

Summer 2019
Vol 7 No 1



St Michael's
COLLEGE

MAROON & BLUE
community
news

MISSION & VISION

St Michael's College is a Catholic school in the Lasallian tradition which is committed to the human and Christian education of the young, especially the poor, through: Community, Challenge and Choice.

Community

We are an inclusive and respectful community where each individual is known, valued and cared for, enabling them to feel confident to explore their curiosities, flourish and fully realise their potential.



Individual growth is achieved through engagement, opportunity and recognition, underpinned by a positive learning culture that is authentic, challenging and supportive.

Challenge

Through a quality Lasallian education, inspired by the Gospel and a concern for social justice, students are empowered to better choose who they become as people, learners and leaders in the world.



Choice

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome to the Maroon and Blue Community News for 2019.

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Community Relations team of Olivia Peressin and Julie Sexton for their work in compiling this publication for Old Scholars and the wider St Michael's College community. We are hopeful this will provide an ongoing connection for Old Scholars and their families. The team also produce a weekly newsletter, The Star, which can be accessed via the new College website at www.smc.sa.edu.au/news-events/the-star/

During 2019, the College has begun to embed a new Mission and Vision Statement (previous page), built around *Community Challenge Choice*. This is an aspirational story for a quality Catholic, Lasallian education today, one that values each individual living life to the full and is representative of our heritage and its connection to a modern world.

The Mission and Vision is supported by a set of five strategies for 2019 and beyond. These are:

1. Enhance individual experiences of a contemporary Catholic, Lasallian community through faith and service initiatives.
2. Ensure a quality, authentic and well-articulated model of Lasallian teaching and learning for the future.
3. Foster an inclusive and respectful environment that supports staff and students to flourish.
4. Provide personalised learning experiences that empower individuals to better choose pathways for life.
5. Promote opportunities for community members to be positively engaged in ways that enable personal and collective growth.

All members of the St Michael's College Community will be provided the opportunity to offer their insights on how we can work together to bring the Vision and strategies to life and I would welcome your valuable input on this into 2020.

Kind regards,

John Foley

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COLLEGE TOUR DATES

PRIMARY	SECONDARY
Tuesday 18 February	Thursday 5 March
Friday 29 May	Friday 12 June
Wednesday 19 August	Friday 28 August
Wednesday 21 October	Thursday 29 October

Register for a tour online
www.smc.sa.edu.au

PRIMARY CO-EDUCATION

St Michael's College is delighted to formally announce the introduction of Primary Co-Education, commencing in Reception 2021.

This exciting progression builds on our evolving, 65-year history of co-education. In 1954, the De La Salle Brothers were invited by the Archbishop of Adelaide to provide an additional, high-quality Catholic education option in the Western suburbs, to meet the needs of the growing population.

The Brothers, with the support of the local parish, formed the College's Beverley Campus, as a Catholic school, based in the Lasallian tradition.

Today, this vision remains unchanged: to continue to school our growing community. It's been a long fruitful journey to date. From just 29 boys at inception, to adding a second campus at Henley Beach in 1967, then welcoming the first cohort of girls in the early 70s, evolution is the backbone of the College's spirit.

The shift to co-education was momentous – not just within the College, but in wider society. It signalled the changing times. The years that followed saw boys and girls enrol in Years 8, 11 and 12. In 2019, we welcomed 272 new Year 7 students to a secondary education. This completes our co-educational profile at the Campus.

Primary co-education is the next chapter. A Reception to Year 12 model enhances our core pillars: **Community, Challenge and Choice**. It reflects a world in which women and men learn, collaborate, work and live as equals.

Principal, John Foley, is excited to lead this next chapter for the College:

"This exciting initiative will help meet the needs of current and future families, as well as enhance the community across the College. We believe it will have long-term benefits for St Michael's College, Catholic Education South Australia and the families of the Western suburbs."

"We're committed to ensuring the smooth transition of co-education across R-12 by 2027. Planning and implementation processes are ongoing and further information will be communicated on a regular basis. This will include opportunities for community discussion."

To register your interest in enrolling your son or daughter in Reception from 2021

please contact our Primary Enrolments Officer, Mrs Annie Clift on 8346 6548 or smcprimary@smc.sa.edu.au



"The new facilities will reflect the contemporary curriculum development over a number of years. Students will have the opportunity to explore, research, design, collaborate and create with integrated learning technologies."

***- Deputy Principal, Primary
Damian Patton***

STAGE 1 PRIMARY BUILD

Coinciding with the co-education announcement, the College is outlaying a significant investment into the facilities of the Primary Campus. We believe this development will create further opportunities for our youngest community members to explore their curiosities and realise their potential (as early as possible). The new facilities will include:

- Five new Early Primary Classrooms with breakout spaces both indoor and outdoor, with access to a nature play area;
- An Innovation Centre which will incorporate: Thinkers Tanks, Makers Space, Design Space, Campfire, Resource Centre and Radio Station/Podcast Lab;
- A new Art Centre on the upper level;
- New toilet facilities for Early Primary boys and girls.





NATURE PLAYGROUND OPENING

In August, the Primary Campus *Nature Playground* officially opened. Br David was joined by College Board Chair, Mrs Marie Dorrington, alongside students, staff and parent representatives. Mr Alan Sumner MBE set the tone with his traditional musical performance of 'Welcome to Country Smoking Ceremony'. He warmed the stage for the students who led the Liturgy and official opening.

During the address, special thanks were given to Mrs Louise Kometer, Director of Teaching and Learning, who was described by our 2018 Youth Environmental Leaders (YELs) as "our champion".

YEL Mentor and Architect-in-Residence, Mr Damien Basso, described the playground as a great example of what can be achieved by collective student voice. "This is your space. You've helped create it."

The project explored the question, 'what do you want to be able to do here', rather than 'what do you want in here.' The answers were a mixture of activities such as climb, think, make, imagine, build, relax, run, jump, create, and our favourite, fly!

Students were just as much leaders as they were audience members. They were heard through a series of workshops, before and after talks from people like Mr Simon Hutchinson, Director of Climbing Tree, the Designer, and other key educators.

In addition to the Nature Playground meeting the needs of students, Mr Basso said:

"We hope that it will help foster social awareness and a concern for the environment. Our world needs young people to lead the way in tackling the problems we currently face."

"We need you all to be green ambassadors that take action and help improve the way we're looking after God's gift to us, the natural environment. Enjoy using our new play area and respect it. Judging from what we've seen so far, I'm certain you will."



