



JOHN XXIII  
COLLEGE  
SEEK JUSTICE

# HERITAGE

OUR AMAZING ALUMNI

## **IMPROVISING A CAREER**

PETER LUCKAS



# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Improvements to our magnificent campus are taking shape at an incredibly busy and exciting time for the College.

Our Ignatius Centre (Library) refurbishment has already been very well received by our students and we look forward to finishing our 'A' Block (10 classrooms) renovations and creating a wonderful new staff building by the end of this year. Our existing staffroom will be converted to a Wellbeing Centre and our current Administration Block will house our Uniform Shop and our Marketing Team. There are exciting times ahead.

With the extensive consultation process associated with our Building Program, a constant theme has been to ensure that our Catholicity, charisms and heritage are celebrated and maintained. We look forward to future editions of *Heritage* showcasing our exciting developments.

I have spent time at Loreto and Jesuit gatherings in recent months as our networks have taken the opportunity to meet in person given the opening of borders. The Loreto Province Leader, Sr Wendy Hildebrand ibvm, emphasised the importance of community when she mentioned:

**'We should never do alone what we can do together.'**

Recent Jesuit gatherings centred on Catholic identity.

The Jesuit and Companion Schools (JACSA) includes rectors (priests), principals and senior staff from Jesuit Education Australia. We were led through a 'spiritual conversation' with a prayerful focus on listening intently to others.

The question of how we maintain our Catholic identity was the topic for discernment.

The reality is that, for most members of our school communities, their sense of Church is through their school. The facilitator very skilfully focused on the opportunities that our students have to engage in the faith life of the school through liturgical and Christian service opportunities. Seeing the

presence of God in ourselves and others through our daily actions is very much part of Ignatian philosophy.

The Loreto Sisters commenced their mission in Perth in 1897, so this year we are celebrating 125 years of service to the community. The Loreto influence extends through our College and also Loreto Nedlands. The other schools around the nation are girls' schools, so our state is unique in its expression of the Loreto charism.

In both networks, there was a strong sense of gratitude for the wonderful students, staff and parents in our communities. Too often we learn of all the ills and failings of our society and people of my generation can often yearn for the 'better days' of the past. Often those comments are made with rose-coloured glasses.

Quite simply, our Catholic schools are far better now than when I was a child of the 70s. We make mistakes regularly but we get a lot right as well.

There is wonderful reading in the pages ahead as we celebrate our heritage, provide vivid examples of our faith in action, acknowledge our Alumni and focus on some recent College successes.

As many of you may be aware, I leave John XXIII College at the end of this year to take up the appointment as Principal at my alma mater Aquinas College. It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to be part of the College community and my experiences over the past seven years have enriched me immensely. Playing a part in the journey of this incredible community, and particularly getting to know so many of our wonderful Alumni, has been a true honour.

I thank everyone who has contributed to the success and vibrancy of our College community this year, and extend my best wishes for a spirit-filled and peaceful Christmas.

**Robert Henderson**  
Principal



## Alumni Development

Being an active part of your Alumni Association opens up so many doors and provides a huge range of opportunities to enhance your professional connections, join a global network of graduates from over 40 countries, become a mentor or be mentored, develop skills and boost your CV. It's all one click away at [alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au](http://alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au)

The John XXIII Foundation and Alumni Association have organised a large number of events to encourage community connection this year. These include our much-loved reunions, sporting events (including rowing, sailing, netball, footy, golf, tennis and hockey), music events and drama performances with George Tsakisiris at the helm. A special celebration for grandparents in the Primary School was enormously popular, and many Alumni embraced their love of the arts at the College Art Exhibition. Several events were organised in collaboration with the Loreto Past Pupils, and we greatly value our ongoing relationship with them.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of some of our Alumni this year; many too young and with so much more to give. May they rest in peace. Our All Souls Mass remembers and honours those of our graduates who have passed away.

This year also marks 125 Years of Loreto in Western Australia. We are enormously grateful for the incredible ministry and wonderful contributions made by the Loreto Sisters across our vast state. It was the pioneering spirit of Mother Gonzaga Barry and her fellow sisters, who arrived in Perth in 1896 to investigate the possibility of founding a convent and school, that is the beginning of our story.

It is always so pleasing reading about Alumni living their lives with the values so fundamental to the College; to seek justice, speak from the heart and be of good mind. My office is littered with newspaper cuttings, books written by and about Alumni, emails from proud parents and memorabilia from days gone by. If you are interested in contributing, please email me and arrange a time to come in and join me for a coffee or tea, or flick me an email at: [anna.gingell@cewa.edu.au](mailto:anna.gingell@cewa.edu.au) or call the Alumni Office on 9383 0520.

We hope to see many of our Alumni at the Christmas Carols event planned for 25 November on our beautifully manicured College chapel lawn, and we wish all members of our community a happy and holy Christmas.

**Anna Gingell nee Muir (Class 1978)**

Alumni Development

## Help find lost Alumni

As part of our efforts to stay in touch with our extended College family, we are always looking to expand our Alumni database. Can you help?

[alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au/#missingmembers](http://alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au/#missingmembers)

This page lists all those people in your year group who we don't have current contact details for. If you can help us get in touch with any of these Alumni, just click on the word 'lost' under their name. You can also click on other options at the top of the page to search for missing Alumni from other year groups.

### 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 [alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au](http://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](mailto:Anna.Gingell@cewa.edu.au)

## Stay connected

-  Alumni: [JohnXXIIICollegeAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/JohnXXIIICollegeAlumni)
-  Alumni: [alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au](http://alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au)
-  College: [linkedin.com/school/johnxxiiicollege](https://www.linkedin.com/school/johnxxiiicollege)
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# LAUNCHING OUR NEW LIBRARY



The capital development program at John XXIII College has always been focused on developing the best possible contemporary learning and teaching spaces. Rather than just creating impressive buildings, all of our facilities planning applies the best-practice, research and evidence-based principles of educational design.

Our incredible new College Library represents an innovative embrace of contemporary educational facility design, and has fulfilled the goal of creating a vibrant learning environment that students want to engage with. Architects TRCB, who have been integral to the development of our College Master Plan, have created an innovative and flexible space that includes a wide range of different features including a student café, an innovation hub, a reading 'snug', an outdoor learning area and an impressive variety of study spaces.

'The College really pushed the student-centric focus of the project brief,' says TRCB Associate and project architect Josh Mangan. This has resulted in the northern elevation, previously occupied by staff offices, being given back to students for collaborative learning. Generally, the learning spaces are located to the perimeter, taking advantage of the 'building-in-the-round' setting that the Library is afforded, increasing the natural light and outlook for both the students and staff. The spaces within the Library are varied, achieving a balance between private study spaces as well as contemporary collaborative working spaces.

These spaces are then again varied, for example a sitting group study room, a standing group study room and open group study areas, all with variance in scale. By bringing the senior student common room to the Library the College has enabled the facility to extend its hours of operation. We also made sure that all spaces are tech-rich, and support the College's flexible pedagogical approach. The spaces are warm and welcoming, with a focus on natural materials, daylight, and generosity of space.

The new Library has become a sought-after location for students to gather and learn independently and collaboratively and staff are thrilled with the way that students have embraced the new space and engaged with the opportunities it provides.

## Building the future

The new College Library is just one of the many exciting developments we have planned. All contributions to our Building Fund help to make these plans reality, and enhance the learning experience for future generations of our students. All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible and your contribution will allow us to fast-track our 20-year Master Plan.

If you are interested in making a donation please visit [foundation.johnxxiii.edu.au/building](https://foundation.johnxxiii.edu.au/building) or call Kate Murphy on 0403 345 662.







# OUR PAST OUR FUTURE



In recent times, studies of effective and transformative leadership have shown that the most successful leaders make use of the foundational stories and iconic heritage elements of their organisations to inspire and galvanise those around them and to enliven and enhance their strategies. Stories of identity and narratives that help unite individuals around shared beliefs and values to define both where they have come from and where they are headed, are enormously powerful for high-performing organisations of all kinds.

At John XXIII College we are fortunate in the richness and strength of our Founders, and it is this unique heritage that our new College Council Chair, Dr Courtenay Harris, plans to make excellent use of in guiding the College into the future.

The College was delighted when Courtenay, who has been a valued member of Council for the past nine years, accepted this leadership position. During her time on Council, Courtenay has also held roles on the Faith and Mission Committee and as Deputy Chair. A parent at the College for the last 22 years, with the youngest of her four children, Jemima, in Year 12 this year, Courtenay has a deep understanding of our heritage and the way that it is lived out in the College. 'I really value the Ignatian tradition of *cura personalis* and the care of the whole person, and that will certainly be behind our focus on our Catholic identity and delivering a child-centred education

and looking at strategies around learning and teaching, and health and wellbeing for our whole community.'

As well as her extensive knowledge of the College heritage, Courtenay is a highly-respected occupational therapist in the field of child health and is currently the



Dr Courtenay Harris





Deputy Head of the School of Allied Health at Curtin University. She is also involved in a major research project funded by the Australian Research Council, The Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child, which is aimed at investigating and supporting young children to be healthy, educated and connected in a digital world.

Courtenay and the rest of Council, along with the College Leadership Team, will be continuing to work on the Strategic Plan, which will help to shape the future of the College for the next five years, and beyond.

Another part of Courtenay's remit will be to lead the selection committee for the appointment of our next College Principal. Rob Henderson is leaving us to take up the new appointment as Aquinas College Principal, and we are enormously grateful for the profound contributions he has made to our College over the last seven years.

'We will be searching for an outstanding educational leader who is able to continue to strengthen the Catholic identity of the College,' says Courtenay. 'It's very true that the overall ethos of a school is shaped by the principal, so it will be very important to find a candidate who has an intimate understanding of our Ignatian spirit and an ability to translate that to every level of the College's operation.'

One of the challenges ahead for Council will be addressing the ongoing sustainability of the College in the face of the significant changes in federal funding that will take place in 2024, which will result in John XXIII College receiving less government funding. 'We are in an incredibly strong position to face this situation,' says Courtenay, 'and we have an exceptionally experienced and skilled Finance and Risk Committee, Council, Principal and Business Manager, and have spent a lot of time looking at how we integrate these impending changes of funding.'



