



HERITAGE

DANIEL MONKS CLASS 2006

'...those things that you feel
are your greatest flaws are
actually your greatest gifts.'

THE FUTURE
IS ACCESSIBLE

WELCOME

From the Principal

It has become something of a cliché to say that we are living in unprecedented times, however it does seem to be a term that captures the profoundly challenging and uncertain situation that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about for all of us. As a global collective, as a nation, and as a College community, the dedication to the common good and the many sacrifices made by individuals for a wider cause has been tremendously inspiring to witness.

Here at John XXIII College, the flexibility and professionalism of our staff, the adaptability of our students and the vital support of our parent community has allowed us to respond swiftly and positively to the evolving situation. We were able to proactively develop a COVID-19 response plan, and to rapidly and effectively move to remote learning, and then to re-opening our physical classrooms.

The disruption caused by COVID-19 has been a catalyst for change. It has been an extraordinary situation with teachers learning new technologies on one day and then implementing them in class on the following day. Our staff members have been magnificent.

We have closely followed advice received by Catholic Education WA based on directions from the Ministers of Education and Health, and as we welcome students back to campus, we are committed to implementing the various guidelines established by the relevant authorities to allow us to provide the safest possible environment for students and staff. Disciplined implementation of strategies around personal hygiene, physical distancing, gatherings, mixing, after-school activities, travel and self-isolation are

critical to the public effort to contain the spread of this virus. They are also critical to a healthy mindset and the ability to continue to go about our daily lives cautiously but without unnecessary fear and distrust.

At John XXIII College we remain focused on the wellbeing of all in our community, and we continue to pray for those throughout the world whose lives have been impacted in ways large and small by the pandemic. I extend my best wishes to all our graduates and their families in these challenging times and encourage you to remain connected to the College and to each other.

Robert Henderson
Principal





Help build your Alumni

Recently I read an article that suggested that instead of seeing images of empty streets and deserted public spaces as bleak or apocalyptic, we should see them as a powerful sign of love. As a sign that we care enough about each other – and particularly the more vulnerable among us – to stay home, to stay apart, to protect each other.

The current global situation has brought about many changes and called for many sacrifices all over the world, but it has also reminded us that we are all connected, that the ways we respond as a community are more vital than ever.

I encourage everyone in our extended John XXIII family to stay connected as much as possible, to take this opportunity to reach out to an old friend, to check in on each other.

One specific way that we can support our College community is through our Alumni Business Directory, which is a wonderful way both to promote your own business and to access services provided by graduates from across the years. With a diverse worldwide community of approximately 20,000 Alumni it's a fabulous platform. You will need to log in to your account to post information about your business or to view listings.

We have loved hearing from our Alumni about their experiences during this difficult time, and in particular the ways that people are keeping busy and keeping connected.

We hope you enjoy reading some of these stories in this issue of *Heritage*.

Anna Gingell
Alumni Development

Are your contact details up to date?

Please take the time to ensure we have your most up-to-date details.

To update your details online visit www.alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au

1. Login
2. Under the top navigation select 'Your Account' and click 'Update Your Details'
3. Enter your updated contact information and then click 'Save'.

Alternatively, contact the Alumni Office with your updated details:

- 9383 0520
- Anna.Gingell@cewa.edu.au



Can you help?

Back in 1987, the College parent community produced a fabulous fundraising cookbook called *On the Wings of a Stove*. A digital version of this cookbook has been produced by the John XXIII

College Foundation and we would love to get in touch with all of the 85 parents and community members who originally contributed recipes. If you contributed a recipe to *On the Wings of a Stove*, please get in touch with Kate Murphy:

9383 0403 or Kate.Murphy1@cewa.edu.au.

Stay connected

- Alumni: @JohnXXIIICollegeAlumni
- Alumni: alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au
- College: [linkedin.com/school/johnxxiiicollege](https://www.linkedin.com/school/johnxxiiicollege)
- College: @johnxxiiicollege
- College: JTC_johnxxiii
- College: @johnxxiii_college



SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS

Josh Byrne (Class 2002) has become a familiar face to Australians through his role as a much-loved presenter on ABC TV's *Gardening Australia* program, where he has shared his passion for urban sustainability with a national audience for 16 years.



Josh is an acclaimed consultant, researcher and communicator, the author of two best-selling books and numerous academic publications and industry guides in the fields of high-performance housing, water-sensitive design and

sustainable urban development, and also holds a range of academic roles.

Josh has received many awards and accolades for his vital work, thought leadership and advocacy and sits on numerous boards and professional bodies, as well as being Patron of the Conservation Council of WA.

What stand out for you as highlights of your John XXIII College education?

When I reflect on my time at JTC (1985-1992), the sense of community and pastoral care are the things that resonate most strongly. There's no doubt I received a quality education as well, but it's these social aspects that have had the biggest impact on me.