MID-YEAR INTAKE

In 2019, St Michael's College established a mid-year enrolment intake for Reception students. This is available to children who have turned five on, or before, October 31 (in that respective year). Students will complete six terms of Reception, starting in a play-based curriculum that leans into individual learning and wellbeing.

Children will learn to take risks, build confidence, problem-solve, and discover how to get along with others. Give your child a valuable 'head start' and a supportive transition from Kindergarten to Reception.



100%
SACE completion

37
students achieved
an ATAR in excess
of 90

82
students achieved
an ATAR in excess
of 80

25
merits achieved
by 21 students in
seven subjects

45
'A+' grades
achieved across all
subjects

15
students achieved
an 'A' grade in five
subjects

2018 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS



Congratulations to **College Dux** Komninos (Connor) Ramos who achieved an ATAR of 99.5 and two Merits in:

- Mathematical Methods
- Research Project B

Of the 185 students eligible for an ATAR:

- 6 students achieved above 98
- 37 students achieved above 90 (top 10% in the State)
- 82 students achieved above 80

2018 GRADUATE PATHWAYS

Elected Gap Year

3.5%

Pursued full or part time study at TAFE or other RTO

Main areas of study include:
Building
Educational Support and
Child Studies

2.5%

19.5%

Engaged in full time or part time employment

Main areas of employment include:
Hospitality and
Food, Trades
Assistant and Retail

- 7.5% secured an Apprenticeship
Apprenticeships focus on:
Construction, Carpentry, Electrical and Metal Fabrication

74.5%

Pursued full or part time study at university

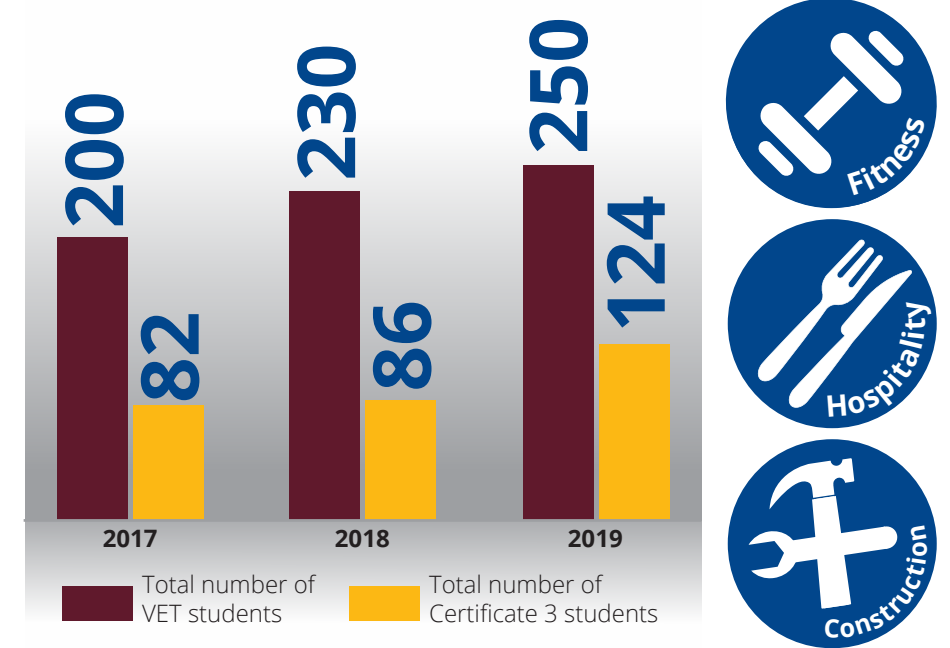
- 100% of applicants offered a place in a course
- 95% offered first or second preference
- 88% offered first preference
- Main areas of study include:
Health (21%), Business (13%), Humanities (14.5%), Education (8%), Engineering (10%)

VET

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

VET at St Michael's College has steadily grown over the years and acts as a transition from school to the world of work. What was just a 'trades' related focus has now opened up to include industry areas such as, Business, IT, Fitness, Aged and Disability Care, Music Industry, Child Care, Hospitality, AFL and Soccer, Game Development and 3D Animation, Photography, as well as the traditional areas of Construction, Electrical, Plumbing, Hair/Makeup, Bricklaying and Automotive.

Students in Year 11 and 12 are completing an approved Certificate 3 to use their towards their ATARs, with around 44% of Year 12s using a VET Qualification, and of these, around 30% use a Certificate 3 for ATAR purposes.

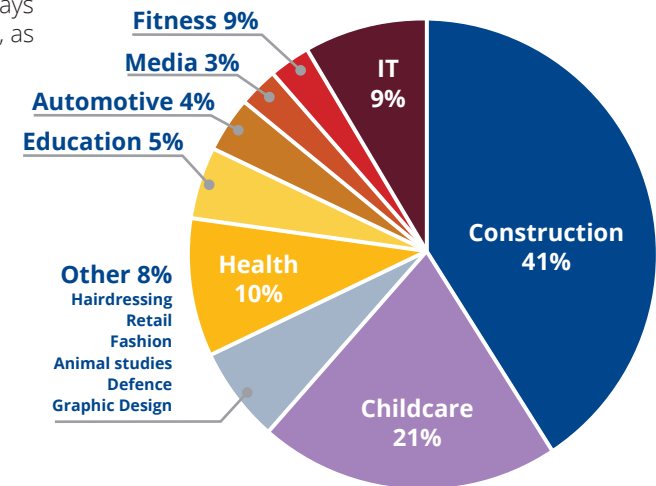


WORK PLACEMENT

The St Michael's College Work Experience Program continues to be a flexible program allowing students in Year 11 and 12 to undertake work experience placements over the holiday periods throughout the year to complement their own Career Research, meet VET/ subject requirements and offer possible pathways to apprenticeships and/or traineeships. It's encouraging to see diversity in work experience placements being undertaken. In total 107 individual placements took place.

which compliment VET doorways to Construction, Electrical, etc, as well as the Cert III in Fitness.

51 **28**
students



SUSTAINABILITY AT SMC

OLD SCHOLAR, NICK MERCURIO (1968), WRITES ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE.

I've been making sauce since I was a child. It's an Italian tradition which we brought to Adelaide from my birth place, San Giorgio La Molara. As a young boy, my family made our own sauce, wine, prosciutto and sausages in the old packing shed on our celery farm.

We would grow our own roma tomatoes, especially for sauce making, and every February the family would come together for the big cooking day.

Our family put our own spin on the jobs we had to do - chief bottle washer, chief tomato selector, chief cooker, chief tomato skin separator, chief basil inserter, chief salt dispenser, chief bottle sealer, and chief placer in the cauldron. Mum was always the head of the production line. We did this for many years with my cousins and later, with my own kids. It's a day where we all come together to work, sing, dance, eat, and celebrate our heritage.