Courtenay believes that the path ahead for the College is incredibly exciting. 'It's currently the season of Djilba, which for the Noongar people, is a season of renewal, conception and growth,' says Courtenay. 'In the same way, I look around me and I see these enormous opportunities for renewal and growth at the College. We are in such an incredibly strong position, our community is so committed, our staff are so skilled and our students are so engaged. Our campus is so beautiful and our Master Plan is coming to life. It's a perfect time to build on all the good work done in the past, and to look to the future.'

We congratulate Courtenay on her new position, and thank her for being willing to take on this very important role. We also take the opportunity to thank outgoing Council Chair, Mr Julius Matthys, for his outstanding contribution to the effective governance of John XXIII College.



Mary Ward, as represented in bronze on campus





# ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY

Taking him from post-war Kuwait to assess compensation from the Iraqi invasion, to working with Indigenous communities, to designing ways to manage seized quarantine items, the career journey of **David Barter (Class 1998)** has been anything but ordinary.

David attended John XXIII College from 1987 to 1998, along with his twin sister Gemma, and followed by his younger sisters Alice and Rosemarie. He immensely enjoyed his time at the College and was particularly inspired by many of the staff members he encountered. 'I had some fantastic teachers,' says David, 'and while it's hard to mention all of them across a 12-year period, some of the key influencers for me were Mr Jago (Year 3, 1989) for engaging our interest in the outdoors and being an early adopter of sustainability and Miss Shaw (Year 6, 1992), who ran an incredible Rottneest camp and

encouraged me to start sailing (I represented John XXIII College in the school sailing championships in 1994 with Matt Lumb, Aidan Broderick and John Rodgers). During high school there were many inspiring teachers including Mr Brad Watson (Chemistry and Electronics), Mrs Webster (Maths) and Mrs Swan (English), Mr Antulov (eventually promoted to Vice Principal). I also need to mention Mr Weeks, guitar teacher and all-round riff master for myself and a lot of my mates under his tutelage.'

A keen athlete, David played most sports, and was elected Sports Captain for Loreto. In addition, he was involved in the rowing program, which started during his secondary school years and was a member of First VIII rowing crew.

David remembers the camaraderie of his time at school, and still stays in touch with many of his friends. He was



also particularly grateful for the support from the College community that he and his family received when his father, Michael, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer just before he and Gemma commenced their final exams in 1998. During university he maintained his connections with the College as an athletics coach, and study tutor for Year 12 students.

David holds degrees in Engineering and Science from Murdoch University and University of New South Wales and has completed postgraduate studies in Project Management and Systems Engineering. His career path has been significant, with a deployment to Kuwait with the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) as soon as he had finished his last university exam. David was employed as a Field Engineer and Project Manager assessing post-war compensation damages, including for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait during the First Gulf War. This highly complex role included liaison and communication at international government level and David's comprehensive documentation of the damage and subsequent impact contributed to the successful outcome of the claim, with approximately US\$3 billion awarded.

After returning to Australia, David worked for URS Corporation (now AECOM) across a variety of roles, including as National Defence Engineering Manager, and also as the Defence Business Line Manager – Asia Pacific. David currently works for Beca, which is a multi-disciplinary engineering and management advisory firm, as the Business Director of the Defence and National Security market. Beca employs 3800 staff and delivers projects across Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

One of David's most recent professional challenge involved leading a partnership with the Indigenous Defence and Infrastructure Consortium (iDiC), an Indigenous-owned and Indigenous-controlled organisation which supports around 120 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander projects through the delivery of long-term Defence and infrastructure projects. Through this strategic partnership, David was able to help bring about meaningful change in term of enhancing Indigenous businesses and upskilling the Indigenous workforce.

David's enormous contributions to his field, and to Australian business and community in general have been recognised at the highest levels. He recently received the prestigious invitation-only Engineering Executive (EngExec) credential, reserved for members of Engineers Australia who have played a significant role in driving leadership and management as engineering professionals in Australia, and hold executive positions in the private or public sector. He also recently received status as a

Fellow (the highest level of membership with Engineers Australia), which carries a recognition of eminence within the engineering profession. David was also recently nominated for and shortlisted for Consultant of the Year at the Australian Defence Industry Awards.

The extensive research that David conducted for a project where he provided a solution to the Royal Australian Navy, Border Force and the Northern Territory Government to manage both seized quarantine items and clinical waste has formed a significant contribution to academia in this field, with the publication of a paper by David and a co-author titled 'Is High Temperature Incineration the Solution for Managing Quarantine and Clinical Wastes in Darwin?'

David is currently developing a future sustainment strategy for all of Defence's maritime assets, and has recently led the data analysis and remediation for over 1.2 million assets to allow the Commonwealth's SAP-based system to reach its full potential and inform the future Base Service Contracts (currently a \$1.2B OPEX spend per annum).

David says that the highlights of his job are solving problems for his clients and genuinely pursuing interesting projects to partner with his clients on. When asked about the challenges ahead in his industry, David says that the unprecedented worldwide volatility has certainly created a range of challenges. 'On a global level we find ourselves in testing times with the continued disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the illegal invasion of Ukraine and growing tension in the Pacific, all impacting Australia's long-term security and prosperity. Domestically (and in relation to running a business) the political landscape continues to shift, as do the priorities for investment. While we are a firm of 3800 it can be difficult competing as an Australian private company versus the larger global multi-national firms, and particularly with an ongoing war for talent in the professional services sector.'

David lives in Manly on Sydney's Northern Beaches with his wife Luz, son Salvador and daughter Bonnie. They have recently renovated a house near Manly beach which is close enough for David to surf North Steyne regularly in addition to coaching his son's AFL team, the Manly Bombers. Luz is originally from Argentina so the family plans to spend some time travelling in South America after being unable to travel for so long during COVID-19.

David says that his time at John XXIII College is indelibly etched in his memory and he hopes that his children will have the same opportunity to experience a Jesuit education.





# SHARING HOMES AND LIVES

Welcoming the stranger is one of the key tenets of our social justice values, and the Catholic Church has a long history of commitment to, and care for, migrants and refugees. Watching the unfolding horrors of the Russian invasion of Ukraine prompted one of our College families to put their belief in solidarity with the stranger into action by welcoming a Ukrainian refugee family into their lives.

Vanessa Reside nee Whitehand (Class 2000) says that she was moved to tears when the war in Ukraine started: 'We wanted to help, but aside from giving money, we didn't know how'. Vanessa connected with another John XXIII College parent, Barb Fullerton, who told her that she was offering her home to a Ukrainian family and put Vanessa in touch with others who were raising funds to assist Ukrainian families to come to Australia. Vanessa and her wider family decided that they wanted to be actively involved, and through local contacts and the organisation Ukraine Take Shelter, they were allocated a family consisting of Olena and her two children Vlad (11) and Yehor (18 months). Olena's husband Volodymyr – a surgeon – stayed behind in Ukraine to work, volunteer and support his country.

The family moved in with Vanessa's parents in Cottesloe, who were able to convert the top floor of their house into living quarters for the family. Vanessa has been intensively involved in supporting the family and helping them to set up new lives in Australia, and her children Banjo, Hamish and Olive (all currently John XXIII College primary students) have become firm friends with Vlad and Yehor.

Vanessa says that the experience has been an extraordinary one for everyone involved: 'I feel truly blessed that Olena, Vlad and Yehor have come into our lives. Olena will be a friend for life and I hope that one day, we can visit her in Ukraine and see her country, family and friends.'

'Olena, Volodymyr, Vlad and Yehor lived a very similar life to ours. They both value education, work incredibly hard and have recently built their family home in a small town near Kyiv. Olena is a pharmacist, most recently working on an oncology ward as a supply chain director. Volodymyr is a trained surgeon who now works as the managing director of an international clinical trials company. They love to travel and work hard so they can enjoy holidays abroad; just like your average Australian





family. They knew there was a risk of war starting but truly did not think it would happen in the centre of modern Europe.'

'We have learned a lot about Ukraine and Russia. We are also very aware of the atrocities that are occurring every day in Ukraine, horrible things that our media does not cover. Olena has lost family members and friends. Although she is a long way from the war, living a nice life here in Perth, it affects her tremendously and we see the pain in her eyes. Olena and her husband do not have much, however, what they do have they share with others. On numerous occasions, I have learned that Olena and Volodymyr have given their savings to families in need; families who have lost their father, husband or brother.'

Olena is working hard studying English, spending hours each day teaching herself new words and chatting with her host family. Vlad is attending North Cottesloe Primary School, where he recently received a merit award for being top of the class in a maths test; an incredible achievement given that English is his third language.

Vanessa says that the community has been incredibly generous: 'There have been many people who have delivered food, clothes, toys and vouchers. People have offered their time, their expertise and their friendship. Rob Henderson and the Foundation have also been wonderful, making a place for Vlad at John XXIII College in Year 7 for 2023.'

**Our lives changed at 5am on February 24. I woke up my children when I heard the first missiles fall in Kyiv. Our windows were shaking; I was really scared. I still**

don't know how I managed to put my two children, my old mum and cat in the car and then drive hundreds of kilometres under constant red air alerts, through traffic jams, military checkpoints, with a shortage of fuel in a cold, snowy winter. But I was lucky I had to drive for only four days. I shared the road with thousands of Ukrainians who were trying to save their children, elderly parents, and pets. I saw people carrying their goldfish. Many people were escaping on buses, trains, bicycles and even on foot.

We were raising our children, saving money for their education, building our new home and making plans for our future. We finished building our house just one week before the war started. But after February 24, bombs were exploding near our home and the only thing we could do was run away as far and as fast as possible.

I was moved to tears when Vlad told me that he doesn't know exactly what the war is but he is sure that this is the worst thing that could ever happen. He misses his father very much and struggles not knowing when they are going to meet again. He suffers when suddenly realising that his friends, cat and school are far away and he doesn't have a home anymore.

We had to put our whole lives in a suitcase and come, but we have incredible people who surrounded us and helped us with everything we needed for the first time. Millions of Ukrainians have lost their homes, friends, jobs and dreams. Thousands have lost their lives and every day hundreds are being killed. But life continues and with such wonderful support from around the world, we have no doubt victory will be ours.