Was there a teacher who was particularly influential during your school years?

I have fond memories of many of my teachers, but there are two that made a significant impact. Firstly, Rod Downie, for his patience and trust. I almost left school in Year 11 because I was distracted and wanted to do other things.

Spending time in Rod's vocational class that year gave me a chance to grow up and realise how lucky I was to be at JTC, and to recognise the importance of the people around me. Most of the students in that class liked to play up (including me), but Rod never reacted. Instead he had a way of giving us the responsibility to do the right thing, and if we broke

that trust we'd know we'd disappointed him, and that was worse than getting in trouble.

The following year I decided to focus on my studies for my final year at school. Margaret Yoon was my geography teacher and she made the classes so interesting. I have no doubt that her passion for teaching her subject matter had a major influence on my decision to study environmental science (including geography).

How did you first become interested in sustainable gardening?

I started gardening as teenager. It wasn't particularly cool, but I loved it. By the time I was 15 I had a thriving veggie garden and was looking after my Dad's herb collection. Maintaining the ornamental garden was also part of my routine.

Dad nourished this interest by gifting me books on organic gardening and permaculture. They made a big impact on me, and when coupled with my school studies in geography, the opportunities that sustainable gardening could make towards positive environmental change became very clear to me.

Tell us about your university journey, and how your studies have shaped your work.

I started my first year of university at UWA with an eclectic choice of subjects that reflected my interests, including geography, biology, anthropology and music history. I had also started a small gardening business.

My interest in environmental issues was growing and I made the decision to leave UWA and enrol in environmental science at Murdoch. I never looked back. By the time I completed my undergraduate degree I had started working for a research group specialising in environmental technology for sustainable development and I was also doing some part-time teaching.

After taking some time off for international travel after graduating, I returned to Murdoch to do honours (environmental science) and then a PhD (environmental engineering). Both research degrees were focused on sustainable water management in urban landscapes and reflected my growing interest in this area.

The same year that I started my PhD, I was offered a job as a TV presenter on *ABC Gardening Australia*, and the following year I started my consulting practice, providing an opportunity to share my interest (and my research) with industry and the wider community. I've continued

this model of combining research, consulting and communication in my career to this day.

You have travelled quite a bit to learn more about sustainable agriculture. Can you tell us about your travels?

Alongside gardening, my other great interest is travel. Over the years I've travelled to some fascinating places to look at the application of sustainable design and technology in landscaping, agriculture and the built environment.

My early travels after graduating took to me to Israel to work on a kibbutz to get familiar with the latest in water efficient irrigation methods, as well as Malawi to work on a small permaculture demonstration site. I've travelled to China to visit a novel composting toilet trial, as well as India, Cuba, Singapore and Malaysia to look at urban agriculture and urban greening projects.

What do you love most about your work? What are some of the challenges you face?

I enjoy the diversity of my working life and this applies to both the subject matter and the nature of the work.

The main reason I set up my consulting practice (15 years ago) was to engage in a range of projects across landscape design and urban sustainability, at a range of scales. I wanted the experience and satisfaction of being involved in the delivery of quality projects. The research encourages innovation and the media work enables me to share the learnings and outcomes. It's a very fertile combination, but it is also a lot of work, so maintaining work-life balance is a constant challenge.

Can you tell us how you became interested in developing nature play spaces for children and how your work in this area has evolved?

With so much evidence highlighting the importance of children engaging with nature and undertaking adventurous play, designing nature play spaces into our projects became an obvious extension of what we do. Nature playgrounds will never be a substitute for children (and adults) to spend time in natural environments, but they certainly make urban life much richer. It's become a special area of interest for us and we've been fortunate to design nature play projects around WA and in Melbourne.

Career highlights to date?

That's a tricky one. I enjoy all the aspects of my career. The biggest kick I get is seeing the results of successful collaboration, whether it is with colleagues within my consulting practice, or with a TV crew making engaging stories for *Gardening Australia*. It's the process and the teamwork that is most important. Success naturally follows that.

Where to next?

We recently set up an office in Melbourne as an extension of our head office in Fremantle. It's something that I've wanted to do for some time and it's opening up opportunities to engage in interesting projects on the east coast in a more meaningful way than we've been able to do before.

I'm excited to see where this will go. We've got some great local projects underway too, including 'East Village at Knutsford' by DevelopmentWA, which will set the benchmark for sustainable housing, and the conversion of the Wharf Street stormwater basin in Canning into an educational parkland.

I've got a new book coming out in September (on sustainable housing) and a bumper schedule of *Gardening Australia* stories in the pipeline.

Have you stayed in contact with your John XXIII College friends or teachers?

My core group of friends from JTC continue to be my closest mates today. It's nearly 30 years since we finished school but we are closer than ever. It's one of the things that I treasure most. I remember my teachers fondly too and I love it when I run into them.

