Welcome back

Welcome to the 2019 edition of Veritas. It is my hope the connection with Dominic College that Veritas provides Old Scholars and their families, enables an ongoing and positive association with their alma mater.

Old Scholars, near and far, are an important part of our community – past, present and future and are a rich part of our story. It is my hope that Veritas affirms the significance of our Old Scholars to our identity and ongoing mission and purpose.

Whilst Veritas focuses on the lives of our past pupils, there is much currently happening at Dominic College.

This year we embark on a significant building development of our K-2 which will overlook the College’s main oval. Our College Uniform is undergoing a major review and a new contemporary uniform will be introduced in 2021. Old Scholars on the Uniform Review Committee include Leesa BAKER (Class of 1986), Nicola Rayner (nee GOSSAGE 1989) and Cameron GOLDING (1998). We have initiated a sister school relationship with a K-12 Salesian College in Shizuoka in Japan and a group of our Year 9 and 10 students recently experienced our first home stay with Shizuoka Salesio.

Our relationship with the DOSA Football Club continues to strengthen after the development of a partnership agreement through their 2018 President Luke GOLDING (1997) and continues with 2019 President Joe DOYLE (2007).

Whilst Dominic College continues to physically transform to meet our contemporary educational needs, the strong values and high ideals of our antecedents - Savio College, Holy Name Convent, St John’s and Boys’ Town remain intact and are embedded in the culture of the College.

I hope you will enjoy our 2019 stories that reflect the diverse journeys, success and moments of happiness in the lives of our Old Scholars.

Beth Gilligan, Principal, Dominic College
Year 10 students celebrated their graduation with Mass and presentations at St John’s, Glenorchy and the following evening enjoyed their Graduation Dinner at the Elwick Function Centre.

Dominic College Principal, Ms Beth Gilligan, said that the wonderful young men and women have been good companions and loyal and faithful to their Houses.

“They have displayed excellent House spirit and it is with sadness that we say farewell. The student leaders of 2018 have led the College with authentic service and have enjoyed the admiration and loyalty of their peers. They worked together to present a gift to the College, supporting the Pastoral Care program and their Houses by organising the design and production of four banners depicting House Mascots. These banners were drawn by Dominic Old Scholar and animator, Stefan LE MOTTEE (1987).

We salute the Class of 2018 and welcome them as old scholars into DOSA.
The Dominic Old Scholars Association (DOSA) represents ex-students from Dominic College and its forerunners, Boys’ Town, St John’s, Savio College and Holy Name School. Dominic College helped form the group to maintain contact with Old Scholars and to make it easier for ex-students to keep in touch with one another.

The DOSA Committee last year was made up of Dominic College Principal, Ms Beth Gilligan, Coordinator, Mr Mark Dillon, and Old Scholars, Mr Tony Webb (Savio College 1963), Maryanne Jackson (nee Delany, Holy Name 1968), Ms Diane Cerritelli (1971), Ms Leesa Baker (1986) and Ms Nicole McKay (nee Glover, 1994).

The Committee meets every second month for a meal at the College while discussing College activities, alumni in the news, and planning events.

Any news, or requests to visit the school from Old Scholars are warmly welcomed. If you want to organise a reunion with past classmates, share some news or simply need to update your details, please contact the Old Scholar Coordinator on (03) 6274 6000 or email oldscholars@dominic.tas.edu.au

The College supports DOSA by allowing the use of the historic Basil Fox Room, in Grantleigh, for each official Old Scholars reunion, and supplies complimentary snacks and drinks, and a guided tour of the school on a Saturday afternoon. The College promotes DOSA through the school’s weekly newsletter, website, Facebook and the annual Veritas magazine.

DOSA membership is free, and there are no commitments or rules or compulsory meetings. DOSA members connect with each other and the school community at regular events and celebrations including the Dominic College Community Fair, historical occasions, class reunions, sports events and the traditional DOSA Christmas Eve Mass in the College chapel.

DOSA presents each Year 10 student with a commemorative key-ring at their Graduation Mass as a symbol of their induction into the Association.

DOSA sponsors and presents the Br Peter Dezani Award to the Year 10 student who has achieved overall academic excellence supported by an active school spirit in leadership, community service or sports success. In 2018 this was awarded to Maggie Baker.
Fancy meeting you here

There are many students whose parents, and even grandparents, are old scholars. We love catching up with them!

(L to R) Rosemary Mann (nee DERRICK 1971) with granddaughter Ella; Sandra Taylor (nee CASHION 1970) left, with granddaughter Estelle; Helen QUINN (1969) with granddaughter Sally.

From top, left to right: Tony WEBB (1963), Beth Gilligan and Frank DEMARTE (1962) at the Italian Festival in North Hobart. Our thanks to 4one4 Real Estate, who hosted a student for our Year 10 Work Experience Week. They have plenty of old scholars working there, too! Patrick BERRY (2002), Aaron HORNE (2002), Grace BRANCH (2014), with the then Year 10, Sebastian ALBISTON (now Class of 2018). Denise WALSH (1971) ran into the Dominic College Year 9 Northern Territory travellers in a shower block in Jabiru in the Northern Territory in September! Denise says ‘had a photo with such a lovely group of students representing my old school proudly’. Madelyn CARVER (2010) went to Samoa for the Salesian Cagliero Program in July 2018 and caught up with Fr Nick Castelyn SDB. Fr Nick is now back in Australia, in Sydney. Harrison HARPER (2018) worked with Chris PEARCE (1995), real estate photographer, in Geelong, Victoria, for his Year 10 work experience. Among the new staff joining Dominic College in 2019 were three more old scholars: Maddison SHAW (2016), Jayde BAILEY-MCSHERRY (2011) and Philip HYATT (1996). Ben DOWLING, Felicia DI CARLO, Kahlia COMBS and Julia NARRACOTT, old scholars from the Class of 2017 and current GYC Year 12 leaders, returned to speak to Dominic College Year 8 students during their Empower class, about stress and how to handle it at school. Dominic College hosted all the Tasmanian Catholic Principals 6 November 2018 for their CCEL meetings, including these four Dominic College old scholar Principals: Cameron BROWN (1988), Marcus DONNELLY (1978), Fran Bearman (nee BACCARIN, 1990) and Joe SANDRIC (1982).
From top, left to right: Old scholar Louise STUBS (2014) was stage manager behind the scenes for the Dominic College Music & Dance Showcase in September 2018. Liam BINNING (2011) and Holly VAN LIEROP (2015) are studying to be teachers and were at the Dominic College 3-10 Cross Country Carnival in May to assist. Thanks for your help guys!

