

# MMCOSA

Old Scholars Newsletter



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Mary MacKillop College  
Kensington

## 2013 Events

### Old Scholars Luncheon

Wednesday 15 May 2013, 12pm  
Royal Hotel Kent Town  
Bookings via Trish Cain: 8342 0785  
or email [trish.cain@bigpond.com](mailto:trish.cain@bigpond.com)

### MMCOSA Annual Reunion

Friday 25 October 2013  
6.30pm - 10.00pm  
Mary MacKillop College  
Music Courtyard  
\$30 - Tickets available from  
[www.trybooking.com/46813](http://www.trybooking.com/46813)

### Opening of the Time Capsule

Sunday 24 November 2013  
Mary MacKillop College

Further information will be included in the next  
MMCOSA Newsletter.

## Join us on Facebook

Join the 'Mary MacKillop College  
Kensington Old Scholars  
Association' Facebook page to stay  
connected with classmates and hear  
about the latest news and events.

## Update your details

To update your details on the  
Old Scholars mailing list, visit  
[www.marymackillop.sa.edu.au](http://www.marymackillop.sa.edu.au)  
and click on the 'Old Scholars' link.

*ON THE COVER: Olympian, Claire Tallent  
(Woods 1998) with her mother and  
Brad Snell at the 2012 Annual Sports  
Evening.*

## Message from the President



A pin drop could have been heard in the 2012 Sports Evening audience of 300 as Claire Tallent (Woods 1998) spoke about her focus and training in preparation for the 2012 Olympics. There was nothing she had not done to be ready for race day. Out of the devastation of technical disqualification, Claire told how she was forced to reconsider the priorities in her life and gain a different perspective.

At the Beginning of Year Mass, Professor Denis Ralph, Chairperson of SA Catholic Schools Commission, spoke of finding MacKillop girls in all walks of life, continuing to show the spirit and example of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop to the people they meet each day. A member of the Aquinas College Board, a busy academic with her own family, still made the time to encourage a homesick country student to persist in tertiary study. Like Mary, quietly and without fuss, seeing a need and taking practical action.

As Old Scholars of Mary MacKillop College we have the bond of community and a growing network, but we also continue the story begun by Mary and her Sisters, and keep it alive in new generations of students. These examples above are few of many, College alumni encouraging others to take advantage of educational opportunity, showing compassion in everyday life.

With resounding delight, heartfelt gratitude and much love, Sr Mary Cronin was presented with Life Membership of MMCOSA at our 2012 Annual Reunion. Sr Mary has been a steadfast and guiding influence in the committee over the past fifteen years, liaising with both Sisters and past students. In the 1970s Sr Mary established within the College a Certificate in Business that was highly regarded by employers.

In response to many requests in the past few years the Annual Reunion this year will be held at the College. Meet up with friends, band members, perhaps former teachers, for a fun night of chatter and see how the College has changed over the years. We hope past music groups will come together again and entertain, the challenge is there! Gather your class mates, book now, especially those celebrating special reunions.

Some find evening functions difficult. Everyone is very welcome to an Old Scholars Luncheon at the Royal Hotel Kent Town, at noon on Wednesday 15 May. Please contact me to book.

MMCOSA tries very hard to contact year groups, especially for decade reunions, but it is so much easier to network with someone from that year. Please consider coming to a few meetings to represent your year group. We meet for an hour about six times each year.

Robyn Carroll (1971) has been a committee member and MMCOSA College liaison for some years. Words cannot express our gratitude. Thank you for the gift of your joie de vivre.

A special thanks to College Marketing and Communications Officer, Melanie Hall for her skill in preparing the new format newsletter. The response is overwhelmingly positive. Keep encouraging your friends to update their details via the College website.