What did you take away from your John XXIII College schooling that has helped you in your later life?

A strong sense of community, compassion and social justice. It's fundamental to how I live my life, how I relate to others, and how my wife and I raise our children.

More information on Josh and his work can be found at www.joshbyrne.com.au



Josh's conversion of the Wharf Street stormwater basin in Canning into an educational parkland.

LOCKDOWN LIFE



In the difficult and frightening era of COVID-19, and all the changes and sacrifices it has brought about, it is inspiring to hear stories of the ways that our Alumni are keeping their spirits up and adapting to the enormous changes to our way of life. From home schooling to dog walking, from creative pursuits to family board games, our graduates are finding diverse ways to keep themselves occupied and expand their internal horizons.

GE

Keeping the creative spark alive

→ *Therese Howie nee Rossen (Class 1970)*

I retired from my teaching career several years ago but I'm putting my skills to excellent use now as I home school my granddaughter Alyssa Nelson who is ten years old and currently in Year 5 at St Thomas' Primary School. We have a strict routine in place and make sure that we cover all the core areas, but it's also a time for lots of creativity. We keep busy with all sorts of art and craft projects, and Alyssa writes and posts letters to her friends, which is a great way of improving literacy skills, as well as staying connected and creating a record of these strange and challenging times.



I loved the music education I received at Loreto and I have started teaching Alyssa piano and guitar. She has also inherited the musical gene so will be ready to embrace this field when she starts Year 7 at John XXIII College in 2022.

Canine companions

→ Terry (Tess) Beckett (Class 1963)

In this strange new world of COVID-19, I find the perfect antidote to the resulting isolation blues is my regular walks with two miniature dachshunds Toofy and Gracie, aka 'the doglets'. Our favourite haunts are Allen



Park in Swanbourne, Manners Hill Park in Peppermint Grove and the Nedlands foreshore, where we have noticed a huge increase in the number of dogs frolicking around with each other and their families. Another highly anticipated 'walkies' is hotfooting it up the Forrest Street hill to Cottesloe Beach, Toofy, with his long,

aristocratic and greying snout pointing the way and Gracie at the rear on her dainty little legs with just a hint of a waddle! We sit on the grassy knoll avidly watching the passing parade of elated fellow escapees. What therapeutic mates our canine friends make; especially in times never before experienced.

Adapting and connecting

→ Gervase Chaney (Class 1983)

The University of Notre Dame Australia's School of Medicine in Fremantle, like so many other areas of the community, has seen a rapid and significant change with a move to online learning that mostly transitioned in less than a week. All up Notre Dame did so in about a two-week period and with little interruption to teaching, which was a remarkable achievement and a testament to the dedication, flexibility and ingenuity of staff and students alike.



This is not to say that it hasn't been without some trial and error and some learnings as we go. Already we have changed between online delivery modalities – Blackboard Collaborate and Zoom – and we have had to train many staff on the job in their utilisation.

There have been lessons in online etiquette – lying in bed for a tutorial is not the best look and some students needed to be advised that wearing a shirt is not optional online as it is not optional in class!

Working from home has been a challenge for all of us. Finding a routine: not eating too much (too easy access to the pantry and fridge a big risk!),



delineating the work day, keeping in touch with and supporting your team and not letting your Zoom meetings dominate the house – just some examples! Maintaining pastoral care of students and staff is that much harder and that much more important and is a major focus. We are finding Zoom meetings with even whole year groups (around 100 students) with key staff works much better than expected to communicate and get feedback. And team drinks on a Friday via Zoom has been a revelation.

In terms of life outside of work, when I have time I have managed to watch the slow-motion traincrash Netflix sensation that is *Tiger King*, but my current preference is Nordic police dramas. I am now on the third season of *The Bridge* (highly recommended). I am also getting through some great books that my parents gave me for Christmas and the morning *The West Australian* cryptic crossword has become much more a focus. The highlight of isolation has been the time that we have spent as a family with our adult children – although I am not sure that they are enjoying it as much as Sally and me. We even played Absolute Balderdash the other day and couldn't remember the last time we had played a board game as a family.

I have been greatly impressed by the political and health leadership in this state that has managed this most difficult of times. And even more so the response of most of the community to do the right thing (panic buying aside). Lastly I need to acknowledge the amazing work of healthcare workers across the world and locally facing this most serious of threats.

Stress relief through home improvements

→ *Conor Corless (Class 2014)*

Since the advent of COVID-19, my work as a police officer has changed quite a bit in certain aspects. There are still plenty of jobs to attend to, both COVID-19-related and other regular work. Now that I am stuck at home on my days off, I have started doing a lot of landscaping and home renovation jobs. To my surprise, I actually really enjoy it – especially when I can see the finished product. For me it's a way of disconnecting from the stresses of the current world and enjoying my own progression.