In August 2018 Year 10 students, Promise MUDZINGWA (2018) and Oliver WAREING (2018), had their first stage swordfighting lesson from old scholar Andrew CASEY (1989) in the lead-up to their duel in Shakespeare’s ‘Much Ado About Nothing’ performed in the Dominic College Creative Arts Festival.

Old scholar family, the Fitzpatricks, at the Year 9 netball grand final: Kim Fitzpatrick (nee SLISCOVIK 1983), Sarah and Ella (or is it Ella and Sarah…), Hannah FITZPATRICK (2015) and Paul FITZPATRICK (1985). Mark GLIDDEN (2006) is at Dominic again in June 2019 for his prac teaching. Here helping out at a debating night. Welcome back, Mark!


Tyler O’NEILL (2013) travelled around the Northern territory with our Year 9 students. Ian LEE (1964) visited and had a tour of his old haunts. Ian had some great memories of the installation of the silk paintings on the windows of the Savio Chapel which we’ll save for another issue of Veritas.
Every two years the Dominic College Creative Arts Festival takes over Hobart’s Salamanca Arts Centre for a week of art exhibition, music soirees, drama performances and creative professional workshops. The 2018 Festival was the best yet! Old scholars enjoyed the Long Gallery exhibition, the entertainment of Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing and of a remarkable set of reprised Talking Heads monologues.

Old scholars at the Festival L to R: Effie PRYER (2005) gives a masterclass in painting to students; Molly BAKER (2014) and Kimberley GENT (2017); Tony WEBB (1963) with Danniele QUINN (1987) and family; Videographer Jacob GOLDING (2016) was documenting aspects of the festival for the College; Madelyn CARVER (2010) and Joseph HOWLETT (2016); Claire DELANY (1970) Maryanne Jackson (nee DELANY 1968); Kate BAKER (2015) and Sarah STANSBIE (2015); Paul WILLIAMS (1967) and Phil DONNELLY (1964).

Old scholars performed their original Talking Heads pieces in a wonderful reprisal, sharing the stage with current drama students.

At the Dominic College Community Fair

Each November the annual Dominic College Community Fair is not only the biggest fundraising event for the Parents & Friends, but the most successful and enjoyable. With over 40 food and craft stalls, plus games, rides and prizes, there is plenty of entertainment and a great chance to catch up with friends and classmates.

L to R: Crystal KEAN (2007) and her twins, with Mrs Jan Marcenko; Megan BRENNA (2017), Felicia DI CARLO (2017), Annalise BALL (2017), Kalia COMBS (2017) and Bree GOLDING (2017); Steven LACY (1996) spinning the chocolate wheel; Lukas BIRD (2017), Nicholas REVELL (2017) and Harry GUY (2017); Mr Brian Brennan with Liam PULLEN (2013); Piper QUEEN (2017), Jack BREWARD (2017) and Grace JAMESON (2017); Nicola Rayner (nee GOSSAGE 1989) and Aaron DAVEY (1999); Alec WILDE (2017) and Sofie SMITH (2017).
Christmas Eve carols and Mass were joyfully celebrated in the Dominic College Chapel by a large group of old scholars and friends of Dominic College.

The evening was hosted by the inimitable Mr Tony Webb and the Carols and hymns were harmonically projected by the St John’s Parish choir and musicians, a large proportion of whom were old scholars or married to them.

Fr Greg Chambers SDB, ex-Principal, ex-Provincial and ex-cellent homilist, presided over the Mass and was delighted that his last official capacity in his short stay in Glenorchy was on this occasion.

Readers included old scholars, Mr Warwick Cardamatis and Ms Skye Webb, and members of the congregation attending came from near and far.

Over $400 was contributed to the offering, taken up in memory of Br Peter Dezani SDB and which adds to the Br Peter Dezani Scholarship.

The experience of the evening was enhanced by two extra special innovations. Firstly Mr Tony Webb and Mrs Anne Loring worked very hard to produce two new booklets, for the Mass and for the Carols. These beautiful new publications were most readily read and very user friendly for those whose eyes are aging. Congratulations!

The second innovation was to hold the supper afterwards in the Siena classroom closest to the Chapel with toilets adjacent, allowing the congregation to refresh themselves and enjoy a drink and company afterwards in close proximity. Well done to Ms Diane Cerritelli and her band of helpers for the splendid supper.

Special thanks to the Dominic College Principal, Ms Beth Gilligan, for attending the event and also for making the evening possible with her organisation of access to the facilities.

KINDEKGARTEN 2019 CLASSES INCLUDE MANY OLD SCHOLAR PARENTS

The ten years reunion of the Class of 2008 was held at Dominic College on Saturday 12 October 2018. Sam Broadby was the instigator and around 30 classmates enjoyed refreshments upstairs at Grantleigh and then a grand tour of the school. We thank Sam for her work in gathering the group together, as well as Mr Tony Webb, DOSA President, who welcomed students, Ms Beth Gilligan, our Principal, who was the knowledgeable tour guide, and teacher, Mrs Chris Donnelly, who joined the party.

The sightseeing included the many facilities and buildings constructed since they left, as well as the old classrooms, now updated with contemporary furniture, wi-fi and technology. As usual, these ex-students were impressed especially by the shelter and microwaves in the student gathering areas, something they would have loved on cold wet days.

While many old scholars had not been back to visit since 2008 others had retained connections through younger brothers and sisters and through the Football Club and other community groups.

These young men and women were a very nice group, eager to embrace life, whether it be new family, careers or ongoing learning. Babies, interstate work, knee reconstructions... they were taking life in their strides! Ten years melted away as the boys played basketball on the top courts or table tennis in the Rathole.
The Class of 1998 reunion group, led by Mr Matt Taylor, enjoyed their first reunion back at Dominic College, on 27 October 2018, for lunch in the current Siena 5 classroom and a tour of the school. With the stormy weather they appreciated the more extensive shelter now available and the cosiness of the student common areas!

