from private industry to teaching, landing his first and final full-time teaching position at Treasure Road.

Killian taught science and chemistry, coached soccer and athletics and was renowned for his cry of "Maggie! Maggie! Maggie! Oi! Oi! Oi!" during his long reign as Head of Magdeburg House. Recently Norbertus ventured to Perth's northern suburbs and interrupted Killian while he was cleaning his pool to have a chat about his life and times at St Norbert College.

Norbertus (N): Dr Killian P.J.O'Reilly BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, DipEd, thank you very much for your time, and welcome to Issue 38 of *Norbertus.* This is a lovely setting you have here.

Dr Killian P.J.O'Reilly (KOR): Pleasure to be involved and thank you very much for your visit.

N: That's quite the list of qualifications you have under your belt, but before we get on to professional matters, could you please tell our readers of your family origins? Your forebears were Irish but put down roots in Scotland if *Norbertus's* peek into your ancestry.com details are correct? You were born in Paisley, near Glasgow?

KOR: No problems, glad to contribute to *Norbertus.* No, I was not born in Paisley, I was born and bred in Glasgow, Scotland and as you mention, all my forebears were Irish.

N: Did your family consider yourselves to be Irish or Scottish?

KOR: I have always considered myself to be Irish. I have two things Scottish; one, a Scottish accent and two, a kilt which I used to wear when on vacation to the USA in my university days as it was a "chick magnet".

N: Using magnets in your social life – very scientific! What was your early life like – home life, your schooling, life in general in bonnie Scotland?

KOR: I was fortunate to have a very happy childhood. Both my parents were medical doctors; my father was an obstetrician/gynaecologist/GP and my mother an anaesthetist/GP. I am the tenth child of fourteen children, having five sisters and eight brothers, so home life was fantastic as you always had someone to play with.

N: That must have been one lively household! What about your school life?

KOR: Regarding school, I was educated in the private Catholic system. In primary school I was taught by strict nuns who used to cane you with a bamboo stick across your palm of your hand and even more painful across your fingers if they did not aim correctly, which was more often than not. Invariably you could not even pick up a pencil after being caned, never mind write with it. For each stoke of the cane you had centimetre-wide pulsating red mark across your hand.

My secondary schooling was initially at St Aloysius College. This was another strict school run by Jesuits, however instead of the cane they had the leather belt which I received many times mainly for being insolent to the teacher. The last three years of my secondary schooling was at Holyrood Secondary. Up to this point I had been educated in private schools all my life and now I found myself in

Janie and Killian at this year's St Norbert Day celebrations.

"state" school. It was a shock to the system. There were a lot of unsavoury characters there. I was not a saint, however compared to some of the other students at this school, I was an angel.

N: Obviously a lot of our readers would be familiar with the fact that you mainly taught science – specialising in chemistry – at St Norbert College. When did your penchant for the sciences begin to take hold?

KOR: I left school with seven O Level grades and four Higher grades in chemistry, physics, mathematics and geography so I was always leaning towards the sciences and chemistry was my favourite subject at school.

N: What tertiary career path did you follow, and to what extent was this based on any firm thoughts of a specific career?

KOR: Strangely enough when I left school I had no career course in mind. I went straight to Strathclyde University from school and chose my first-year subjects of chemistry, physics and mathematics. I had sailed through school with my natural ability however I had never learned to study for exams and at the end of first year university I had failed all my exams and became a university dropout.
So, after a couple of years working in shops in Glasgow I applied to Paisley University. This time I chose chemistry, geology and mathematics, quickly learned how to study for exams and I never failed any in the next four years.

N: So, after graduating could you describe your working history in Scotland?

KOR: Strangely enough I have never worked in Scotland except in shops when I was a university dropout. I graduated with a BSc (Hons) in chemistry and at this time there was a recession in the UK and no jobs to be found. I was not going to sit around doing nothing, so I applied for a MSc in polymer science and technology at Lancaster University in England. After graduating a year later there was still a recession so I applied for a PhD in engineering ceramics at the University of Limerick in Ireland.

After gaining my doctorate I worked in England doing materials research at SERC Daresbury Laboratory using Sychrotron Radiation Source before emigrating to Australia.

N: A lot of St Norbert staff would be familiar with the fact that you met a young nurse by the name of Janie, and that you have been happily married for 38 years. Where, when and how did Janie appear on the scene?

KOR: Janie was three years below me at school, however we did not start dating until I finished at Paisley University. Although she was registered nurse, she went to Rome to teach English as a foreign language. I flew out to the "City of Love" whilst doing my MSc and proposed to her there.

N: *Norbertus* thought Paris was the romantic city, but will take your word for it! After your marriage, one of the next momentous occasions of your life was the decision to move to Australia, but unlike some of your Irish ancestors who might have received free passage to Australia courtesy of the British government, you probably had to pay! What prompted the decision to move?

KOR: My father worked at the only Catholic maternity hospital in Glasgow and most of Glasgow's Catholics were born there. He was well known in the Glasgow community and I was known as one of Dr O'Reilly's sons. So, in part, I had to move away to get my own identity and I had always had the hankering to go Australia. However, it took a while to persuade Janie, but she eventually agreed to give it a go.

N: How did your change in direction from private industry to education come about?

KOR: When I first came to Perth I was still working as a research scientist but was getting tired of doing it. I knew I enjoyed teaching as I had taught a fair bit at Limerick University. So, I asked Janie if she would work full-time as a registered nurse and hold the home together for a year while I went to the University of Western Australia to complete my Diploma of Education. Fortunately, she agreed to do so.

N: What were the circumstances under which you found yourself at St Norbert College?

KOR: After completing my Dip Ed I applied for a science job at St Norbert College and was successful in my application and the rest is history.

Killian O'Reilly's 2005 Koinonia staff photograph.

N: This was your first teaching appointment and obviously your first school. Do you still remember your first day? What was it like?

KOR: Yes, it was my first teaching appointment and I remember my first day. It was strange but exciting as I had never taught students at secondary level before, I had only taught university students so this was challenging for me. The Head of Science threw me in the deep end. He gave me one of the Year 11 chemistry classes but also gave a Year Nine class with "special needs" students which was eye-opening and challenging. I was on a steep learning curve.

N: You were Head of Magdeburg House for many years, which we will discuss that in a moment, but were you ever acting Head of Science, or did you hold any other positions during your time at St Norbert College?

KOR: Yes, I was acting Head of Science in 2003 and became a Senior Teacher in 2000

N: Richard Branson, Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk and their rockets have been in the news lately, but they are probably not aware of your ground-breaking rocket program which took place on the College oval each year and was popular among St Norbert's students, but not the favourite day of pilots trying to land at Perth airport. What do you recall of those days?

KOR: I was the senior science teacher and part of this course was "flight". So, every year, senior science students would construct rockets from kits provided by the College. You also had three types of rocket engines which determined how high the rocket went before it deployed a parachute to come back to earth. As St Norbert College was below the flight path for Perth airport, I literally had to phone Perth air traffic control tower to get permission and a launch time to fire the rockets which we tried to launch at lunch time during Science Week. I also had to inform the tower when we had finished so they could allow flights to take off and land again.

N: It sounds like you wielded a fair deal of power over Perth's airspace! During Science Week you also used to delight the crowds with a hot air balloon display. If *Norbertus* remembers correctly, in 2000 the balloon caught fire, drifted over the staffroom and nearly incinerated a couple of the staff's cars. It certainly added a bit of life to the science displays on offer!

KOR: Yes, that is correct, again this was part of the "flight" course. The students constructed a tissue hot air balloon about one-metre high. In the entrance of the balloon they put a fire lighter. You were meant to control of the balloon by keeping it attached to a fishing line, however on this occasion fishing line melted and the balloon was out of control. I was certainly in a bit of a panic as the balloon floated over the College staffroom into the staff car park as I ran after it with a fire extinguisher in hand. Thankfully no damage was done!

N: *Norbertus* seems to recall that occasionally you were called "Detective O'Reilly" because on the rare occasion that an issue arose that required the examination of some CCTV images, you were called in. Did you do any particular, specific study in this area, or was it just courtesy of your scientific approach to everything you tackled?

KOR: Part of duties as Head of House was to investigate any graffiti that was produced at the College. I therefore kept a library of photographs of tags and so on and asked teachers to take note of any students in their class who had tags on their diaries or exercise books. Tags are like signatures and it was not rocket science to determine whose tags they were, it was just good detective work.

N: What type of extra-curricular activities did you get involved in?

KOR: I am a qualified soccer coach and used to train and coach the St Norbert's Junior Boys soccer team.

N: You were Head of Magdeburg House for 10 years and achieved considerable success in the inter-House sports carnivals among other achievements. How much did you enjoy this part of your work at St Norbert College?

KOR: House sports carnival were great fun but their success was mainly due to the House Captains. This is when the House Captains rise to the occasion and motivate the Magdeburg students to take part and our success was their doing, not mine.

N: Norbertus is sure you played a pretty vital role. You used to commute from the northern suburbs on the train and Norbertus has clear memories of you

Dr O'Reilly in action during Science Week in 2000, when the hot air balloon caught fire

Dr Killian O'Reilly pictured with Magdeburg House Captains in 2016.

power-walking to the train each afternoon at quite a pace. In fact, you once received an end-of-year award from a graduating Year 12 class for your fast pace. Was this some type of training regime or was it because you were always running late?

KOR: Neither. I am just a fast walker, I always have been one.

N: *Norbertus* would not like to be on the receiving end of another negative Australian Press Council finding, so you do not have to answer this question if it makes you feel uncomfortable. You still carry quite a prominent Scottish accent – were there ever any occasions during your time at St Norbert's when this was brought to your attention?

KOR: Once you have a Scottish accent, you cannot lose it even if you try. You might not believe this but I purposely talk more slowly here in Australia. If I talked as fast as I do in Scotland, you would find it hard to follow the conversation. In actual fact on the odd occasion when I forget to talk slowly it is easy to see glazed look on the person's face to whom you are talking.

N: Sorry Killian, what was that you were saying? No, seriously, what other general thoughts or memories do you hold of St Norbert College and its community?

KOR: I have very fond memories of the 22 years that I taught at the College. It has been a journey, a very enjoyable one and one that I will never forget until old age really sets in.

N: You retired five years ago. What prompted this decision? Was it a difficult decision to arrive at?

KOR: Although teaching is a very enjoyable occupation and is very rewarding in seeing students grow and mature and enter the real world at the end of Year 12, it is also a very tiring occupation. When you realise that falling asleep whilst watching SBS news each evening is not normal behaviour, you start to realise that maybe it is a sign to think about hanging up the old boots, so in the end it was not a hard decision, it was the right decision.

N: *Norbertus* hears that you haven't entirely retired, that you are doing a bit of occasional relief work. How have you found that and what else have you been doing since leaving St Norbert College? Is there any truth to the rumour that you are manager/roadie for your wife Janie who occasionally sings at some Perth nightspots?

KOR: Yes, initially I did some relief work at Mercy College and Mater Dei College just to ease my way into retirement. I now only do some at Chisholm Catholic College in the winter terms. And yes, I am a roadie/sound engineer/lighting engineer for Janie who is an event singer called "Studio J". She sings songs from the sixties to now in variety performances and also does specialised performances in Motown, the Bee Gees, Abba, Annie Lennox and Alison Moyet. I set up the gigs, do the sound checks and control the sound/lighting as she gets the party going. We do pubs and clubs and private parties all around Perth and down to Mandurah. It is all great fun. I have also set up my son's old bedroom as a recording studio, bought some recording software and am learning to make professional recordings of Janie singing.

N: Let's hope this interview drums up a little more business for Janie. What does the future hold for Dr Killian P.J. O'Reilly?

KOR: Well I have just become a granddad with our son and his wife having a wee lassie so who knows what the future holds, but it should be great fun as the next generation comes along and the cycle of life continues, thank God.

N: Killian, a big thank you for giving up your time to share your life journey and St Norbert College experience with our readers. Thank you very much for your contribution to Catholic Education in Western Australia and thank you for everything you achieved during your time at St Norbert's. *Norbertus* wishes you and Janie all the best for the years that lie ahead.

KOR: Thanks a lot, it has been great sharing part of my life journey with you and I wish all your readers and everyone at St Norbert College all the best for the future.

Refereeing a staff-student soccer match on St Norbert Day.

Killian (rear, centre) with fellow Magdeburg House staff members in his first year of teaching.

Mr Peter Bol and Mr Brian Moore

IT'S ONLY JUST THE START

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIAN & CHAMPION ATHLETE
BOL FEVER
A SPECIAL FEATURE

Peter Bol joined St Norbert College in 2009 and graduated in in 2012. A Prémontré House Captain and College Captain, it was discovered that Peter was also an extremely good runner when his Head of House, Mrs Helen Leahy (nee Moore) encouraged him to participate in some middle-distance events at a College inter-House athletics carnival. Peter dominated in these and was also victorious in the 800m event at the 2012 ACC athletics carnival for his College. Helen encouraged her father, Mr Brian Moore, who had been involved in athletics coaching, to come down and take a look at Peter and assess his potential. Sadly, Brian is deceased, but he wrote the following during the time he spent with Peter, who recently represented Australia with distinction at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics ...

This is a short story about a young Sudanese-Australian athlete named Nagmeldin – Peter – Bol who came into my life in October, 2010. It's a short story because it has a beginning but no end. It's only just the start.

My daughter Helen was Head of Prémontré House at St Norbert College, Queens Park and was struggling to fill some events for the inter-House athletics carnival. She was short of middle-distance runners, when one of the students told her "Peter Bol can run, Miss".

"Really? Can you go and get him?" was the instruction.

When a very hesitant Peter stood before Helen, she asked him if he could run.

"Yes, Miss."

"Well Peter how far can you run?"

"I don't know Miss."

"Well, can you run 400 metres?"

"How far is that Miss?"

"That's once around the oval."

"Yes, I can Miss."

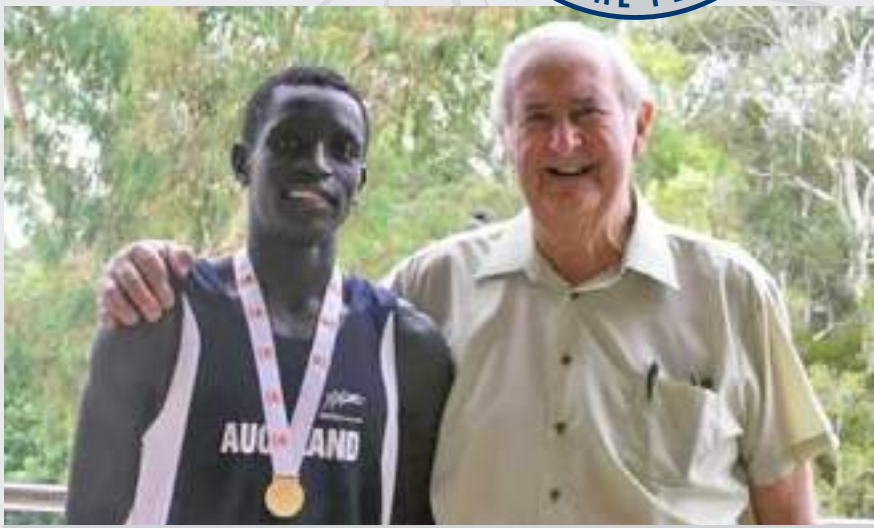
Well he ran so fast, he beat the others by about 80m!

Then she said to him "Well can you run twice around the oval?"

"Yes, Miss."

And he won by at least 100m I think! Shortly after, Helen approached me with the story of this boy and because she knows her sport, I listened. Peter came from a large immigrant family and did not have the support base to improve his running. He needed some support and would I assist. In addition, in Helen's judgement he was a fine boy deserving of help. I thought hard and long about the consequences and implications of becoming involved and said I would assist financially but I needed to meet his parents first and talk it through. This we did one Saturday in November, 2010. We met with all of the family and his parents were supportive as well as being lovely people. I pointed out that my involvement was because Peter was a fine young man, not necessarily because he could run.

And so, we got under way. Luckily there was a family at the College named Catley, who were good athletes and being coached by their father Bernie, who was an accredited coach with Westrack Athletic Squad. We bought two pairs of spikes, Peter joined the squad, began training, became a member of Athletics WA and began to run at their weekly Friday night meets. With coaching and a training regimen, Peter began to run personal bests nearly every week.