Olena Riabets



Vlad and Olive





# 125 YEARS OF LORETO

**This year marks 125 years of the presence of the Loreto Sisters in Western Australia; a period in which they have made a profound contribution to education in our state. Mother Mary Gonzaga Barry once challenged those around her to 'Leave something behind on which others can build.' The Loreto Sisters have certainly answered this call with their enduring legacy in Western Australia and beyond. We thank the Loreto Sisters for their extraordinary contribution, and celebrate this significant milestone with them.**

**Sr Libby Rogerson ibvm has written this fascinating overview of Loreto education in Western Australia.**

From its very beginning, the history of Loreto's involvement in Western Australia's education has been characterised by flexibility, innovation and response to need. How else to explain the purchase of a hotel to house a second school so soon after establishing Perth's Loreto School in Adelaide Terrace? The Osborne Hotel was purchased by Mother Mary Gonzaga Barry and opened in 1901. She saw it as beneficial for the students because it was surrounded by beauty, but too grand for the sisters, so their quarters were stripped of all the hotel's embellishments.

Invited by Archbishop Patrick Clune to open a university hostel for women, the said Archbishop, obviously lacking Mother Mary Gonzaga Barry's financial acumen, claimed poverty, and the land was duly bought by the Province Leader, Mother Teresa Gertrude, who took out a bank loan for 3000 pounds. Nedlands was developing as an attractive suburb for young families, and at the Archbishop's urging, plans were laid not for a university hostel, but for a school. While the Archbishop may have cited straitened circumstances, it is doubtful he lived in the conditions of the Loreto Sisters in those early days with their fruit-box furniture and a reliance on generous families, the Loreto past students and the Claremont and Adelaide Terrace communities for food and support. A local lady, Mrs Foley, supplied eggs every week 'because the nuns could not afford to buy them.'

If flexibility, innovation and response to need characterised the Loreto Sisters' approach to education, so too did an ability to resist the excessive demands of various clerics. Bishop Gibney, having run the diocese into near bankruptcy, thought it appropriate that his name be on the title deeds of Loreto Claremont but Mother Mary Gonzaga Barry would not allow it. Fr Edward



Moss, the new parish priest of Nedlands in 1931, was of the opinion that a convent school was one controlled by the parish priest, and that the role of nuns in a parish was to prepare the altar, do the flowers and clean the church! The local Superior refused but was partly overruled by a more compliant Mother General who directed the sisters to accede to his requirements regarding the church and to go along with his plans for the sisters to staff the local parish school, St Theresa's, but resisted him controlling Loreto Nedlands School.

It is interesting to note that the idea of building a university hostel did not come to fruition, but one Loreto Sister, Sr Veronica Brady ibvm, had a profound influence on the teaching of English at the University of Western Australia. As an academic, writer and broadcaster, Veronica is considered one of the chief champions of Australian literature, introducing her students to the delights of Patrick White, Randolph Stowe and Judith Wright. Often described as 'the larrikin nun' and seen cycling through the streets of Perth, she was passionate in her support for First Nations People and those on the margins. On hearing of Veronica's death in 2015, the Western Australian author Gail Jones wrote: 'What words are adequate to demonstrate her radical effect in the world; her utterly distinctive presence, her spiritual energy and the intensity she brought, over years, to her learning and teaching, her capacity for friendship, love and abiding affections. She praised the world idiosyncratically. Her theology was eccentric. She was so much larger than her body.'

In Perth more requests, requiring a great deal of flexibility and not a little innovation, were made by Archbishop Prendiville. With a car provided by the

Bishop, but very few resources, Sr Kathleen Brennan ibvm and Sr Anna Gaha ibvm drove each day from Nedlands to Thornlie, establishing the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School in 1965. For 25 years the Loreto Sisters provided principals for this rapidly expanding school, which outgrew its original site and became a two-stream school in the 1980s. During that time, avoiding the increasingly tedious to-and-fro driving between Nedlands and Thornlie, a Loreto community was established in Thornlie. The next Archbishop of Perth, Lancelot Goody, divided the archdiocese into clusters and Sr Marg Finlay ibvm, Sr Louise Ritchard ibvm and Sr Anne Byrne ibvm took over St Francis Xavier School in Armadale in 1970. Six years later Sr Mary O'Brien ibvm and Sr Myrene Erdman ibvm became the founding principals of the new primary schools in Kelmscott and Willetton. With rapidly growing communities, limited resources, and enormous changes, not only in education but in a post-Vatican II Church, the scene was described as 'exhilarating and ground-breaking.'

### Journeying north

A significant development in the history of Loreto's engagement in Western Australian education was an invitation from Bishop Jobst to take over St Mary's School in Broome. In 1973 Sr Mary-Ellen McCormack ibvm and Sr Myrene Erdman ibvm took on the running of the primary school and they were later joined by Sr Angela Slattery ibvm and Sr Mary Roarty ibvm. Reflecting on 18 years of Loreto engagement in Broome, Angela said that it was hard and remote, attracting 'eccentrics, mavericks and saviours.'

Some 12 years later Bishop Jobst had another request; could some sisters come and run a parish school in the troubled community of Djarindjin Lombadina?



Bus stop at the front of St Louis, 1977.



Loreto Chapel



With much courage and little preparation Sr Francine Roberts ibvm and Sr Mary Prunty ibvm began the school with an enrolment of 25 students. The school grew and secondary classes were added. The school was seen as a central hub and connector with the local community. Other

sisters came and went, including Sr Margie Bourke ibvm, but Sr Francine ibvm remained until 1998 when the Loreto Sisters left Lombadina. In their wake the newly established Mary Ward International Australia, the aid and development agency of the Loreto Sisters, began a project to fund Reading Recovery programs in Catholic schools across the Kimberley.

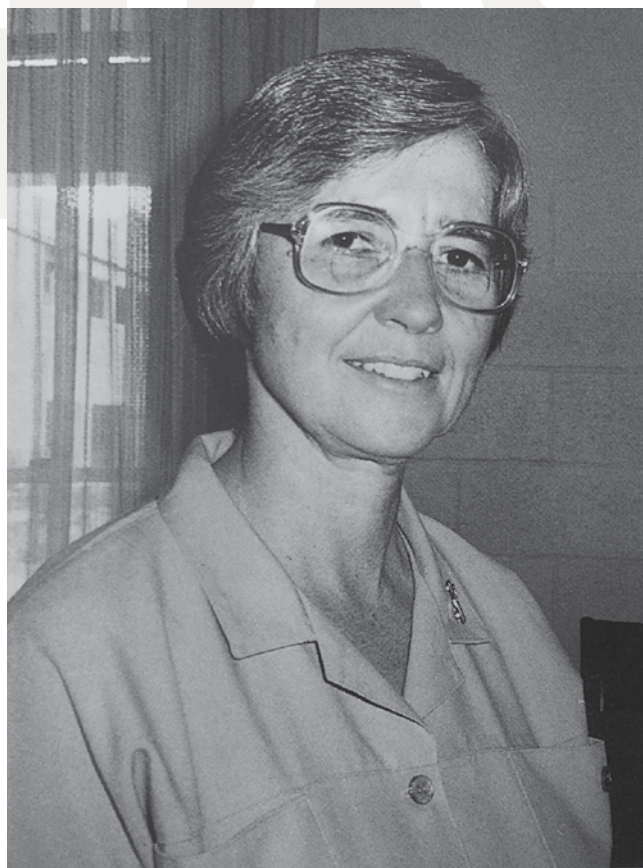
Loreto education in Western Australia was not strictly confined to schooling. On her return from seven years working in India, Sr Pauline Prince ibvm moved to Looma in the Kimberley. As a nutritionist, Pauline was initially engaged with problems of alcoholism and poor diet, but soon became involved in fighting for better living conditions and increased self-esteem. In an interview with Pauline, Mary Ryllis Clark, the author of *Loreto in Australia*, noted that she 'struggled continually with bureaucracy, racism and incomprehensible opposition from outsiders'. Sr Peg Flynn ibvm, the renowned and creative principal of Loreto Koolyangarra Primary School, moved on her retirement to the rural town of Gnowangerup where she became an important member of the community, running what she called her 'Youth and Homemaker Centre'. Sr Peg kept a detailed diary, later published as *Peg's Diary*, giving a vivid picture of her daily interactions with the Noongar people, her story books for Noongar children and her struggles with bureaucracy and racism.

St Brigid's Loreto boarding block



The Koolyangarra Dove at Loreto

For some years sisters from the Nedlands community travelled north during the school holidays to the remote mining towns of Dampier and Tom Price to provide religious instruction for the local children. In more recent times Sr Ellen Moran ibvm joined a Good Samaritan Sister, Anna Warlow, bringing retreats, catechetics, prayer, home and hospital visits to the people of Three Springs, near Geraldton, and the outlying areas.



Sr Denise Desmarchelier ibvm

### A new era begins

Changes in education, curriculum requirements and limited enrolments, particularly in the Jesuit school St Louis, initiated conversations on the possible amalgamation of Loreto Claremont and St Louis. Heated conversations erupted among past students of both schools. Would the boys dominate the girls? Would love





affairs impede studies? How would the boys be disciplined as corporal punishment was not possible in a co-educational school? Trial classes involving teachers from both schools began in the mid-70s and the amalgamation of the two schools as John XXIII College with Fr Daven Day sj as principal and Sr Bernadette Ziesing ibvm as deputy principal was completed by the opening of the school year in 1977.