Since February 2016, we have brought the tradition alive at St Michael's College. Lachlan Hoy, one of our Youth Environmental Leaders, penned the name 'De La Sauce', which began an annual event. Every year since, we coincide the day with Shrove Tuesday. it continues to be a wonderful time to get together, enjoy ourselves, and most importantly, 'taste' one our wonderful Italian traditions.

Not only does this day bring back an important cultural tradition, it teaches students at St Michael's to learn safe and hygienic work practices in the kitchen. For the older students, it's an opportunity to explore the mathematics behind the production. The event also launches our kitchen garden cooking program each year.

Why start this tradition at St Michael's? I attended the College from 10 years of age to graduation, in 1968. My son and nephews went there, and now, my grandchildren. I have many wonderful memories of my time at school, so when my daughter asked me for advice on the sauce making process, I put my hand up to volunteer. I'm thrilled that I've been able to reconnect and give back to our strong school community to keep this Italian tradition alive!

I hope that De La Sauce Day will be a tradition that you will continue for many years to come.

Buon appetito!



SECONDARY CAMPUS MAKING HEADWAY

This year, we're excited to announce the introduction of the Eco Squad at the Secondary Campus. Mrs Palmer, Mrs Pearce and Mrs Kearins have been working with our Year 7s and Year 8s, implementing projects to improve our school environment.

These students who decided to volunteer have participated in various environmental activities, including waste reduction projects, the introduction of recycle bins throughout the school, and the design and build of our very first senior school vegetable garden.

Thanks to our Year 12 construction team who expertly built our garden beds. This space has become a beautiful area for our Eco Squad to tend to their veggies, whilst brainstorming their environmental projects.

We'd like to thank local business and Government groups, such as Natural Resource Management, Kesab and Cleanaway for their support. We look forward to our youngest students continuing to lead the way in protecting our environment in 2020.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

DE LA SALLE DAY

De La Salle Day is one of the few opportunities the College has to bring staff and students from both campuses together. It's a unique and vibrant community experience.

This day is in recognition of the work and sacrifices of St John Baptist de La Salle, together with that of the Brothers, who are committed to continuing his work in providing a human and Christian education for all.



CHARITIES WEEK

During Term 2, St Michael's College held its annual Charities Week. This year, we supported five focus organisations: St Vincent De Paul Society, Foodbank, Shoeboxes of Love, Hutt Street, and Love in a Bag.

Outcomes included:

- 50 bags of toiletries and blankets were donated to Love in a Bag.
- 20 Vinnies bins were filled with clothes.
- 24 boxes of food donated to FoodBank.
- 15 boxes of essential and luxury items to the Shoe Boxes of Love Appeal.
- \$300 donated to Hutt Street Centre.



CO-CURRICULAR

DANCE STAR

27 students shimmied their way to the Gold Coast in August for the Dance Star National Championships. While they didn't win a top place, the team's journey to nationals is something to be proud of – as Dance Star was only introduced this year.

Dance Star aims to improve their performance skills and confidence, in a fun, interactive way.

Three teams were selected to represent the College, including Junior Hip-Hop (Group A) – Supreme 15, Junior Hip Hop (Group B) Queenz, with both teams led by student coaches: Anah, Amelia, Andjela and Jessica. SMC Contemporary was directed by senior student, Laura.

The students progressed from regional qualifiers, held at Brighton Secondary School. The College entered the

competition and placed second and third in the Junior Hip-Hop division, and second in Contemporary.

The teams earned a position in the State Championship at the Norwood Town Hall in June, where they secured the same results. With this year's momentum, we expect Dance Star to become an important project for St Michael's College in the future.



WAKAKIRRI

Wakakirri, Australia's largest performing arts event for schools, welcomed St. Michael's College students this year. The team consisted of students from Years 7-10 and delivered a performance that explored the issue of bullying.

Their piece, titled 'Hidden Spectrum', conveyed the psyche of the bully, and what makes them resort to this behaviour. The performance piece included a mixture of hip hop and contemporary music, with a distinct 90s flavour.

The team was proudly nominated for 'Story of the Year Award', alongside a string of complementary mentions including: Best Creative Use of the Signature Item, Best Lighting, Design and Call, and Best Mental Health Story.



CAICA CUP

Caica Cup is the annual sporting event between St Michael's College and Henley High School. The concept was created to spark a sense of community between the two schools and highlight both personal and sporting talents of the students. Henley took out the Cup this year, however both schools displayed outstanding spirit and sportsmanship.

Congratulations to all the students who competed and thank you to the staff who were involved in organising the event.



FRANCE TRIP

During the April school holidays, 13 students in Year 10 and 11, plus four staff, embarked on the France Trip. The group spent 13 days touring the sites of Paris including the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and the Palace of Versailles. The trip also included a exploration of the battlefields on the Western Front, where the group travelled to the Somme area of France and the Flanders region in Belgium. The students attended the ANZAC Day dawn service in Villers Bretonneux.

Of particular significance to Lasallians, the group enjoyed a day trip to Reims to visit 'Hotel De La Salle', the home of our Founder, St John Baptist de La Salle. The students loved their time experiencing the French culture – particularly the food (the crepes), the sites, and of course, the shopping.



Lauren's highlights from this trip of a lifetime:

"I really struggled to pick my favourite parts of the trip, but ultimately, I would consider Versailles and Ypres the highlights for me. I loved Versailles because we'd just studied the French Revolution in History, so being able to place where everything happened was interesting and definitely added to my experience. I also thought the gardens were absolutely stunning and I loved walking through them and just taking everything in. I loved the two nights we spent in Belgium, especially the Flanders Field museum and the afternoon we spent wandering around Ypres, because the people were all so lovely and the Menin Gate memorial is so special and such an important part of our country's history. Overall though, the trip wouldn't have been nearly as fun if all the students hadn't become friends as quickly as we did, and I'm so glad we got to share such a wonderful experience!"



CO-CURRICULAR SPORT

OPEN GIRLS BASKETBALL

In August, the Open Girls Basketball team played in the Open B Knockout Championships. The team made it through to the Semi Finals with consecutive wins. The scores were as follows: Heathfield High School 48 - 18, Thomas More College 50 - 19, and Unity College 39 - 22.

St Michael's College went through to the Semi Finals against Golden Grove High School, winning 46 – 18. This put our team into the Grand Final match against Unity College again, who we beat convincingly.

They are now crowned the Statewide Knockout Champions for Pool B Basketball 2019!

YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 MIXED HOCKEY

The College's Year 7, 8 and 9 Mixed Hockey team had a successful year, finishing top of their premiership table.



PRIMARY CO-CURRICULAR ACHIEVEMENTS

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

In this prestigious event, St Michael's Primary competed against nine other Catholic schools from across the State. Students competed in traditional athletics events including shot put, long jump, high jump, hurdles, running events, relays, and pentathlon. After an outstanding effort and some excellent individual results, St Michael's College was crowned winner of the Catholic Schools Carnival by one point.

The Geoff Skein Memorial Athletics Shield is back at the Primary Campus after last winning the carnival in 2017.



BASKETBALL GRAND FINALS

The College has also enjoyed successful Basketball results this year. A big congratulations to the following students:

- Year 4/5 Blue Basketball team who won the Year 4/5 after-school Basketball Grand Final, against St Joseph's Primary by three points;
- Year 2/3 Gold team who took home the Year 2/3 Grand Final trophy, in a 20-point win against Largs Bay Primary.



Year 4/5 Blue Basketball



Year 2/3 Gold Basketball

TERCENTENARY OF OUR FOUNDER



May is a special time for Catholics to pay homage to our Blessed Mother Mary. This year, it took on renewed meaning for Lasallians. Together with Lasallian communities worldwide, the College celebrated an important milestone – the Tercentenary of St John Baptist de La Salle. The world gathered with the Pope, joyfully celebrating the memory and legacy of our Founder. We collectively recalled how St John Baptist de La Salle sowed the seeds for today's flourishing Lasallian ministry of human and Christian education.

As a school community, we're privileged to be enveloped in the love and example of our Patron Saint, St John Baptist who, first and foremost, trusted in God's guiding grace to pave the way for an inclusive school. A place that would welcome all and exercises a preferential option for the poor, and social justice. He dreamed of the school that exists today.

Befitting this sense of hope and mission, we reflect on how our College, three centuries later. We continue to follow in the footsteps of St John Baptist, with the College's commitment to social justice initiatives, including Charities Week and National Reconciliation Week.

"Be satisfied with what you can do, since this satisfies God, but do not spare yourself in what you can do with the help of grace. Be convinced that, provided you are willing, you can do more with the help of God's grace than you imagine."
(St John Baptist de La Salle)

Mrs Patrizia Puglia,
Religious Education
Coordinator



FR JOHN RATE

The St Michael's College community was been deeply saddened by the passing of Fr John Rate in September.

As the College's parish priest, Fr John has been a wonderful friend of the College. Always present and generous, he is much loved throughout the community.

An old scholar of St Bede's, Mentone, Fr John had a strong affinity with the De La Salle Brothers and Lasallian education. His approach to speaking and working with young people has always been meaningful and greatly appreciated. He was a great man of faith, compassion and commitment.

Fr John has shown much-needed personal support to many in our College community over the years. His gentle, wise and humble manner have always been his loved characteristics. Known as a man of heart, Fr John will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

May he Rest In Peace.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Unfortunately, there are times when families within the St Michael's College community will be faced with particularly difficult times. As a Catholic, Lasallian community, the College is committed to supporting families who are experiencing situations of illness, death or general grief. Sr Nithya, in her role of Pastoral Support Worker, is a significant point of contact between the school, home and the wider St Michael's community. We encourage any families in need to reach out to her for support.

Each year in November, the College holds a special **Memorial Mass** to remember Old Scholars who have passed away. If you wish to receive information, please contact Olivia Peressin on Olivia.Peressin@smc.sa.edu.au.



WORLD'S APART PRIMARY MUSICAL 2018

The fourth Primary Musical 'Worlds Apart' was performed over two nights in November 2018. It was staged at the Parks Theatre, which gave the boys a real 'theatre' experience.

Worlds Apart was an original production, written by Primay Music Teacher, Miss Talia Gaertner-Jones. Dubbed a "musical within a musical", the story unfolded like this: Four boys from four different backgrounds, academic, sporting, musical and the outsider all find themselves linked by their school's Musical production, 'The Trading Game'. This was the name of the first musical the primary campus, back in 2015.

The four boys find themselves, one way or another, realising that they're much more than how many goals they score on the soccer pitch or the marks they get in their Maths test. Through the help of each other and teachers, they start forming an unlikely friendship and become comfortable with their true self. Worlds Apart is a story of finding your own path.

In the words of Oscar Wilde "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken".

The dance routines were choreographed by Thomas Phillips, a teacher and choreographer, who is recognised locally and internationally. He's even danced for companies, like Disney! Thomas brought a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the group and the boys loved the challenge to keep up with his dance composition and direction.

Students from Year 4 and 6 performed in Worlds Apart. A team of five students, two Primary and three Secondary, ran the technical side, including lighting, sound, projection, and audio. These boys had an opportunity to work with professional lighting, sound technicians, and theatre equipment.

The production was a huge success. All the students involved worked hard, were prompt to rehearsals, and performed well on both nights.



THE WEDDING SINGER MUSICAL 2018

An audience of close to 1,000 filled Founders Hall for two sold-out performances of The Wedding Singer. In September 2018, audiences didn't have to tie the knot to see their very own 'Adam Sandler.'

The talented cast, crew and College band, brought just the right amount of nostalgia and laughter. This feel-good show was a reminder that, in life, if we stay true to ourselves, everything else will fall into place – the College's 'be the best version of you' philosophy packaged in a musical!

It was all thanks to a dedicated group of students who passionately pleaded their case for a Secondary Campus musical. It came to fruition after they voiced their vision to the College Leadership Team and the Secondary Campus Drama Teacher, Mrs Becker.

Their drive, determination and passion for the project was evident in the performance. And its success has sparked preparations for the first Year 7-11 musical, which will provide a unique opportunity for cross-year level collaborations in the arts.

The hard work and effort by all involved was both rewarding for both the staff and students. It's clear that the role of drama, music and performing arts enables young adults to build their self-confidence, technical skills, and foster friendships. In a public forum,

various talents are revealed and showcased, that would otherwise have remained hidden.

Lead cast members, Vincenzo Triulcio and Olivia Higgins, were extremely grateful for the experience. Olivia, who played the role of Julia Sullivan, shared the following sentiments:

"Being a part of the St Michael's musical has been an incredible experience for not only myself but for everyone else in the cast. It's been a fantastic opportunity to make new friends, gain confidence, and bring joy to the greater College community. I'd like to thank the staff, performers and their families for all the hard work. I am very grateful for all the hard work put in by staff, students and families."