Peter Bol with his mentor and coach, Mr Brian Moore.

Running in an 800m event on the College oval in 2009.

So, we move forward to March 2011 when I received a telephone call from Athletics WA saying that although Peter had been selected to run in Sydney in the Australian Junior Championships, they had received no nomination, nor was he booked on a flight to Sydney. He also needed his accommodation, transport and WA outfit paid for. Panic set in, but we arranged everything and off he went to Sydney, entered in the U/18 800m and 1500m. He won his heat of the 800m so the coach scratched him from the 1500m in the hope that he could win a medal. Unfortunately, in the final he was elbowed out of his lane and was disqualified. He finished fourth.

2011 and 2012 were great learning years for Peter and he continued to improve his times and stamina. As a junior, he won the 400m, 800m and 1500m each year, running personal bests at almost every meet. Peter did not compete at the Australian Championships in 2012, preferring to concentrate on his studies. He subsequently passed his TEE exams and has now commenced studies at Curtin University.

During 2012 there was a tentative approach from an US college regarding a scholarship but I felt it was heavily weighted in favour of the College and did not offer Peter very much. Besides, he didn't really want to leave home.

So, to 2013 his last year U/20 and in Junior ranks. He duly won the 400m, 800m and 1500m State U/20 events. In the 1500m his time was one second slower than the Open winner.

Last week the Australian Junior Championships were held in Perth and Peter was entered in the 400m and 800m U/20 men's championships. He was disappointed with his run in the 400m and finished fourth in the final. Then in the final of the 800m he ran a wonderful race and led from start to finish in the Australian record time of 1m48.9secs in what has been described as the run of the meet. He is now ranked third in the Open class in the 800m and will compete in the Australian Open Championships in Sydney in April. He has also been chosen by Athletics Australia to travel to Italy and Germany for training experience and racing in July as part of the Matrix Development Squad. When he returned to the grandstand where my family and I were waiting there was great jubilation! Helen and I have great satisfaction over Peter's rise as an athlete and person. As Peter and I hugged each other, he took off his medal and handed it to me. "Peter, it's just the start," I said.

He smiled back and said "It's only just the start."

Mrs Helen Leahy (nee Moore), Brian's daughter, pictured with Peter Bol and Mrs Samantha Mark during a visit to the College following the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016.

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIAN & CHAMPION ATHLETE
BOL FEVER
A SPECIAL FEATURE

Prémontré Head of House Miss Alesha Haynes with Hannah Connolly (House Captain), Peter Bol (College Captain) and Kellie Greaves (House Captain) in 2012.

Participating in a Prémontré Day liturgy.

Peter Bol Remembers ...

I first arrived in Queensland, Australia in 2004 where I lived before moving to Perth in 2008. It was great starting primary school and learning English was fun. When I arrived in Australia it was a whole new culture with so many differences, but after a while we all got used to it and loved the country!

My family and I moved to Perth in 2008. I loved basketball and I heard St Norbert College had a really good basketball program, as well as being one of the top schools in WA, so I made the decision to go to St Norbert College and with the help of my parents I was enrolled as a student!

Starting school at St Norbert's was one of the best decisions as it has given me so many opportunities, so many different sports, activities and leadership positions. I was introduced to athletics carnivals at secondary school level, which were much better than primary school!

It was great running at school athletics carnivals and seeing everyone get it to it! However, I never thought I'd be competing for a national Australian athletics title a few years later, because who runs for fun? That was my thinking, but when I started athletics with the help of Head of Prémontré House Mrs Helen Leahy and her father Mr Brian Moore, I really started to enjoy the sport because there was more to it, it wasn't just once a year thing but training daily and competing on Friday nights!

Peter Bol – St Norbert College and Far Beyond!

Peter Bol's Athletics Australia Profile

(Image, graphics and text generously supplied by Athletics Australia, with thanks to Sascha Ryner)

Peter Bol leads the field in the final bend of the Tokyo Olympics 800m men's final. (Image courtesy of The West Australian).

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIAN & CHAMPION ATHLETE
BOL FEVER
A SPECIAL FEATURE

Peter Bol is currently Australia's leading 800m runner after a dominant domestic season in 2021 which saw him record the fastest 800m time by an Australian on home soil when running 1:44.62 on the Gold Coast. Born in South-Sudan, Bol trains under Justin Rinaldi with Australian record holder Joseph Deng and soon-to-be four-time Olympian Jeff Riseley.

Bol commenced his athletics journey when age 16. "Shortly after an athletics school carnival one of my teachers, Helen Leahy approached me and convinced me to join an athletics club promising to help me find a mentor, a club and a coach. I thought it was a pretty good deal specially because it meant I'd be fitter for basketball so I agreed and she delivered."

Within a couple of years, in 2013, he won the national junior 800m title in a PB 1:48.90. He recorded his first sub-1:48 in2014 and sub-1:47 in 2015. After placing fifth in the 2016 national championships, he chased the Olympic qualifier in Europe (standard 1:45.80). He achieved his first qualifier in Wiesbaden, Germany (1:45.78) in June and went even quicker 1:45.41 in July in Ninive, Belgium.

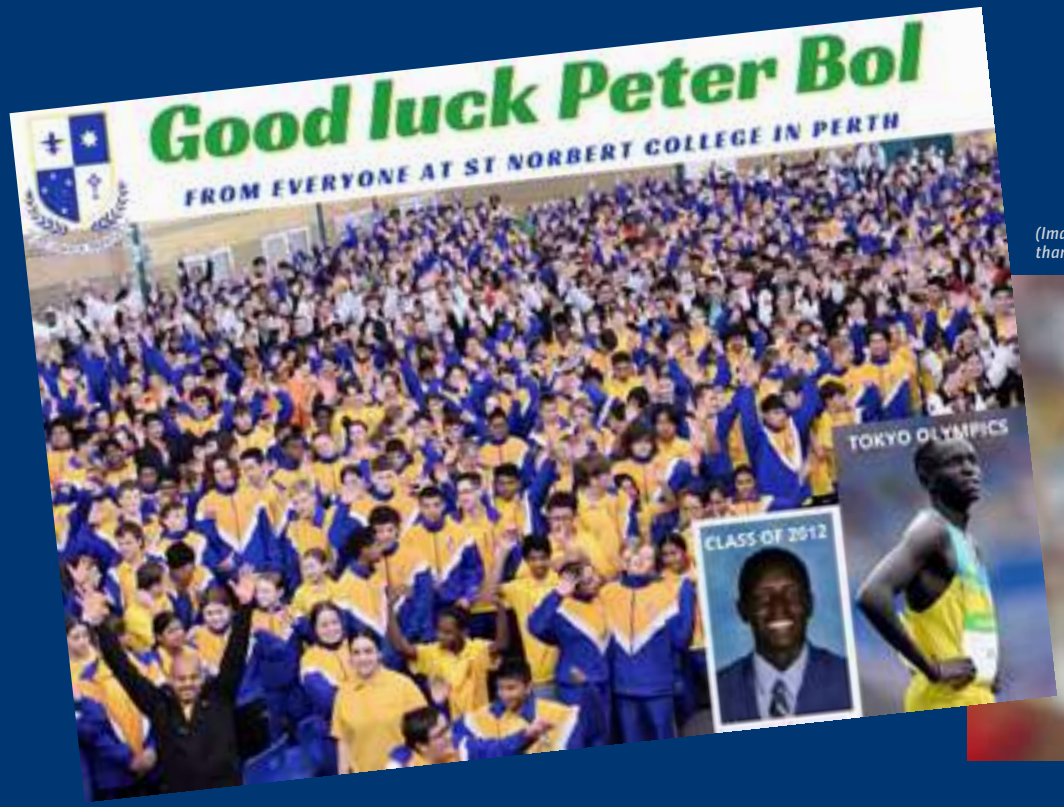
At the Olympics, he placed sixth in his heat in 1:49.36. Domestically in 2017 he placed eighth in the national 800m title but lowered his 1500m best. Mid-year he travelled to Europe chasing a qualifier and achieved that in a PB of 1:45.21 in Germany in July. At the 2017 IAAF World Championships, he placed seventh in his 800m heat.

Injured (stress fracture) in early 2018 and after missing Commonwealth Games selection, in Europe he and training partner Joseph Deng were locked in a battle to break the nearly 50-year-old Australian 800m record. Bol started very well clocking a PB with a time of 1:44.56 in Stockholm. But Deng would beat him to the national 800m record in July. Bol won the 2019 national title and was the second fastest Australian of the year behind Luke Mathews with 1:45.56 in July 2019.

Bol was selected to compete in the 800m at the IAAF World Championships in Doha where he ran in the heats, before a pandemic-impacted 2020 saw Bol make the most of his opportunities in Europe - with his best result coming in Monaco with a time of 1:44.96.

2021 has seen Bol stake a strong claim as Australia's leading half miler with a series of sub 1:45 runs on domestic soil and the national title to his name. The 27-year-old has produced the strongest domestic campaigns seen by Australian which has him primed for his second Olympic Games appearance when he takes off to Tokyo.

Editor's note: Peter Bol placed fourth in the Olympic men's 800m final. The 27-year-old led the pack for much of the race and it was only in the final 100 metres that he was overtaken by Kenyans Emmanuel Kipkurui Korir and Ferguson Cheruiyot Rotich, and Poland's Patryk Dobek.



(Image courtesy GettyImages/Athletics Australia with thanks to Sascha Ryner).

Peter Bol Thanks St Norbert College

"I just wanted to pop in and say thanks to the St Norbert College staff and students for the amazing support, encouragement and wishes during the Olympics – that shout-out from the assembly was incredible – thank you. I also wanted to send my best wishes to Fr Peter and the Norbertines for their 900th anniversary."

(Image courtesy of Channel 10).

Clockwise from top left: Bol Fever grips St Norbert College in July; Peter celebrates victory in his 800m heat; living the College motto; filming a segment for the College Presentation Night production; Mr Harvey makes the news; and Peter expresses his gratitude for the support of the St Norbert College community.

"CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG" *Comes Alive!*

"Chitty Chitty Bang Bang", the smash-hit 1968 fantasy film-musical, which was recently brought to life for a limited season at the Old Mill Theatre in South Perth, had a real St Norbert College flavour. The production, by St Norbert College performing arts assistant Mrs Katherine Freind's family business Bel Canto Performing Arts, was directed by her son, and St Norbert College alumnus, Blake Jenkins (Class of 2019), and the choreography was by her daughter Matilda (Class of 2016).

To add to the St Norbert College presence on stage, current students Mary Carter (Year 10), playing the lead role of Truly Scrumptious, and Cadence Smythe (Year 9) were part of the colourful and dazzling performance, and our very own talented St Norbert College technician, Mr Mark Lawson, was responsible for creating the "fantasmagorical machine" – Chitty Chitty Bang Bang – itself! Blake's twin brother Cooper (Class of 2019) controlled the car onstage during the performances.

Blake recently graduated from WAAPA with a Diploma in Music Theatre in 2020 and was thrilled to direct the musical derived from one of his all-time favourite childhood movies, as he recently pointed out to *Norbertus:*

"The story of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is one that I hold very close to my heart. When the original Australian production toured in 2013, I was offered the dream of a lifetime and was cast in the children's ensemble at the Crown Theatre in Perth. Now, jumping ahead after that incredible experience nearly ten years later, and having had the opportunity to direct the same story with a new generation of young artists, really brings everything full-circle in such an amazing way. I absolutely love this show and I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing it come together."

Blake is currently working full-time at the Cummins Theatre in Merredin and Matilda is completing a Bachelor of Nursing (Registered Nursing) at The University of Notre Dame Australia after already completing a Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled Nursing) in 2019. Cooper is currently studying a Diploma of Creative Industries.

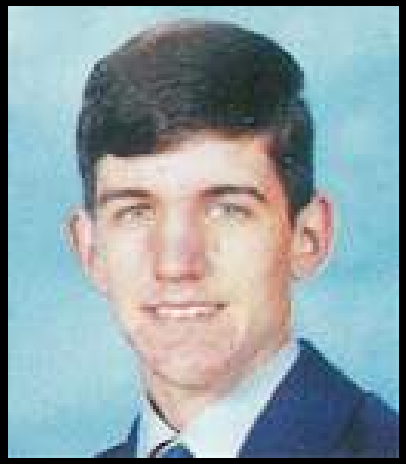
Norbertus commends the Freind family and the cast and crew of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" for creating a fabulous production which was enjoyed by many people of all ages.

St Norbert College alumni Cooper, Blake and Matlida Jenkins.

Some of the cast of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" which featured a strong St Norbert College contribution.

St Norbert College students Mary Carter (Year 10, centre) and Cadence Smythe (Year 9, fourth from right) were part of the colourful production.

Mr David and Jason White



David in the 2000 Koinonia.

Mr David White (Class of 2000) is glad his son Jason has followed in his footsteps and become a St Norbert College student. Jason is in Mr Tony Godden's Tongerlo Homeroom and has settled in "pretty well" in Year 7 this year, just over two decades since his father graduated.

Given the number of years difference between their commencement years, it is not very surprising that they haven't been taught by the same teachers, but this hasn't stopped father and son from compering notes about their experiences at Treasure Road.

"It certainly makes you think about the past, and some of the teachers I had like Matthew Strack, Sharon Rainford and Frank Mulligan," David said. "And I am glad Jason is now going to St Norbert College because he has the ability to get involved in opportunities that might not be available in other schools."

Jason agreed, saying he enjoyed talking to his dad about his classes twenty years ago and was also grateful for the opportunity to involve himself in a range of extra-curricular activities.

"The experiences help you get ready for life," Jason said. "For instance, this year I was thankful to be part of the College Chorale."

Jason has found secondary school to be challenging in certain respects, including quoting the universal theme of too much homework. "I play footy for Huntingdale and sometimes there is a bit of pressure because I have too much homework. There are also different teachers who have different rules and teaching methods, as well as a large school with plenty of buildings," he said.

"On the bright side though, all my teachers are funny and always reward us when we put in the effort. My favourite subjects are maths and digital technology, and Mrs De Luca is probably my favourite teacher."

Digital technology was in its infancy when David attended school and says that is probably the biggest difference between his and Jason's schooling. "Back in my time all your work was done on paper, not on a range of digital devices. Our highlight was probably the opening of the O'Reilly Centre which meant we didn't have to go across to the Queens Park Recreation Centre for sport activities!"

Teachers may come and go, new buildings are built and technology continues to develop, but family ties are most important. *Norbertus* thanks David and Jason for their participation and wishes them well for the future.

Jason and Mr David White.

David with Timothy Barnes and Matthew Degois at the Class of 2000 reunion last year.

FAMILY TIES

St Norbert College Dux, Mark Brown, receives his award from Senator the Hon. Fred Chaney.

Angela Porreca, Senior President, delivers her SRC speech at Presentation Night.

Helen Bonman, Matthew Wilson, Stella Glorie and Paul Janissen performed "Captain Yuk Rides Again!" in the junior division of the 1981 Talent Quest.

Senior students visited Yallingup (now Ngilgi) Cave during a Southwest expedition.

Tackling the 1981 College walkathon.

1981

St Norbert College

PRIOR: Fr Peter O'Reilly O.Praem

PRINCIPAL: Mr Des O'Sullivan

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr Michael Devine

ASSISTANT DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mrs Carole Hayes

HEADS of LEARNING AREAS:

- CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Fr Gerald Cusack
- ENGLISH and LANGUAGES: Mr John Pryce
- MATHEMATICS: Mr Dudley Pinto
- SCIENCE: Mr Rob Craig
- SOCIAL SCIENCES: Mr Paul Murray
- CREATIVE ARTS: Mr Brian Rogan
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Mr John Hammond

ST NORBERT COLLEGE DEVELOPMENTS, INNOVATIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS:

- A Young Christian Students chapter was established
- Two teachers, a parent and 24 students cycled 200km between Kalgoorlie and Leonora in the May school holidays
- A $7,000 Commonwealth government grant was secured to assist students in a school-to-work transition program
- Year 12s were given Room B1 to use as a common room

ENROLMENT: 635 students

DUX: M. Brown

PROXIME: M. Chave

YEAR 12 SENIOR LEADERSHIP AWARD: A. Porreca

AFL legend Barry Cable coached the 1st XVIII football team for the first part of the 1981 season before he took over North Melbourne midway through the year.