Many from this reunion travelled from interstate including three ex-students from Western Australia! The group also visited the 14th Station of the Cross in our Chapel which they raised money to dedicate. Well done Class of 1998!

These old scholars from 1998 are a mature group in the midst of careers, families and life stories!

The Class of 1978, led by Mrs Cathy Minnucci (nee HILLS) included many good friends who had the occasional get-together, and this was their third or fourth reunion at the College over the last 40 years! Their reunion was held 27 October in the White House, and later that evening there was another event in town where those who couldn't get to the afternoon reunion attended.

When they were here at the Middle School at Tolosa Street, not even the “Electives Block” had been built: classrooms were just the Boys’ Town Building and the classrooms around the upper courts. Thank you to Principal Beth Gilligan for the informative tours and to DOSA President, Mr Tony Webb, for his welcome and ready assistance.

These old scholars were full of hospitality and a pleasure to host!

The Class of 1979 reunion organisers visited the school to begin planning for their reunion in November.

Maximo MELE, Leesa HARRISON and Steve LACY, all from the Class of 1996 caught up at the Men’s Breakfast in November 2018.
It's often hard to get a large group together from classes in the 1960s, over 50 years ago! But the students from 1968 held two reunions in November 2018 for the Savio and Holy Name classes of 1968.

Maryanne Jackson (nee Delany) organised the girls from Holy Name’s Year 10 1968, for an afternoon event at North Hobart’s Black Buffalo, with a few friends from 1969, too. Just to make it a little more co-curricular, the Savio boys were also invited, but great minds think alike and they were already having their own party in Bellerive a few weeks later.

Maryanne, in traditional Holy Name style had decked out the venue with decorations and memorabilia, including souvenir laminated placemats.

Don Rainbow (1968) managed to join the co-curricular group, flying down from Sydney and promised to catch up with the rest of the boys another year.

Greg Brown hosted the Savio boys and his efforts to bring the old-timers together were much appreciated by all.

The Class of 1979 met to help celebrate the launch of Tony Caplice’s first book at North Hobart’s Republic.

Some of the Class of 1978, in order to meet up with a few students who couldn’t make their reunion, even organised “pre-” a few days before the official reunion!


Some of the Holy Name Class of 1972 had a catch-up in December. (L to R) Trudy Fielding (nee CODY), Rena WICKHAM, Wendy CARTER, Joanna GREEN, Annette Jarvis (nee CERRITELLI), Catherine PARR, and Sally Lang (nee BOON).
The first reunion for 2019 was the ten years celebration for the Class of 2009 on Saturday 30 March. Over 30 old scholars met upstairs at Grantleigh in the Basil Fox Room, for nibbles and refreshments. Amidst the catching up and hugs, there was some chat about what the College was like 10 years ago with much interest about the good times.

College Principal, Beth Gilligan, was there and remembered these students well as 2009 was her first year at Dominic College, after she replaced Fr Phil Gleeson at the end of 2008 as the first lay principal and first woman in charge of the College.

Also attending were DOSA committee members Tony Webb and Diane Cerritelli who assisted with proceedings and made sure everyone was welcome and enjoyed the occasion. Mrs Donnelly, former librarian and pastoral teacher, joined the group and remembered the students fondly.

2009’s Ellen O’Garey did a great job organising the students to come along and there was an excellent turn-out of enthusiastic ex-students who enjoyed a meandering tour of the new buildings, such as the Oratory Space and Br Peter Dezani Design Centre, which took over the site of their old Savio Centre (gym and assembly hall). Their old classrooms in the Guzman, Savio, Siena and Bosco areas have been extensively reshaped to allow for improvements such as greater warmth, modern technology and excellent amenity.

Students headed into North Hobart’s entertainment strip for a night of celebrations afterwards!
The Dominic College 2018 Awards Ceremony was held in the Savio Centre on 29 November and students in Years 6-10 were recognised for their success and achievements.

A large number of students received subject and special awards and the major Year 10 awards are listed left.
In our Awards Ceremony, we inducted two Old Scholars of the school into the Dominic College Hall of Achievement. The Hall of Achievement aims to celebrate the history of the school and the lives of the people who have been shaped by their education at the College.

The Hall of Achievement recognises and acknowledges significant achievements by Old Scholars who have upheld the spirit and values of our founder, Don Bosco, including hard work, honesty, respect and good citizenship.

We took great pleasure in inducting Dr Alison MAGILL (1994) and Dr Keith MCVILLY (1983) into the Dominic College Hall of Achievement.

**Dr Alison Magill**

After her education at Dominic College, Dr Magill completed a Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours, followed by a PhD in Chemistry which she completed in 2005.

Alison has worked at the University of Tasmania and the Universities of Sydney and New South Wales, where she has continued as a postdoctoral Research Associate and as a Senior Research Associate.

Her work has involved processes of making chemicals which combine with organic fragments, then using these compounds to break apart carbon dioxide and nitrogen, to help research global warming solutions and create more energy-efficient fertilisers for a hungry planet.

**Dr Keith McVilly**

On completion of his secondary education at Dominic, Dr McVilly studied Psychology and Sociology at the University of Tasmania and completed his Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology in 1998.

Keith completed his doctoral studies at the University of Sydney in 2005.

He currently works at the University of Melbourne as the Foundation Professorial Fellow for Disability and Inclusion in the School of Social and Political Sciences.

Both inductees acknowledged the significant role that Dominic College had played in forming them as young people and their interests in their chosen fields. They attributed their passions to key teachers and educational experiences.

We hope our students will be inspired by these two old scholars to continue their hard work and aspire to high levels of academic achievement.

Their stories are shared in a little more depth later in this magazine.
It is wonderful to celebrate a new piece of Rooster history. Never before in our 42 years have both of our sides tasted the ultimate success in the one season. This is the culmination of many years hard work by many people. It was not too long ago that the club was on its knees and at serious risk.

Off the field it was a difficult year, juggling the resurfacing of the TCA, forced to train at Queenborough for the entire season, and could not use the TCA until late April for home games. Thank you to all of our coaches, players and support staff for accommodating the difficulties without complaint.

Special achievements this year included Tim Golding playing game number 300, the youngest player to do so at just 32 years. Congratulations to club stalwart, Mr Mick Golding who was awarded the OSFA Volunteer of the Year Award. Thank you to all of the Coaches this year, but particularly Jake Briggs. His passion and application to the role has been superb. He sets high standards which he follows, and empowers others to follow. He is a respected leader, and there is no doubt in my mind that our success as a club this year has been largely driven by him.