**Trish Cain**

President, Mary MacKillop College Old Scholars Association

## Message from the Principal



Welcome to Issue 1, 2013 of the MMCOSA Newsletter. Mary MacKillop College is proud of its heritage and tradition. Through the many enrolment interviews that I have conducted over the last two years it has been a pleasure to meet and hear of the many Old Scholars that speak highly of their school experience at the College. I am delighted that once again we have an Old Scholars Newsletter that will provoke interest and conversation in our Old Scholars community. Please enjoy the articles and let us know of any other stories that you would like to share with us.

**Kath McGuigan**

Principal



# Claire Tallent

On 2 November 2012 Olympian, Claire Tallent (Woods 1998) flew in from Canberra to attend the Mary MacKillop College Annual Sports Evening. We remember Claire's heartbreaking disqualification from the Women's 20km Walk at the London Olympics last year when every Australian shared her disappointment and upset.

Claire's address to the 300 people in attendance, including the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Honourable Tom Kenyon, tracked the journey of herself and silver medallist husband, Jarrad Tallent to the 2012 Olympic Games. Her speech was highlighted by footage of her training experiences in Russia, China and Italy. Claire spoke of the hard work, the long hours, the altitude training, the travel, the vibe of the Olympic Village and then shared with us the televised press conference on the day after her disqualification from the race.

Career highlights for Claire include winning a silver medal at the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games in the 20km Walk and taking the Women's Title at the 2011 Australian 20km Walk Championships while her husband won on the men's side.

Claire recalls fondly her time at Mary MacKillop College and brought the message of valuing the important things in life like family and relationships, to the aspiring young sportswomen in the audience. Claire's sporting ambition when she was at school is quoted in the 1998 College Yearbook: "To work at sport and be the best in Australia."

Principal Kath McGuigan, believes that Claire is a wonderful example of the MacKillop girl in our motto 'Know more, do more, be more', but most importantly is a genuine person who truly reflects the Josephite charism of the College and its founder Mary MacKillop.

*Photo L-R: Claire Tallent, Renee Cavuoto, the Honourable Tom Kenyon, Courtne Caldwell, Principal Kath McGuigan.*

# FROM THE ..... Archives



1973  
Class Leaders



1977  
SRC



1980



1983



1986  
Godspell Production



1990  
Yr 10 Drama



1993  
Year 12 Graduation



1996  
House Captains



2000  
Years 8 & 9



2003  
Senior Dinner Dance



2006  
Japanese



2008  
Year 12



2011  
Year 12 Retreat

## 2012 Dux, Susan Bui shares her acceptance speech

I am sincerely honoured to be standing here today speaking to you as the 2012 Dux of Mary MacKillop College.

It is not surprising that such great people are associated with a school that holds the values 'Know more, do more, be more' so closely to its heart. These values have been instilled in me for as long as I can remember and I am truly appreciative of these words because they challenged me not only to know more academically, but as a person in my community who makes a conscious effort to do more to make a difference.

This school has given me the gift of education, and also guided me into becoming the person I am today, someone who will always think of my neighbours, and who will always strive to do and be the best that I can. It has been an honour, a privilege and a joy being a student at this school, and I am so grateful and thankful for all the encouragement that I received.

Without the unwavering help of my teachers, not just my Year 12 teachers, but all my teachers along the way and the constant support of my friends and family, I doubt that I could have achieved as much as I did throughout my five years at this school. Some of my best memories during my schooling were when I received the results of my assignment and tests and realised all my hard work had paid off.

From one MacKillop girl to another, I would like to offer the following advice. From my experience it does not pay to be afraid to ask questions of your teachers. They are more than willing to answer any question and contrary to popular belief, ignorance is not bliss, so seize and take advantage of your opportunities. Sometimes things won't go your way. But do not forget that success is often measured by how well we come back from our failures so if at first you don't succeed... try again and ask more questions.