Parents and Friends' Association, 1981.

The members of the Guild of Saint Stephen.

Karen Sword-Gray was Runner-Up in the State Irish Dancing Championships.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

- ENGLISH: M. Chave
- CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: A. Bottcher
- GENERAL STUDIES: K. Sword-Gray
- MATHEMATICS: M. Brown
- SCIENCE: M. Brown
- SOCIAL SCIENCE: N. Roberts
- BSE ACHIEVEMENT: M. DiFlorio

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL: Angela Porreca (Senior President) and Sandrine Van Dort (Junior President) who, with fellow councillors:

- Fostered Salasmi, a 12-year-old Indonesian girl, using some funds from a "Walk Against Want" event
- Contributed funds to the College sports incentive program
- Organised a College walkathon on July 24 to raise funds to buy books for the College library
- Held fundraising raffles, one prize being an autographed Adam and the Ants album, and free dress days, a cake stall, a coffee night, and film and quiz nights
- Arranged for increased water pressure in the drinking taps and the purchase of a mirror for the downstairs female toilets
- Ran a dunking stall at the Norbertine and P&F fetes in April and October respectively
- Arranged SNC SRC representation at the Queen's Garden Party at Government House in October and the Australia Day Concert and High Tea in Term 1

INTERHOUSE ATHLETICS WINNERS: St Luke's House

STUDENT FROM 1981

DR KRISTEN PERSELS CONSTANT *A Wondrous, Enriching Experience*

Dr Kristen Persels Constant is Interim Vice President, Information Technology Services and Chief Information Officer in the Office of the CIO at Iowa State University. She has been a professor at the university since 1992.
After leaving school in her home town of Osceola, USA, and before commencing her academic career, Kristen spent 1981 as an exchange student at Rossmoyne Senior High School and St Norbert College, where she lived with the wonderful Boyce family.
Eventually, after coming to terms with the vagaries of public transport, driving on the left, the locals' "lingo" and their keen appetite for Vegemite, Kristen enthusiastically embraced life in Western Australia, finding the whole experience to be "wondrous and enriching".
Recently Norbertus's North American correspondent visited Kristen at Iowa State, in the beautiful city of Ames, where she was kind enough to answer some questions about her time in Perth 40 years ago, recalling some precious memories in the process ...

Norbertus (N): Dr Kristen Persels Constant, thank you very much for your time, and a very warm welcome to Issue 38 of Norbertus.

Kristen Persels Constant (KPC): Thank you. I am so happy to have the chance to reconnect and reflect on my wonderful year in Australia.

N: You are currently living in Ames, Iowa, which is a very nice part of the world, but you are originally from Osceola, south of Des Moines. You are obviously content to stay in your home state of Iowa.

KPC: Yes, Iowa truly is home, although I have lived and worked in six other states, including getting my graduate degree in Illinois at Northwestern University, and did post-doctoral work in Massachusetts at MIT.

N: But, 40-odd years ago you decided to throw caution to the wind and become an exchange student in Perth, some 17,000km – or 10,500 miles in your money – away, leaving -15° temperatures at home and arriving in the middle of summer. What prompted this decision and did you have a say in where you would be going?

KPC: I was pretty adventurous as a high school student and was curious about the world. Growing up in a military family, I had lived in several states before Iowa and enjoyed learning about people with different perspectives – going somewhere else in the world was just an extension. I did not have a say in precisely where I would be sent, but given that I chose a January departure – rather than summer – that reduced the options to mostly the southern hemisphere.

N: Had you heard of Perth before? Did you know much about Australia?

KPC: I'm sorry to admit though I had heard of Perth, I wouldn't have been able to locate it on a map, even in the most general way. I had what probably was the 'standard American' understanding of Australia – standard stereotypical stuff – kangaroos, koalas, cool accent, great sense of humour. Of course, as soon as I found out I was headed there, I went to the library to learn everything I could.

Dr Kristen Persels Constant.

N: In an article you wrote for the 1981 College *Koinonia* magazine, you said you found catching public transport a little challenging at the start, as well as driving on the left-hand-side of the road. What other differences struck you when you first arrived in Perth?

KPC: Of course, all memories are formed, re-formed and revised as we get older, but I think that what struck me at the time was the differences in the school systems – the rigour of the classes, the seriousness of the students. My rural high school in Iowa was, well, pretty relaxed and I though I took the most advanced courses available, I was rarely challenged. That changed in Australia. Additionally, I was struck by how open and curious my friends and classmates were – and how much they knew about America, in contrast to how little I knew about Australia. Sometimes, I would be embarrassed because they would ask me my opinion about a particular political situation or current event in America that I knew little – or nothing – about. I resolved at that time to become more aware of and knowledgeable about not just my own country, but the world.

N: Before *Norbertus* forgets, Queens Park head office sent you across a jar of Vegemite which I am pleased to present to you now, so you can enjoy one of your favourite memories of living in Australia.

KPC: Oh my goodness, haven't tried that for some time – however, I have to say that I had a small jar that I had brought with me that resided in my parent's refrigerator for well over 15 years. When I visited them over the years, I would periodically take it out, sniff it, and, on daring days, even dip a pinkie finger in for a taste. To my amazement, it didn't appear to change in the slightest! I take that as clear evidence that it isn't really food!

N: You'd better be careful there, Kristen, you don't want to provoke an international incident! What prompted you to join a student exchange program and leave beautiful Iowa at the end of your senior year and head to Australia?

KPC: Some time ago I heard it said that people have more regrets about what they didn't do instead of what they did do. I've always had that in mind. While I knew that I would miss some of the special events in my senior year in high school – the 'prom', graduation ceremonies, etc, I knew those were just single, hours-long events that wouldn't compare to what I would learn living in another country for a whole year. The other philosophy is that the most valuable experiences are also a least a little – if not a lot – scary.

N: As mentioned, you said public transport and driving on the left were a little difficult to come to terms with, and you have certainly made your feelings known about Vegemite, but – putting school life to one side for the moment – what other aspects of life in Australia did you find challenging or unusual?

KPC: Challenging and unusual ... hmmm ... That is hard because the memories that have persisted over all this time are so wondrous and positive. I suppose the most challenging part (on a personal level) was having to find my place without the usual anchors of family and community – it is exhausting! I loved my big, active host family – the Boyces – with most of them younger than me. I was the youngest child in my family, so that was an adjustment. I admit that as delightful as the Australian accent was for me to hear, I often had trouble understanding at first – especially the slang, which, of course, my classmates would use liberally just to see me confused – all in good fun. I know you said to put aside school, but that was one of the most challenging things I encountered. I was a very serious, successful student in the US where I struggled much more and had to study much harder.

N: What were some of the more pleasant, enjoyable differences involving life in Australia as a teenager that you discovered?

KPC: I loved just about everything – the city, the weather, the wildlife, the outback and most of all, the people. Again, they were curious, open, and generous. I enjoyed Christmas on the beach, different foods – aside from the Vegemite – and discovered, to my surprise, that I very much appreciated school uniforms. (No decisions to be made in the mornings!)

Kristen and fellow American exchange student Mark Nicol.

One of Kristen's teachers, Andy Chalkley, with some senior students.

N: You attended two schools during your time in Perth, Rossmoyne Senior High School and St Norbert College. What was Rossmoyne like?

KPC: Rossmoyne was also a very good school and my classmates there were very warm and welcoming, too. Academically they seemed very similar. It is a little hard for me to compare the experiences since I was brand new starting at Rossmoyne, and had somewhat acclimatised by the time I got to St Norbert's.

N: So after four months or so, you moved to St Norbert College and were billeted by Mr Noel and Mrs Geraldine Boyce's family. Without wishing to pry too much, and without giving away any family secrets, what was life like in an Aussie family environment? Any big differences to back home in Iowa?

KPC: As the youngest in my family in Iowa, three of my four older siblings had left the house when I was in high school so it was a pretty quiet place. Of course, the Boyce house – with seven other kids, was not – but I loved it! They were a wonderful family to live with. I remember them as a close-knit, loving household and remain grateful they shared it with me.

N: In 1981 your home town of Osceola had only about 3,500 inhabitants, so obviously Perth was a much larger city. In terms of life as a teenager looking for fun things to do, are there any aspects of living in Perth that stand out in your memory?

KPC: I do remember going to quiz nights with friends, movies, and just going to the city to explore. What stood out then was that you would go places and not know most of the people you saw. Of course, in small town Iowa – you knew almost everybody and everybody knew my mom because she was that manager of the Chamber of Commerce.

N: If we could now have a chat about your time at St Norbert College ... Obviously the College had only been established for 15 years or so, but what were your first impressions of the buildings, the timetable structure, the curriculum and so on?

KPC: I have fond memories of St. Norbert's, and enjoyed so many of the events and activities. I remember feeling like school started later in the day, but I think that there was just more daylight there. The curriculum was much harder and 'double-maths' or 'double physics' days were always challenging. The unusual thing about the buildings/classrooms is just being outside more than in Iowa, where you usually remained inside all day.

N: Do you recall the subjects that you took, or perhaps some of the teachers? Do any of these stand out in your memory?

KPC: Yes, I remember I took what looked like the most science-based courses – maths, physics, chemistry, but I also took English literature. I would have to dive in to some of my scrapbooks to see if I can find any teachers' names. I know that I enjoyed many of them immensely and that they were very kind and patient with me.

N: Do you feel – and you can be honest here – that the College ensured you were made welcome and saw that you settled in well?

KPC: Oh yes. The College and my classmates took great care to make me feel welcome. I was invited to various special activities even though I wasn't always in the classes associated with them. My classmates always introduced me to others, and helped me navigate not only the physical space, but also the curriculum.

N: Do you recall any of the friends you made?

KPC: Yes, the students were wonderful, and I remember fondly Christine and Michelle (host sisters), Julie, Corrine, Kylie, Cathy, Michael, David, Ian, and Angela. Somehow, most of their last names are not coming to me – 40 years will do that I suppose.

N: Bit of a test here, Kristen ... Do you remember the St Norbert College school motto?

KPC: Ad Omnia Paratus – prepared for all good works.

N: Congratulations, that's a great effort!

KPC: I will readily admit I cheated. I have the 1981 handbook in my scrapbook and had a peak before you arrived. So, the answer is, I didn't remember.

N: That's completely understandable

Party time in the College library.

In 1981 the College canteen was at the northern end of Kilnacrott block.

considering the passage of time. Points for doing some preparation, too. That might even call for another jar of Vegemite to be sent your way! Would you say that the two school systems – the USA and Australian – had more in common, than they had differences back in 1981?

KPC: Perhaps there was more in common – schools played a central role in social life, learning and growing. Teachers, curriculums, friends, classmates were all very important. But there were differences too. In the States, sports and clubs were so important and were a big part of a student's identity. It was much different in Australia. In the USA, clothes, jewellery and so on were important (in ways that I think were not helpful). And ... of course, I've already mentioned the difference in rigour. Of course, as a faith-based College, that was quite difference compared to a public high school as well.

N: Apart from the scholastic side of things at the College, did you get involved in any sports teams, clubs or other pursuits? Were you at St Norbert's in time to attend the College ball?

KPC: Tennis when I could. I don't remember that there was a College ball. It might have happened before I came to the school. I was involved with AFS (the exchange program), but not much else in terms of formal clubs. I was 'doing things' with friends non-stop though.

N: If you could sum up your experience at St Norbert College in a few words, what do you think you would say? No doubt you would have been glad to go home to family and friends but were you sad to leave Perth?

KPC: I was terribly sad to leave Perth. I had such a wonderful experience and made wonderful friends. I was asked to talk about my experience quite a lot back in Iowa and found it hard to talk any less than an hour, but if I had to describe in just a few words it would be wondrous and enriching.

N: Upon your return to the US did you have to do any additional time at school and was it easy to settle back into life in the US?

KPC: I had already completed high school before I came to Australia. Of course, when I returned to life in the US, everything was again different because I worked full time for a few months, then went to university – a huge adjustment by itself – and then on to graduate school. So, after returning – I spent another 10 years "in school" – four years undergraduate, four as a graduate, and two post-doctoral years before becoming a professor myself.

N: What area of study did you specialise in and what career path did you follow after leaving university? Can you describe your current position?

KPC: I attained a Bachelor of Ceramic Engineering, and a PhD in Materials Science and Engineering, became a faculty member, moved up through the ranks, became a department chair, and am now a Vice President and Chief Information Officer of Iowa State University. Over the course of that time, I did work in industry at various times in engineering/scientist roles.

N: Congratulations on such a successful career. Do you mind if we enquire about your some of your personal life – family, travel, hobbies and so on?

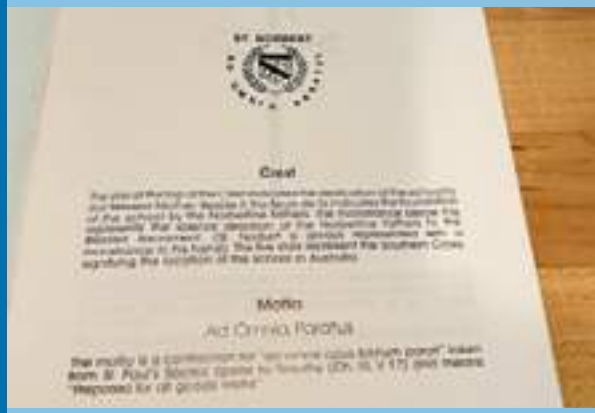
KPC: I am married to another engineering professor and have three adult sons. I still play tennis, run, bike, swim, enjoy my dogs, knit, read, love to learn, and love to travel – but don't take the time to travel very much! I have had a full, rich life, and have much more to accomplish and learn. One of the first items on my list is to spend more time in Australia.

N: Kristen Persels Constant, thank you very much for giving up your time to tell our readers about your experiences stretching back over the last forty years or so. It is greatly appreciated.

KPC: Thank you for the chat and the chance to reminisce about 1981. Again, I will be eternally grateful to the Boyce family and St. Norbert College for embracing the awkward, silly teenager I'm sure I was.

N: *Norbertus* is sure you contributed a lot to the College during your stay. On behalf of the College we would like to wish you and your family well for the years that lie ahead, and if ever you find yourself back in Perth, you will be warmly welcomed back to Treasure Road, Queens Park. Thank you very much, Kristen.

Fun together on the College oval in 1981.



A 1981 St Norbert College student handbook.

Forty-year-old scrapbook memories.

20th Anniversary

OF THE 2001 ST NORBERT COLLEGE PILGRIMAGE TO EUROPE

In July, 2001, a group of five students and three staff members embarked on a four-week pilgrimage to visit the five places in Europe which have provided the College's House names, as well as the city of Prague, where the remains of St Norbert are located in the church at the Norbertine Abbey Strahov.

Deputy Principal, Mr John Bird, was the instigator of the idea to conduct the College's inaugural European pilgrimage, but selflessly declined a position for himself on the trip. Staff members Mr Simon Harvey, Ms Jennifer Jansen and Br David Martin were selected to accompany students Amanda Ross (Xanten), Aimee Tolomei (Tongerlo), Erin Atkins (Kilnacrott), Jonathon Gimondo (Prémontré) and Marie Murphy (Magdeburg).

The entire College community supported the organisation, preparation and fundraising for the pilgrimage and external sponsors and organisations were also very generous in their support.

On Sunday, July 1, the pilgrims departed Perth Airport and were soon warmly welcomed by the various Norbertine communities in Europe where connections with our European heritage were enriched, friendships and memories were made and a deeper understanding of the influence of St Norbert was achieved.

All the pilgrims were proud and honoured to have been selected as ambassadors to represent St Norbert College and were grateful for all the support they had received in making the journey such an outstanding success. They were keen to share their experiences and insights upon their return to school and as a result, the College community's understanding of Norbertine spirituality and House heritage was greatly enhanced.

Norbertus recently contacted some of the participants and asked how they felt about the pilgrimage, twenty years later ...

JONATHON GIMONDO *A Sense of Pride*

Prémontré's representative on the pilgrimage, Jonathon Gimondo, has mixed memories of the day he was told his application was successful. It seems "like only yesterday" when told by Br David to "pack your bags, you're going to Europe!" but the rest of the day was a blur.

"I cannot remember what happened at all during the rest of that day," Jonathon laughed as he recalls his excitement and pride in being selected.