Vincenzo, who played Robbie Hart on stage, added:

"I'm so glad that we performed a show that even Adam Sandler would be proud of."





PULSE

SMC LIVE IN CONCERT WITH VINCE CONTARINO, THE ZEP BOYS AND SMC ORCHESTRA

"The Pulse 12 music showcase was a life changing experience for all involved. Students had the opportunity to work closely with South Australian band, The Zep Boys, featuring St Michael's old scholar Vince Contarino (1977).

The show began by showcasing multiple ensembles from the St Michael's Primary and Secondary schools, as well as Star of the Sea, who all performed songs they have been working on throughout the course of the year.

MC'd by the ever so funny Mr Kevin Woolford and Mr Tim Donovan, the first half of Pulse 12 gave students the opportunity to present to their friends and family what they had been working on for the past year and gain performance skills.

The opening half of Pulse 12 showcased the future of music at St Michael's College and gave every student the opportunity to display their hard work and talent in their ensembles.

The second half of Pulse 12 was led by the Zep Boys and backed by the SMC Orchestra – which was made up of students from ensembles including Senior and Middle School Concert bands, Big Band 1, 2 and 3, Guitar Band, Flute ensemble and Combined Strings. This set included popular Led Zeppelin hits, All of My Love, Black Dog, and the Immigrant Song to name a few.

Being able to work with, and learn from, such talented and friendly professionals like Vince and the Zep Boys was an experience that many students will

value for years to come. For many students, this was their first opportunity to learn what goes into being a professional musician. This inspired all students involved to perform at their absolute best on the night, which of course, they did.

Pulse 12 was an event that showcased the College's music program by giving students the opportunity to present their work to family and friends, whilst learning valuable skills from trained professionals in a way that delighted all those in attendance. A standing ovation from the audience was the perfect way to end a night filled with hard work, talent and most of all, a whole lot of fun."

*Written by Year 12 student,
Matthew Monti*



CLASS OF 1968

Time passes quickly, so they say. At least, from the perspective of the Matriculation class of 1968.

Realising that 2018 was a year that held special significance for this class, a group of old scholars met to plan a function that would be held towards the end of the year. As a way of stretching the enjoyment of this event and involving as many as possible in its celebrations, get togethers were held every two months throughout the year - each time at a different hotel - usually where there was a good "Seniors Menu"!

The October gathering attracted the greatest number of attendees and there was much enjoyment as the participants met up with other old scholars whom they may not have seen since leaving St Michael's 50 years ago. There was particular pleasure in catching up with two of our old teachers, Peter Wallace (Br Athanasius/Peter) and Michael MacFarlane (Br James).

After a tour of the amazing facilities that today's students enjoy, the old boys adjourned to the Henley Surf Lifesaving Club for Dinner and resolved to continue meeting every two months in 2019 and beyond.

Peter Oswald



CLASS OF 1978

Putting together the reunion was an interesting experience. Although most of the group hadn't been in contact for 40 years, there were some timeless, lifelong friendships. We used Facebook as a way to contact people, but we had to be a little more creative.

It takes people to know people, so we leveraged seven degrees of separation to find 'lost' contacts. These people responded with pleasant surprise and it was a great honour to discover the enriched lives that had started at St Michael's College.

85 people joined the reunion, including ex-students and partners, from both St Michael's and Siena Colleges. Held on 13 October 2018 at the Henley Surf Lifesaving Club, we were thrilled to have schoolmates come from Darwin, Alice Springs, Cairns, ACT, Sydney, country NSW, Melbourne, and wider Victoria. It was equally heart-warming to receive messages from people in the UK and Europe, sharing how they wished they could be there.

The energy in the room flowed between exciting and a familiar calm, much like the gulf waters outside. The reunion sparked a number of subsequent gatherings and anticipation for upcoming anniversaries and scholastic reconnections.

From self-curated group meet-ups or these special reunions, we encourage taking the time to attend. You'll be surprised who you remember and who you (re)-meet, over all the years to come.

Gerard O'Leary



CLASS OF 1998

The 10-year anniversary never eventuated for the class of '98', but with the help of Olivia Peressin and social media, the group felt 20 years was the right time to reconnect with each other.

After numerous 'chats' and polls on Facebook (Big thanks to Lisa Reiner for getting the ball rolling) the date and venue was finally locked away for October 2018. Fittingly, Jarmers Kitchen was chosen which is run and owned by Linda Jarmer (nee Totino). The anticipation was huge and so too were the nerves of the committee members worrying about the final numbers. However, the turnout was great and the night certainly didn't disappoint.

While we all had our different friendship groups back in 1998, the most pleasing aspect of the whole night was just how well everyone mixed with each other. Conversations flowed with ease, so much so that Linda had to kick everyone out as the liquor license curfew had been and gone! Many stories were told and laughs had amongst the Old Scholars and past teachers (some still present) who gratefully came and made the experience even better. Credit to Cathy Carey, Tony De Silva, Peter Curran and Greg Bowyer.

A massive thank you to committee member Linda for hosting the night and going 'beyond the call' to ensure everyone had a great time. Shout out too to the other committee members David Bourne, Adam Didyk, Terri Herrero and Lisa Reiner who helped pull the night together. A very successful night with people already hanging out for the next one!

Steve Axon



CLASS OF 2008

On November 2, 2018, the Class of 2008 packed into the Ramsgate Hotel – and you'd be forgiven if you forgot ten years had passed.

A large group toured the school first, which instantly saw the memories flooding back. Most of us were in awe, seeing how much had changed. Then, we made our way to the Ramsgate where even more joined. It's a testament to the school and to our class that so many chose to attend.

It also speaks volumes that so many were happy to strike up conversations with people they hadn't been close to through school or had lost touch with.

Our class has gone on to do incredible things. To become pharmacists, midwives, teachers, bakers, doctors, fitness instructors, mothers and fathers, event planners, plumbers, musicians and architects...the list goes on. Everyone was happy to share their story and hear from other people.

It was clear how much we've all grown. But despite the slightly more mature faces and the years passed, when the lights came on at 2:00am, the Class of '08 was on the dance floor. We've still got it!

Taylee Jones





WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Feature story: Simon Watkinson (1999)

Dubbed “the world’s best Prince William lookalike,” what started as a royal doppelganger joke has turned into an entertaining side career for Simon Watkinson. He was ‘discovered’ by his aunties when he was 11, on one of the family trips to England. But it wasn’t until Simon moved to London that strangers started taking photos of him.

Now a Civil Engineer, Simon studied at the University of Adelaide before moving to the UK to seek bigger job opportunities. In 2006, he landed an exciting role in an engineering team, transforming derelict wastelands into the London Olympics Stadium.