The solace of journaling

→ *Linda Rossen (Class 1982)*

At this unprecedented moment in my life, journaling provides for me a voice and a listener to my observations, emotions and patterns of thought. Finding time each day to reflect on the little things and to seek the beauty of everyday life: changes in my garden, the quiet stillness, connections with family and friends and the creativity as I prepare my window for the little children's Bear Hunt walk. The amplified sounds of nature trigger distant happy memories from when I was very little: anecdotes to share in the future. Little kindnesses to neighbours take on new meaning and importance. As I live and work from home, wrangling with new online platforms, in this new isolated world, I find joy in my little home with my two little doggies.

Touching the heart

→ *Liz Blaxell nee Prendergast (Class 1994)*

I find art to be a really cathartic activity even if I don't create a masterpiece. I've just started a 100-day art project where you produce a piece of art every day for 100 days. I'm going to create a

heart-shaped piece of art each day with a message written on it. I will then send the hearts to different people to hopefully lift their spirits. This is part of a side project I have been working on called *Message In A Pocket*.



Sharing the joy of jazz

Life for the residents of aged care facilities has been particularly challenging, with many restrictions on visitors and activities in place, but an afternoon of musical entertainment



has helped to spread some joy and connection. Talented musician Peter Luckas (Class 2018), who currently works as a music tutor at the College

and is studying at the WA Academy of Performing Arts, provided a fabulous program of jazz tunes for residents of Mercy Village in Wembley, performing from a balcony to ensure that social distancing measures were



observed. Residents were delighted to be able to enjoy the unique concert.

'A feeling of community is still important, if not more important, during these



uncertain times,' said MercyCare Aged Care Executive Director Joanne Penman. 'John XXIII College's beautiful gesture with this concert recognises the

importance of community spirit and the strength people can draw from that.' Plans are being made for further performances involving College students and staff members.



FIT FOOD

Eating well and staying healthy is more important than ever during these challenging times. Alumni Anna Rakoczy (Class 1997) is the perfect person to provide us with some guidance on how we can boost our immune systems through healthy eating.

Anna originally studied law, received a Monash Scholarship for postgraduate study at the University of Stanford and a Fullbright Scholarship to study at the University of California Berkeley and was named Australian Young Lawyer of the Year in 2008. Taking a course in social entrepreneurship and learning more about the power of business for social good was the catalyst for an exciting career change for Anna, who went on to found Homemade Method, a dynamic organisation that helps women in their 50s, 60s and 70s to lose weight and reverse diabetes, high blood pressure and elevated cholesterol. Anna's focus is not on dieting, but on teaching people new ways of cooking and eating based on her simple, proven 'COOK, EAT, LISTEN' system.

Since 2013, Anna has shared her powerful philosophy with over 100,000 women through workshops across three continents. She has also been a keynote speaker at the Stanford Food Summit, the Food at Work Summit and the Berkeley Food Innovation Lab. Homemade Method has also partnered with Stanford Hospitals, the US National Kidney Foundation and Google.

Homemade Method recently put together a special COVID-19 immune boosting recipe guide, and Anna has kindly shared one of her favourite recipes with us.

More information can be found at www.homemademethod.com

Shiitake mushroom and goat cheese frittata

This recipe can be made with any cheese, vegetables, dried herbs or nuts of your choice. What's so great about homemade frittatas is that they are high in protein and a great way to sneak vegetables into the beginning of your day (without really noticing them!) and they taste decadent and filling due to the addition of cheese and nuts, which contain satiating fats. It's also a great bulk cooking option and can be chopped into slices and enjoyed for days, hot or cold, as a healthy breakfast on the go.

Ingredients (makes three to four servings)

Sautee

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- ½ cup red onion
- 1 tbsp rosemary
- 1 clove garlic
- ½ tsp salt and pepper
- ½ cup shiitake mushroom or any mushroom
- 1 cup swiss chard or spinach

Egg blend

- 6 eggs
- ¼ cup milk

Toppings

- 1 tbsp sunflower seeds or any kind of seeds
- 60g goat cheese or any other cheese

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 150 degrees. Mince or finely chop garlic and rosemary.
2. Slice the mushrooms and the chard into 2 cm thick strips. Chop red onions into small cubes, about 1 cm in size.
3. Take a large pan and heat the olive oil to medium heat. The pan is ready to add other ingredients when water sizzles if you flick it on the pan.
4. Sautee red onions, garlic and rosemary in olive oil for 3-4 minutes or until onions soften and become translucent.
5. Add mushrooms, salt and pepper. Sautee until mushrooms are slightly cooked and have released their water (around 3-4 minutes). Drain off extra water.
6. Add chard and cook down for 2 minutes, stirring. We want it firm and green.
7. Whisk or blend the eggs and milk together in a separate bowl. Pour egg mixture into pan with veggies.
8. Place dollops of goat cheese on top and sprinkle the top with sunflower seeds.
9. Bake at 150 degrees for 20-30 minutes. OR reduce heat to very low and cover.
10. Cool slightly before cutting and serving.
11. Serve warm or cold, with a side of toast or a salad!