As an INSTEP student, Jonathon felt his chances of being selected were limited, but Br David thought all students should be able to go and encouraged him to complete the application. "I am confident that if it wasn't for Br David's encouragement, I would not have done so," Jonathon said. "I thank Br David for his encouragement and support throughout the application and selection process."

After the touring party was finalised, preparation and fundraising began in earnest. Jonathon remembers a Pearl Harbour movie night at Belmont Cinemas and a sausage sizzle at school where his dad, who worked at D'Orsogna Smallgoods, donated the sausages. "I remember the line to the BBQs stretching around the Prémontré and Kilnacrott blocks, all the way to the canteen where it used to be situated!"

Jonathon makes a presentation during the pilgrimage's visit to Prémontré.

Simon Harvey was Jonathon's PE teacher, but – being a non-TEE student – his interactions with Br David in the library were minimal and he had never had Jen Jansen as a teacher, so the pilgrimage was a chance to get to know everyone better. "This trip I felt gave me the opportunity to see another side of the teachers and Br David. At the end of the day they were also chosen to participate in the pilgrimage, so they deserved congratulations too."

Jonathon believes the pilgrimage was a fair deal to contend with as a 16-year-old, and there was the prospect that it would mainly consist of "churches, churches and more churches", but his fears were allayed as he learned more about St Norbert's teaching and work, while also experiencing other attractions and a taste of European culture.

"The statue of St Norbert in Prague and going to Prémontré Abbey in France are some of my favourite places we visited, but there were plenty of opportunities for shopping and seeing other sights," he recalled.

Being the only boy on the pilgrimage had its advantages, as Jonathon always had a room to himself. "At some accommodation sites I remember Simon Harvey and Br David had to share rooms and I am pretty sure the girls did as well."

Summing up his thoughts on the pilgrimage, Jonathon says the trip gave him the opportunity to grow as an individual, develop his confidence and the ability to take on challenges, as reflected in the College motto "prepared for all good works".

"I look back at the whole experience and what I personally gained from the pilgrimage and I feel so proud of having been given the opportunity to represent St Norbert College in Europe in this once-in-a-lifetime occasion. I am very grateful for that."

Jonathon reads during a liturgy at Prémontré on the pilgrimage in 2001.

Jonathon in Year 12 in 2002.

Jonathon Gimondo caught up with fellow 2001 pilgrim, Principal Mr Simon Harvey during a recent visit to the College.

MARIE MURPHY *A Cherished Experience*

A few years prior to the pilgrimage, I had travelled to the UK and Ireland with my family. I loved everything about visiting significant places, soaking up the different cultures and learning about the history. As soon as I heard that the College was organising a pilgrimage, I knew I had to apply.

I remember eagerly writing my application and hoping that I would be one of the successful candidates. The day I heard that I was selected, I was so happy. Once the names of all five successful students had been released, I was happy to find that I knew them all quite well and I knew that we would travel well together.

My family and friends were very supportive. Everyone helped fundraise selling chocolates, baking for the cake stalls, assisting with sausage sizzles, attending movie night fundraisers, and buying and selling raffle tickets. My local church, Notre Dame Parish in Cloverdale were very supportive and assisted with fundraising events and the City of Belmont (my local council) donated $1,000 towards the trip. My classmates had prepared a small little book with notes of well-wishes, stickers, songs and pictures for me to read on the plane and any time I felt homesick; it was so sweet.

Br David, Ms Jen Jansen and Mr Simon Harvey were the staff selected to accompany us on the pilgrimage. I didn't know Ms Jansen or Br David well, but I had Mr Harvey for outdoor education classes and had attended school camps with him as the supervising teacher. During the fundraising activities we all got to know each other very well and they looked after us so well on the trip.

As I read back through my pilgrimage diary, I am reminded of how great the trip was. We visited the five Houses: Tongerlo, Magdeburg, Xanten, Prémontré, and Kilnacrott with our travels taking us to Brussels, Germany, France, Czech Republic and Ireland all in one month. I portrayed excitement and gratitude for the journey I was on. I enjoyed learning more about our faith, meeting people and visiting historic places with significance to our College. One of my favourite places was Magdeburg (maybe because this was my House). Magdeburg is large city situated on the Elbe River. Fr Gottfried and Fr Clemmins showed us around. I remember sightseeing and eating in a castle – it may not have been a castle, but it was a beautiful, big, old European building, and I remember the food in Germany was delicious (I talk a lot about eating black forest ice-cream in my journal!) It seems that we fully embraced our time in Germany. I also loved Prague with Br Henry showing us around Strahov Abbey where St Norbert's relics lay, and we were lucky enough to view private books that dated back to the 9th century.

I came back to Australia with the "travel bug" and knew that when I was old enough to travel on my own, that I really wanted to go back to Europe and travel and visit more historic places.

The pilgrimage was honestly a fantastic experience and one that I will cherish forever. Twenty years on, a huge thank you again to all who assisted in making this such a memorable experience.

Marie Murphy (front right) during the pilgrims' time in Tongerlo.

Marie in Year 12, 2002.

Marie and her husband, Ivan.

Lunch at Magdeburg during the pilgrimage.

AIMEE TOLOMEI *The Rich Tapestry of Life*

When *Norbertus* contacted me to contribute to this article, I couldn't believe that 20 years had passed.

I remember being shocked to be chosen to represent Tongerlo House on the pilgrimage, but also incredibly excited. I had been chosen to be part of something incredibly special. I took the responsibility of representing Tongerlo House and the College very seriously and I think this trip was a turning point for me in starting to identify who I was as a person.

I loved all the places we visited, and I could write for days about the scenery, architecture and food. What really stood out for me was the kindness and generosity that went into every element of the journey, and the Norbertine spirit of *Ad Omnia Paratus* was personified every step of the way.

We started preparing months before the journey with fundraising. Our weekly meetings to prepare and discuss ideas were brought to life in the form of chocolate sales, sausage sizzles and so much more. So much love went into every initiative.

Our families were incredible, giving up time and energy to support whatever needed to be done. We also felt supported by the school community and even the extended community here in Perth. To my amazement, that support didn't end as we flew across the globe.

We were warmly embraced by everyone we met on our journey, from our hosts, local community members, special councillors and mayors – even by the media who wanted to interview us when we arrived in their town. So many people generously gave up their time, energy and resources so that we could have an amazing learning experience. That generosity left a big impression on me.

Our pilgrimage group became like our own little family, supporting each other when needed, and always up for a chat or a laugh – this was pivotal to helping those of us who were homesick – myself included!

We were fortunate to stay with the local Norbertine community in most of our destinations. Our first stop was Tongerlo Abbey, and it was a highlight of the trip for me. I remember feeling deeply moved, I think a combination of being a proud member of Mr Rogan's Homeroom, as well as complete awe at my surroundings and the abbey community. Our host was Father Michiel Meeusen. He had memorised all our names before we arrived – by studying a *Koinonia!* His big smile lit up the room and he personified grace and kindness. I feel very lucky to have kept in touch with Fr Michiel over the years; he is still in beautiful Tongerlo Abbey and has recently celebrated 65 years as a priest!

We attended mass at each destination. Most of the time we did not understand the language, but that didn't stop us from feeling included and part of something special. No mass, event or church was the same – each brimming with individuality, proud history and sense of community. At all the destinations we received warm welcomes, care and attention. I remember thinking it must be amazing to understand your purpose so clearly, to have a faith so deep, that your life is full of ritual that allows you to both practise and celebrate it. This inspired me to always embrace what brings me joy and purpose.

From mass in Latin, to Marie playing the tin whistle in Ireland, the pilgrimage was my introduction to the world. That trip showed me how religion, finance, politics, history, culture and people can all come together in a rich tapestry. It showed me the best in people and inspired me to search for my best self and what I can contribute to the world. I am incredibly grateful that I had this opportunity, and the memories are always a source of happiness and inspiration for me.

Aimee Tolomei, Tongerlo's student representative on the pilgrimage.

Aimee in Year 12 in the 2002 Koinonia.

Jen Jansen, David Martin and Aimee at Tongerlo.

DAVID MARTIN
A Religious Highlight

Has it really been 20 years since the pilgrimage? Life has certainly moved on since then. From time to time I reminisce about some of my experiences of the pilgrimage, the places we visited and the experiences we shared. For me, being a Norbertine at the time and meeting confreres and visiting European abbeys was the highlight of my religious life, in particular visiting Xanten, Prémontré, Tongerlo and Kilnacrott. It gave life and meaning beyond what I had read in books. Here in Australia, St Norbert isn't widely known, so to visit places that had statues and art works of him was incredible. In 2017 I had a surreal experience at the National Museum of the Philippines when I discovered an artwork that depicted the life of St Norbert.

I'm really grateful to John Bird whose vision it was to conduct the pilgrimage, Fr Peter who gave his blessing and negotiated with Prelates to house and act as tour guides for us and to Jen, Simon, Amanda, Erin, Aimee, Marie and Jonathon for sharing and enriching the experience.

Xantenites David Martin and Amanda Ross with a statue of St Norbert.

JENNIFER JANSEN *A Special Connection*

Ms Jennifer Jansen commenced her teaching career at St Norbert College in the early 1990s and is currently working at Santa Maria College where she has held a variety of positions including House Coordinator and Head of Year, but is now back in the classroom full-time, teaching English and literature. Jen is an avid traveller, having visited all corners of the globe and most recently experiencing a number of wildlife safaris in Africa. Jen has fond memories of her time at St Norbert College – particularly the sense of community and the Norbertine influence – and still catches up with some former St Norbert's colleagues. The 2001 European Pilgrimage was one of many highlights of her time at Treasure Road, as *Norbertus* found out when Jen was recently kind enough to answer a few questions about the trip.

What made you apply for a position in the pilgrimage?
I had always known about the origins of the Houses at St Norbert College, but to actually visit them, would be a privilege and an honour. I was looking forward to visiting the places that St Norbert, himself, had been to and lived in.

Were your family and friends very supportive?
Yes, completely and they were happy to contribute and become involved in the fundraisers

How excited were you when you heard you had secured a position?
It was a very exciting moment and again such an honour to be able to represent the College at the inaugural European Pilgrimage.

What fundraising activities did you participate in?
You name it, we did it – sausage sizzles, film nights, swap meets and a multitude of Freddos sold. We remained focused on our goal which was motivation enough. We certainly all worked extremely hard and were a formidable team.

Was it your first time heading overseas?
No, not for me but it certainly was my first visit to Germany, Ireland and Belgium.

Paragliding in Morocco.

Did you know the other students before you embarked on the trip? How well did you all bond together?
We met several times before the trip and worked to plan out fundraising campaigns and also the logistics of travel. We also undertook reflection/journaling activities to prepare ourselves for quite a spiritual pilgrimage.

What about the staff; did you get to know Br David and Simon Harvey well?
It was lovely to get to know the students but also fabulous to get to know Simon and David well too. Again, it was such a magnificent team.

Do you remember the order of the itinerary?
Tongerlo Abbey in Belgium; Prémontré in France; Magdeburg/Hamborn in Germany; Xanten also in Germany; Strahov Abbey in Prague; and Kilnacrott in Ireland.

Did you have a favourite destination on the itinerary? Did going to the places that are so closely associated with St Norbert College have an impact on you?
Without a doubt it was being able to visit Strahov Abbey and visit the chapel where St Norbert's remains are entombed. It was also fascinating to see so many references, statues and places dedicated to St Norbert. Sometimes it did feel that SNC in Perth was a little bubble in the Norbert world but the pilgrimage was an opportunity to see how extensive the Norbertine community is and how much of an influence that St Norbert was. We have Norbertine "families" everywhere in Europe.

Do you feel you came to a deeper understanding of St Norbert's life and work? Did the trip have any longer-term influence on you as a person?
Being hosted by the European Norbertines and being able to live in the various abbeys and participate in the daily life of the Norbertines was very special and it was through these interactions that I was able to appreciate the impact that St Norbert had on so many people and communities. I think I also understood the importance of prayer, reflection and community in the life of Norbert and his particular reverence of St Augustine. My own sense of spirituality was certainly enhanced as a result of participating in the pilgrimage.

Did you make any connections with people you met overseas?
Yes, as a group we definitely kept in touch with both Fr Michiel in Tongerlo and Fr Gerard in Ireland (both passed away a few years ago). I still keep in touch with Fr Altfried in Germany.

What follow-up activities did you do once you returned to Western Australia and St Norbert College?
We met several times to reflect on our experiences, completed more journaling and wrote some articles. From memory, we also presented to the whole school at an assembly. I think we may have gone out for a meal.

How glad were you that you participated in the pilgrimage?
I know that at the time, all of us realised that it was such an important journey and that we were pioneers in a way. Now, 20 years later, that understanding is even more profound. The same journey to Europe has not been replicated and of course now with Covid restrictions, it will be unlikely that it will occur again. If I had the opportunity to go to Europe again, I would definitely like to revisit those important places.

Anything else you would care to mention about your experience on the pilgrimage?
My connection to St Norbert College and to all those who came on the pilgrimage will always be special. When I returned, I remember that I could visualise all the places we had been to on the pilgrimage whenever the name of a House was called out or mentioned. The physicality of being in those places never fails to affect me, even today.

Ms Jennifer Jansen (left) spent two years as a volunteer teacher in Western Samoa in 1997-98.

SIMON HARVEY *Understanding the Depth of Connection*

I can't believe it has been twenty years since I was privileged to be a member of the St Norbert College European Pilgrimage in 2001. Every time I reminisce or think back to that time, I think of John Bird. John was one of the College Deputy Principals at the time and it was he who planted the idea that we embark on this endeavour. A man of strong servant leadership, while he came up with the idea, it was never John's intention to attend – for that I am eternally grateful. To be selected and to be able to visit those significant places that I had first heard about back in the 1980s when a student at the College, was simply incredible. I mean, let's face it, those names are so unique, many would have to travel there to believe they actually exist.

As a staff member on returning from the pilgrimage and now the College Principal, those House names resonate so deeply with me, having walked on those sites. The advent of Google Maps has meant that from time-to-time, I find myself revisiting, in the virtual world, some of those places to reminisce. I was recently looking around Xanten and during the Tour de France this year, I Google-mapped the course to see how close they came to places like Prémontré.

One of my fondest memories was of the group singing the College hymn *"Prepared for All"* in the ancient chapel at Prémontré – it was a very moving moment, one that brought tears to our eyes, including our Norbertine guide, Fr Michiel from Tongerlo Abbey.

We were privileged to be invited within the castle grounds of Prague in the Czech Republic, to witness the changing of the guard. This was arranged by one of the guards who was to join the Norbertines later that year. Only twelve months later, I accompanied my wife Maria to Prague and was able to take a tour of the Norbertine Monastery where St Norbert's remains are entombed. Coincidentally, we were hosted by that very guard who had joined the Norbertines as a novice.

As I ponder this piece, the memories come flooding back and I could continue for hours. In summary though, I am forever indebted to the College, to John Bird and Peter Hayes, and the Norbertines, to have been given such an amazing gift – a heartfelt understanding of the depth of connection, we here in Queens Park Australia, have with the Order of Canons Regular of Prémontré, throughout the world.

St Norbert College Principal Mr Simon Harvey was one of three staff members who were selected to attend the 2001 College pilgrimage to Europe.

After a changing of the guard ceremony at Prague Castle.

Simon lets his hair down in Dublin.