But there was one event that would prove even more significant than the Olympics for Simon ... the 2011 Royal Wedding. As the world fell for Prince William and Kate Middleton’s love story, Simon started to get more second-glances.

“People would take photos of me everywhere I went... on the Tube, in the streets, in restaurants, you name it,” Simon recalls.

To celebrate William and Kate’s engagement, famous celebrity-lookalike photographer, Alison Jackson, needed a Prince doppelganger for her tongue-in-cheek book. The risqué images in Kate and Wills Up the Aisle would serve as strong political messages.

Simon landed this gig, which became the first of hundreds of media and public appearances.

“During the royal wedding, I was doing two to three jobs a day. As long as the royals are in the news, there are parties, photoshoots and stunts to attend.”

The most challenging part of life in the public eye for Simon? “Putting myself out there,” he says.

“I had to throw myself in the deep end and pay attention to the way Prince William holds himself. I didn’t do any acting classes but thankfully, we don’t hear the royals speaking that much.”

While his friends and family know him as a Civil Engineer from Henley Beach, Simon has certainly been treated like royalty. He’s been flown all over the world, attended a billionaire’s birthday party in Hong Kong, appeared on X-Factor and met dozens of celebrities, including One Direction and Will.i.am.

“People can pay celebrities to attend parties, but never a royal.”

And the question everyone wants to know, has Simon met William?

“Not yet. But his security team knows who I am. We’ve had a chuckle together. There are photos of all lookalikes in



Buckingham Palace, so they don’t let us in by accident.”

“I never say who I am when people come up and ask me on the street, though. I’d prefer them to go away, thinking they’ve met Prince William.”

Simon’s engineering colleagues find his ‘double-life’ rather amusing. His team is working on a railway project in Britain. It’s the most expensive project in the whole of Europe... and worlds apart from his Duke of Cambridge ‘role.’

Simon is certainly considered royalty within St Michael’s College.

“My schooling set me up and gave me a great foundation. If I had my time again, I wouldn’t change a single moment.”

While his family is still in Adelaide, London is home now for Simon. And, if he wants to continue embodying the life of Prince William, there’s one important thing he has to do... shave his head.

“I’m probably the only man in the world who wants to be bald,” Simon chuckles.



Feature story: Eileen Giles (1983) & Siobhan Giles (2006)

While Mother-daughter duo, Eileen and Siobhan Giles, both pursued careers in STEM, they both represent significant academic achievements in two very different streams.

Siobhan, with her love for both maths and physics, completed her double degree of Engineering, with Mechanical and Aerospace and Theoretical Physics. This led to her six-year role at Defence Science and Technology, a Government department in Melbourne. Funded under the submarine program, Siobhan worked in submarine dynamics and control.

Siobhan was part of a cohort of 11 engineers who relocated to France earlier this year to join Naval Group to complete submarine design training. She will return to Adelaide in three years, to help form the Design Authority for the Future Submarine Program, based at the Osborne Naval Shipyard.

Coined as ‘one of the most complex defence projects Australia has ever undertaken’, Siobhan is thrilled to be part of something that complex.

“We’re going to see the creation of a lot of new jobs due to the Australian future submarine project. It’s going to become a very attractive career path for high school students” Siobhan shares.

An advocate for women in STEM, Siobhan hopes she can serve as a role model, demonstrating what’s possible. “There are few representatives in schools, which affects university numbers. Without female graduates, companies can’t hire them. It’s a societal issue that we all need to work to change.”

“It’s a remarkable field that’s extremely rewarding. The industry needs our insights, too. By only hiring males, they’re only accessing half of the talent pool.”

Siobhan fondly recalls friendly competition with the boys in her science and math classes at St Michael’s. “I enjoyed showing them girls can be good at maths, too,” Siobhan gleams.

But, Eileen, a Senior Lecturer in Radiation Therapy at the University of South Australia, experiences the opposite: a minority of men. “In radiation therapy, there’s a people side to it, which tends to attract more females.”

It’s not unusual for students to enrol in the program after experiencing a family member go through cancer. Radiation therapists are part of the journey with the patient, over a number of weeks,



so they develop a more sustained rapport. The field appeals to a certain type of caring, emotionally attuned person, but also offers the opportunity to work with cutting-edge technology that’s constantly advancing.

Eileen was instrumental in securing the university’s Virtual Environment Radiotherapy Training (VERT), a state-of-the-art facility to “bring the clinical environment into the classroom.” Students are immersed into the treatment room with the guidance of real controls and can visualise the radiation beams to treat a virtual patient.

She hopes the integration of AI, machine learning and simulation, will foster better outcomes for cancer patients.

As Eileen and Siobhan continue to defy stereotypes, challenge assumptions and change paradigms in their respective fields, perspectives will continue to shift and make room for all.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Feature story: Daniela Ritorto (1997) & Julia Ritorto (1999)

From the 'Kevin 07' Federal election campaign, the Global Financial Crisis, the London Riots and an Aussie winning the Tour de France, Daniela Ritorto's professional career path as a TV Journalist led her to the role she'd long aspired to: Chief Political Correspondent for SBS in Canberra.

But much like her sister, and successful Designer, Julia Ritorto, emotional reasons drew the pair back to Adelaide.

Daniela learned the ropes in radio and television by winning an ABC cadetship after university. With an affinity for politics, she moved onto a role at Network Ten, as the State Political Reporter.

What started as a six-month hiatus in Europe with a bit of freelance correspondent work led to producing, and then presenting, BBC World News from its London studios for almost six years.

"I always had a foot in Australia and London. I felt at home in both places, but when I received the call from SBS, it made up my mind to come back to Australia." After two years with SBS, Daniela followed her heart home to

her childhood roots and now lives in Grange.

With almost 20 years as a journalist, Daniela changed tack and took a different, yet complementary turn, managing the Santos Media and Communications team.

"Being an Adelaide company, with national and international markets, it cuts across a range of media touchpoints.

Julia Ritorto experienced a similar sliding doors moment, when she decided to return home from Los Angeles (and a Head Designer role) to start her own brand, Acler.

"I wanted to slow things down and bring design back to its tactile, non-mass roots," Julia said. She met her business partner and co-designer, Kathryn Forth during her time with Adelaide label, Finders Keepers – where the small team grew it, from their living room, into a globally-loved brand.

Design inspiration is a subconscious thing, Julia revealed. "Kath and I design separately, then bring ideas together to map out the collection. It keeps the

diversity and self-expression in the collection."