Jake has decided to step down from the position of Senior coach in 2019 to concentrate on his family and business commitments. Fortunately, he has committed to staying on as a player to assist us in our attempts to go “back to back”.

From a personal perspective I, too, need to adjust my priorities and focus to family and work and will not be president again next year. I would particularly like to thank my wife and family for putting up with the ridiculous amount of time I spend on footy and also the wonderful assistance I have had from the committee and volunteers over the past two years.

I believe that we are in perhaps the strongest position we have been in, both on and off the field, for many years and the future is bright. I am particularly heartened by the strong group of young players who have added enthusiasm to the group. We see many of them as future legends of the club.

Up the little red rooster!
Mr Luke Golding
DOSA Football Club President
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DOSA
BEST & FAIREST AWARDS

Bro Peter Dezani Medallion Senior Best and Fairest: Aaron Grubb
Andrew Edwards Trophy Senior Best and Fairest Runner Up: Michael Fisher
Dooley Family Medallion Reserves Best and Fairest: Liam Wakefield
McCarthy Family Trophy Reserves Best and Fairest Runner Up: Brad Tuffin
Wayne Olding Trophy Senior Leading Goal Kicker: Caden Wilson
Tom Jarvis Trophy Reserves Leading Goal Kicker: Michael Robinson
BJ Maxwell Senior Coaches Trophy: Jye Rogers
BA Smith Reserves Coaches Trophy: Michael Pace
Ty Bennet Memorial Trophy Best First Year Player: Sam Fros
Best In Finals 2018 Medallion: Seniors: Scott Beattie
Best In Finals 2018 Medallion: Reserves: Brad Tuffin
DOSA FC Life Member 2018: Cameron Golding

INTERNATIONAL MEN’S DAY AND WOMEN’S DAY BREAKFASTS

The annual Dominic College International Women’s Day and International Men’s Day breakfasts are important community events where we celebrate and discuss ways women and men can help our students grow and contribute to their world.

We also raise important funds for our sister schools in Samoa for scholarships to allow young people to attend Salesian schools in Salelologa and Alafua.

Each year significant old scholars address the gatherings. Well known chef and Tasmanian culinary promoter, Mr Massimo MELE (1996), was the special guest at the International Men’s Day breakfast at the College in November 2018. The March 2019 Women’s Day breakfast guest speaker was Mrs Jessica Sargent (HOWARD, 2005), a Mercury journalist.

Massimo Mele (1996)

I think one of the biggest turning points for me was studying hospitality in the pre-VET courses at Dominic College. It was a great way for me to get a bit of a taste of the industry, although I started working in a restaurant with my parents. To go into a professional kitchen confirmed that I wanted to work in a restaurant. When I told my parents I wanted to be a chef, Mum and Dad said “You’re crazy!”

Those who work in hospitality would know they said that out of love and understanding of the industry, but they were so serious about stopping me from being a chef, they even got to my boss at the time and said ‘Make sure he does the worst jobs in the kitchen!’

But it didn’t work. It’s not just about following your passion but you’ve got to really love what you do and I think that’s probably been the best thing throughout my career is I really love being a chef. It is a hard job, probably one of the hardest jobs you’ll find out there. Its hours are tough, you never see your family, you’re working while everyone else is having fun - it’s relentless.

You fight through the hardship and that’s what I’ve kind of done my whole career. Social media only shows you the perception, but some of the hardest things were leaving my family. When I was 18 I finished school and started an apprenticeship in Hobart at T42.

After two years I thought, I want to be the best chef in Australia. (Bit of a big call!) I was sitting in a restaurant, 19 by this stage and I went okay I’m going to Melbourne. There was an ad every week
in the papers and it would say: Come to Donovan's Restaurant, must enjoy cooking and I thought “That's it. I'm going.” So I rang up and said I'd like to come for an interview. I wore my worst suit, this ugly green thing I hope to never see again. I jumped on a plane, never been out of Tasmania at this stage and went to Melbourne and met this chef and had the interview and came back and told my parents I was leaving in two weeks.

I moved my whole life over to Melbourne and started again, the hardship of being in the kitchen, starting at the bottom and unfortunately it was just like you see in the Gordon Ramsey shows. It was really, really hard. It was a very different way of training and producing chefs back then, but I stuck it out four years as I had a goal, I had a dream.

What people see now is some great advances in cooking for some princess or celebrity which has been great for building my profile. But I think the most significant turning point for me was moving back home.

I was one of those kids who said “I'm never moving back to Tassie.” I don't mean that in a horrible way, just that I was chasing this dream of being on the road. I woke up one day and realised a little boy came into the world and your goals changed.

I think coming back to Tassie with my family has been an adjustment but it's been the most rewarding decision I've ever made. Seeing teachers and family and kids and being able to be here in my community is an honour.

Hospitality is a great industry. I know we talk about it being hard, but it's so rewarding and after all, there is nothing nicer or more satisfying or more honest, than making people happy with a full belly.

Jessica Sargent (nee Howard 2004)

When I was at Dominic College I was someone who wanted to stand out, but never had the confidence. I was terribly shy. I had plenty of friends, but certainly wasn't part of the popular crowd and never attracted any interest from boys.

I'm 30 now, which to students must sound very old and grown up but some days I still behave like a teenager, cry like a child or am just totally lost.

I can't remember a time when I didn't love learning. My parents sacrificed a lot for me to go to good schools all my life – we were no strangers to 2-minute noodles and saladas for tea. I was 14 before I ever left Tasmania, for a weekend trip to Melbourne, and four years after that I left Australia for the first time and travelled to England, Greece and Italy.

That experience truly changed me. I came home with a renewed focus and a great desire to make it in this world as best I could, more than ever before. Soon after, I started my studies at UTAS – a Bachelor of Arts majoring in journalism, media and communications and history.

In my final semester I was given an opportunity to do 10 days work experience at a media organisation chosen by my lecturer. When I was assigned the Mercury, I was negative because the name Rupert Murdoch had become synonymous with all that is bad and wrong with modern media. Ten years later and they still haven't gotten rid of me!