2001 Koinonia: Mr Simon Harvey, Year 12 student Jacob Williams and Mr Rob Holt.

OUR EUROPEAN NORBERTINE HERITAGE & HERALDRY

20th Anniversary
OF THE 2001 ST NORBERT COLLEGE
PILGRIMAGE TO EUROPE

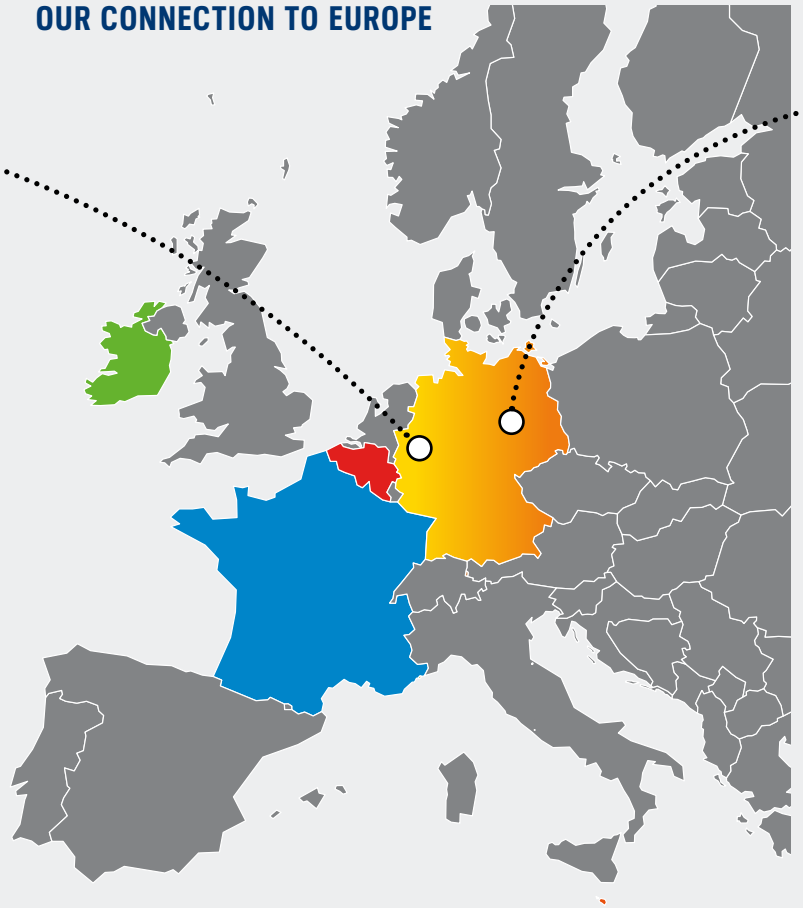
ST NORBERT COLLEGE CREST

In 2000, the Jubilee Year of the Church, the Norbertines of Queens Park revised our College crest to move forward into the new millennium.
The star at the top right of the crest is representative of Our Lady to whom St Norbert had a special devotion. Beside it, the fleur-de-lis indicates the foundation of the College by the Norbertine Canons and the monstrance below this represents the special devotion of the Norbertine Canons to the Blessed Sacrament of Benediction. (St Norbert is always represented with a monstrance in his hand). The five stars represent the Southern Cross, signifying our location in Australia. The olive branch is a symbol of St Norbert's ministry as an apostle of peace.

ST NORBERT COLLEGE MOTTO

Ad Omnia Paratus
Prepared For All Good Works
The motto is a contraction for "ad omne opus bonum parati", taken from St Paul's Second Epistle to Timothy (Ch.III, V17) and means "Prepared For All Good Works".

OUR CONNECTION TO EUROPE



XANTEN

Xanten - Germany
Xanten, near the Dutch - German border was the birthplace of St Norbert in 1080.His early life was spent in this region before his conversion so, as such, it holds a treasured place in Norbertine history. Xanten is also familiar as the name of our College's performing arts centre.

Meeting some dignitaries in Xanten.

MAGDEBURG

Magdeburg - Germany
After some years at Prémontré, St Norbert was made Archbishop of Magdeburg and Primate (head-churchman) of Germany. In 1126 he also established a Norbertine community there which had a very good reputation for preaching among the pagan people known as the Wens.

Meeting the mayor of Magdeburg.

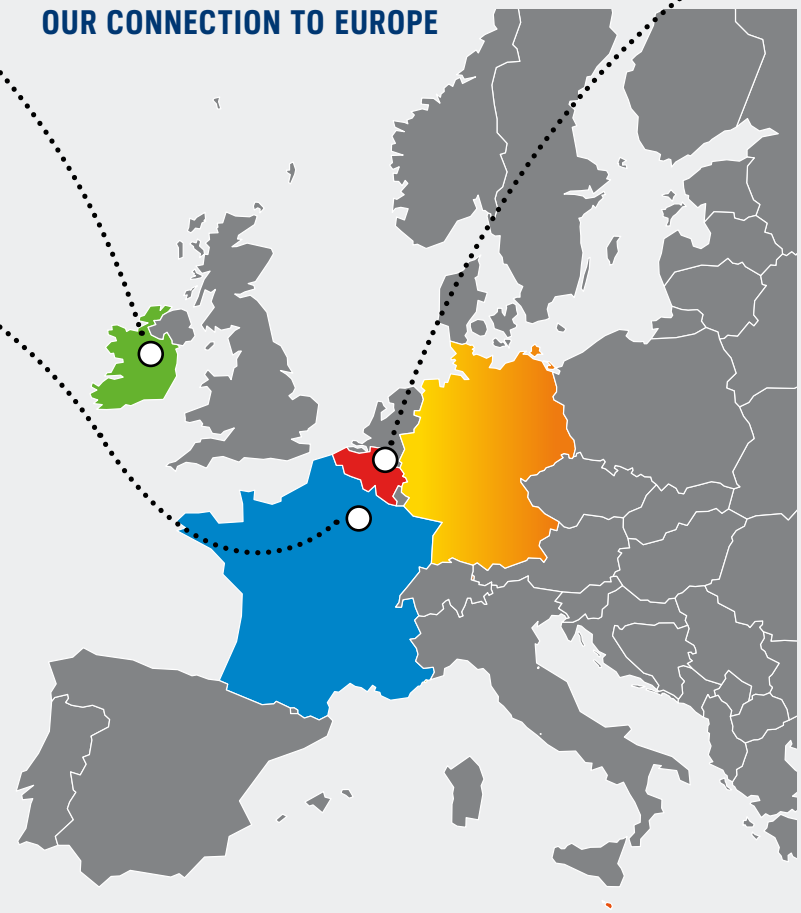
KILNACROTT

Being shown around Kilnacrott.

Kilnacrott - Ireland
Kilnacrott is a Gaelic word meaning "church on a hill". It is the place in County Cavan, Eire, where Tongerlo Abbey established a community of canons in 1924. Holy Trinity Abbey Kilnacrott founded the Norbertine community in Western Australia in 1959 when three Irish Norbertines – Fr Peter O'Reilly, Fr John Reynolds and Fr Stephen Cooney – arrived.

TONGERLO

OUR CONNECTION TO EUROPE



PRÉMONTRÉ

Prémontré - France
Prémontré is the valley near Laon in France where St Norbert established his first community of canons and canonesses. It was from here that the Norbertine spirit spresd throughout Europe. While there is no longer a Norbertine community at Prémontré, it is the source of Norbertine history. This House name is also the name of our College library.

Prémontré Chapel.

Tongerlo - Belgium
The town of Tongerlo, Belgium, has a Norbertine abbey which is the "grandmother" of the community here at Queens Park. Canons from Tongerlo Abbey established a community in Ireland, which in turn laid the foundations in Western Australia. Tongerlo Abbey was established during the lifetime of St Norbert, so it has a strong tradition of over 870 years. Norbertines from Tongerlo have spread the spirit of St Norbert to Ireland, Canada, Chile, Zaire and England.

Jen Jansen and Aimee Tolomei in Tongerlo.

KELSEY ZAMPINO

Back Where it all Started

Kelsey Zampino (Class of 2015) attended St Norbert College from 2010 to 2015 and this year returned to her former school as an English teacher and Prémontré Homeroom teacher.

Kelsey originally had planned to become a journalist but had a change of heart when she commenced teaching at a dance school. "My experiences there solidified my passion for working with young people, so I enrolled in a Bachelor of Secondary Education and graduated in 2020," Kelsey said.

Thinking back to her days as a student at St Norbert College, Kelsey enjoyed studying English and health studies, as well as Year 12 religion and life with Ms Sharon Rainford, although some co-curricular pursuits at St Norbert College were the most memorable. "I have wonderful recollections of my time on the 2014 Singapore Dance Tour and being a member of the 2015 College production of Little Shop of Horrors," she said.

Kelsey says there are moments when it does feel strange being back as a staff member, particularly because it was only six years ago that she was a St Norbert College student herself, but feels humbled to be "back where it all started".

"I must admit, however, returning as an ex-student has its perks – I know the campus well, I am familiar with College life, and I know many of the existing staff. It is great to be welcomed back into the Norbertine community – I feel right at home."

Some of Kelsey's closest friends today are former classmates at St Norbert College – Jessica Ingram, Natalie Palermo, Sheldon Galliot and Matilda Jenkins – and she catches up regularly with them and others from her graduating year.

Kelsey encourages all St Norbert College students to embrace life at the College and involve themselves in as much as they can. "The College has a lot to offer its students and there is an abundance of valuable experiences that will continue to impact you in the years beyond school."

Norbertus is very pleased Kelsey has returned to St Norbert College and wishes her well for the years that lie ahead.

Miss Kelsey Zampino (centre) with fellow and former staff members at St Norbert Day celebrations this year.

In 2015 Kelsey and her good friend Natalie Palermo were coordinators of the Canons Hip Hop Crew.

Performing in the 2015 College production of Little Shop of Horrors.

Kelsey (right), pictured with fellow Prémontré Captains and Mr Brendan McGrath in 2015.

CLASS OF 1991 Reunion

Broken Hill Hotel
Friday 30 July 2021

It's difficult to believe that it's been 30 years since we've seen the awesome alumni from the Class of 1991! We were really excited to see everyone who could make it – all 45 or so of you. It looked like everyone had a great night and there were smiles all round. I had a few asking about the next reunion and some saying we should make them every five years. Maybe, if someone else volunteers to organise the next one! There's a few of us who reconnected and will catch up more often. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart to all of those who came, and hopefully see the rest of you at the next Class of 1991 reunion!

Ashleigh Panozzo

Charles Chong, Karen Moffitt and Paul Gee.

Robert Mocerino, Chris Reimer, Annette Rampant and Jenny Russell.

Denzil Abel, Julia Watson and Tracey Quinn.

Tanya Wilson, Julia Watson and Fiona Young.

Robert Schifferli and Darren Versaico.

Gene Henderson, Don Bolar and Craig Sweetapple.

Janelle Bell, Paul Gebhard and Sacha Quick.

Jodi Van Nus, Julia Watson, Janelle Bell, Alex Lawrie, Tracey Quinn, Denzil Abel, Debbie Anne and Justin Carrier

Don Bolar and Ashleigh Panozzo (nee Astill).

Aaron Gill, Anna Kelly (nee Doria) and Mark Veza.

Sue Martin (nee Perrett) and Jenny Russell (nee Kelly).

Troy Herbert, Fiona Young and Tanya Wilson.

Karen Moffitt (nee McDermott), Gerri Male (nee Richards) and Toni Hood.

Robert Mocerino, Denzil Abel and Janelle Bell.

Claire Hajje (nee Watts), Monique Templeton (nee Davies) and Sacha Quick.

Sandra Higgins, Gene Henderson and Craig Sweetapple.

Matt Jackson, Alex Lawrie, Anthony Westmancott and Charles Chong.

Chenoa O'Rourke and Alex Lawrie.

Ashleigh Panozzo and Sacha Quick.

Chris Reimer, Darren Versaico, Jacki Whelpdale (nee Sleap) and Sandra Higgins.

Kerry Dowson (nee Richards-Scully) and Julia Watson.

Paul Gebhard, Sacha Quick (nee Fernandez), Kerry Dowson (nee Richards-Scully) and Mark Versaico.

Charles Chong, Karen Moffitt, Alex Lawrie, Paul Gee and Anna Kelly.

St Norbert College Principal, Mr Peter Hayes, with Dr Michelle Carrier (Class of 1989) who addressed a College assembly.

SRC President Tara Ratnayake addresses staff and students at the 2001 College Ball.

Visiting the tomb of St Norbert during the 2001 European Pilgrimage.

Mr Brian Rogan, Head of Creative Arts, retired in 2001 after 28 years of teaching service at St Norbert College.

2001 St Norbert College Community Mass.

2001 St Norbert College

PRIOR: Fr Peter Stiglich O.Praem
PRINCIPAL: Mr Peter Hayes (Mr John Bird Term 2)
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, LEARNING: Mr John Bird (Mrs Sue Dyer Term 2)
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL SENIOR SCHOOL: Ms Jenneth Stibi
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, MIDDLE SCHOOL: Mr Robert Henderson
HEADS of LEARNING AREAS:

- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Mr David Byrne
- ENGLISH and LANGUAGES: Mr Donald Nield
- MATHEMATICS: Mrs Sue Dyer (Mr Peter Chandler Term 2)
- SCIENCE: Ms Jennifer Oaten
- SOCIETY & ENVIRONMENT: Mr Chris Reimers
- CREATIVE ARTS: Mr Brian Rogan (Mr Chris Brehaut Semester 2)
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Miss Lynn Moxham

ST NORBERT COLLEGE DEVELOPMENTS INNOVATIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Six College Values were established: Friendship, Commitment, Respect, Heritage, Adaptability and Community
- Five students and three staff completed a four-week pilgrimage to prominent St Norbert sites in Europe
- A service learning program was established at the College
- Mr Brian Rogan retired after 27 years at St Norbert College

HOUSE COORDINATORS:

- KILNACROTT: Mrs Katherine Branchi
- MAGDEBURG: Ms Maria Leone
- PRÉMONTRÉ: Mr Simon Harvey
- TONGERLO: Ms Megan Wride (Ms Jen Jansen Semester 1)
- XANTEN: Mrs Tricia Van Nus

ENROLMENT: 724 students
DUX: Simon Osborne

Carina Wong with Japanese exchange students on the 2001 river cruise.

Michael Hanna assisting with deliveries on the SRC's Rose Day.

Looking glamorous and looking sharp at the 2012 College Ball.

Fun at St Norbert Day activities.

Dwain Burridge and Andrea Aoun discuss their novel in Year 12 English class.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL: Tara Ratnayake (President), Lorissa Kelly (Vice President), Andrea Aoun (Secretary) and Lia Barbatanto (Treasurer) who, with fellow councillors:

- Devise an SRC Mission Statement: We, as the voice of the student body, strive to succeed and inspire a positive attitude in the College community
- Completed a planning camp in February at Eagle's Nest
- Help organise the Year 12 St Norbert College Ball, the Year 8-9 socials, Year 10 river cruise, rose day, 3-on-3 basketball and the Year 11-12 river cruise
- Supported the James Crofts Hope Foundation, a charity for children with cancer
- Donated funds to support the European pilgrimage

HOUSE CAPTAINS:

- KILNACROTT: Laura Arcorace, Fred Gibbs, Jody Tièche and Stevie Wilson
- MAGDEBURG: Mary Rangitoheriri, Michael Rush, Adam Neindorf and Alicia Coles
- PRÉMONTRÉ: Mariana Tyrer, Jacob Williams, Brenton Luttrell and Ashleigh Bennett
- TONGERLO: Rachel Smith, Trent Verren, Christopher Dunne and Julia Woo
- XANTEN: Jessica Zabel, Patrick Daly, Kevin Xavier and Kelly Hart

WINNERS OF SPORTS CARNIVALS:

- SWIMMING: Magdeburg
- ATHLETICS: Xanten

CHAMPION HOUSE: Magdeburg

Kilnacrott Year 12 graduation breakfast at Burswood Park.

NORBERTUS IN 2001

There were three issues of *Norbertus* in 2001.

In April St Norbert College Principal Mr Peter Hayes was in the United States investigating community service-learning programs as part of his Churchill Scholarship and Deputy Principal Mr John Bird took over his role during Semester 1.

Mr Bird remarked on the smooth start to the academic year, commended the Class of 2000 on their pleasing TEE results, informed the community of various improvements made to the College facilities over the summer break and referred to a review into the College Vision statement that was soon to be undertaken. He also pointed out that Mr Phil Morellini had been appointed as Service-Learning Coordinator and that Phil's role would be developed more fully upon Mr Hayes' return from his fact-finding tour in the US.

Fr Peter O'Reilly's funeral had been held at St Joseph's Church in December, 2000, and a large part of this issue of *Norbertus* was devoted to his story and his magnificent contribution to St Nobert College and the people of Western Australia. The article was aptly titled: "Life a Labour of Love".

The McNally family siblings Angela (Class of 1990), Peter (1992), Helen (1994) and Kathleen (1997) appeared in an article that was reproduced from a Murdoch University Law Alumni magazine. Angela, Peter and Helen had stellar careers at Murdoch and were all

Acting Principal, Mr John Bird.

Students form a guard of honour for Fr Peter O'Reilly.