We caught up with several of our Alumni who are pursuing wonderful things, both locally and around the globe. As well as hearing about our graduates' impressive educational and career achievements, it is deeply rewarding to see the ways that they have continued to embrace the values of our founders in their lives.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Caitlin Cassidy (Class 2005)

Caitlin Cassidy has embarked on a successful career as an opera singer and is currently working with Opera Australia.

After completing Year 12, she auditioned for the classical voice program at the WA Academy of Performing Arts and was delighted to be accepted and to seize such an incredible opportunity.

The highlight of her career to date has been making her debut at the State Opera of South Australia as Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly*, which is the largest and most dramatically challenging principal role that she has tackled so far.

Caitlin says that her John XXIII education has continued to influence her life: 'I think I subconsciously try to recreate the environment I enjoyed at JTC. I remember feeling extremely supported and cared for and I hope that this is an atmosphere that I can cultivate for others, particularly young artists entering the opera and classical music world. This is certainly at the front of my mind when I teach young singers.'

Advice to her 12-year-old self *Keep playing and enjoying your music and strive for a little bit more finesse and ease every day. Don't feel you need to be the class clown in order to be liked. Exercise keeps the demons at bay!*

Chelsea Hubbard (Class 2009)

Chelsea Hubbard's journey has led her back to John XXIII College, where she is currently employed as a teacher in the Primary School.

'One of the reasons I wanted to return to the College to teach was because of the positive impact my own teachers and the College community had on shaping my personal morals and values, and I hope to have the same influence on the students I teach,' says Chelsea, who also worked at St Thomas' Primary School in Claremont for three years.

Seeing the development in her students as they grow in confidence and celebrate their successes is the highlight of Chelsea's work. In her spare time she enjoys cooking and running, and has also been brave enough to take on skydiving.

Advice to her 12-year-old self *The same advice I give to my 12-year-old students now! To take risks, and be confident and proud of who they are.*





Daniel Monks (Class 2006)

The rich cultural and performance opportunities of London beckoned to Daniel Monks, who is currently living in the United Kingdom and is soon set to star as the male lead in a West End performance of *The Seagull*.

Daniel studied at the Australian Film Television and Radio School before embarking on a dizzyingly successful career in both filmmaking and acting. He has performed in a wide range of productions on both stage and screen, including roles in BBC dramas and for Sydney Theatre Company and the acclaimed Malthouse Theatre.

Daniel has received multiple accolades for his acting, and names his proudest moment as being nominated for the Best Lead Actor in a Feature Film at the 2018 Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards for his first-ever acting role in a film that he also wrote, produced and edited. Daniel has produced films that have screened at more than 50 film festivals around the world and received numerous awards. He was named Young Filmmaker of the Year at the WA Screen Awards.

Daniel says that John XXIII College's focus on pastoral care is something that was incredibly important to him, and has influenced his life enormously: 'I really value the welfare of my colleagues and myself over the demands of the work. The work is at its best when everyone is feeling safe and supported.'

Daniel has also continued his commitment to social justice and in 2016 became an Ambassador for the Starlight Children's Foundation. In 2018 he was named Ambassador for the 'Evolution to Inclusion' float at the 40th Sydney Mardi Gras Parade.

Advice to his 12-year-old self *My 12-year-old self was having a really difficult time. I had only recently become physically disabled at age 11 and at the same time was realising that I was gay, and so felt a lot of shame around these things that I felt made me different from my friends and peers. The biggest advice I would give to my 12-year-old self is that you are perfect exactly as you are, no matter what others say, and those things that you feel are your greatest flaws are actually your greatest gifts.*

David Stokes (Class 2017)

David Stokes is currently completing a combined Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts at the University of Notre Dame Australia. While studying, he continues to work as a restaurant manager and says that the ethics and values of his John XXIII College education have influenced him profoundly in both this leadership role and in his studies.

'I've absolutely taken morals, ethics and values from JTC into my workplace,' says David. 'Working in a restaurant as a manager, it is crucial at all times to be able to put yourself in other people's shoes and have an ability to understand how they feel. This also requires a high level of competence and commitment to a job that, whilst rewarding, is quite mentally demanding at times. This also applies to my university life, particularly when it feels like you have an insurmountable number of tasks and weight on your shoulders, some of the core values and work ethics I learned and practised whilst at JTC have really helped me to just keep my head down and power through.'