I was offered a casual position as a copytaker. Then I became assistant to the Chief of Staff producing vox pops x 400! And then finally in 2012 on the same day the newspaper moved from the historic Macquarie St office over to the Salamanca office, I was officially made a reporter. I've gone from covering the real
estate round, to urban affairs, to health and then courts which I’m still currently covering. I’ve met three prime ministers, interviewed most current state politicians and covered murder trials.

The paper is everywhere. It’s a pretty big responsibility to be one of the people creating its content. It’s my job to ask questions. I take the answers and decipher them into language everyone can understand and provide context so the reader knows why this is important or interesting.

In this era of ‘fake news’ where opinions can become facts, I cannot stress how important it is for younger people to be engaged with their local paper. Knowledge is our best weapon in life, so arm yourself well. Even on days where you might not feel like coming to school – remember there are 15 million girls in the world right now who will never set foot inside a school, and will miss out on so much in life because of that.

Journalism is one career where women probably outnumber the men slightly. Women have never had an issue breaking into journalism: there are just so very few women at the top making the decisions. Every day at 2.30pm at a round table in the middle of the office, we have a news conference where reporters explain to the decision-makers what stories they’ve been working on and what the final version is going to say. There’s discussion and input given about the best direction, what’s most relevant to our audience and decisions are then made on where in the paper each story should appear the next day.

Currently at that round table there are zero women in decision making positions – the editor, deputy editor, online editor, night editor and state political editor are all men. We did have a female chief of staff for a few years but her position was made redundant late last year. Is this a deliberate bias? Possibly not, but the fact is it can be hard for women in journalism and many other careers to reach these positions because they’ve taken significant chunks of time out of their careers to raise children.

My little boy Henry had his first birthday this year. Nothing teaches you patience and selflessness like having a child. I returned to work part-time in February and I expected it to be a bit of a struggle to pick up where I had left off, and hard to leave my baby behind - but surprisingly I’ve found work to be easier and more enjoyable than ever. Having Henry keeps me grounded – you could never get an over inflated opinion of yourself when you have to come home and deal with a poo explosion that’s covered your baby, the change table and a bit of the wall as well.

In the longer term though I feel my greatest challenge, one faced by many mums, will be when to go back full-time and what would it be like to take another chunk of time out of work if we decide to have another child in the future. How will that affect my career and in turn my family? As the higher earner in my family, it is difficult to balance those potential future options.

Most mums of my generation are in the same boat - they long to rediscover their career identity and work towards challenges that don’t necessarily involve their children at all. Don’t get me wrong, of course we love our children to bits but many of us need that part of ourselves back that we worked so hard for before having children. I think a well-rounded person makes for a well-rounded parent. For most working mums there is still a certain sense of guilt that comes with returning to work. “Am I spending enough time with my family? What if I miss out on something really important? Will he feel abandoned?”

One thing that I find really helps is taking the time each day to reflect on what I have and to be grateful for it. There is a lot to be said for feeling and showing gratitude. By doing this, I’m showing myself that there’s worth in what I’m doing and there are always positive things that arise, even on the hardest of days.

We can control that message – we are after all the creators of life – we create the boys who will become men. I promise as the mother of a young boy to raise him to grow up and treat girls respectfully and equally. And girls, it’s up to you to push the limits, chase your dreams and never accept anything less than what’s fair.
For the first few years, Boys’ Town was run almost entirely on donations from the church and the community. The State Government supplied agricultural and farming advice and support, the Catholic Archdiocese of Hobart supported the institution financially and with donations of goods and of supported volunteers.

Archbishop Tweedy publicly launched his Boys’ Town Appeal in February 1945 by which time already 30 foundation members had donated £100 each. He wrote on the front page of the Standard of 22 February 1945:

The doors of Boys’ Town will be open to every boy who needs a home, and as soon as wartime conditions permit, it will provide a variety of training to suit the demands of the inmates.

Over £6000 had been raised by 15 March 1945, and in April the Archbishop wrote in his circular:

When I inaugurated the Appeal for Boys’ Town some weeks ago, I had in mind principally those who might be ready and willing to become Foundation Members by contributing £100. The result has been most gratifying. Already 65 have made this contribution and I have written my personal thanks to them.

Along with the Archbishop of Hobart, Dr Tweedy, Dr T A Gaha, Mr M A Morgan and Mr B A McCann are memorialised as ‘founders’ of Boys’ Town and took on responsibility for much of the fundraising and administrative support for the orphanage from the start.

Dr Gaha was not only a medical doctor but his brother was in politics and he himself was on various government boards. Mr Morgan was well-known in the Greyhound racing industry and Mr McCann in the music and entertainment business including a pioneer of the commercial radio industry in Hobart and later, television.

There are 113 names of people and organisations on this memorial board, which originally was hung in the foyer inside the front entrance to the Boys’ Town Building. Many more people and organisations donated amounts less than £100, and many were acknowledged in the pages of the Catholic Standard in those early years.

Cinema nights, musical performances, dances and sporting events all were promoted as being in aid of charities, such as Boys’ Town.
Christopher David Buchan Booth was born in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1941 and was cared for by his auntie. He was placed in the Nazareth House orphanage in Aberdeen in 1951 as neither his auntie nor his mother could care for him. Christopher was in the first group of child migrants received by Boys’ Town in June 1952. The following is an edited version of his public submission, dated 18 September 2000, to the Australian Government Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee ‘Lost innocents: righting the record report on child migration’ 30 August 2001.

Nowadays I speak with an Australian accent. I am taken by the people I meet to be Australian and not Scottish. I am even called a foreigner in my own country. I never accepted Australia as my home. I have always considered myself Scottish even though as a boy I was told that I was an orphan as they told so many of the other children because I knew I had relatives in Aberdeen.

From a very early age I knew that I was being cared for by my mother’s elder sister Mrs Mary Low. I used to go to St Peter’s Catholic School in Nelson Street Aberdeen. I have no recollection of ever seeing my mother during the whole time I was living with my Auntie.

Whilst I was in Nazareth House I was treated very badly. I was often given the cane for no reason whatsoever. On one occasion I went to help a young boy who had wet the bed, wash his sheets. Bedwetters were made to wash their own sheets, regardless of age or size. I was given the cane over my back, legs and hands and told never to help in future.