Italian language studies returned to the College with Mrs Grazia Redolatti at the helm.

St Norbert's secured third position at the ACC "D" division carnival.

practising law, while Kathleen was completing a law-commerce degree. Murdoch University first attracted the family's attention when their pet dog underwent a successful hip operation at the Murdoch Veterinary Hospital in 1986 and they were very impressed by the professionalism of the staff who made Rex, a kelpi-corgi cross "as good as new"!

Other stories in this issue include reports on the SRC's annual planning camp; the third place gained by the College swim team at the ACC "D" division carnival; and the reintroduction of Italian courses under the guidance of Italian teacher, Mrs Grazia Redolatti.

In August Mr Bird commented on the College's celebration of St Norbert Day, the departure of 15 students and three staff members on the inaugural College pilgrimage to visit significant Norbertine sites in Europe and the retirement of long-serving St Norbert College teacher, Mr Brian Rogan.

Mr Rogan commenced his career at the College as a Year 7 teacher in 1974 and went on to carve out an impressive teaching career in Northern Ireland and Western Australia. Renowned for his Irish wit and sayings, Brian was also very much at home compering Presentation Night before closing the night with his famous Irish blessing. A keen Dockers fan, Brian was looking forward to spending some time on the golf course and going home to Belfast for the first time in almost 20 years.

Other articles in this issue included coverage of the ACC Cross Country carnival; a review of the St Norbert College Performing Arts Festival by Mr Jarrod Buttery, President of the Independent Theatre Association; a report on a visit to the College by Class of 1998 alumnus, Chad Hymus,

Mr and Mrs Matt Tavani.

Chad Hymus (Class of 1998).

Tabitha Nicholls (Class of 1999) and Daniel East (Class of 2000) perform in "Play On".

Jen Oaten launches the "Literacy Through Integrated Studies Package" at the Catholic Education Office.

who was then a Hong Kong-based professional dancer on cruise ships; and an article on the career of 1989 alumna Dr Michelle Carrier who had carved out an impressive career as an environmental engineer and completed a PhD from Trinity Hall at Cambridge University.

In December Principal Mr Peter Hayes wrote an account of his Churchill Scholarship tour of various educational facilities in the United States, including a variety of schools, the Norbertine University in Wisconsin and some Norbertine communities. He returned to SNC convinced that "a service experience can be a valuable growth experience for a young person", and reported on the success of the College's program to date including volunteer work at Nyandi Women's Prison and the Cerebral Palsy Association of WA.

One article covered the launch of the SNC "Literacy Through Integrated Studies Package", which was coordinated by Mrs Maureen Loveland and partly funded by DETYA , in front of 150 teachers at the Catholic Education Office.

David Martin (Class of 1988, flight controller in the RAAF), Matt Tavani (Class of 1990, project manager WA government) and Carli Brown (Class of 2000, Australian Army) submitted some details on their lives since leaving school and there was also a story of an ex-students' musical production, "Play On", directed by Miss Hilton and featuring John Wall, Kerry Dowson (nee Richards-Scully), Elaine Wambeck, Brad Habib, Tabitha Nicholls, Jonathon Bradford, Dean Roepen, Liz Carruthers and Daniel East.

Norbertine University, Wisconsin.

Angela (Class of 1990), Peter (1992), Helen (1994) and Kathleen McNally (1997).

Mr Brian Rogan pictured with Melody Wates and Esther Power.

RAAF flight controller David Martin (Class of 1988).

STUDENTS FROM 2001

LEAH DAWSON

Leah Dawson (nee Ware) attended St Norbert College from 1997 to 2001 and was a member of the Kilnacrott Homeroom which had Mrs Cathy Wallace, then Mr Bernard Hester as Homeroom teachers. An effervescent, cheerful and hard-working student, Leah has lost none of her zest for life, as Norbertus discovered when we caught up with her recently at the Class of 2001 reunion which she helped organise.

5 Questions in Five Minutes

What were a couple of your happy/memorable/significant experiences at St Norbert College?

Look, there were many – but none stands out to me particularly. I think we were afforded a very safe and nurturing environment at St Norbert's. It was a smaller school than most, where we all knew each other, and I think this made a huge difference to my schooling life being part of a strong community. Like all students, I had my ups and downs, but for the most part, and particularly in Year 12, I really enjoyed my time there. I absolutely love telling my children, Oliver, 8, and Lucy, 5, all about my schooling days and the experiences I had. They love hearing how the same problems and triumphs they face at school existed when I was at school too – in the olden days, no less!

Did you have any favourite subjects or teachers? Please elaborate.

I most enjoyed the humanities, particularly history with Mr Byrne and of course, English and English literature – even though I was terrible at literature in Years 11 and 12! I received the English award in Years 9 and 10 and have always had a keen interest in writing and am a stickler for spelling and grammar, which I now thoroughly enjoy pressing upon my children. I have very fond memories of Ms Marriann O'Neill, who was instrumental in making me feel valued in those early years of high school, and Mrs Maria Byrne, who taught me human biology. But it was Mrs Fiona Williams, who I had for word processing in Years 8, 9 and 10, to whom I owe my strongest skill set to date. Just three semesters of touch-typing, and I've never lost it, and it serves me well in my job today.

The Dawson family at the AFL grand final: Leah, Oliver, Lucy and David.

Leah Dawson (nee Ware) in the 2001 Koinonia.

Class of 2001 reunion: Su James and Leah Dawson.

Pictured with friends at the 2001 College ball.

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

Su James is the closest friend I have from St Norbert's. We keep in touch regularly and have been in each other's lives in many aspects over the years, even working together from the age of 16. We have very similar interests and have always found time for each other in the busyness of life.

Did you have a particular subject or a particular year or time period which helped you decide on your career path or aspects of your life in general?

Definitely not! I had no idea what I wanted to do when I left school. I ended up studying communications at Murdoch University, majoring in public relations and journalism, which led me to a job in the radio industry for 10 years of my life. After I had my second child, I happily left that industry behind, and I now run our family plastering business with my husband, and am a transcriber for courts of law in Western Australia. This job not only allows me flexibility in working from home to the beat of my own drum, but marries my love of typing and all things words, and I also feel like I'm making a contribution to society.

Any advice you would now give yourself as a 17-year-old leaving school back in 2010, or perhaps any advice you would give to senior students at St Norbert College today?

Growth and change are inevitable, so don't feel you have to rush into making any life decisions when you leave school. Most importantly, learn to love and be okay with yourself before you start giving to others. It is true that you cannot pour from an empty cup. Life is indeed beautiful, and a precious gift, so look for the joy at every opportunity, and prepare yourself for all good works – *ad omnia paratus.*

Norbertus Vox Pop: **Leah Dawson** (Class of 2001)

As a member of the human race I would really like to be remembered as ... a person who would stand with you in a crowd.

A couple of people I really admire in the world are ... anyone who can recognise their own self-worth and live their lives with integrity and a kind heart.

If I could swap jobs with one other person I'd love to be ... the lead singer of a long-time, world-popular band, travelling the world, doing what I love and getting paid to do it.

If I won lotto, the first thing I would do is ... phone my Mum.

My parent/husband/son/daughter would describe me as ... a love heart (asked my five-year-old daughter directly – out of the mouths of babes!)

My most treasured possession would probably be ... my hot water bottle. Have you ever gotten into a cold bed at night?

A couple of things I like to do to wind down include ... reading to my kids, listening to my 90s playlists or having a drink and chat with David, my husband.

I prefer ...

Rottnest or Margaret River: **Margaret River.** *Wine, cheese, chocolate – and a visit to the Bunbury Farmer's Market on the way? Heaven, right here in WA.*

Eagles or Dockers: ***West Coast Eagles*** *for life!*

Cats or dogs: *Cats are so rude.* ***Dogs*** *love you unconditionally.*

Myer or David Jones: *You can't go past a classic* ***Myer*** *department store in any city centre, especially at Christmas time. Magical.*

Qantas or Virgin: ***Qantas*** *- apologies to my niece, who is a Virgin flight crew member!*

Northbridge or Fremantle: ***Freo*** *is iconic, Northbridge just kinda stinks these days.*

Cinema or Netflix: *Netflix is certainly convenient, but you can't beat the full* ***cinema*** *experience, popcorn and all.*

Pub or fancy restaurant: *While I do enjoy fine dining, I'm mostly a pizza and glass of wine type of person, so the* ***pub****.*

Magazine or go online: *As any time-poor parent would understand, going* ***online*** *is convenient.*

Facebook or phone a friend: *Facebook sure does serve us well to keep in touch with our community, but there's nothing like* ***phoning*** *a friend – or these days, leaving voice messages to get back to each other when we can.*

Breakfast in bed or café: *I do love a lazy morning in bed, but a freshly made coffee and some scrambled eggs and avo on sourdough at a* **café** *is one of my many joys in life.*

Melbourne or Sydney: *With my dad being Victorian,* ***Melbourne*** *has always been my second home in Australia. Know it very well. Although I have been there many, many times, I struggle with Sydney's layout and I don't think the city is as vibrant.*

STUDENTS FROM 2001

PAUL SWANSON
Filling That Spot

Paul Swanson (Class of 2001) was a sincere, considerate and diligent student during his five years at St Norbert College and was recently kind enough to answer the call for stories about what the members of the Class of 2001 have been doing since they graduated. An accomplished yachtsman, Paul has demonstrated an ability to navigate WA's changing economy and work in a variety of capacities in several industries, including his current position as a contract supervisor for Synergy.

2001: Leaving Treasure Road

After leaving St Norbert's in 2001, I attended TAFE with my mind set on becoming a structural and mechanical draftsman. That dream was short-lived and after six months I was keen to get out of the education system, so I found a few more entertaining things for a 17-year-old and entered the workforce doing a few jobs and plenty of sailing in between.

Lines and Circles

After a bit of time off I met my now wife and, with new ways to spend money, I got back into the work force spending a few years working in the marine industry in Fremantle, followed by a local mining-focussed manufacturing company as a draftsman. Lines and circles again became boring so I moved into a sales role, then safety and then into a consumables buyer role with a bit of job sharing as the resources industry boomed. That led me into the oil and gas sector, working with an international company which kept me entertained for a number of years, culminating in running the procurement and logistics for our Australian operations.

What Are You Doing Here?

I got to interact with some interesting people and coincidentally came across fellow 2001 graduate, Jody Tièche, on a mobile offshore drilling unit, 70km off the Exmouth Coast. As a relatively private person, sitting on a steel brick with a bunch of people I had only spoken with over the phone, it was nice to know someone! Jody and I didn't have much to do with each other at school though his enthusiasm in a pretty unusual spot for me was appreciated.

Flying South

Oil and gas was fun at the time. Chartering a Hercules aircraft to carry operationally critical pieces from Scotland to Karratha via Russia, Japan and Brisbane in order to save $3m was memorable, although that adventure came to an end when the industry went south in 2015. I now find myself working for the State government as a contractor supervisor for Synergy, interacting with contractors and assets between Coral Bay and Esperance. I am lucky to work with some really good, like-minded people and have workplace flexibility so get to do school drop-off and pick-up a couple of times a week.

Settling Down

Family-wise, I met my wife Claire shortly after leaving school. She is also a sailor and a multiple-time State and national champion. We were able to tick off a few thousand miles' worth of offshore races together before work got in the way of things. We have been together for 18 years, married for 10 and

Sunset on the beach in Broome.

Paul, Ella, Blake and Claire Swanson.

have a seven-year-old daughter called Ella and a four-year-old son called Blake. Ella would insist that I also include our 11-year-old kelpie-cattle dog and her one-year-old budgie in our family bundle. Claire has run her own beauty therapy salon for 12 years and is looking to ramp up her operations now the kids spend more time at school than at home harassing the "food lady" for snacks!

Happy Trails

We stopped sailing a few years ago but still get out on the water very regularly with a small runabout. The immediate goal is to get something a bit bigger to do some island-camping off the coast next year. When the weather isn't great for boating, camping has become a regular source of entertainment. We have caravanned fairly extensively between Esperance and Cape Leveque with the latter being a five-week, 7000km trek earlier this year. It was great to see so much of our State with the kids. Nothing quite beats a campfire on a beach with a bunch of mates.

The School Years

Thinking back to my time at the College, I didn't really enjoy the school system primarily due to struggling to make genuine friends until the later years. I was a bit of a closed book for the majority of the time, with very few kids sharing similar interests. Only a few teachers have remained in the memory bank though I did enjoy metalwork with Mr Cencic and wish to record my appreciation for the seating plan in Mr Mulligan's Year 10 social studies class because that is where I met my good friend Aaron McGoorty. Mr Mulligan had a unique and ultimately very fair way of teaching which undoubtedly has kept him in people's minds for positive reasons.

Yachting Humour

One humorous thing I recall from Year 11 English was getting a "C" for a feature article assignment on a topic of our choice. I thought the content was good and went on to get that same, unedited piece published in an international yachting magazine only six months later. I guess the value of a piece of writing is best measured by the target audience. Regarding former students, we regularly spend time with Aaron McGoorty and his family, Steve Nelligan (Uncle Aaron and Uncle Steve to our kids) and seem to cross paths a fair bit with Laurie Catalano, who is always good for a chat.

Hindsight

Now, what would I tell myself as a 17-year-old? Well this has taken a bit of thought (literally hours). Be humble and kind. Take things for what they are but protect your interests. Manners, personality and reliability get most of the right doors open. Talk and hold your ground when you know you're right and be quiet when you need to listen. Admit it if you're wrong, learn from it and move on. Your time will come. Remember those who genuinely helped. Scott Pape knows what he is talking about, buy property before 2007 and 2020 is going to be unique!

Getting Better

To the kids who are not seeing the fun part of school; it gets so much better. Talking is important and asking (verbally or written) for assistance is a step on the way to be the best version of you. Don't pretend to be someone else, that spot is already taken.

Not afraid of heights!

Paul (back, right) in 2001 with some of his Tongerlo classmates.

Su James explores the backstreets of Havana.

SU JAMES *A Slightly Different Approach*

Su James (Class of 2001) is a corporate taxation advisor who, with her good friend and fellow Class of 2001 alumna Leah Dawson (nee Ware), was largely responsible for organising the very successful Class of 2001's 20th anniversary reunion in October this year.
When a lot of people hear the term "corporate taxation advisor" they don't tend to get too excited, but in the case of Su James, there is a fair deal more than meets the eye – indeed there are several contradictions behind her façade of being a suit on St George's Terrace, as Norbertus's corporate affairs contributor found out when they met for a coffee on – you guessed it – St George's Terrace recently.

Norbertus (N): Su James, welcome to Norbertus and thank you for giving up your time to have a brief chat.

Su James (S.J.): Great to be involved in Norbertus after these many years.

N: Before we have a look at what you have been doing for the past 20 years, congratulations on the Class of 2001 reunion which – from all reports – was a very enjoyable and successful gathering.

S.J.: I was very pleased with the how the reunion went. We had a nice sized group come that day and given most of us continued well into the early hours of Sunday morning, I would say everyone enjoyed catching up with each other.

N: Your good friend Leah Dawson was also instrumental in coordinating the reunion, too?

S.J.: Yes, I remain very good friends with Leah and in fact we both worked together in our first jobs during our last year of high school. We see each other regularly even though she's now down in Mandurah and I am just out of the city, north of the river. It was a no-brainer for us to work together in planning the reunion and she loved the event too.

N: At St Norbert College you were a member of Ms Katherine Branchi's Tongerlo Homeroom class. How did you find your time at Treasure Road?

S.J.: My time at St Norbert College, and high school in general, is something that I only really came to appreciate some years later, which I think is much like everything in hindsight in that you don't realize the value or worth of something until it's long gone. I had

my ups and down, like probably every other student, but overall it was a good time.

N: Were there any experiences, teachers or subjects that stand out in your memory during your time at school?

S.J.: The English subjects were my favourite, which resulted in me choosing to take TEE English literature in my final years. In my lower years, I had an English teacher, Sandra Austin, and she was always encouraging me in my work.

N: So, did you go down the English or humanities pathway at university, or move into a job?

S.J.: I didn't figure out what I wanted to study and my intended career path until I got to university but took time off during the first semester, which was the best decision for me as I ended up returning to study something entirely different and, in hindsight, had I remained in my original course of study, I do believe I would have been dissatisfied with that pathway.