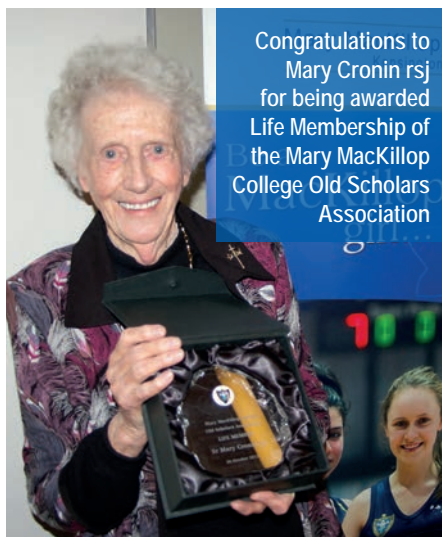
2012  
Dux

One of the most important things this school has taught me can best be summed up by Margaret Thatcher's words: "Defeat? I do not recognise the meaning of the word."

To all students whether you are in Year 8 or Year 12, you can do anything if you believe in yourself. Be a MacKillop girl, 'Know more...do more...be more...'

**Susan Bui**  
2012 Dux, 97.95 ATAR

*Photo: Susan Bui receiving her award from Professor Denis Ralph, Chair of the South Australian Commission of Catholic Schools*



Congratulations to Mary Cronin rsj for being awarded Life Membership of the Mary MacKillop College Old Scholars Association



MMCOSA 2012

## Annual Reunion



# Where are they NOW?



## Rachel Dreyer Class of 2003

As a Year 12 student at the College, Rachel was an active member of the Music Department and was described in the press as “the face of a new generation of South Australian musicians” when she won the Australian Society for Music Education’s Young Composer Award for her song *Just*

*Leave*. Rachel’s band at the time called *Vaudeville* featured on the television program *The Panel* when the song received recognition by making it into the Top 10 rock/pop songs in the country.

**Rachel’s most prestigious achievement came last year when she was nominated for the 2013 Young Australian of the Year.**

Rachel is now a remarkable young scientist and PhD student who is playing a key role in vital research to improve the cardiac health of women in Australia and around the world. An early career medical researcher, she is considered a leader in her field of gender differences in cardiovascular medicine. She is the Australian Project Coordinator for two major international and also two local studies investigating why women under the age of 55 who experience heart attacks are three times more likely to die in hospital than their male counterparts. The two local studies have been completed, with the first published in *Heart Lung and Circulation*,

and several other manuscripts are currently under review as Rachel completes her thesis.

Rachel is an active public speaker and communicator at both national and international conferences and meetings. Furthermore, as a result of her diligent work, she has been acknowledged with multiple scientific awards and accolades over the course of her doctorate due to her outstanding scientific achievements and contributions to the community. Some of these include the University of Adelaide Best Poster Presentation, the Barbara Crase Bursary, the De la Lande Travel Award, the SA Heart Education and Research Foundation Research Prize, the National Heart Foundation Travel Grant and more recently the American Australian Association Fellowship to undertake Postdoctoral studies at Yale University in 2013.

Apart from her scientific achievements, Rachel campaigns and raises funds to improve the treatment of women with cardiovascular disease. She volunteers for the Heart Foundation, is a Lifeline Australia telephone counsellor, an award-winning musician and composer and cycles more than 150 kilometres a week.

Rachel’s most prestigious achievement came last year when she was nominated for the 2013 Young Australian of the Year. Rachel is another outstanding example of a MacKillop girl who clearly epitomises the Mary MacKillop College motto, ‘Know more, do more, be more’.



## Telma Martignago Class of 1980

The old adage of “time flies” never seems more true than when we reflect on the decisions we have made along life’s journey.

My life’s journey has been shaped by my parents’ decision to immigrate to Australia from their home in Treviso, Italy in 1956 and settle in Adelaide. With no relatives in South Australia, they worked hard to

build a new life for themselves, forging new friendships in their adopted homeland and creating a home for my sister, Linda (Class of 1985) and myself.