On or around February/March 1952 my Aunt Mary found out that I was to be sent to Australia and got in touch with the Sisters at Nazareth House to object to my being sent to Australia. I was given a thrashing because my Aunt had found out and I was blamed for getting in touch with her.

At the end of March 1952, I was sent out to Australia. We travelled from Aberdeen by train to London, then to Tilbury Docks and put on a ship called the “SS Ormonde” and after six weeks at sea we arrived in Australia.

I was always given the impression that I was sent to Australia because my family signed the papers enabling the British Government to send me away. I was told that nobody wanted me and that is why I was sent away. They couldn’t tell me that I was an orphan as they told so many of the other children because I knew I had relatives in Aberdeen.

When I arrived in Australia I was sent to Boys’ Town in Glenorchy Tasmania. This was taking me from one orphanage to another but far away from the country of my birth.
I was placed into a boarding house and told I would have to stay there until I was 21 years old. In my first year of employment I was earning £4.12.6d. The landlady was charging me £4.10.0d board this left me with only 2.6d a week to myself. I had to walk to work no matter the weather because I had not enough money to catch a bus or a tram to work. I complained to the Social Services Department many times, but was told to stop making a nuisance of myself.

One of my jobs was a storeman for ICI where I worked for three years before being told I was no longer required. The reference I was given by the manager said, “because of my lack of basic education I would never hold down an office job.”

For many years I lived a very lonely life. I found it very difficult to make friends or even trust any person. I learned very early in life to keep myself to myself. Because of the way I was brought up I did not know how to relate to or converse with girls in fact I was 21 years old when I went out with a girl for the first time.

In 1968 I met and married an Australian girl. For over 28 years I was treated in my marriage the same way I was treated throughout my life. Because I did not know any better I thought that my role in life was to accept whatever was dished out to me and not to complain as no one was interested in what I had to say or offer. Because of the work of the Child Migrant Trust, I travelled to the UK in May 1995. After discussions and counselling with Mrs Margaret Humphries, I was able to approach my mother and other relatives. I was told that neither my mother nor any other member of my family in Scotland signed papers allowing me to be sent to Australia. In fact my mother told me she was told that I, as a 10-year-old boy had signed the Papers myself. For years I had been under the impression that my family rejected me and that no one ever wanted me and yet I now find this not to be the case. I was only put into Nazareth House because they could not afford to look after me.

For over 43 years I have lived in isolation from my family. Even now my mother and other members of my family find it very difficult to accept me and we have been unable to form any sort of relationship.

I have returned to live permanently in Aberdeen. I arrived in November 1995. I have been very fortunate that in April 1996 I met a wonderful Scottish lady who has turned my life around. She is a very caring, sympathetic, understanding and loving person. She treats me as a real human being. After all the years of pain and suffering it feels good to have someone who thinks that I am worth something.

During my stay at Boy’s Town, we were subjected to very harsh treatment and military style discipline. We had to do what we were told, when we were told and how we were told and if we didn’t do what we were told quick enough, we were subjected to severe punishment.

On one occasion that I can recall even to this day, I was made to scrub the floor of the toilet block with a toothbrush. The Brother who made me do it came back every now and again and kicked me up the backside and beat me because I was not going fast enough.

On another occasion I received a thrashing because I had supposedly been talking in the dormitory, which was forbidden.

There were about 100 boys in Boy’s Town half were Australian the other half English; I was the only Scot in the whole orphanage. I was treated as an outcast, I was neither accepted by the English boys or the Australians. I was subjected to a lot of ridicule because I was Scottish and did not speak as good English as the other boys. We were not given any formal education at Boys’ Town.

In November 1956 when I was not yet 16 years old I was sent out to work. I suffered great financial hardship and lacked support and help in selecting suitable employment and a career for the future.
In the 1950s, orphanages had lost their place as a symbol of a society’s care for the poor and began to be seen by many as the problem, not the solution.

At the end of 1955, Boys’ Town Rector Fr William Cole SDB implemented the school’s decision to introduce day pupils and to change the name of the institution to Savio College. Sixty day pupils began the school year in 1956 joining the 64 boarders. Savio College accepted pupils from Preparatory 1 (Year 4), through Preparatory 2 and 3 and 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Year plus Matriculation.

The Standard published an extensively illustrated, almost full-page report on the opening of the school to day pupils, in January 1956. The report avoided throughout the story any mention of the “Boys’ Town” name, or indeed any name for the school at all:

“The Archbishop, Most Rev G Young DD announces with pleasure to Catholic parents, especially of Moonah, Glenorchy, and Claremont, that the Salesian Fathers have kindly consented to receive their sons into a section of their magnificent building at Glenorchy, and give them the benefits of a full Catholic education…”

The section of the Glenorchy building to be used as a school has large, fully equipped classrooms…

Since parents from country areas already began last year to send their boys to Glenorchy through the kind favour of the Salesians, applications…”

The Salesians had been through this same process of conversion to a day school at Brooklyn Park, Adelaide, two years before. In Adelaide, just as later in Glenorchy and other places, the Salesians had taken over an institution known as Boys’ Town in 1943, whose fundamental nature was problematic.

To the Australian Salesians it was an orphanage and an opportunity to found a new school. To the community it was a reformatory.

Addressing this, Fr Daniel O’Sullivan SDB, Prefect of Studies, at the annual speech night in 1953 at Brooklyn Park, Adelaide, said:

“It is our aim to build up a good post-primary school with technical and classical courses available. This is not a reformatory; it is not a Boys’ Town of the Nebraska type – it is a normal Salesian school just like any one of the other thousand or so directed by our men throughout the world…”

Fr O’Sullivan was transferred to Boys’ Town, Glenorchy, for 1955 and as Head
Master under Fr Cole 1955-1956, he repeated the conversion.

In November 1956, Savio College publicised its entrance examinations and praised the general appeal of the school in a full page feature in *The Standard*. Fees were 30 guineas per term for boarders, including tuition, and between 4 and 7 guineas per term for tuition only, that is, for day pupils.

Archbishop Guilford Young talked about the child migrants in 1957, at the opening of the new Chapel, and about the money that the Government had provided for the building of the orphanage, in exchange for their care. He spoke of the agreement from 1949 to bring out the boys, and of the vision of Fr Brennan and Archbishop Tweedy, to care for 'senior orphans and needy boys.'