N: Norbertus assumes that as a taxation consultant, you must have done a significant amount of study in the tax and accounting fields? In doing a bit of preparation for this interview, Norbertus discovered that mathematics wasn't exactly your strong point at St Norbert College.

S.J.: That's correct. I am not at all skilled in numbers or maths, though that is the first assumption people make when they learn one of the areas I studied in is accounting. I'm actually quite terrible at anything beyond basic maths and didn't proceed past Year 11 in doing the most difficult TEE maths subjects.

N: So, less emphasis on the mathematics and numbers side of things, and more on the general taxation sphere?

S.J.: Yes, studying taxation was of more interest to me than accounting. I'm quite comfortable in reading legislation and rulings, possibly this is tied in with my interest in the English subjects at school.

N: As a taxation and corporate advisor, your work must take up a significant part of your life and be quite stressful?

S.J.: Not exactly, I tend to take a slightly different approach. While I enjoy the challenge when I am at work, I take the view that work is not my life so most of my focus is on my life outside of work.

N: That is a refreshing approach. What else takes your interest?

S.J.: I have returned to uni undertaking online postgraduate studies in a Spanish degree through Deakin University, however I am studying solely for my personal interest. Although I'm studying just for my own interest and fun, who knows where this could take me in the future?

N: Spanish is certainly a handy language when travelling. Have you been overseas much?

S.J.: Yes, I have travelled quite extensively, including spending a significant amount of time in New York and many other cities and countries with Cuba, Mexico and France being my highlights. On one of my trips to France I travelled on my own and spent a few weeks driving myself from Bordeaux to Nice, stopping at cities along the way.

N: What was the attraction in New York? Work or just leisure, or a combination of both?

S.J.: My first trip to New York was back in the early 2000s, while I was still at uni but having spent a considerable amount of time over there in the subsequent years, I have a small circle of friends who live in the city so I often return for leisure. Actually, believe it or not, even though my PE classes at St Norbert's were among my most disliked – if not the most disliked – classes that I had to take, and I still have no interest or aptitude in sports, I am an avid marathon runner. I ran my first marathon in France in 2018 and qualified to compete in the New York City Marathon in 2020 but of course COVID put paid to that.

N: You are not short on surprises – a taxation consultant who is not a huge fan of mathematics or numbers and a "non-sporty" marathon runner who has qualified for the New York marathon!

S.J.: No, while I am not sporty as such, I enjoy exercise and fitness and look forward to ticking the New York marathon of the bucket list once the COVID situation settles down. I was actually planning to go this year but given the uncertainty of knowing when I could return, it became too difficult to organise around my work commitments.

N: *Norbertus* is sure you will get there one day, and looks forward to covering the story when it happens. Don't forget to take some photographs!

S.J.: Definitely. I have a whole extra year to train so I better put in a good time!

N: *Norbertus* appreciates you have a busy schedule and our allotted time is just about up, but as young lady who has just celebrated 20 years out of school and enjoyed a successful business career with some travel and the odd marathon thrown in for good measure, what advice would you give to this year's Year 12s as they make their way out into the world?

S.J.: I would say that their options in life are not limited by how they did at school or what their final marks were. There are so many pathways to further education or whatever else it may be that they wish to pursue. Not everyone takes a straight line to get to where they ended up. Sometimes, like in my case, I still needed to take the time off to figure out what I really wanted to do, and there's nothing wrong with that either. I know that so many school leavers can feel disheartened when their marks are not what they expected or aimed for, but even now in my thirties I know many people who have decided to commence study or do what they always wanted to. Don't feel pressured to think you need to have it all figured out at the age of 17 or 18, because there's a lot more of life ahead of you.

N: Thank you very much for your insights, Su and thank you for taking a break from your work to contribute to *Norbertus*. And best wishes for a successful New York run when the opportunity finally becomes possible.

S.J.: No worries at all, and thank you.

CLASS OF 2001 Reunion

The Island, Elizabeth Quay
Saturday 9 October 2021

Backs were slapped, hugs were tight, handshakes were firm, smiles were bright and kisses were heartfelt when a large group of enthusiastic alumni from the Class of 2001 caught up on a sunny, spring afternoon at The Island, Elizabeth Quay, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their graduation from St Norbert College. The beautiful setting, complete with flowing refreshments, delicious finger food platters and even some limited-edition "SNC Class of 2001" cookies, was the ideal location to catch up, reminisce, tell some old stories, ask some questions and generally just have fun. Copies of the 2001 *Koinonia* brought back some memories and added to the chance to mingle, and think and talk about high school tales and the life journeys undertaken since. The party didn't stop when the sun set and *Norbertus* has it on good authority the celebrations were "sustained and spirited", with some forward thinkers having booked accommodation at nearby Elizabeth Quay hotels to enable a leisurely return home on Sunday. The occasion was a resounding success, and all the attendees were grateful for all the planning and preparation done by reunion organisers Su James and Leah Dawson. Congratulations, Class of 2001 – *ad omnia paratus!*

Blue and gold forever!

Members of the Class of 2001 celebrate at The Island, Elizabeth Quay, on Saturday 9 October, 2021.

Nikki D'Agostino and Brett Mackenzie.

Su James, Jody Tièche, Leah Dawson and Jamie Hendry.

Mariana and Ron Terrazas.

Toni Cook (nee Davey) and James Reid.

Benjamin Berry and Su James.

Mary Waikari (nee Rangitoheriri) and Trent Verchell.

Lia Heal (nee Barbatano), Aaron McGoorty, Trent Verchell, Luke Edmunds, Michael Hanna, Nikki D'Agostino and Steven Nelligan.

Nicole Lamb and Jeff Ettridge.

James Reid, and Trent and Megan Verchell.

Jody Tièche and Lucas East.

Lia Heal (nee Barbatano), Laura Acorace and Mariana Terrazas (nee Tyrer).

Allanna Boundry-Parkhill, Kelly Hart and Michael Hanna.

Su James and Leah Dawson (nee Ware), who were instrumental in organising the Class of 2001 reunion.

Paul Cvejic and Luke Edmunds.

Party LIKE IT'S 2001

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Then and Now

Looking west at Strahov.

From the moment the first brick was laid in 1964, the St Norbert College campus and facilities have continuously grown and expanded to create the excellent learning environment students and staff enjoy today. Looking at the thriving College culture and magnificent facilities of 2021, it is difficult to imagine that the College opened in 1965 with fewer than 30 students in a single building which was only half of Kilnacrott block. The College archives obviously include many photographs and here are some from last century compared to the College landscape today, reflecting some of the changes between then and now. Unfortunately, the photographs are not dated.

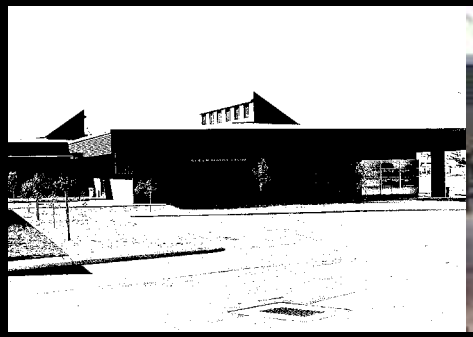
Looking south from Treasure Road at Strahov, formerly Xanten block, housed in the KD & B O'Sullivan building.

Hugh Court, between Prémontré and Kilnacrott blocks, named after Blessed Hugh of Fosse who was one of the first disciples of St Norbert and the foundation abbot of Prémontré.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Looking northwest across the junior oval. The O'Reilly Centre and Br Patrick Doolan Learning Centre block the previous view of Kilnacrott, Prémontré and Tongerlo blocks and the priory in the background.

Looking west across Sayn Court towards the AR & MT Connell building which houses Magdeburg. The College's science laboratories and the Science Department office were relocated to this block during 2008.



The eastern side of Tongerlo block, the NI & LM Dawkins building. The College Commemorative Rose Garden, established in 1993, can be seen behind the large trees in the 2021 photograph. Fifteen former students and staff members have roses marked with commemorative plaques.

Outside Café 135@Treasure looking south to Magdeburg. The café was established in this location in 2010 after previously being located at the eastern end of Kilnacrott block.

The Treasure Road end of the priory. The sign was erected in 2017.

Looking west at the College end of the priory. Part of the Prémontré building can just be seen in the earlier photograph and the College administration renovation that took place in 2008 can be seen in the 2021 photograph.

ST NORBERT DAY

2021

St Norbert Day 2021, celebrated on Friday 4 June, was one of the busiest on the College calendar, beginning with a Liturgy of the Word, celebrating the 900th anniversary of the founding of the Norbertines, followed by a chocolate-cake-filled morning tea for all students and the traditional staff vs students soccer and volleyball matches. After lunch, students boarded buses for activities such as a visit to the WA Museum Boola Bardip, rock climbing, ice-skating, trampolining, ten-pin bowling, Perth Zoo, The Escape Room, Pot Black - and more. Meanwhile, some students opted to stay in smaller groups closer to home, participating in activities on campus, including forming the inaugural SNC Cake Decorating Society! Later on in the afternoon staff and former St Norbert College staff members caught up to reminisce and celebrate St Norbert Day.

Former SNC Deputy Principal Jenneth Stibi, who currently works at Mater Dei College, Jenny and Olivia Palermo (Class of 2009), and Tricia and John Van Nus, former long-term staff members who both held a variety of middle-management positions at SNC.

Susan Teo, who is currently teaching at Fremantle Christian College, May Dao, Cian O'Gradaigh and Aaron McGoorty (Class of 2001 and current HASS teacher).

Margaret Kyd, Laura Alban, Kelsey Zampino (Class of 2015 and current SNC English teacher), Jenny Palermo and Chad Beins.

Former SNC Principal Peter Hayes, Principal John Rose from St Joseph's School and SNC Principal Simon Harvey (Class of 1988).

Don Parnell, who now teaches TAFE courses, with Janie and former Head of Magdeburg House, Dr Killian O'Reilly.

The people above are joined by Madeleine De Luca, Br Kenneth and Alysia Gustafsson.

Aaron D'Souza (Class of 1995 and current Head of Xanten House) and Jenneth Stibi.

Br Stephen, Tina Tomeo, Maureen Tavani and Maria Tomeo.

Former SNC administration assistant Debbie Pascoe and St Joseph's Parish secretary Tina Tomeo.

Former SNC Head of English and Deputy Principal Donald Nield and Lyndsey Cardenia.

Head of English at Mater Dei College, Penny Mulley; Marie Johnson, Danielle Pisconeri and Tracey Burgoyne.

Albert and Chrystelle Borello with Margaret Kyd and Carrol Abel. Albert is now working at St Helena's Catholic Primary School in Ellenbrook and Chrystelle teaches dance part-time, while both are also busy looking after their four young children.

Tracey Burgoyne and former Xanten Head of House Scott Hodgen who is currently teaching at Kelmscott Senior High School.

Lyndsey Cardenia with Natasha Waterford (nee Abreu, Class of 1999, former SRC President and current College Board member).

Mel Robinson and Karis Hughes.

Former Xanten Head of House Chris Brehaut (Class of 1987) who now works at Corpus Christi College, pictured with Leon Rogers.

Past students and current College Board members Natasha Waterford (nee Abreu, Class of 1999) and Michael Saunders (Class of 1997).

Massimo Tassone is working at Mater Dei College as part of their network management team, pictured with Angela Hughes.

Olivia Palermo and Marriann O'Neill who is working at CBC Fremantle.

Alumni Scene
AT THE CLASS OF 2021
GRADUATION

Jaxon Mikaere (Class of 2021) and Hayley Connolly (2020).

The Abreu family: Mrs Abreu, Troy (Class of 2002) and Natasha (1999).

Daniel Gressieux (Class of 2020), Brian Anthony (2020) with Namdent Nurokina (2021).

The King brothers: Alex (Class of 2012), Dalton (2021) and Lachlan (2015).

Mrs Joscelin Park, Grace and Josh Park (Class of 2016).

Lennon Butler (Class of 2018), Declan Butler (2009) and Georgina McKay (2008).

Mr Simon Harvey with the Lewis family: Mrs Justina Lewis, Julia (Class of 2013), John (2009), Jennifer (2021) and Joseph (2008).

Bella Butler (Class of 2016) with Calum (2007) and Courtney Butler.

Xander and Tallulah Armenti (Class of 2019).

Gabrielle Gressieux (Class of 2017) and Michael Gressieux (2021).

Heath Janowicz and Griffyn Ryan (both Class of 2020).

Abbey Chehab (Class of 2018), Connor Chehab (2021), Mrs Samantha Mark and Rebecca Truong (nee Fraser, 2010).

Simone (nee Wilson, Class of 1990) and Sam Perkins (1987), with daughters Jasmine (2017) and Destiny (2018), and Destiny's partner Aaron Jones.

Isabella Giuffre, Sophia Giuffre (Class of 2021), Emma Vlahov (2019), Nicole Vlahov (2021) and Mrs Madeleine De Luca.

Best Wishes CLASS OF 2021

SNESA WRAP UP

Heads Held High

A year of lost chances is probably the best way to sum up SNESA's 2021 season. Our League team missed out on the top five by one game and percentage, while our Reserves team fell short of a second Grand Final berth in two years. Two Covid-19 lockdowns saw us miss out on playing bottom placed Kenwick, which could have seen us play finals at the League level, but it wasn't to be.

However, there were some great highlights and memorable moments. Brendan Hall (Class of 2007) and Darren Biddle (Class of 2010) both played their 150th games, becoming the Club's latest life members, while stalwarts Cal Butler (Class of 2007) and Dean Nelson (Class of 2004) played their 200th games in front of a packed crowd. Nicknamed the Fine Wine for a reason, Justin Baptist (Class of 2004) racked up 250 games for SNESA, while fellow ex-classmate David Frawley also racked up 250 amateur games with 250 club games due to be broken early in 2022.

SNESA also celebrated NAIDOC Round for the very first time, beginning a journey of connection with the Indigenous heritage of the area in what we see as an ongoing natural relationship between the club and the surrounding community.

So again, whilst the on-field results did not go our way and another flag opportunity went begging, we can still hold our heads high in our continued effort to build a strong community presence by celebrating our people, our history and our values.

We look forward to new beginnings in 2022. COLTS, COLTS, COLTS! We want our Colts back for 2022. So, all you Year 11s and 12s, connect with us on Facebook and Instagram – that way you can still enjoy your footy together after school.

Mr Rafic Aoun (Class of 2004),
SNESA President, 2016 – 2021.

Dean Nelson (right, Class of 2004), pictured with Rafic Aoun, played his 200th game this year.

Congratulations to new SNESA President Laurie Catalano and the incoming committee for 2022.

2022 coup: former West Coast Eagles champion Chris Masten will line up for SNESA next season.

SNESA games record holder and Club legend Kevin Kelly (Class of 1985) and former SNESA President Nick Rynne (Class of 2004) at this year's Brownlow Medal function.

Brendan Hall (Class of 2007) is chaired off the field after his 150th game for SNESA.

MR RAFIC AOUN BOWS OUT AFTER SIX YEARS AS SNESA PRESIDENT

Mr Rafic Aoun (Class of 2004) has decided to step down from his position after six outstanding years of service which saw the Club consolidate its financial position, boost membership, gain new sponsors and engage with the local and wider communities through a range of programs including junior coaching, Indigenous engagement, charitable causes, mental health initiatives and Club days for ladies, families and the community. While a premiership flag remained elusive, SNESA played finals footy in five of Rafic's six years at the helm and appeared in three grand finals.

Norbertus joins a large chorus of SNESA officials, players, members, volunteers and supporters in congratulating Rafic on his magnificent contribution to the Club and wishes him well for his future endeavours. Welcome and best wishes to Mr Laurie Catalano (Class of 2001), SNESA's new President.

RAFIC ANNOUNCES HIS DEPARTURE ON SNESA'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Be a footy club president they said. It will be fun they said. It certainly has been!

Being President of SNESA Football Club is one of the most rewarding jobs I have ever had. After six years at the helm, it is with a heavy heart, that I announce 2021 will be my last year as SNESA President.

Six years ago, I walked back into this club with a handful of friends, mainly old schoolmates. Today, I can proudly boast over 100 new mates who I call my second family.

Whilst I feel I have aged gracefully, it's a big commitment that takes a lot of time out of the working week, so it's time for me to shift focus. I also feel there's plenty more potential left to achieve, including that pesky flag, so the opportunity for the next president will be exciting and also rewarding.