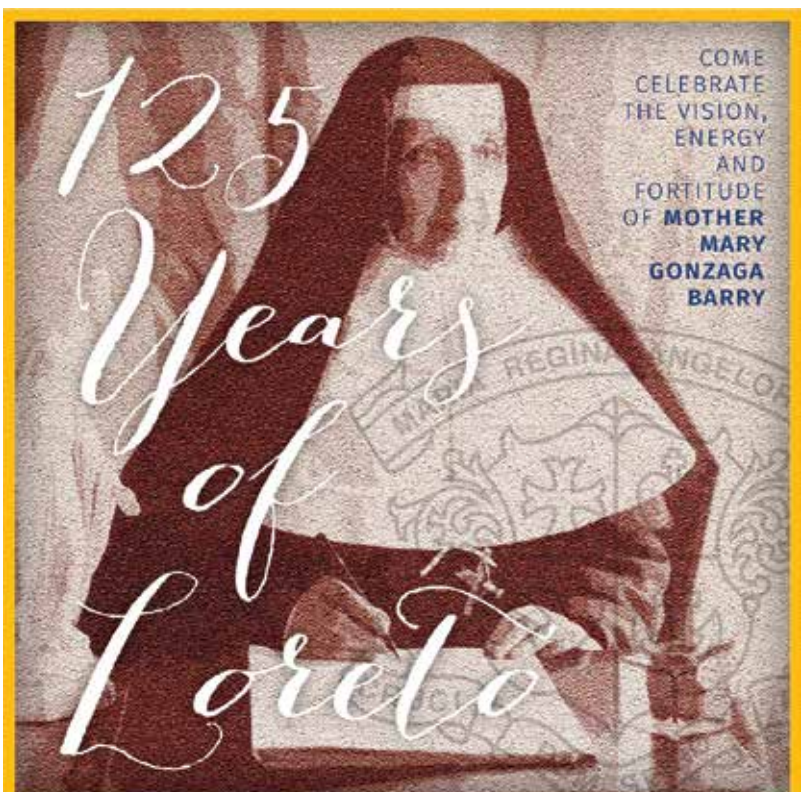
With classes on both campuses, a nightmare timetable, and infinite possibilities for students to become 'lost' negotiating Stirling Highway between the two schools, flexibility and innovation were never more needed. It was Sr Denise Desmarchelier ibvm, principal from 1979, who recognised the impossible demands of a multi-campus school and began seeking land for a new school. In 1986 the new and beautifully-designed John XXIII College, with over 1000 children from Kindergarten to Year 12, was opened in Mount Claremont on the site formerly known as Graylands.

Through all the years of growth and change the Loreto Past Pupils' Association has been a constant in the life of Loreto in Western Australia. If it was bread and eggs for the Nedlands sisters in the 1930s or student awards for Loreto Nedlands and John XXIII students in the 2000s, this loyal band of hard-working, generous women have, over the past 125 years, continued to love

and support Loreto education and we are more grateful than words can convey.

125 years of commitment to education in all its forms is something indeed to celebrate. A commitment lived out in the lives of so many staff members from the pioneering sisters in Adelaide Terrace through to Rika and her Loreto Nedlands staff in 2022. A capacity to take up and let go, to immerse and leave, to hand on. A commitment characterised by a following of the Gospels, an appreciation of Ignatian spirituality and a living out of the Mary Ward values of freedom, justice, sincerity, verity and felicity.

*Sr Libby Rogerson ibvm taught at John XXIII College from 1978 to 1982. She returned to live at Loreto Nedlands from 1991 to 1992 while she was Pastoral Chaplain at Murdoch University.*



**Friday 18 November, 6pm-8pm**

Gonzaga Barry Lecture Theatre, John XXIII College

Join us for a special event to celebrate the vision, energy and fortitude of Mother Mary Gonzaga Barry. Marking 125 years of Loreto in WA, Sr Sandra Perrett ibvm will share stories of the remarkable founder of Loreto education in Australia. Mother Mary Gonzaga Barry arrived in Ballarat from Ireland in 1875 with her nine companions. Together they established Catholic primary and secondary schools in Ballarat and, soon after, around Australia. Her vision for the education of girls influenced the development of education in this country. Please do join us for complimentary wine and cheese and an evening of true inspiration.

**RSVP at [www.trybooking.com/949472](http://www.trybooking.com/949472)**





# CARING FOR CREATION

As part of the global bicentenary jubilee celebrations of the Loreto Sisters, the order has called upon all provinces to undertake an ecological project to bear witness to our care of creation, and embrace Pope Francis' second encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which is focused on protection of our planet.

John XXIII College students, staff and broader community, along with others in the Loreto network, were invited to take part in this inspiring environmental initiative. The College hosted three tree planting events with members of our community honouring the Irish heritage of our province by greening the world for a more sustainable future.

*'Although the post-industrial period may well be remembered as one of the most irresponsible in history, nonetheless there is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities.'*

Pope Francis

In line with the College's ongoing sustainability initiatives, seedlings grown by the Sustainability Club and science classes, in conjunction with Trillion Trees Australia, were planted during the three events.

The first event was part of a professional learning for staff that examined the Bishops' Social Justice Statement 'Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor', which affirms that; 'we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour'. The session drew from Scripture, from the theological tradition, from Catholic Social Teaching, and from the wisdom of the world, including insights of First Nations people. The learning concluded with staff participating in tree planting on the west end of the campus.

On Saturday 7 May and 10 September, College families and students gathered to plant more trees across the campus. The aim of the planting is to offset carbon emissions from the College and provide food and habitat for native bird species, especially the endangered Carnaby Black Cockatoo.

These initiatives created a springboard for environmental education and provided positive action to help compensate for our College's environmental impact. They also gave a practical expression to one of the Loreto Province's justice priorities: ecological justice.



**If you would like your child to experience the same extraordinary education that you did, contact us now to discuss the possibility of enrolment.**

Each year we are inundated with applications and sadly we can only offer places to a fraction of those who wish to attend the College. It's never too early to consider enrolment and we would be delighted to meet with you and to take you on a tour of the campus to show you all the exciting new developments.

Many of our graduates choose to enrol their own children at John XXIII College. Around 100 of our Alumni

currently have children attending primary school, with some 200 having children in our secondary school. This year, 40 Alumni have accepted Year 7 placements for their child in 2023, and 24 Alumni have accepted Kindergarten placements for 2024.

To continue the journey with your children, contact Enrolments' Manager Lizz Schollum on 9383 0449, or email [enrolments@johnxxiii.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@johnxxiii.edu.au)

**Scan this QR Code to download a digital copy of our prospectus:**







# OUR NEWEST ALUMNI

The transition from secondary school to the wider world can be a challenging time, as well as an incredibly exciting one. We are confident that all our graduates are equipped to embrace the opportunities and overcome the difficulties that life brings them, and to continue to live the values of John XXIII College in all that they do. We caught up with some of our newest Alumni from Class 2021 to hear about what their first year out of school has brought them.

## Cohen Rafiq

Cohen Rafiq enjoyed a relaxing summer break after the challenges of Year 12, catching up with friends, pursuing artistic interests and working part-time as a swimming instructor. He is currently studying a





Bachelor of Philosophy degree at UWA, majoring in Artificial Intelligence. Cohen says that he decided on this course while he was in Year 12 because he greatly enjoyed research and problem-solving. He has always been interested in coding and felt that working in the dynamic field of artificial intelligence could lead to many interesting career pathways. Cohen was also passionate about Japanese while at school and is completing Japanese language units at UWA. He is thrilled that he will have the opportunity to undertake an exchange to Japan as part of his degree.

Cohen says that while he found his university studies more difficult and stressful than he had anticipated, he loves the fact that so many of his courses are project-based, and he has made many new friends. He also greatly enjoys the different club events and social opportunities at UWA. Cohen has stayed in close contact with his school friends and says that it is always nice to see a familiar John XXIII face.

*Advice to current senior students:*

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***Try a bunch of things you like. Especially at university, if you ever change your mind about your course it's super easy to just switch. A misconception I had before graduating was that it would be pretty uncommon for people to change once they enrolled in a course but I know so many people who switched their majors or their degree. In short, don't stress too much about it.***

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### **Kiran Tandon**

Kiran says that, as stressful as Year 12 was, he also found it a very rewarding time in which he strengthened friendships and learned valuable life skills such as resilience. After a summer break of resting and recuperating, as well as a think about his future, Kiran commenced a Bachelor of Biomedical Science at the University of Notre Dame. He has always been

interested in biomedicine and hopes that this degree will set him on the path for a career in medicine. Kiran says that working as a doctor would be his dream career as it would allow him to help people on an individual level, but also to address disparities in healthcare access and outcomes. Kiran believes that his John XXIII College education helped to inspire his passion for health sciences and says that the College also provided valuable support and guidance in obtaining a place at the University of Notre Dame through the Early Offer Program.

*Advice to current senior students:*

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***My advice would be to study a wide variety of subjects at school to allow yourself the time to discover your interests. Additionally, I would encourage students to notice the small moments within particular subjects which make you feel confident and interested.***

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### **Dean Claassen**

Dean has always enjoyed drawing, and gained some experience in video editing in Years 11 and 12, which led to him enrolling in an Animation and Game Art course at North Metro TAFE after graduation. After the first semester, Dean decided that he was going to put studying on hold, at least for the time being, and is now working as a labourer for Frizelle Builders, which he feels was definitely the right decision for him. He has always enjoyed physical work and working with his hands, and is finding his new career enjoyable, despite the early morning starts and the often demanding nature of the work. He plans to study a trade in the future.

*Advice to current senior students:*

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***You shouldn't worry too much about deciding what you want to do right away; it's perfectly fine to take some time off, such as a gap year, to just work or relax and figure out what you'd like to do. Another piece of advice is that you can always change pathways later, so don't feel obligated to stay with your first choice.***

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### Ruby Vlahov

Ruby says that Year 12 was the best year of her school life and, despite the study and stress, she found it the most fun. As well as travelling with her family and catching up with her friends, Ruby used the summer break to hone her basketball skills in preparation for joining the NBL1 West basketball league this year. Ruby decided to defer university studies to focus on basketball fulltime, and says that she is absolutely relishing the amazing opportunities she has had to meet new people, play at a very high level and to be surrounded by such motivated teammates. She plans to move to the USA in 2023 to further progress her professional basketball career.

#### *Advice to current senior students:*

*There is no rush to decide or figure out what you want to do. It might take years of trying different things, but it's totally okay to go to university and not have a set plan. It's also totally okay to not go to university and pursue other options that you're interested in. Give everything a go.*

### Oscar Hegge

Oscar Hegge wanted to broaden his horizons after finishing school, so he decided to move interstate to undertake a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in politics and international studies, at the University of Melbourne. Oscar was very keen to make lots of friends and expand his social interactions, so he chose to live at Trinity College. He has greatly enjoyed his experience of residential college life, and says that while he was a little nervous at first, from the minute he arrived people were incredibly friendly and welcoming. Oscar has joined Trinity College's academic committee, and greatly enjoys all the socialising and fun that is to be had from living with 400 other young people.