David says that one of his proudest moments to date is being elected as Head Boy of 2017. 'It meant

so much to me because it showed me that I had a lot more respect amongst my year group than I had realised,' says David, 'and it gave me the opportunity to connect with the staff and student body in a way I'd never experienced.'

Advice to his 12-year-old self *If I were to give my 12-year-old self some advice, it would be to take as much advantage of all the fun, stupid, nonsensical things you get to enjoy at that age, because before you know it you're worrying about grades and marks and scaling, so enjoy the nonsensical while it lasts.*



Henry Rowbottam (Class 2016)

Henry Rowbottam is combining studies in actuarial and applied statistics at Curtin University with an internship with an independent global financial technology company, while also continuing his enjoyable casual job at Rottnest Express.

Henry recently completed the Rottnest Channel Swim with three work colleagues and raised almost \$5,000 for Alzheimer's Western Australia. 'It has always been a personal goal of mine to complete the swim in a team of four,' says Henry. 'To achieve this, as well as raise money for a cause that has affected close members of my family, is something I will be very proud of for the rest of my life.'

Henry believes that one of the greatest benefits of his John XXIII College education has been developing a love of learning and any interest in many fields. 'The broad range of subjects at the College has created a thirst for knowledge across all different areas of my life,' says Henry. 'I believe this, combined with a caring and happy learning environment, has shaped me into the young adult I am today.'

Advice to his 12-year-old self *Be yourself! There is no point in trying to be someone you are not; life is a lot more enjoyable when you are your own person.*





MUSICAL MAGIC

Offering a dynamic and exciting music education to our students has always been a vital focus at John XXIII College.

Our Music Department is acclaimed for the diverse opportunities it has provided over the years for thousands of young people to hone their musical talents, with many of our graduates going on to have stellar careers in the music industry.

Learning a musical instrument is a profoundly enjoyable and beneficial experience, and we are delighted that so many of our students are able to take advantage of this valuable opportunity. Currently over 450 students from Kindergarten to Year 12 take individual music lessons at the College.

The skilled music tutors who provide those lessons are an essential part of music education at the College; they provide a unique and personalised program for every individual.

Not only do tutors assist students with their musical growth and education; they infuse in the College a rich and diverse musical culture. Music tutors establish strong relationships with students that benefit individuals and the College as a whole, helping to grow vibrant individuals with empathy and a broader understanding of the world.

John XXIII College is extremely fortunate to have an incredible and comprehensive staff of 24 music tutors who represent a range of musical genres and professions. Many of these tutors are among the longest-standing members of College staff, and have been instrumental in shaping the Music Department and cultural heritage of the College.

We hope you enjoy these profiles of two of our much-loved tutors.

James Kros
Head of Music

David Dockery

David currently teaches singing to many of our aspiring stars of the stage and has been a much-loved fixture of College music scene for 25 years. A talented pianist and singer himself, David has an impressive musical career and is a wonderful role model and mentor for students. He received first class honours in his Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Western Australia and was awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship to study piano in London. David has performed as a concerto soloist with the University of Western Australia Symphony Orchestra, and also with the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra, as well as singing with WA Opera since 2001. He has performed as a soloist in numerous classical, opera and musical theatre productions, and has also worked as a musical director of several productions.

David greatly enjoys sharing his love of music with our aspiring College musicians, and says that he is constantly inspired by his pupils. 'Apart from seeing students improve their singing abilities, it is very exciting to watch them discover music that they are very passionate about,' says David. 'The students here continue to surprise me with their originality, passion and talent.'

For David, one of the highlights of working at John XXIII College is being involved in the musicals, and he says that *Into the Woods* will always hold a special place in his heart. He also finds it incredibly rewarding to see his former students continue with their performing arts studies and pursue careers in the field, and is a great advocate for the importance of music education in broadening students' horizons and enabling them to combine cognitive, physical and emotional abilities in the one activity.

Penny Rinaldi

Another much-loved music tutor, Penny has been teaching flute and piccolo at the College for 23 years. As well as being an inspirational teacher, Penny has gained valuable experience as a performer both in Western Australia and overseas. As a young flautist she performed and toured regularly as a member of the Western Australian Youth Orchestra, SGIO Concert Band and the Australian Wind Orchestra. Upon graduating from the University of Western Australia with first class honours in a Bachelor of Music Performance, Penny travelled to London to study with Robert Winn, the principal flute in the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. While there, she



attended the prestigious Oxford University Summer School program. Upon returning to Perth she became a member of the Fisenden Flute Ensemble, which was invited to play at both the New York and Las Vegas chapters of the National Flute Convention. Penny performs regularly in recitals and shows in and around Perth.