Archbishop Young stated the Government contributed £20,253/6/8 and that the various Governments had paid £10/6/6 maintenance per week (such as for child endowment, or Migrant fees) although it had 'of course, not been sufficient' for them. It was the only time the details of the Government payments to the school were publicly acknowledged (although they were, in fact, understated by the Archbishop) and it was never mentioned in school history.

Archbishop Young also explained at the Chapel opening why he changed the name, or agreed to change the name, of the school from Boys' Town to Savio College:

'The decision was reached because we found that some of the dear, good boys living and studying here were suffering certain social disadvantages. There was danger of their being fixed with a label, and placed in a category apart. For the sake of psychological adjustment, and in order that they might be on equal footing with other boys, who, by the turn of fortune, had more material security, than they had, it was my conviction that even the name with its overtones, was important.'

Fr John Neale SDB became the new Rector at Savio College following Fr Cole’s transfer at the end of 1956. It was Fr Neale who suggested the amendment of the stone by the front door of Boys’ Town and this was approved by the Council of the Salesian Community at a meeting on 9 October 1957.

It was agreed that Boys’ Town was to be deleted and instead the words “This School” would be substituted.

Forty years later, in November 1998, a group of former Boys’ Town Child Migrants met with Fr John Murphy SDB, Salesian Provincial, and Fr Bob Bossini SDB, Dominic College Rector.

The minutes of the meeting record the old scholars asking why the name Boys’ Town was removed from the Foundation Stone.

One man said: ‘Just to clarify the stigma to Fr Murphy and Fr Bob, was the erasure of the name of the place. They wanted to forget about that we ever existed, and that’s the way we all look at it. By taking St John Bosco and Boys Town off the foundation stone we were a forgotten race, just like the aboriginals. Taken away, forgotten about.’

Another asked: 'Terry, through you, can we ask one of the priests, was there any reason why the name Boys’ Town was taken off?'

Fr Murphy replied: ‘I can’t really answer that straight off, but when I came it was known as Savio College. As I listen to you, I begin to understand you as you say that was your home. So I can begin to understand that the change was important to you. But the people that come, and this is what happens in our organisation, some new people come and they don’t know their past, and so there is a break, and the next group comes and all the build up they’ve had that disappears, and another lot comes and so there is this lack of continuity. I don’t think there would be any kind of hidden agenda of why you would change the name to blot out history though.’

Fr Murphy is trying to answer the question *why was the name changed?* – but the question is *why did you physically take Boys’ Town off the foundation stone?*

As part of the reconciliation with our Former British Child Migrants the College inaugurated a second Foundation Stone in 2012 recognising and celebrating the name of Boys’ Town.
Robert Fielding (Savio College 1957-1964)

Robert Fielding was inducted into the Dominic College Hall of Achievement in 2005, after a long and distinguished career in the police force. He passed away in Canberra 15 June 2018.

Robert was born 11 December 1947 to Cyril and Ruth Fielding and enrolled in Savio College for Year 4 in 1957 when the family lived at 64 Windsor Street, Glenorchy. Robert’s father, Cyril, was a cabinetmaker, a foreman at a furniture factory, and mother, Ruth, was a staunch Catholic and ran the family household, which grew regularly with brothers Peter, Gregory and Richard, and sister, Rosemary.

Robert did well and left school after Year 12 in 1964, joining the police force. He was selected to serve with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus in 1968.
Robert met his bride-to-be, Christine Lowe, in 1970 when she was working as a receptionist for Holden Motors and they were married in September 1971 in the Savio College Chapel.

Robert’s police service in Cyprus delayed his National Service. As he was to undertake officer training at Scheyville in the Hawkesbury region of Sydney, Robert and Christine moved to Sydney. Scheyville was the Officer Training Unit (OTU) set up to expand numbers training for Vietnam and accelerate the program into 22 weeks. It was disestablished after the election of the Whitlam Labor government in December 1972.

At the conclusion of his national service, Robert was transferred to the Army Reserve and returned to the Tasmanian police force.

His children recalled him as a wise and strong protector.

‘Joining the police force was not a surprising choice for him, noting his strong sense of justice, integrity and service to others,’ explained his daughter, Amanda. He wore many ‘hats’: police, army, premiership-winning President of the Glenorchy Football Club, sailor, motor bike and car enthusiast, golfer…

His daughter, Jeanette, said ‘He knew people, and he knew values. He always encouraged us to play the long game, the game with integrity, speak truth to power – sometimes diplomatically – and to live a life of strong ethics and loyalty.’

At his funeral in June 2018, Jeanette retold the story of the Mercury reporting 2 January 1982:

Sgt Fielding is just about used to the calls. They usually come after 10 at night through the early hours of the morning. “It’s to tell me that someone has been either killed or critically injured in a road accident” Sgt Fielding said. “I hope that children have not been involved. I’m a family man myself and it’s too much to see young people killed and maimed. I just hate that. “I’ve just got to switch myself off as much as possible…”

The reporter then steps in with a few words, only just having met Dad…

“It’s a tough job. But Sgt Fielding is a rather special policeman. He has boyish good looks – not a wrinkle on his brow. He’s the sort of policeman they used to tell you about at primary school. He is approachable, easy to talk to and has a sense of humour. As well, he has an unfading loyalty, commitment and sense of duty to the public – the people he has been serving since 1964.”

Robert’s son, Craig, said ‘Dad was a man who lived by his principles and values; a man who put family first and himself second, a man who was brave and would happily step into the fray in the face of danger and chaos to protect those he swore to protect, a man who loved his friends, having a laugh, and loved life itself.’

Robert had a long and illustrious career in the police and was renowned for his roles as forward commander at the time of the Port Arthur Massacre, and for his leadership in counter-terrorism training in the late 1990s.

His children all attended Dominic College apart from a period in the 1980s when Robert was posted to Burnie. He retired in 2005 and Bob and Christine moved to Canberra to support their children and grandchildren.

We salute Robert Fielding as a man of service and integrity – may he rest in peace. ■

Above: At Savio College; Constable Bob Fielding (left); Wedding Day.
Rob Maclean agrees he wasted a lot of time at school, but he found his niche in racing services and promotions. Rob says he and his family were McLean at school but he changed it to Maclean as part of his advertising image in the 1990s. Plus he says his grandfather dropped the “a” when he jumped ship to stay in Australia so he’s really going back to his roots!
Robert Maclean (Class of 1977)

My school journey started at St John’s primary school, along with my two sisters Paulette and Debra. School life was normal up until Year 3: warm lime milk, fluoride tablets, soggy tomato sandwiches and deportment lessons with Mrs Brown.