#### *Advice to current senior students:*

*If you are contemplating a move to a residential college, if you can, I'd say, just do it. Everyone has a different experience, and I've been really lucky that I've had a really, really great experience so far. But I feel pretty comfortable saying that if someone comes to a college and they're open to it – I mean, it's not all smooth sailing and you've got to put a bit of work in and commit – it's really fun.*





# A LIFE IN PICTURES

Renowned photographer **Duncan Barnes (Class 1990)** has developed a reputation for his outstanding work in the music industry, photographing live international performances for major venues, promoters and artists. A long-time photographer of events at the RAC Arena, Duncan currently has an exhibition called Memory Lane as part of the Arena's ten-year anniversary celebrations, which showcases some of the incredible images he has taken over the years.

'RAC Arena wanted to do an exhibition of my work over the last ten years and they let me choose music as a theme,' says Duncan. 'COVID-19 has been particularly tough on the music industry so I think it's a great opportunity to celebrate how amazing live music is and how we should support the industry.'

Duncan travelled for many years after graduating from John XXIII College, which he felt provided him the adventures and new experiences that he was craving, and helped him to clarify his goals and plans for his future. After he returned to Australia to attend university, his photography career blossomed and he soon garnered a reputation for his extraordinary images of the music scene. 'I have always loved music and live bands,' says Duncan, 'so it seemed like the obvious thing to do; apply my photography skills to something else I was very passionate about. After all these

years I still really enjoy the challenge of shooting live performances and being close enough to really feel the energy of the performers.'

Duncan is also a passionate educator, and is currently Coordinator of the Photomedia Major at Edith Cowan University. He obtained a Diploma in Education and also completed a PhD related to photography and performance. Duncan is also very active in the photographic community and regularly gives workshops on all aspects of photographic practice.

He has extremely fond memories of his time at John XXIII College, and particularly appreciated the unique sense of community. Duncan says that this is what inspired him and his wife to send their daughter Scarlett, who is now in Year 2, to John XXIII College.

Duncan has some long service leave from teaching coming up this year and has some exciting travel plans ahead, which will no doubt provide a wealth of inspiration for his keen photographic eye.

The Memory Lane photography exhibition continues at the RAC Arena until the end of the year and is open to all ticket holders on event days.

**Scan this QR Code to see a video of Duncan's exhibition.**





# HONOURING A TRUE HERO

Over many generations, St Louis, Loreto and John XXIII College have provided students with a diverse range of inspirational role models; men and women who challenged them, motivated them and often changed the course of their lives. Our Alumni frequently speak of the sisters, brothers and lay staff members who exerted such a profound influence on them at such a formative time.

**Joe White (Class 1979)** has written a reflection on the transformative influence of Br Ray Harris on his life, and also Br Harris' seminal role in ensuring the future of our current beautiful campus. Br Harris fulfilled Ignatian values and Catholic Social Teachings in every area of his life, with a particular passion for working with the disabled. His legacy and influence is a fundamental part of our heritage and we honour the quiet contributions he has made to the ongoing story of John XXIII College.

*The Class of '79 would all remember Brother Ray Harris—we gave the poor bloke curry—but I think he loved us for it. The classes always went out of control, and his favorite line of 'Silliness is creeping in' would be met by us all lunging for the windows to close them to keep the silliness out!*

*Today I got the news that a colleague Greg Walsh (of V&V Walsh Abattoirs) has secured a contract on a small farm as a respite centre for disabled children and their families, and I have been in touch with my sister Ellen who had her sanity saved by the Mary Ward Centre where her son Ewen went to school.*

*I don't deal well with anything that needs patience; I'm like a bull at a gate and find it very hard to simply sit and help. I think I am the worst carer in history so hold those who act as carers in total awe. Bro Harris was one of those, and a day doesn't go past when I don't offer thanks to him for preparing my family for our journey with Ewen.*

*Literally on my Dad's deathbed (Barney White – another Louisian born in 1928), he paused, thought for a few seconds and asked: 'How does John XXIII celebrate Bro Harris? You know he was the difference between John XXIII securing the Graylands land and not, don't you?'*

*It was a lightbulb moment, and realising my future chances to know more had evaporated, I pulled on the threads of our last meaningful conversation. By way of a contextual background, Barney was a professional forester who had been taken away from his beloved forest research when the environmental movement got its teeth into the wood industry and was forced to spend a decade writing parliamentary reports for ministers. It was a cruel thing to do to a brilliant scientist, being both demeaning and an atrocious use of a brilliant mind. It literally killed him, but after a bout of critical ill health in his mid 50s he recovered and took a position managing the metropolitan region of the Department of Conservation and Land Management. He wasn't back in*



the karri forests, but he was out of the political crossfire of the forests debate. The greater Bold Park and government lands in the metropolitan area fell under his jurisdiction.

Barney went on: 'I was at a meeting of departmental heads discussing what was to become of the land in Graylands, when the Director of Health said: 'Of the competing uses for this land, we want it acknowledged that John XXIII College is to be favoured because we will never forget the support that Bro Harris gave us when there was community pressure to close down Tresillian in Tyrell St in Nedlands.'

Tresillian was a home for the disabled who had been delivered onto earth at the lowest level of capacity and self-reliance. These poor souls could do nothing for themselves and existed due to the provision of love and care by those who looked after them. Bro Harris, in circa 1974, spoke to us in class about their plight and need for help. He warned us that: 'These kids can give you nothing except love. This is an act of pure charity, other than love you will get nothing in return.'

Bro Harris called for volunteers, and the worst of the worst ratbags who would do anything to get away from academic pursuits would jump on the bus and take these kids for a walk in their wheelchairs to Melvista Oval and simply spend the afternoon entertaining them. For us it was an excuse to race wheelchairs, misbehave and most of all, skive off from school, however I will never forget the love Bro Harris showed for these kids who were at the lowest level of poverty and despair. He described one of them thus: 'Linley; she is a beautiful strawberry blonde with the most captivating smile. When you do something for her – oh you should see the smile on her face – it lights up the sky.'

To us ratbags Linley represented a being so disabled one could only wonder what had gone amiss in utero. She had no bladder or bowel control, was massively distorted, dribbled constantly, had to basically be force fed, had to be strapped into a wheelchair and could only communicate with contorted facial expressions, smiles, strange grunting noises and grimaces.

Linley was actually a double for my nephew Ewen who has been born with similar afflictions and without Bro Harris' introduction in Year 7 at St Louis, I shudder to imagine the level of my inability to deal with such a situation in my own family. I am deeply ashamed of sometimes turning my head away when the disability becomes uncomfortable for me.

Bro Harris persevered; the visits with different groups of ratbags become almost daily and there were events at school when the Tresillian kids came to visit us. Through his godly actions, beautiful caring character and faith, Bro Harris turned the tide on community opposition to Tresillian (because in the views of some residents it eroded the tony quality of the neighbourhood) into a culture where the community embraced the facility and actively supported its operation.

I have no doubt the red carpet was laid out by God himself for Bro Harris. This one man's actions carved the future culture of John XXIII. Most of all he equipped this fatally flawed individual into someone who could deal with the realities of being blessed with such a nephew in our own family and recognise that these people bring their own gifts to society.

In writing this, I can neither conceal nor deny the tears streaming down my cheeks when I think about the influence Bro Harris had on me. Till then my ability to deal with what I thought only happened to other people's families was zero.

This was the seed source for the Mary Ward Centre. This humble man completely molded the relationship between John XXIII and the disabled community and my life would be found wanting if I did not tell the story about what Dad said in what was basically his last coherent conversation before we had to start dosing him up with morphine under the guidance of another great product of that school, Michael Quinlan.

Bro Harris didn't make a ripe old age, the funeral would have been a relatively humble affair - but the one person I expect to see sitting at the right hand of the Father when I meet my maker is him. He might not have exactly scared the living be-Jeezus out of me with his discipline threats in Year 9 Grey, but I'm sure as hell going to do all that I can in this life to make myself worthy of shining his boots when my time in this transitory existence shall be no more.

Would a statue of Bro Harris next to that of Pope John XXIII be out of place? As a parting word to the culture of the staff and pupils of Mary Ward who are the sentinels and role models for the wider culture of John XXIII – a day doesn't go past when I don't offer a prayer upstairs for preparing me for what I didn't know was around the corner.

I'd have statues of you all at the front gate if I could.

**Joe White**



# FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The John XXIII Foundation continues to play a vital role as a steward of our College's heritage and an advocate for its flourishing future. We are delighted to see so many of our Alumni who, having experienced a world-class Catholic education, wish to ensure that the generations that come after them have access to the same transformative experience.

A total of \$347,000 has been donated since October 2019. Donors include current and past families, Alumni of Loreto, St Louis and John XXIII College and current and past staff members. We also have seven members in our Koolyangarra Bequest Society, who have made bequests in their wills to the Foundation. We are so grateful to all our donors, and we are particularly inspired to see many of our younger Alumni making generous contributions.

## Leading the way

The John XXIII College Foundation is thrilled to announce that Alumni **James Thompson (Class 1986)** has become Chair of the John XXIII College Foundation. James joined the Foundation in 2018 as a member of the Finance and Investment Committee, and was elected as a Board Member in 2021. We are delighted he has accepted this pivotal role and know his skilled leadership will help strengthen the future of the Foundation, and of the College.

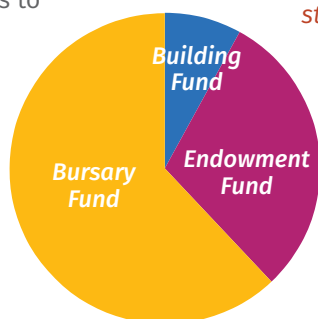
James has extensive family connections to John XXIII College, with his father **Peter Thompson (St Louis Class 1958)** and uncles **John Thompson (St Louis Class 1961)** and **Andrew Thompson (St Louis Class 1963)** all having attended St Louis. James attended John XXIII College on the current site with his siblings **Alexandrea (Class 1988)** and **Angus (Class 1993)**. James is a past student, current and future parent at John XXIII College.