Julia and her team of 20 talented South Australian staff have grown Acler into a global operation, with a strong wholesale business with national and international majors, boutiques, and growing e-commerce store. The success of Acler has dovetailed into their new brand, Significant Other.

"When I moved back to Adelaide, the industry needed momentum, so it was great to be able to contribute to its growth. It's certainly moving in the right direction now."

An advocate for Adelaide, Julia believes having the city as a base can work in every aspiring brand's favour. "We operate in a global arena, but we've been able to grow through the support of the local Government, peers, friends and family."

Both Daniela and Julia's narratives teach us that, while careers can bring about great experiences, there's no place quite like home.



Andrew Baggio (2002)

Teacher & Professional WWE Wrestler

Andrew always had an affinity for sports. He juggled school cricket, soccer and basketball, until a new passion of his took hold: wrestling.

During his 20's, Andrew alternated between travelling for wrestling and university studies. "I didn't just drop everything to chase professional wrestling," Andrew shared. Coincidentally, it was through Andrew's journey to become a professional WWE wrestler that he found his professional calling: teaching.

Andrew's 'nothing is impossible' philosophy led him to success in both his loves. He joined the teaching staff at Karrendi Primary School and became the only Australian in the first-ever 32-Man WWE Cruiserweight Classic tournament in Orlando, Florida.

He holds the title as the first Adelaide-born pro wrestler to ever compete on WWE television, Andrew certainly breaks 'teacher' stereotypes.

"My Year 12 Legal Studies teacher, Mr Williams, helped me imagine the kind of role-model I could be," Andrew said.



Jed Altschwager (2004)

Paralympian

In a four-year stretch, Jed Altschwager has gone from construction supervisor to amputee, and onto Australian Paralympian. In 2015, Jed's life changed forever, when he lost his left leg while operating an excavator.

Yet, while in the hospital bed, Jed was already looking for the positive side. A surfer, skater and traveller his whole life, Jed's accident helped him reach another level of appreciation for his body. He found it through an extension of his recovery: CrossFit.

A video of Jed sitting on the rowing machine went viral, which sparked the attention of Paralympics Australia.

He joined South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) and six months later, Rowing Australia. In 2018, Jed reached nationals where he was selected for the Australian Men's Pair at the World Rowing Championships. He proudly took home a silver medal.

Selected for the 2019 championships in Italy, in the same category, the plucky 32-year-old has his sights set on the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics, training 40+ hours a week in the gym and on the water.



Brittney Erickson (2009)

Paramedic

Seeing an ambulance fly past with its sirens on one afternoon, triggered Brittney Erickson's curiosity in "the events that occur right under our noses, but we never hear about." Life and death situations, like delivering a baby or helping an 11-year-old boy with a brain bleed.

"There's a huge contrast between these two situations – bringing a life into the world and trying to save another," Brittney said.

But working in moments like these propelled Brittney forward in her role with Ambulance Victoria. Now in a senior position as an Ambulance Paramedic, she has her sights set on becoming a Clinical Instructor.

Brittney transitioned from university to one of the providers services in the London Ambulance Service. This four-month-stint, while challenging, helped strengthen her ability to adapt.

Self-understanding and recognising limitations are tools Brittney regularly draws on – values which she learned in her formative years at St Michael's College.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Pietro Filipone (2012)

Musician

Pietro joins the likes of Tkay Maidza, as one of Adelaide's electronic homegrown artists to-watch, winning the 2019 'Most Popular Electronic Artist' in the South Australian Music Awards.

He's received a string of accolades between his early solo project, Alêtro, producing music for local pop act, China Roses, and his current act, Uomo. His music is regularly heard on Fresh 92.7 and Triple J, with thousands of streams on Soundcloud and Spotify.

Pietro's keen interest in video games can be recognised in his music. "I love using old-school Nintendo and Pokémon sounds, as they're nostalgic for me", Pietro revealed.

But the musician doesn't just draw inspiration from his childhood. He often returns to the foundations of music he learned in Year 10 and 11 music, with Mr Woolford and Mr Donovan.

Pietro's individual, atmospheric and playful contributions to Australian electronic music emulates the College's mantra: "Be the best YOU can be."



Murtaza Hussaini (2014)

Visual Artist

Visual artist and 2014 graduate, Murtaza Hussaini's work conveys his narrative of escaping Pakistan. His art is both a glimpse and tribute to his displaced childhood, moving from Afghanistan to Pakistan, and onto Australia.

Murtaza's exhibition of miniature paintings, Healing Seeds, is an invitation for viewers to connect with their own cultural identities. Influenced by culture, memory and exile, Murtaza reflects on world issues, like the migration crisis, seen through the lens of his experience.

Murtaza was awarded a Carclew Youth Arts Professional Development Fellowship.

With social justice, cultural fluency and refugee equality being timely themes, Murtaza's work ignited the ABC's interest.

"I'm working with their team to produce a series, Stateless. They wanted to feature an on-stage artist with a refugee background."

A welcoming environment for new immigrants, Murtaza said "I wouldn't be who I am today" without St Michael's College.



Elvy-Lee Quici (2018)

Emerging Actor

Before the Class of 2018 had their final send-off, Elvy-Lee Quici had already secured a position at the acclaimed Flinders Drama Acting Centre, being one of only 10 students selected across the state.

Elvy-Lee's love for the stage took a leading role in her life, during the 'Big Shots Film Production' subject. She was part of a group who wrote, created and devised a short film, 'Expect the Unexpected.'

Elvy-Lee played the protagonist, an evil science teacher – worlds apart from her two-year stint acting in 'Secret Bridesmaids Business.'

Reluctant to apply to Flinders with over 200 applicants, St Michael's College Drama Teacher, Giselle Becker, and Career Counsellor, Ms Coorey, both encouraged her to apply.

The actress has big hopes to work across Australia and in the United States – on film sets, acting in movies and television shows, and performing in the most challenging acting arena of all, the stage.



PETER WALLACE



There are some leaders who, even looking back at their accomplishments, remain humble. Peter Wallace, a pivotal character in St Michael's history, is one such man.

Peter's education broke the cycle of Brothers being considered under-skilled. He was a young adult, just shy of 15, when he joined the Brothers. The day Peter began training college, he had to say goodbye to his family. The Brothers were unable to return home until their education was complete. For Peter, this was age 25.

"It was much like going off to boarding school. There were regular occasions for family to visit us, but we couldn't leave," Peter said.

As he was still growing into his own identity, Peter learned the importance of adaptability from a young age. He completed two years of religious training, followed by another two of teacher training. He began teaching in Melbourne at 21.