Valuing the importance of a Catholic education, my parents enrolled us at the local parish school – St Joseph’s at Norwood. After completing Grade 7, it was a natural progression to go onto Mary MacKillop College and continue the Josephite tradition. Despite language barriers at times, our parents ensured they were involved in our education and the school community, as well as encouraging us to engage in extra-curricular activities. Some wonderful and dear friendships formed during those years and remain strong to this day.

Not knowing what I wanted to do on leaving school, I accepted the first job I was offered, working in a bank. I worked my way up from Petty Cash Clerk to Customer Service Manager of my own branch, and also worked

in the Brisbane office supervising the bank’s retail operations. After almost 19 years in the bank, I decided it was time for a change, and three weeks after leaving the bank I returned to study as a full time student in my mid-thirties!

I surprised myself, taking to study with great vigour and enthusiasm. I completed my Advanced Diploma of Tourism Management and was awarded the School Award for Outstanding Achievement (not sure who was more proud, my family or me). While working in the tourism industry I enrolled at UniSA to complete a Bachelor in Human Resources. Working and studying takes commitment and I got through surviving on a student’s staple ‘caffeine’ diet of chocolate, coca-cola and coffee and minimal sleep!

I loved my time working in tourism but on finishing my degree, I felt it was time to move on. I was fortunate to find employment in human resources and have continued to work in this area, which I enjoy. What I have learnt is that life is not always about the destination but often about the journey and for some of us it takes a little longer to get to where we want or are meant to be.

I may not have found a cure for cancer or become the first female Prime Minister of Australia (that one goes to Julia), however what I have learnt is the influence that the Josephite tradition has had both directly and indirectly in my life, particularly as I have got older. My association with the Sisters and the College has continued through my involvement with the MMCOSA Committee. The words of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, “Never see a need without doing something about it” has become one of my treasured mottos.



# FAREWELL Robyn Carroll



Robyn Carroll – Old Scholar, educator, friend, counsellor, advisor, event manager...

The list could go on!

What do you say about a person like Robyn?

After graduating from Mary MacKillop College in 1971, Robyn returned as a teacher in 1997 and promptly turned the subject of Music on its head. Within months, the College experienced its first Carols by Candlelight and the very next year experienced its first musical *This Woman*. The Arts Cabaret followed soon after and the Music Department was born!

By the end of the first year the number of students undertaking classroom Music had more than doubled. Robyn and her Music staff ensured that Music was an enjoyable experience, regardless of the students' academic or musical abilities, while at the same time encouraging them to strive for the best possible outcomes.

Selecting her brightest moment would be incredibly difficult but *Mary MacKillop – The Musical* at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre would have to be among Robyn's greatest achievements at the College. With over 160 students, 37 staff and 27 parents involved, *Mary MacKillop – The Musical* played for one night only to more than 2,200 people.

Robyn has demonstrated exemplary leadership skills during her time at MacKillop. She has, at various times, taken on the roles of Year 9 Coordinator, Director of Student Well-Being, Arts Coordinator, Head of Music, Director of Marketing and Director of School Development.

Robyn was an extraordinary person to work for. She never asked you to do anything she would not have done herself. Expectations were always high but that just made you want to not only meet those expectations but exceed them. She designed and implemented a Music education programme of the highest standard, the envy of many schools and recognised around Australia.

Active in her involvement with the Old Scholars Association, Parents and Friends and especially the Sisters of St Joseph, Robyn was often at MacKillop until late at night and was usually one of the first people to arrive in the morning. The number of times dinner was grabbed on the run because she had a meeting, an event, more work to get to would be difficult to calculate. Generous in time and spirit and a shining example of what it is to be Josephite – Robyn certainly never saw a need without doing something about it.

**Karen Woolford**  
Past Teacher

# Announcements

## Engagements

**Daniela Chiro** (2004) is engaged to Mark Doufos. They are getting married in June 2013 in the Convent Chapel.

**Tiffany Pietsch** (2009) is engaged to Stephen Turner. They will marry on 4 May 2013 at Grace Lutheran Church Bridgewater.