In reflecting on his long relationship with John XXIII College, James says:

*John XXIII College really is a community for life. My family has a long and significant link to John XXIII College, and to St Louis. Being among the first students educated at the current Mount Claremont campus, I have always been grateful for the opportunities afforded me through my John XXIII College education. The Foundation's Bursary Program is a way for all of us to provide opportunities to students who could not otherwise attend John XXIII College, in a similar way that many of the migrant refugees who were my peers at school were supported. I am passionate about building on this program through my role as Chair of the John XXIII College Foundation, and I sincerely thank Michael Anderson, previous Chair, for establishing the foundations that will benefit generations to come.*

## Forever in memory

The Foundation was deeply grateful to receive a donation from the Mory Family in memory of **Alastair Mory (Class 2001)**. Alastair was a much-loved and popular member of the College community; a gifted academic, talented sportsman and generous and valued community member. This generous gift from Alastair's family will help to provide other students with the same outstanding educational opportunities that he enjoyed, as well as ensure that he is remembered by the College community. Plans are in train for a place of reflection at the site of the Koolyangarra Dove, which will also acknowledge those, like Alastair, who leave a lifelong gift of education. Alastair's gift has become part of the Bursary Fund, which will directly enable future students to benefit from a John XXIII College education. We extend our sincere thanks to the Mory Family.



## Eulogy for Alastair Mory

By **Tom Wallwork (Class 2011)**

*It's good to see that so many came to farewell our friend today. A lot of us here knew Alastair for a long time, either through family, school, university or extended friends. We all know he was kind, caring and remarkably intelligent.*

*Through primary school he was a great swimmer and math whiz. He was smart enough to know how cheeky he could be with the teachers. He was always bringing in the latest technology and gadgets, and this brought him much acclaim.*



*High school was similar and his mischievous streak continued. He'd pull elaborate pranks, such as convincing the entire library that the printers were now voice activated, or tricking two teachers into thinking he was in the other one's class for three months. During this time he'd take some friends to McDonald's or study his other subjects.*

*These pursuits sometimes led him into trouble, but he always ended up acing his classes. He excelled at all athletics carnivals and a few extra-curricular activities. He was an all-round talented guy, with the exception of ball sports... you can't have everything.*

*At university Alastair fully embraced the student life, attending parties, festivals and camping trips. The fondest memories we have of Alastair are our outdoor getaways. He'd never miss an opportunity to go down to Joe's block in Wilyabrup. He was integral to every trip and it won't be the same without him.*

*In the most recent years Alastair really came into his truest self. He enjoyed discussions on technology, politics and science, and always had time to explain*

*things for others' benefit. Alastair always had a deeper understanding of the world; you'd come out of every conversation knowing something new.*

*He was a great listener and he would always make time for his friends. Alastair will be greatly missed.*

*May he rest in peace.*

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**If you would like to leave a lasting legacy by remembering John XXIII College in your will, The Foundation provides a convenient means of bequeathing funds to the College, allowing donors to watch over the lives of students who are yet to be born. All those who have made a bequest to the College are invited to join The Koolyangarra Society, which recognises and honours each donor's contribution to our College mission.**

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### Sowing the seeds: 2023 John XXIII College Bursary

The John XXIII College Bursary is a vital part of the Foundation's vision. It supports a student in Year 7 or above whose family could not otherwise afford a John XXIII College education, by covering the tuition fees for their entire secondary education.

Thank you to all those in our community who shared information about the Bursary this year. We received a significant number of applications and the recipient has now been confirmed. The Bursary is only possible due to the generosity of the John XXIII College community.

The family of the student who was awarded the Bursary for 2023 shared the following reflection:

*Our family was raised in an environment where we were always encouraged to generously share with those in need. We learned about the 'pay it forward' concept at an early age. Now in later life, our family's circumstances are such that our income is constrained. We are so grateful to be the recipients of the generous giving of the JTC parents and alumni. We chose John XXIII College because of the strong Catholic ethos that was evident in the staff and students that we spoke to. We continue to experience the vibrancy of the living Catholic faith that is so important to us. We realise that the circle of giving continues throughout our lives. For now, we are the beneficiaries; in the future we hope we can bless others with the same generosity. This is what we aim to teach to the next generation. It is a privilege to be part of the Catholic community of John XXIII College. Thank you.*



# DONOR AND BEQUEST HONOUR ROLL

The Donor and Bequest Honour Roll is an acknowledgement of those who have generously made donations to the College from 2019 until 30 September 2022, or notified us of their intention to leave a bequest. Many of these donors have made multiple donations to the College throughout this time. Every effort has been made to ensure this list is accurate. If an error has been made, please accept our sincere apologies and contact Kate Murphy at [foundation@johnxxiii.edu.au](mailto:foundation@johnxxiii.edu.au) so we can ensure it is corrected for the future.



John XXIII College has continued to support the Foundation through the annual gift of funds from the enrolment acceptance fees received from future and current families. This gift to the Foundation into the Endowment Fund enables us to collectively support the financial future of the College.

To join the members of the John XXIII community who financially support the Foundation, please scan the QR code or visit [foundation.johnxxiii.edu.au/donate](https://foundation.johnxxiii.edu.au/donate)

A	James Matthews (Class 1971)
Anonymous	Julius and Catherine Matthys
Ben (Class 2003) and Grace Anderson	Mazza family –
James (Class 2001) and Austen Anderson	the children and grandchildren of Jim and Maureen Mazza
Michael Anderson	Darren (Class 1989) and Joanne Miller
Sue Anderson	Michael (St Louis Class 1956) and Judy Monaghan
B	Mory Family – in memory of Alastair Mory
Hudson Blenkinsop (Class 2020)	Matt and Kate Murphy
Michael Boylson (St Louis Class 1953)	N
Edward Browne (St Louis Class 1947)	Anonymous
C	O
Anonymous	Stephen and Shea Oo
Robert Casey (St Louis Class 1971)	P
Chen family	William Paparo (Class 2013)
Sarah Cherian (Class 1992)	Anonymous
Cooney family	Elizabeth Prendergast (Loreto Class 1959)
Anonymous	R
D	Georgie Randklev nee Cunningham (Class 1989)
Nigel D’Cruz (Class 1978)	Anonymous
Ric and Annette Del Pizzo	Anonymous
F	S
Anonymous	Anonymous
Sabine Frichot (Class 1972)	Evan and Kathryn Salt
G	John Shervington (St Louis Class 1957)
Digby Gilmour (Class 1992)	Keith Sindel (St Louis Class 1948)
Anna Gingell nee Muir (Class 1978)	Anonymous
H	Anonymous
Robert and Robyn Henderson	T
Stephanie Hillbeck nee O’Connor (Class 1990)	James Thompson (Class 1986)
Patricia Ho	Anonymous
I	Anonymous
Emma Irvine nee Cunningham (Class 2020)	James and Belinda Tourneur
J	John Townsend (Class 1978)
John XXIII College Council	W
L	Jacki Walsh
Anonymous	Anonymous
Tony (St Louis Class 1957) and Gwennyth Lennon	Anonymous
M	Y
Marshall family	Margaret Yoon
Lisa Martella (Class 1997)	





# SPORTING HEIGHTS

It has long been recognised that participation in sports is incredibly beneficial for young people. Apart from the obvious physical health benefits, sport teaches a wide range of important transferrable skills that will stand students in excellent stead for the rest of their lives. Individual sports require accountability, discipline and self-reliance, while participation in team sports has the added benefit of teaching young people a wide range of important social and team-work skills. Research has also shown that young athletes often perform better academically due to the skills they develop in memorisation, repetition, determination and goal setting. In an age of increasing mental health challenges among young people, sport can also be a highly therapeutic tool and an excellent means of relaxation and reducing stress and anxiety and improving self-esteem, as well as having lasting benefits for mental health.

At John XXIII College, we offer a high-quality and comprehensive sporting program, which is designed to complement community sports. Sport is an integral part of life on campus, and we are very fortunate to have first-class sporting facilities and extensive playing fields. While we have many elite athletes and our Alumni include Olympians, AFL players and numerous national and state representatives, we value sporting participation for students of all abilities. As our Alumni

will remember well, the camaraderie among the Houses as they battle it out in our various sporting competitions is incredible. We have highly-skilled and motivated staff teaching sports, and their efforts are assisted enormously by the participation of our parents and Alumni, who generously give up their time in so many ways to assist with our sporting events and endeavours.

The College participates in a range of interschool sport competitions covering many different sports. We are an enthusiastic and highly successful participant in the Associated and Catholic Colleges (ACC) sporting competitions, as well as the Northern Association Schools (NAS) competitions. We field 74 NAS teams across Years 7 to Year 12, with 400 to 500 students participating at any one time.

In recent times the College has had some remarkable sporting successes. In 2021, our interschool swimming team (which consists of around 120 students) won the Associated Catholic Colleges (ACC) 'A' Division Interschool Swimming Carnival for the first time since 1992. Sacred Heart College was aiming for its tenth straight win, but we beat them by seven points!

We had a similarly impressive success in the 2021 ACC Cross-Country Carnival, with the College winning the carnival, which is the biggest carnival in the ACC, with



78 schools participating on the day, with around 350 students in each race. It is the first time that John XXIII College has won the carnival since 1993. Sacred Heart College had placed first in 22 out of the last 23 years, so once again we ended their reign. We have around 90 students involved in our interschool cross-country program.

Our success in the cross-country arena continued this year, where our team staged an incredible comeback after being behind by around 150 points for most of the day, but then surged ahead to win the carnival, as well as taking home all three aggregate trophies: Overall Boys, Overall Girls and Combined Overall Aggregate. We made cross-country history by being the first school to ever win all three shields at one carnival.

### Forging a career in football

Since graduating, **Jessica Low (Class 2017)** has had a meteoric rise to the highest levels of her sport after she was selected in the 2021 draft pick for the Australian Football League Women's (AFLW) by the Fremantle Dockers. Jess was delighted, as Fremantle was the team she had grown up barracking for, and to play among their ranks was a dream come true.



Jessica Low (Class 2017)

Jess says that her love of sport was greatly enhanced during her secondary school years at the College: 'John XXIII exposed me to a variety of sports in a supportive environment. Through the NAS program, I participated in basketball, touch rugby and soccer. The athletics and cross-country training, previously run by Mr Maxwell, Mr Plaits, Mr Tremayne, Mr Williams and Mr Kowal, also fostered my love for running. I attended most trainings during my years in high school, which has stood me in good stead for the aerobic demands of pre-season and games. I also had my first taste of footy in a single day carnival in Year 10. I loved the combination of running, kicking and contests that the sport is known for, and was offered an opportunity to join a talent academy.'