The greatest achievement I have had the pleasure of being a part of the last six years, has been the community engagement. The club has more than doubled in membership, our ladies' days get better and better, our family days are bigger and we had our first NAIDOC-round celebration in 2021.

We have also raised over $10,000 in six years for charities and friends and family doing it tough. This is a true reflection of our members' and supporters' hearts and souls.

I say this because we are all from humble, hardworking beginnings. 6107 baby! Individually, we all want to help others but we may not have the means. But collectively, when our club comes together, each of us making a small contribution, we can move mountains and there is nothing more perfect.

I will still support the club where I can, this is my team, this is my club. However, I figured I'd rather be a Mandela and serve a decent term and step down, than be a McGuire and fall on my own sword in 10 years' time.

EXCERPTS FROM RAFIC'S SPEECH AT THE 2021 KEVIN KELLY MEDAL NIGHT

Of course this year would not have been possible without all the volunteers; you make this job so much easier than what it should be. Fiona Galea isn't here but what she does is purely out of love and I cant thank her

Rafic Aoun, Class of 2004, St Norbert College: Rafic and his fellow Xanten House Captains; manning the barbeque on Xanten Founders' Day; and spruced-up for the 2004 College Ball.

Image left: Rafic Aoun appeared alongside David Frawley in a City of Canning video promoting mental health awareness on RUOK Day, 2020. Right: Rafic and Michelle Butler whom he thanked for her support of the Club in his address on the occasion of the Kevin Kelly Medal Awards Night.

Celebrating a Reserves' victory over Nollamara in 2016: Rafic (centre) with fellow alumni Andrew Mortimer (Class of 1995), Michael Pizzali (Class of 2007) and Ren Rigg and Calum Butler (both Class of 2007).

MR RAFIC AOUN BOWS OUT AFTER SIX YEARS AS SNESA PRESIDENT

enough. Fran and Michelle – you're everyone's mum and sister and we love you in that way. Spence – Tony Spencer – you've been a lifesaver with photography all year and again tonight. Thank you for everything. Oils – Phil Rigg – you're everyone's favourite larrikin uncle. Rob Di Fabio – you are to the ball fees app what Dennis Denuto was to the photocopier in the movie "The Castle". But we love you for it.

Denty – Dave Dent – thank you for everything you have done and continue to do for this club; this club is indebted to you for the rest of its life. Thank you for being there for us every year.

On a personal level I want to thank John Wilson for being a mentor for me in this role. I want to thank all the committee members who served over the last six years. I want to in particular acknowledge Darrell Cowie, the Treasurer. Thank you Daz. I want to thank and recognise the great work of secretary Ryan Edmunds who is not only great mate but a great family man and someone I personally admire. I want to thank the old warhorse, Shagga, for his service over the last 10-plus years. I also want to thank our current Vice President Cal Butler. I said it in my first year, I'll say it in my last: you love the club so much you make those who love you, love the club as well.

I especially want to pay tribute to my two wings that helped me fly and soar and sometimes crash smack-bang into earth. My right wing, conservative capitalist Chris Millsteed and my left wing socialist Mark Lupica. Laurie it's going to be one hell of a flight mate!

To the playing group, you heartily annoy me a lot when you ask for equipment that costs money but don't realise that the money comes from you. But you kept me on my toes and this is an experience I will never forget and I love you all for it. I'm a better man and leader because of you and I hope you are all better men because of me too.

I dont think I've missed anyone; there's a lot of people to acknowledge. I know I've taken up a bit of time but its important I thank those who played major roles in my time that supported this Club all the way through.

Finally, I'm excited for what's to come; there's so much left for this Club to achieve. Mark my words, we are living and playing in the best era of this Club's history. The last 10 years prove that and the next five years will prove that even more.

And I can think of no better person to lead us into the next phase of this era. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you all for the first time, your SNESA President for 2022, Laurie Catalano!

RAFIC'S DEPARTING MESSAGE TO THE PLAYING GROUP

Legacy. To me it means leaving something in a better state than it was when you inherited it, for someone else to take it and run.

In six years, we as a Club have been able to transition ourselves from the bottom of C3 to the top of, and now in our third year, of C2, doubling our membership and expanding to three senior teams.

In six years, we have been able to establish a strong and secure bank balance for the Club that allows us to have good facilities and playing conditions, like coaches' mats and marking men that we used once in four years (at Super Saturday 2021). Today, players are privileged to the point that they complain when you run out of their favourite type of sock. Six years ago we were buying Eagles socks from Rebel Sports at the last minute.

In six years, we had five finals campaigns, four prelims and three grand finals. We didn't win a flag, but to me personally that's not a big regret of mine because so many players who played an integral part in keeping this Club alive, far more important role than I ever could, didn't get the chance either.

I think of names like Wilson, Cowie, Edmunds, Tufilli, Whalan, Cornwall, Bull, Fittock, Dhillon, Soklich, Mortimer and Winduss. They may never have a premiership medal around their neck but their legacy and contribution is invaluable.

Image left: Flanked by Omid Fanayan, winner of the inaugural Rafic Aoun Medal for the Thirds' Fairest and Best Player, 2021, and great friend Ryan Edmunds. Right: Rafic and St Norbert College Principal, Mr Simon Harvey.

Image left: Mingling on game day with the City of Canning Mayor, Mr Patrick Hall, and the yet-to-be-named SNESA mascot. Right: Drawing a raffle in 2019.

MR RAFIC AOUN BOWS OUT AFTER SIX YEARS AS SNESA PRESIDENT

Flags are hard to win at any level boys, but they are not impossible. Therefore we must not yield in our fight for glory, but we must be smart in our strategy and in our planning. And when we win the next one, we win it for all those who made it possible, past and present.

Neale Daniher, another legend who never won a flag but whose legacy is something that will live forever, says in his book the four stages of success are: survive, strive, thrive, arrive.

This club has survived some tough years, especially in 2013-15. It strives to provide an enjoyable culture and to achieve ultimate onfield success. It thrives on its community. We don't have the infrastructure and facilities that other clubs do. We don't have a junior club affiliation or tens of thousands of dollars in sponsorship being thrown at us at will.

But we have our people. Our people are our capital. Our people are the reason we stick around and we love this club. If we continue to invest in our people's enjoyment, they will continue to support us.

And if I'm going to be specifically honest, for us to be successful we need to grow and develop. Therefore, the player mindset needs to shift. All of us need to stop thinking of the club as just a three team club with the Thirds team as the "bottom of the barrel", but rather the Thirds team as the beginning of us becoming a four, five and six team club. Legacy.

Only then, will each and every one of us truly understand the meaning of club and jumper. I don't want us in 10 years time looking back and saying "bloody hell when we played at SNESA we were so good we had three teams!" I want us to look back and say "bloody hell when we played at SNESA we ONLY had three teams." Legacy.

I'm extremely proud of what we have achieved but I'm equally as excited for what's to come.

Like I said before, I came here knowing only a few blokes from school, six years later I've gained 100 new mates. That's what makes us so good. You only need a taste of SNESA, and you're hooked. That's why we continue to be the best bloody football club in Australia.

Rafic pictured in 2017.

Rafic's tenure as President has seen an emphasis placed on community engagement and involvement.

Ladies' Day has become a popular event on the SNESA calendar.

SNESA's new President, Mr Laurie Catalano (Class of 2001).

SNESA FOOTBALL CLUB STALWARTS FAREWELL MR RAFIC AOUN

Mark Lupica
SNESA League Coach

A Passionate Leader

From childhood neighbour, to schoolmate, to President, to great friend – I have nothing but kind words to say about Raf. After four years of coaching the Reserves, Rafic had the confidence in me to give me the job to be SNESA's League coach and next year will be my fourth year in that role.

His tireless work has built the Club up to such a solid foundation and high standing in the Perth Football League. All of the trends we have set and PFL club innovations have been because of Rafic's hard work and commitment.

Through his dedication he has passed on the passion of this Club not to just myself, but also the playing group and and our supporters, and to such a successful extent the we can even attract former AFL premiership players. Who would have thought that a few years ago?

Thanks for everything, Raf. You are truly a SNESA legend!

Ryan Edmunds
SNESA Secretary

Inspirational and Empowering

When we finally convinced Rafic to join SNESA in the role of President for the 2016 season, the Club was in dire need of a new direction and an individual willing and able to galvanise both the playing group and Committee. Attending high school at St Norbert College with Rafic, I knew his quick wit, aptitude to engage people, and ability to see the best in any situation were the attributes needed to move SNESA into a new era of success. Little did we know the true impact he would have on this great Club.

Rafic hit the ground running and very quickly placed his stamp on the way in which the Club was to operate and grow moving forward. And grow it did, transitioning on-field from the bottom of C3 to the top of C2, expanding to three senior teams, doubling SNESA's membership, and establishing a strong, secure and thriving Committee and financial position off the field.

SNESA is the envy of the wider WA Amateur footballing fraternity demonstrated clearly by the 2020 family day with upwards of 400 people turning out across the day. This is reflective of the values Rafic has instilled from day one: family and friends above all else. I can say with pride that SNESA is truly a family club with members of all ages and a place where mates gather to enjoy the good times and support each other through the tough times, a legacy that Rafic should be proud of as he departs as President.

Rafic is genuinely an all-round nice guy who empowers and inspires others to reach their potential and commands only the highest of respect. I'm truly grateful to have worked closely with Rafic as Secretary over the past six years but even more so to have him as a close mate. I'm looking forward to sitting back and watching the Club thrive and build on the foundation Rafic has left, as SNESA achieves both on-field and off-field success well into the future. Congratulations on a job well done mate.

John Wilson
Long-serving SNESA President, Vice President and Committee Member

Rare Qualities

I had met Rafic on a number of occasions and clearly he was a great fellow. We were in a transition phase at the club, looking for some new leadership to build on the work done to date, with a move back from Wyong to Queen Park we were lucky enough to have had some success on field but there was a long way to go. In discussions it was suggested that Raf would be a great person to approach. I thought it was a long shot as it is always hard to get someone to step up to a President's position without some years of preparation. Well, I guess it just goes to show it's not ...

Having worked with nearly all the past Presidents of St Norbert Ex-Students Association Football Club I can say without a shadow of a doubt that Raf has been the most innovative, passionate and hard-working President that the Club has ever had the privilege to have had as a leader.

From strengthening the Club's financial position, increasing the number of teams, establishing strong relationships with the West Australian Football Commission and community football at large, Raf has had an enormous effect on the club with many of his initiatives to be felt for years to come.

Raf was recently recognised for his contribution to the Club with the Thirds most team votes award being named after him, the Rafic Aoun Medal.

This is a very prestigious award, having been in place for a number of years with the first being for the League team named after Kevin Kelly, the Club games record holder and too many fairest and bests and awards to list, and the Reserves named after Dave Dent our much-loved trainer and ex-player. it was only fitting that the Thirds have theirs as well. It could not have been named after anyone else more deserving.

But for my money it is Raf's leadership demonstrated through patience, respect, selflessness and grace that makes all those around him want to do better, to be better. A rare quality these days.

So while there will be many years of history to come for this proud Club we will be for ever indebted to Raf for his contribution to date and the legacy he has handed over to the very safe hands of Laurie Catalano, our new President, whom I know Raf and all of us wish every success.

Thanks for all the hard work Raf, now time to pull on the boots and play footy without having to worry about the canteen, marking the oval, the financials, player registration, appointing coaches, players forgetting their socks, or boots – or both – and keeping coaching staff, players, sponsors and the Association happy. No, it is time to just enjoy yourself mate, you have plenty of years ahead to go back and have another crack as President.

THE 2021 SNESA

Kevin Kelly Medal Awards Night

EAST FREMANTLE YACHT CLUB, SATURDAY OCTOBER 23, 2021

LEAGUE
Kevin Kelly Medal - Grant Dunn
Fairest and Best - Grant Dunn
Runner-Up - Matthew Blackburn
Defender - Josh Dobbs
Best Team Man - Toby Rogers
Most Consistent - Michael Guest

RESERVES
Wilson/Dent Medal - Dylan Mitsopoulos
Fairest and Best - Dylan Mitsopoulos
Runner-Up - Brendan Hall
Defender - Wade Goodhew
Coaches' Award - Casey Kocken

THIRDS
Rafic Aoun Medal – Omid Fanayan
Fairest and Best - Omid Fanayan
Thirds Player Vote - Omid Fanayan
Runner-Up - Jordan Van Der Meulen
Defender - Benjemen Parkinson
Coaches' Award - Ben Magry

SNESA Rising Star - Jack Howe

Leading Goalkicker - Hayden Burgoyne

Most Umpire Votes - Dylan Mitsopoulos

Player of the Finals - Darren Biddle

Life Memberships - Brendan Hall, Darren Biddle, Mark Lupica, Anthony Lo Presti

Club Person of the Year - Vincenzo Paparone

MILESTONE GAMES:
50 games - Lennon Butler, Brandon Eastaugh, Jesse Abbott, Kyle Mitsopoulos, Josh Dobbs, Jake Hall and James Kirkland
100 games - Carl Salmon, Tyson Kelly, Ben Magry and Joel Parker
150 games - Brendan Hall and Darren Biddle
200 games - Cal Butler and Dean Nelson
250 games - Justin Baptist

Kevin Kelly pictured with the 2021 Kevin Kelly Medal winner, Grant Dunn.

2021 Reserves Wilson-Dent Medallist, Dylan Mitsopoulos.

2021 Thirds Rafic Aoun Medallist, Omid Fanayan (right), pictured with retiring SNESA President, Rafic Aoun.

2021 SNESA Club Person of the Year, Vince Paparone.

2021 Leading Goalkicker, Hayden Burgoyne with son Lucas.

Tyson Kelly: 100 games.

Lennon Butler: 50 games.

THE 2021 SNESA *Kevin Kelly Medal Awards Night*

SNESA Life Memberships: Darren Biddle, Brendan Hall, Mark Lupica and Anthony Lo Presti (right), pictured with John Wilson.

SNFSA *Footy Action*

Photographs courtesy of Norbertus's football photographer Tony Spencer.

PLAY COLTS FOR FREE IN 2022

ALL NEW PLAYERS 20 YEARS AND UNDER WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING FOR FREE

PRE SEASON TRAINING KIT (SNESA HAT + SINGLET + SHORTS)

MATCH DAY GEAR (CLUB POLO + HOME AND AWAY SHORTS + CLUB SOCKS SHORT OR LONG)

NO REGISTRATION FEES, NO MATCH DAY FEES! JUST FOCUS ON FOOTBALL!

REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 1

SNESA

EST. 1978 FOOTBALL CLUB

BRING COLTS BACK TO SNESA

PLAYERS AGED 16–20 ARE WELCOME OF ALL PLAYING ABILITIES

COME FIND OUT WHY SNESA IS THE PLACE TO BE BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD!

TRAINING AT QUEENS PARK RESERVE

6PM TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

CONTACT SENIOR COACH MARK LUPICA ON 0413431835 OR

MESSAGE SNESA FOOTBALL CLUB ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM

ST NORBERT COLLEGE CONNECTION TO ACC IN *"The Right Spirit"*

Most of our students leave school with fond memories of being involved in, and watching, interschool sporting contests. Ken Spillman's history of ACC sport in WA – released this month and aptly titled "The Right Spirit" – highlights the achievements of many of St Norbert's athletes, swimmers and teams, particularly after we started our transition to co-education in 1976.

Several St Norbert alumni contributed to the book, among them the ACC's long-serving Director of Sport, Kyle March.

March was part of St Norbert's winning B division athletics team of 1978 and remembered that this was a 'real thrill', with 'When The Saints Go Marching In' ringing out from the bus all the way back to school. College athletes trained extra hard for their A division debut in 1979, with special relay sessions held at the Belmont Athletic Centre. On a 'tough day' for St Norbert, March has never forgotten how his Open boys' 4x100m relay team held off the A division 'heavyweights' to cross the line first in the last event of the day. There was great jubilation, but disqualification followed because a runner had stepped out of his lane after a changeover. 'We never let that technicality stand in the way of our celebrations,' March recalled.

"The Right Spirit" is packed with information, anecdotes and more than 200 images. To obtain your copy of "The Right Spirit" visit the ACC store at https://accwa.square.site/. Book sales open on Monday 22nd November.

Kyle March in action in 1979.

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