Penny credits her university music tutor, retired principal flute of the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra Neil Fisenden, as being one of the most important influences on her love of flute and dedication to her craft. She certainly provides the same inspiration for the students she teaches, and greatly relishes her teaching role. 'I love seeing my students achieve success through the challenges of learning an instrument, from the absolute beginner to the university-level player,' says Penny. 'Every student, who through their flute lessons finds a love of music and the joy of playing music with other people, makes me feel the hard work is worthwhile.'

Penny believes passionately in the importance of studying music for young people's development. 'Music and the application of learning a highly-skilled instrument gives so much to any student, the educational benefits of studying music are well documented,' she says. 'However, in these days of instant information and easy entertainment, one of the greatest gifts you will get from learning an instrument is the discipline of setting short, medium and long-term goals and achieving those goals. Of course, any performance-based art form is always pushing you out your comfort zone and challenging you to do something a little scary. These skills translate so well into all aspects of work, study or life in and beyond school.'



A FAMILY TRADITION

One of the greatest affirmations of the value of a John XXIII College education is when our Alumni choose to send their own children to the College. It's a powerful tribute to the holistic experience we provide here, and it is deeply gratifying to see multiple generations of families connected to the College. We caught up with two graduates who chose a John XXIII College education for their own children.

John Townsend (Class 1978)

John originally attended St Theresa's Primary School in Nedlands, and later St Louis and Loreto for the first two years after the amalgamation. John pursued a career in journalism and is currently the Chief Cricket Writer for *The West Australian* newspaper. He is also an award-winning football reporter. John's daughter Iris is currently in Year 10 at the College, and his older daughter Scarlett graduated in 2017.

What attracted you to a John XXIII College education for your own children?

My mother, uncles and aunts, my two brothers and two sisters and I all went to either St Theresa's, Loreto, St Louis or JTC. Like so many current families, we have a strong historic link to the school. My experiences made me confident that my children would benefit from going to JTC. And we were just outside the Shenton College catchment!

What is the biggest change you have noticed in the College from when you were at school?

The facilities are remarkable. Our playing fields were a long walk from school while the classrooms were cramped. No computers either. Or teachers with straps. And many kids rode their bikes to school. Even so, we might have been better off. One bugbear is the school now referring to Aussie rules as AFL. AFL is not a sport – it's a league.

Was your John XXIII College education instrumental in your current career choice?

Indirectly. I got a good education which put me on the path to my current career. Seek Justice is a powerful and inspiring motto for a journalist and I hope it has provided a good moral pointer for me.

Was there a teacher who had a big impact on your life and how?

I have vivid memories of most of my JTC teachers from Murray Graham and Ray Jackson in maths, to geography teachers Frank Owen and Pauline Bunce, the lovely Eve White in French, the ever-patient economics teacher Maureen Wong, Corky Bryant as a sometimes feisty but forever cricket-mad history teacher and even dancing teacher Mrs Lee. But my favourite was Paula Miller who was a stickler for correct grammar and an inspiration as a creative writer. She has had the biggest impact on my career and I sometimes hear her voice in my head as I start to write a sentence or ponder a subjunctive clause.

What is your favourite school memory?

Where do I start? Co-ed dance classes in Year 10; popping down Stirling Highway for a lunch-time refreshment; playing sport; the nerve-wracking first few days of the amalgamation, hearing the radio news of Gough Whitlam being sacked while we were on a school trip to the Albany whaling station. How some of the boys cheered about that with such ignorance and arrogance. Overall, I think the school's decision to take in Timorese refugees in the mid 1970s, something that would probably not happen today because they would be locked behind barbed wire, provided the proudest memory.

Is co-education important to you? Why?

Yes. It provides a more rounded experience. I have two fairly forthright sisters so I was rarely short of female opinions but I think I benefited from getting to know the Loreto girls once the two schools joined.

And it provides plenty of material for our reunions now.

How are you living the John XXIII College values and how are you instilling these in your children?

With a Jesuit strap! No, that's a joke for those who survived the Brothers. We simply try to bring up our children as decent human beings who consider and respect others as much as themselves. And to be willing to stand up if they see an injustice. I think these values are aligned with those of JTC.

Have you seen the Master Plan for John XXIII College, and if yes, what are your thoughts?

Yes. It is a little overwhelming to see the little school where I started now operating on such a massive campus. That's progress I guess. Though I would love to see a turf cricket pitch installed on the oval.

Meneesha Michalka (Class 1998)

Meneesha pursued a career in the law after graduation, working in private practice before becoming a State Prosecutor at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions of Western Australia in 2005, and then commencing her own criminal law practice. She is also an appointed member of the Medical Board of Australia and a Governor of the University of Notre Dame Australia, and in 2019 was appointed to the University's Law Advisory Board. Meneesha is the Secretary of the Centre for Attitudinal Healing in Perth and is a local and international public speaker in the area of mental health. Meneesha's daughter Grace is in Year 1 and her son Joseph attends Pre-Kindy.