After graduation, Jess embarked upon a Bachelor of Commerce at UWA, majoring in business law, political

science and international relations. She is currently halfway through completing a Juris Doctor degree. Though busy with her studies, Jess felt that there was a void in her life in terms of her engagement in team sports, which had been such an enjoyable part of her schooling years. Keen to join a team, Jess contacted an old friend to ask if she was still playing football. She was put in touch with West Coast Amateur Football Club, which was about to start its inaugural season in the Perth Football League. Jess joined the team slightly late in the pre-season but was absolutely hooked after her first proper game. 'The camaraderie of that team is hard to beat,' says Jess, 'we were all new to the game, with no selection pressures.'

The Club embraced the women's program and fully incorporated it into the social events. Jess played predominantly on the wing and was scouted by Jan Cooper, a pioneer of AFLW, whose two sons played for the men's sides. Jan invited Jess to an Alternate Sport Talent Search Day at the West Coast Eagles, which was a try-out for the Eagles Academy the year before they entered the AFLW. Jess says that she came home thinking she had no chance at selection, but the Eagles clearly recognised her talent as they invited her back for the program.

From there, Jess was encouraged to join the WAFLW to develop as a player and gain exposure. She left West Coast Amateur Football Club to join Claremont Football Club, and played half a season in Reserves before debuting for the League side and remaining there from 2019 to 2021.

During 2021 Jess was also contracted as a top-up player for the West Coast Eagles in the AFLW, as they had a sweep of injuries in their squad. 'I got the opportunity to attend trainings and really enjoyed the structure and intensity of the elite program,' says Jess. 'I was hopeful on draft night, but deflated when the Eagles didn't pick me up with their last pick. Then, on Fremantle's second last pick, my name was read out.'

Jess says that she was somewhat intimidated walking into her first training but was immediately welcomed and made to feel a part of the team and Club. She loves the training program, which sees the team in the Cockburn facility on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturdays during pre-season.

The challenges Jess faces are performance anxiety and social anxiety. 'It was somewhat tiring moving to essentially a fifth new program in four years, after the West Coast AFC, Claremont, States 18s, and Eagles programs,' says Jess. 'I've been lucky in that I have had a quite specific role to play in most games as a shutdown



defender. One of my strengths is my composure; if I lose a contest, I won't get rattled as long as I don't lose it the same way next time. The shutdown role allowed me to focus in my first few games on a specific person and gain experience without worrying too much about my offensive game.'

Jess says that Fremantle has also been fantastic in allowing her to pursue opportunities off field and she has been involved in coaching for the Next Generation Academy and the Freo Footprints community programs, which deliver training and games to young kids. She has also been paired up with a player sponsor, David Benson, who is a Partner at Clayton Utz.

Jess has maintained her connection to the College and has generously assisted with the soccer and football coaching. She says that she particularly enjoys attending the College Art Exhibition each year. She can often be spotted on campus as she frequently uses the 400m track and surrounding ovals for her pre-season training. Jess' partner lives close to the College and they frequently walk down to the campus to walk the dog and practice goal kicking.

When asked about advice she would give to current College students wanting to pursue a career in sport, Jess emphasises the importance of staying consistent and actually enjoying sport rather than obsessing over outcome. 'It is easy to get caught up in self-critique. I have found that focusing on improving steadily over time, and actioning that by consistently training, has given me opportunities to further my sport, but it also means that I am still loving the game.'

### **Rising stars**

While we encourage all students, regardless of their ability, to participate in some form of sport, we also have many students who are extraordinarily talented, and who show intensive dedication to their chosen sport, achieving amazing things and inspiring those around them.

We asked four of our current sporting stars to share their experiences with us.

#### **Ruby Rose Johnstone (Year 8)**

##### **Diving dynamo**

The sport I train and compete in is diving. Diving is a sport involving jumping or falling into water from a platform or springboard, while performing acrobatics in the air. This year I competed at the Australian Open Championships, where I got to meet many forming and current Olympic and Commonwealth Games athletes, and the Western Australia State Championships, in which I placed first in the platform event and second



Leila Barker (Year 11)



in the springboard competition. My next event will see me fly out to Sydney to compete at the Australian Junior Elite Championships.

I have been part of the diving community since 2017, when I was in Year 3. I was first introduced to diving by my mum, who was a former diver herself. At the time I was a state gymnast, but mum decided to sign me up for a fun 'learn to dive' holiday program, which led to me being asked to trial for the elite pathway group. I was then given a position and progressed from there onwards until this year, when I was officially offered a trial in the Western Australia Institute of Sport (WAIS) diving program.



Leila Barker (Year 11)

I chose to become an athlete because ever since I was young, I have always shared a love for all sports. When I first began diving, I instantly fell in love with it. From the feeling of falling through the air from heights off the platforms, to using all the incredible equipment available at my training facility, it is the best feeling ever!

John XXIII College has been a major support since my first day in Year 7 from being flexible when I arrive late and leave early, to supporting me and my learning when I travel interstate to nationals.

In 2019 I received a third medal in the platform and three-metre springboard competition at my first Junior elite national championships, this led to me in 2021 coming third in the virtual Australian elite junior championships. My most recent achievement was competing at the Australian open championships in Melbourne. I have also come first in springboard and platform state championships since 2019.

I would love to pursue diving as a career, but I don't know what will happen. I will see where the road leads, but if I were to continue diving as a sporting career, my all-time goal would either be to compete at the Olympics or the Commonwealth Games while representing Australia, or even transition over to high diving.

Until up to a year or two ago, diving never really interfered with my school life, but ever since beginning high school, balancing diving and school commitments has been a real challenge. Keeping up with all the

classes I miss, studying and revising for tests, and focusing and learning in each class is very demanding, while trying to train for 24 hours a week. Nevertheless, a major factor that supports me is the incredible support I have from all my loving family and friends who are always by my side through all the ups and downs.

### **Leila Barker (Year 11)**

#### **Pole vaulting prowess**

The highlight of my sporting life this year was winning the National Title in the U18 Pole Vault at the Australian Championships and being selected into the U18 Australian Athletics Team. I competed at the Oceania Championships and won the Oceania U18 Pole Vault Title, which was an amazing experience.

I've been a national level gymnast since I was four years old and have also participated in athletics since I was six; first Little Athletics and then senior athletics. I've also managed to squeeze in some years of swimming and played netball and tennis in primary school. I've always taken part in the College athletics and swimming carnivals as they are a lot of fun. When I started to grow quite tall I had to make the decision to stop gymnastics last year and that's when I took up pole vault.

Pole vault is a great combination of athletics and gymnastics; you run, jump and flip yourself into the air except that you get to fly so much higher than in gymnastics and I love that feeling of flying through the air! It's a very technical sport and there's a lot to consider in preparing a good jump but when it all comes together and you clear a personal best, that feeling of achievement is amazing. It's also fun being part of a squad as training sessions are always enjoyable. I still do the other events in athletics as well; hurdles, shot put, javelin and long jump are still some of my favourites and keep me on my toes.

The College has always supported my sporting aspirations. If I need to be away for sporting events the staff and my teachers are always flexible and try to accommodate change of assessment times and make sure that I keep up with schoolwork. I also love JTC's athletics program. The extra training sessions around carnival times are great as they are early in the morning and I can fit it in around my own personal training schedule which usually happens after school. All that extra practice definitely helped my fitness levels and improved my skills in a lot of the athletics events.

I have loved making multiple state teams in gymnastics, Little Athletics and also senior athletics. Competing at national championships is an incredible experience as the level of competition is so high. Achieving a national

title in pole vault and making my first Australian team this year has to be the highlight of all these years of competing in sport though!

Education is still my number one priority so it does take some juggling to get everything done. I have to manage my time carefully and sometimes it feels like there isn't enough time for it all. My coaches are supportive of my academic goals though, so if I do need to take time for assessments they are okay with that.

I love sport, I love the thrill of competition and pushing myself to be better than I was yesterday. I think sport will always be part of my life and I'm looking forward to seeing where it will take me, but for now I'll just take it one step at a time. I also think it's important to have a good education behind me so that's my focus at the moment.



Emily Elkington (Year 12)

### **Emily Elkington (Year 12)**

#### **Football hero**

We moved to Australia in 2015. From a young age I have always loved sport, playing rugby, soccer and basketball. At school I have represented JTC in NAS sports, NAS carnivals, ACC Athletics and also played in the ACC All Stars AFL (footy) team. Whilst I enjoy many sports my passion is footy.

I first started playing footy in Year 6, joining Claremont Junior Football Club. In Year 7 I played for both girls and boys age-group teams. I soon realised I needed to earn the respect of the boys and realised I could earn my place by being a strong tackler. In Year 8 I played for Year 8 boys, Years 7-8 girls and Years 9-12 girls, with all three teams reaching the grand final. Unfortunately the





Football Commission made me select only one team to play the final with. I chose to play with my friends as we had struggled all season to maintain numbers for a team. It was a sad end to playing football with the boys. In Year 9 I played football with the Years 11-12 girls and we won the grand final.

In Year 10 I tried out for the Claremont Women's Football Club Rogers Cup Team (U18 team) and made the squad. The step up from junior footy was significant. The women and colts train together, the physicality, fitness and level of coaching was a step up and there was no messing around!

In Year 11, I made my debut for the Claremont Women's team in the West Australian Football League Women's (WAFLW) away at Swans in the first match of the season. Through the season I played a mixture of games for the women and the Rogers Cup teams. As a 16-year-old playing with older women I found making connections with my new team mates a challenge, but it has helped me be a more confident person.

This year I was selected to play for the WA U18 side. Pre-State Academy training started last September and consisted of six weeks of gruelling running, weights and flexibility training just to be ready for pre-season! From last November through to the National Australia Bank AFL State Games this Easter, I have had state training three nights a week, with trial matches at weekends. When the WAFLW pre-season started in January, I was training five nights a week (three state and two sessions with club). I have never felt fitter.

In May this year COVID-19 struck me and I missed the state U18 shirt presentations as I was in isolation as a close contact, and then two weeks later, tested positive for COVID-19 the morning I was due to fly to Adelaide

to play against South Australia. With COVID-19 and recovery, I missed two of the three state games. I was determined to perform at my best in the final state game against the Allies in Victoria, which we won in a very close match.