## Marriages

**Lia Bruno** (2003) married Travis Gerace on 14 April 2012 at The Monastery, Glen Osmond.

**Amy Cassidy** (2003) married Craig Langton on 15 December 2012 at St Joseph's Convent Chapel.

**Emily Cassidy** (2005) married Giles Rositano on 7 December 2012 at St Joseph's Convent Chapel.

**Natalie Pepicelli** (2007) married Gian Carlesso on 23 February 2013 at Rostrevor Chapel.

**Josephine Salvati** (2006) married Paul Sorgiovanni on 1 December 2012 at St Patrick's Church.

**Deana Settecasi** (2007, Head Prefect) married Matthew Morelli on 26 January 2013.

**Laura Tabe** (2004) married Daniel Wood on 30 September 2012 at Glen Ewin Estate.

## Births

**Michelle Tabe** (2002) had a baby boy on 20 March 2013.

## Deaths

**Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of:**

**Elizabeth Mascaro** (2000) who passed away on 10 January 2013.

**David Cassidy**, husband of Paula (Tellam 1967) and father of Kate (1997), Amy (2003), Meg and Emily (2005) who passed away on 21 February 2013.

**Eileen Bryant** (Winfel, 1944 Pioneer Student) who passed away on 1 January 2009.

## News

**Isabelle Salvagno** (2012) has been awarded a scholarship to study at Le Cordon Bleu. Isabelle is undertaking a 3 year degree programme, Bachelor of Business (International Hotel Management), which includes a work placement at a hotel anywhere in the world.



Natalie Pepicelli (2007) and Gian Carlesso



Deana Settecasi (2007) and Matthew Morelli

If you would like to share your news or make contact with classmates please get in touch with us:

MMCOA, PO Box 4034, Norwood South, SA 5067

[mmcosa@marymackillop.sa.edu.au](mailto:mmcosa@marymackillop.sa.edu.au)

[www.marymackillop.sa.edu.au](http://www.marymackillop.sa.edu.au)



Mary MacKillop College  
**OLD  
SCHOLARS  
ASSOCIATION**  
Annual Reunion 2013



Mary MacKillop College  
Kensington

The Mary MacKillop College Old Scholars Association invites past students, staff and friends to attend the Association's Annual Reunion, with a special welcome to the graduating classes of:

**2003, 1993, 1983, 1973, 1963 & 1953**

Meet up with friends and former teachers for a fun night of chatter and see how the College has changed over the years. We invite past music groups to come together again and entertain - let us know if this is you!

**Date:** Friday 25 October 2013

**Time:** 6.30pm - 10.00pm

**Venue:** Mary MacKillop College Music Courtyard  
10-14 High Street Kensington

**Cost:** \$30  
includes cocktail food and beverages

**Bookings:** Close Friday 18 October 2013 - Purchase your tickets online at [www.trybooking.com/46813](http://www.trybooking.com/46813)

or by returning this booking form to:  
a: MMCOSA, PO BOX 4034 Norwood South SA 5067  
e: [mmcosa@marymackillop.sa.edu.au](mailto:mmcosa@marymackillop.sa.edu.au)  
f: 08 8364 3863

**Contact:** Melanie Hall or Trish Cain for further details  
t: 08 8333 6300 e: [mmcosa@marymackillop.sa.edu.au](mailto:mmcosa@marymackillop.sa.edu.au)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of other ticket holders (use reverse if needed): \_\_\_\_\_

### Ticket Purchase

Tickets @ \$30 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment

Cash  Cheque

For a fast and secure booking using your credit card, go online:

[www.trybooking.com/46813](http://www.trybooking.com/46813)

Photographs taken at the MMCOSA Annual Reunion may be included in the MMCOSA Newsletter and on the College website.