Peter's studies continued at Melbourne University with half of an arts degree

with a maths, geology and ancient history focus. The days were long. He'd teach all day and get home at 9:00 pm after night tutorials.

Following this, Peter enrolled at Adelaide University in a physics and chemistry degree, with applied maths and majoring in history and geology.

He didn't stop there – continuing onto a dual Diploma of Education and an Advanced Diploma, even after already serving in his St Michael's College role for eight years.

Peter was the perfect role model for his students: teaching through experience that learning never ends. During Peter's time as Principal, he helped form the Parent's Association, which birthed numerous construction projects, strengthening the school's inclusive identity.

Peter's role at St Michael's naturally evolved with the needs of the school. His decision to take on a higher administration position wasn't a linear journey. He knew the College, the students, and their families, very well.

He played an active role in transforming the College to co-ed – something that no other school had done at the time. The college expanded through various phases, focusing on different streams like technology and art.

"It was an evolution, rather than a quick expansion."

As nearby schools like Alberton and Thebarton closed, the student numbers rose. Beverley's enrolment filled up and it became "the star of the school scene",

as the doorway to St Michael's College.

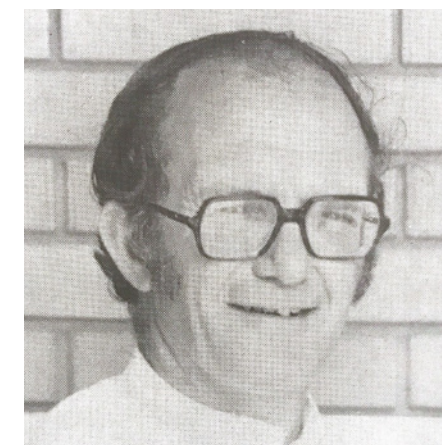
While Peter held his important administration role, this didn't stop his involvement in sports. He coached athletics in all varieties at the Catholic Carnival. This event was an essential day where the newly created Mother's Club provided their talents and time.

Peter was actively involved in many facets of the College, beyond administration, academics, and athletics. Photography was one of his personal musings. What began as "accidental" photography jobs, turned into an 11-year stint in a photography role for the school magazine.

Peter's identity remains closely tied to the St Michael's community, through the company he kept. Of his fondest memories, the friendships top his list. He remains closely connected with old scholars, staff, and parents.

"I'll never forget the time I spent at St Michael's."

Once a Brother, always a Brother.



SMOSH WEST LAKES

Season 2019 heralded a new era in Lion's history with the introduction of two senior women's teams in Division 2. Both teams played off in the Grand Final and unfortunately just fell short at the final hurdle.

All four senior men's teams also had successful seasons, competing in the finals and missed out on 'the chocolates' at the end of the season. Under the tutelage of Senior Coach Shaun Clacken, the A Grade side won 14 of the home and away games. They established a solid platform for season 2020 and are determined to go one step further.

The reappointment of Shaun and Josh Foulis (B Grade Coach) highlights the stability at 'The Den.'

- Individual awards went to:
- Div 4 Naylor Medal, Sam Fairclough
 - Div 4 RES Lambert Medal, Dylan Coates

To have won both medals in Div 4 reinforces both the way Sam and Dylan went about their football this year and also the teams' performances throughout the season.

The club has also been busy off-field and the completion of the electronic scoreboard was named in honour of club stalwart, John Moody. This will facilitate advertising opportunities in the future.

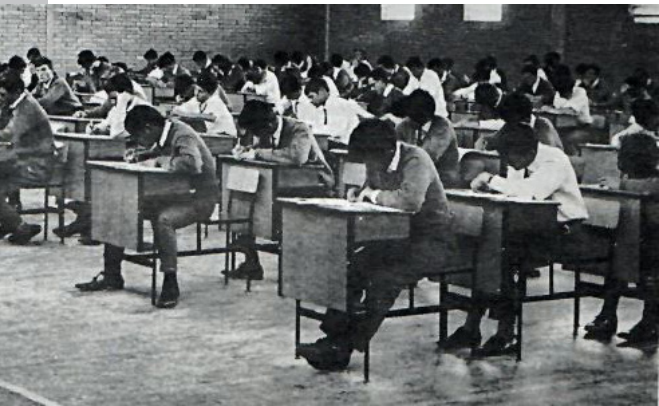
Paul Cutler and Shane Finney were instrumental in getting the project underway and many thanks to Thorne Constructions, Electric Resuti RJE Global and the Charles Sturt Council for their assistance.

This Lions community can't wait for the opportunity to rectify this year's loss. The mantra, 'beware the wounded lion', will be the catalyst for success of the Maroon, Gold & Blue!

Peter Curran, President



THE INDESTRUCTIBLE



Congratulations to Roger French for his first correct answer from the previous editions quiz!

In 1966, parents and friends of St Michael's College working on the assembly line, constructed 500 desks for the new buildings. The basic framework was heavy iron pipe, welded into shape, with a solid wood shelf. It was an ingenious long-lasting design that would later to be fondly known as 'the indestructible'.

A quarter century on, an experiment was conducted to see just how indestructible it was. One was dropped from an upper balcony of the main teaching block onto the concrete quadrangle beneath. The concrete was gouged, but the desk remained unscathed.

As the years passed, the students (and teaching methods) outgrew the desks. In 1992, they were replaced. Many went to the homes of ex- students as mementos, but one remains at the college as a symbol of our collective roots.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Br Finbar founded the Cadet Unit in 1959, which involved training and adventurous activities in a military setting, including field camps, basic bush skills, equipment maintenance etc. After being discontinued in 1976, the unit was reconstituted in 1978 under Br Kevin's leadership. Br Kevin held the position of the Commanding Officer, Mr Keenan as the Officer Commanding and Br William Good as his Second in Command. In 1980, SMC became a unit in its own right.

Between 1978 and 1983, when it was decided that the school based Cadet Units would no longer be part of the Australian Cadet Force, many SMC students gained the coveted Adventure Training Award Badge, achieved a distinction in leadership courses, took part in bivouac and annual camps which involved, amongst a host of other character developing activities, preparing and cooking their own and others meals over wood fires, personal and community hygiene, map reading and compass activities, wireless procedure, watermanship and First Aid at elementary and advanced levels.

Many boys who had had cadet training eventually became College Leaders in their final year. After Br William left SMC, Mr Cornish joined the Unit and brought his CMF knowledge as a Medical and Hygiene Officer.

Befitting to the history St Michael's has with the Cadet Unit, the College has recently partnered with the Army Cadet Unit, whereby a school-based program will be established in 2020. Interested current students are welcome to contact the College to find out more information.



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