I chose footy because it was something new and different. While I have played many sports, once I started to play footy I fell in love with the game. I would say that footy is one of the hardest sports and that is what I love so much about it. There are always areas of the game in which I can improve, and I relish the physicality. There are consequences however, in playing a contact sport. In late May I injured my knee playing against Peel, straining my ACL with bone bruising and a small crack in my femur. I was very lucky not to tear my ACL and am currently cleared to start running again – just in time for the AFLW draft. Sadly, the injury ended my season early and I have missed out on finals football. My team (Claremont) will be playing in the WAFLW Grand Final against East Fremantle with a great chance of winning our first premiership.

While I am currently injured, I have not let it get to me and have been helping with match day coaching of the Claremont Rogers Cup Team, hitting the gym, diligently following my rehab exercises and raising \$1100 for Lifeline by doing 3139 push ups in 24 days.

One of the greatest things about playing in a team sport is watching your friends and teammates grow and develop. In the last two months I have seen three of my Claremont teammates get signed by AFLW teams. While it is sad to see them go, it is an inspirational moment. I have been lucky enough to play with and against some amazingly talented women, which has helped me develop both on and off the field.

My greatest achievements in 2022 include playing for my state team, playing WAFLW footy for Claremont, being invited to take part in the AFLW draft combine and, finally, being selected at pick 43 in the 2022 draft by the West Coast Eagles.

2022 has been a challenge, with training five nights a week plus matches at the weekend. I would like to thank the school, my teachers, and especially Mr Bostelman, for their support. The school has been very supportive in allowing me to study from home in the week before the start of the NAB AFL State Championships to reduce the chance of catching COVID-19. I left the house only to attend training.

This year has taught me to be far more organised, scheduling my time in 30-minute slots and starting work early to be ready for assignments and tests. I have





Sylvia Czajko (Year 9)

done the best I could to balance ATARs and sport this year. If I am not playing footy, I am studying. My one regret is having less quality time with my friends.

### Sylvia Czajko (Year 9)

#### Swimming star

This year I went to the Swimming Age Nationals in Adelaide and came home with gold for the 50m and 100m freestyle, and silver and bronze for state relays. This was my first time competing away from home as last year resulted in a virtual meet due to COVID-19. The Adelaide nationals were an awesome experience and I found it really cool to compete alongside people from all over the country and then to cheer on the team.

Throughout my life I have tried different sports such as soccer, netball, and even gymnastics briefly. I did these when I was in primary school for a bit of fun. I am part of the UWA West Coast Swimming Club, I love the team I am fortunate enough to be part of and I really enjoy the training and then the competing.

When I have early morning training sessions, I am often a bit late to Homeroom and my Homeroom teacher is very understanding and accommodating. Balancing sport and school as well as music can be quite a challenge; I am still figuring out how to do it; but I think that using the time that you do have productively is important. I am not sure yet if I will pursue swimming as a career; at the moment I am just focusing on training and upcoming competitions.



Sylvia Czajko (Year 9)



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Genevieve Clune (Class 1992) and her family



### Cooper Gordon (Class 2017)

Cooper's creative skills have led him to his current role as a producer on the video team at triple j in Sydney. A large part of his role involves filming and editing the 'Like a Version' segment, as well as creating social media content for the station. Prior to this role, he ran his own production company in Perth called Gordonco Visuals, which was focused on shooting music videos and other forms of digital content. Following graduation, Cooper completed a Bachelor of Media and Communications, majoring in film and video.



Cooper Gordon (Class 2017)

Recently he has embraced film photography as a hobby and carries a film camera with him so he is always at the ready to capture candid moments.

#### *Advice to young Alumni on study and career choices:*

*My advice would be to not focus so much on what other people around you are doing. Everyone's on a different path and once you start comparing yourself to others and what their achievements might be, it can easily stress you out. And if you're not sure what you want to do then that's completely okay as well; you have so much time to figure it out.*



Genevieve Clune (Class 1992)

### Genevieve Clune (Class 1992)

From doctoral studies in archaeology at UWA and an early career as an archaeologist specialising in Indigenous prehistory, Genevieve has embraced a range of roles in foreign policy and international relations. She worked for the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra, and in Australian embassies in Thailand, India, France, Iraq, Kenya and Poland before taking up her role as Australian Ambassador to Estonia. She currently lives in Stockholm, where her husband is based as Australian Ambassador to Sweden, Finland and Latvia, along with their two young children.

Genevieve enjoys the many different opportunities that her international career has given her and loves exploring new places, whether in the country where she is based, or further afield. A keen reader, she enjoys discovering local writers in the countries she has lived in.

#### *Advice to young Alumni on study and career choices:*

*I studied things that interested me at university, even when there was no guaranteed career or salary incentive at the end of it. My choices led me down a wonderfully unconventional career path which I've loved and which has never been dull. So do what you enjoy, do it as well as you can, and the rest will follow.*





### Peter Luckas (Class 2018)

Peter is currently completing a Bachelor of Music specialising in jazz piano at WAAPA. He also works as a piano teacher for musicians of all ages and performs and records music in local bands LUCI and NECTAR, as well as accompanying other musicians in the local scene and recording beats and instrumentals for vocalists.

Peter has continued his connection with John XXIII College, and now works as a music tutor and an accompanist for various College music events and the annual music camp. He also loves to travel and has recently returned from a solo trip to Latvia, which he says opened his eyes to a different part of Europe.

*Advice to young Alumni on study and career choices:*

***What is most important is getting involved in a field you enjoy. Do not worry about what you are 'good' at, because the thing you take the most interest in is the thing you will exceed in. There is also no need to worry about future jobs; work (and money) will come if you develop a passion in your field.***

### Stephanie Chahal nee Walsh (Class 2000)

Stephanie Chahal was the youngest recruit admitted to the Western Australian Police Academy having only just reached the minimum age requirement of 19 when she was accepted. Stephanie had originally planned to complete a Bachelor of Marketing and Management, but decided to defer her studies and her path led her to train as a dive master, complete a Certificate III in Business, and work in administration, before she decided to fulfil her long-held dream of becoming a police officer.



Stephanie Chahal nee Walsh (Class 2000)

Throughout her 19-year career in the Police Force, Stephanie has worked in many locations including Perth, Fitzroy Crossing, Kalumburu, Forrestfield, Halls Creek, Balgo, Midland and Broome, as well as working in the Mounted Section. In 2011, she was selected as part of the police contingent to assist in New Zealand after the catastrophic earthquake. Stephanie loves working 'on the beat' and says that policing is ever-evolving and has changed dramatically over the years. Although it can be a challenging career, Stephanie greatly values the many different pathways open to her and the fact that she is never bored. She is currently working as a District Training Officer, which allows her to work more regular hours and spend more time with her two young children.

A John XXIII College 'Lifer', Stephanie has extremely fond memories of her time at the College. She currently has five nieces and nephews attending the College.



*Advice to young Alumni on study and career choices:*

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***You don't need to be academic and go down the university route to have an awesome career. Do what are you passionate about, bear in mind that our interests change over time, but don't give up if it gets too tough.***

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**Max Mackenzie (Class 2012)**

The love of lighting design and production that has led Max on an exciting international career journey was first fostered at John XXIII College. 'Ben Fry, the production technician when I was at school, was the first person to get me interested in theatre lighting,' says Max. 'I helped with the lighting for College musicals in Year 9. Things have come full circle as Ben recently employed me to work on *West Side Story* at Crown Theatre.'

Max spent a year in Japan after leaving school and then embarked on Bachelor of Arts in Production and Design at WAAPA, specialising in lighting. Max says that his time at WAAPA was a wonderful experience and that it was through connections made there that led to his secondment to Adelaide to work with the designer for physical theatre company Gravity and Other Myths. Max still works for Gravity and Other Myths and has toured worldwide with them, including visits to Canada, South Korea, New Zealand and Europe. He is currently on tour with the group in Europe, where it has just opened the Edinburgh Festival with a huge event for 16,000 people

Max Mackenzie (Class 2012)



at Murrayfield Sport Arena. Max says that this is the biggest production he has ever been involved with and he has found it an amazing experience.

Max also works as a lighting designer and programmer for other companies and has been busy this year designing the lighting and audiovisuals for many productions in Perth, most recent *Legally Blonde*, *Fame* and *Wizard of Oz* at Crown Theatre and *Mack and Mabel* at His Majesty's Theatre. He greatly enjoys planning and designing light artworks and making items that might be useful for upcoming productions. In 2019 he was honoured to have a lighting exhibit showcased at *Vivid Sydney*, the enormously popular annual festival of light, music and ideas. Max hopes to exhibit more of his light installations in the future. Max says that he loves the flexibility and diversity of his career, and the fact that he doesn't ever have a nine-to-five working day.

Max owns a campervan that he is converting with his fiancé Hannah and the couple loves going away for weekends in the van. Having worked with acrobats for several years he has been inspired to hone his skills doing handstands and has now progressed to one-handed handstands! He and Hannah are also hard at work planning their wedding.

Max has very fond memories of his involvement in the Drama and Music Departments at the College and still visits the school to say hello and to bring in items that he thinks may be useful for various musical and drama events.

*Advice to young Alumni on study and career choices:*

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***I'd say the age old adage of 'find a job you love and then you never work a day in your life' is very true. You work very hard in the production industry but you enjoy it, and work with other people who enjoy it too. I look forward to work every day and the people I work with. It's a lovely tight group of people who are aiming to put on a show and support each other. Also a job in lighting is interesting as no one considers it as a career choice, so there is lots of work and not many people who can do it. I was always interested in acting but was told by many people to do something that gave me work in the business first and I have no regrets specialising in lighting design. It has been rewarding doing something different. If you follow your interests, you'll become passionate about it, which leads to becoming good at it, and being paid for it.***

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# GETTING BACK TOGETHER

CLASS 2021



CLASS 1982





CLASS 1992



CLASS 2002



CLASS 2012





**JOHN XXIII  
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**Alumni website**

[alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au](http://alumni.johnxxiii.edu.au)

**College website**

[johnxxiii.edu.au](http://johnxxiii.edu.au)

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