What attracted you to a John XXIII College education for your children?

I look back at JTC with immense gratitude for the well-rounded education and pastoral care I received as a student. I have that same feeling of gratitude that my children are lucky enough to attend the same school that I did. I see how much they are cared for and nurtured as individuals and the values that are being supported in their lives and I couldn't imagine them being anywhere else!

What is the biggest change you have noticed in the College from when you were at school?

The early education area for sure! In Years 1 to 3 we had a giant sandpit to play in outside and not much



else! I'm so very grateful for the incredible resources and playspaces that my kids get to experience. Also when I was in Year 1 I remember the trees lining the main entrance path had just been planted; they were tiny seedlings. I still get a kick out of seeing them fully grown now.

Was your John XXIII College education instrumental in your current career choice?

Absolutely. From a young age I was driven to be of service in my profession. John XXIII College fostered that drive in me and showed me ways in which it could be applied to my current profession in law.

Was there a teacher who had a big impact on your life and how?

Like many before and after me, Ron Lloyd gave me a love of literature and learning generally. To this day

I still find myself citing some of his more infamous lines! Also my Year 3 teacher Miss Poncini instilled in me from an early age a belief that I could do absolutely anything I set my mind to.

What is your favourite school memory?

I have lots of happy memories from JTC; it's hard to pick one! Singing in the Madrigal Group (now the Chamber Choir) under the direction of Toni Strong definitely had many highlights. Another favourite memory was in Year 11 a few of the girls were given the opportunity to hike through the Kalbarri gorges for seven days. It was such a brilliant experience that stretched me physically and emotionally, and was something truly unforgettable.

Favourite College tradition from your time in school that still exists today?

John XXIII Day. Though the Mucky Duck Bush Band is long gone, the celebration and excitement of that day lives on!

Is co-education important to you? Why?

For my kids I love that a co-educational environment is a reflection of the real world. Both sexes have so much to offer in their different perspectives and views of the world. I think having an educational environment that recognises these differences and creates an appreciation and respect for them is hugely important.

How are you living the John XXIII College values and how are you instilling these in your children?

A commitment to social justice is something that was very much a part of my educational experience at John XXIII. This is something that has always been at the forefront of my career and family life since leaving school. As a family we volunteer together, we donate time and resources together and I like to think that we are instilling in our children that same commitment to social justice that was introduced to me as a child.

Pip Corry-Thomas (Class 2015)

EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY

Alumni Pip Corry-Thomas (Class 2015) has passionately embraced the College's dual focus on excellence and the pursuit of social justice in her nursing career and volunteer work in Australia and worldwide. Following graduation Pip received a Curtin Excellence Scholarship, which is awarded to students who have demonstrated academic excellence in their Year 12 studies. Pip continued to receive academic accolades during her nursing studies at Curtin University, earning a place on the Vice Chancellor's list for the top one percent of undergraduate students across all disciplines at the university. Pip was also awarded the Western Australian Nurses Memorial Charitable Trust Olive Anstey Award, which honours the most outstanding student graduating with a Bachelor of Science (Nursing).

As well as her clear commitment to academic excellence, Pip has a strong devotion to social justice and to using her own talents for the benefit of those around her. Since graduation, she has devoted significant amounts of her time to various charities. Her volunteer work with the Edmund Rice Camps, which provide fun-filled holiday camps for vulnerable children, led her to develop an interest in the field of child protection. Pip worked for the Department of Child Protection and Family Support for two and half years as a residential care worker, caring for children who had been removed from their families due to abuse or neglect.

Pip also travelled to Tanzania as a nursing volunteer, working in a national hospital and several remote clinics with limited healthcare resources and

access. While in Tanzania, she also spent time at an orphanage for children who have lost their families due to HIV/AIDS, and provided women's health education at a remote school. This experience powerfully affirmed Pip's belief that everyone is entitled to basic healthcare, and she looks forward to sharing the skills and knowledge she is rapidly acquiring through her current full-time role as a registered nurse on an acute speciality ward at Perth Children's Hospital in countries that lack adequate healthcare. This passion for improving healthcare equity worldwide has led Pip to recently become involved in fundraising for the Loanialu Clinic, which is a health clinic that provides essential healthcare to an isolated community on a remote island in Vanuatu and currently operates out of a tin shed. Pip also recently organised a fundraiser for the Motor Neurone Disease Association through the John Curtin Leadership Academy.

Life has not been without its challenges for Pip, who became deaf in one ear, and experienced significant hearing loss in the other. She received a bone conduction implant and believes that the quest to become herself again and to embrace new opportunities after facing such a significant challenge is one of her proudest achievements. She has now become actively involved in raising awareness and funding for hearing loss.

In her spare time Pip enjoys playing sports, spending time at the beach and with friends and family and attending sign language classes.

HERITAGE