It all changed the day I climbed on a cupboard at home to get a glass. I slipped, and falling, drove the glass into my left hand, severing the tendons. Blood hit the ceiling. Mum freaked out when she saw my hand, and grabbed all the towels she could find. I was rushed to hospital and I had emergency surgery on my left hand. My arm was put in plaster to my elbow and I had to stay home from school for months, so I didn’t jeopardise the surgery. Matchbox cars became my friends and my therapy.

The tendons in my hand had knitted the wrong way, so the surgeons had to reopen my hand and do further surgery. I hated hospital - the anaesthetic made me sick and the nurses would use your back side as a dart board. My school report read “Robert has failed and needs a lot of help and will have to repeat Year 3”.

I was devastated and worried about being teased for being kept back, but my new class mates were understanding, and I formed some lifelong friendships. I moved across the road from St John’s for 4,5,6, at Savio College before heading to the top school at Dominic in Year 7.

On the first day of class we had a blackboard eraser fight - it was great fun, but it resulted in us going to Fr Moate’s office to get the cuts, a trip I would take many times. The cuts back then meant you would get hit on each hand with the cane, I had to get all of mine on my right hand because of the damage to my left.

I struggled academically through my classes because I couldn’t resist interjecting and entertaining the class with some witty one liners and some sarcastic retorts to which many of my teachers surprisingly objected. I remember once the entire class was kept in for 10 minutes because I wouldn’t let Mrs Drummond have the last word.

I enjoyed art with Mrs Shudnat, was good at religion and enjoyed woodwork with Brother Peter. I enjoyed sport, representing the school at state level in athletics and swimming.

I left the senior school after Year 10 in 1977 with the plan of becoming a spray painter. But I couldn’t get a job in that field, so I took a job as a car detailer at a car yard cleaning cars. I did a night course at Tech (TAFE) learning to spray paint, and taking parts off my car to the class to learn how to repair them.

I left the car yard and shared a workshop with my mates repairing and restoring cars, behind what became Pancho Villa in North Hobart.

I bought a “Beta” video shop opposite Cosgrove High School and employed my Aunty to run it for me. I gave the shop a make-over and rebranded it and 12 months later sold it and used the money to purchase my first house. I began renovating and married my girlfriend of eight years.

I was approached to join Creative Cars, a new business putting stickers and pin stripes on cars and within two years we had 85% of the Hobart market. I enjoyed designing and fitting adhesive graphics to cars, boats and horse floats.

In 1987 things started to go wrong. I chipped a bone in my right knee and changed jobs. I became the sales manager of Bob Jane Hobart, but I hated it. My marriage was also coming to an end. I was losing my house and the stress of everything got to me. I became very sick. My doctor told me to take six months off. I had been restoring an SLR Torana for some time, so I focused on finishing that, whilst I got my health back together.

One of my former class mates Scott Williams, a mechanic, had been living in the UK working in racing and I had not seen him for a couple of years. Scotty had worked his way into Formula 1 and was coming out to do the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide, so I said I would fly over and catch up with him. Scotty introduced me to his team mates saying...
Team Lotus had a reputation of working hard and playing harder. Scott told them that I did stickers and I restored cars, so they put me to work, cleaning and fixing things and it was great fun. Their drivers were Satoru Nakajima and World Champion, Nelson Piquet.

On race day they gave me a uniform and a headset and sent me down to the entrance to pit lane to be a race observer, to radio through when their car was in pit lane and report any damage, so they had time to grab replacement parts. When the race was over, whilst the team was packing up, I sold the mechanics uniforms and memorabilia to the crowds on the other side of the pit wall. This was my glimpse of the big time.

I was invited back to work for Team Lotus in Adelaide and I formed some strong friendships. I was invited to move to England to work with the team full time in 1991. I left my job, liquidated all my assets and booked my flights.

Team Lotus had lost their major sponsor “Camel” and a lot of my friends had left the team. My friend and local champion, Paul Stokell, was heading to the UK as well, so we went together. I arrived sunburnt, in shorts and it was 3 degrees, grey and foggy, cold and depressing and after two weeks I was ready to pack up and come home.

I worked for Team Lotus every time they went testing, but after some months it was becoming clear to me I wasn’t going to be working with the team full time. My Australian girlfriend Denise decided to come over to the UK. We would travel around Europe for a holiday and then head home.

I went back to selling cars and working for Team Lotus in Adelaide again at the Grand Prix. I started planning to run an Australian Team in the junior category Formula GM Lotus, an end-of-season Nations Cup.

I started with a line drawing of the car. I sat down with a graphic designer to create a mock up image of what an Australian car would look like in its racing livery. The finished image would give me something tangible to sell, to raise the sponsorship dollars, because the series didn’t exist in Australia, and I was trying to sell an intangible idea.

All the marketing materials, stickers, uniforms, paint designs all came from that one image. It was the most important part of the project and was very innovative in Australia back in the 90s as only Formula 1 teams were doing this.

Over the next two years, I promoted the Nations Cup campaign in the media and on TV, seeking funds to compete. The hard work paid off and on 24 September 1994 in Zandvoort, Holland, Team Australia became reality. Our drivers were Paul Stokell and Stephen White.

I contracted ex-Lotus F1 driver Martin Donnelly’s team to run us for the next three years. I won awards for marketing and presentation every time we raced. Success builds success and over that time we discovered drivers such as Marcos Ambrose and Jason Bargwanna.

In 1997 the Nations Cup series was coming to an end. I had signed a contract to manage the career of a young Sydney driver, Phillip Scifleet who wanted to race in the British National Formula 3 championship the following year. In January, my wife Denise gave birth to our son Nicholas, but I had to head back to the UK for four months.

Bringing my young family with me wasn’t an option because of visas and a lack of a family support network. For the first time racing felt like a job and I was starting to question why I was there.

At the end of the season I moved back to Australia and then home to Tassie. Denise and I bought a house to renovate and I settled into the role of being a Dad. I went back to school and graduated from TAFE with an Advanced Diploma of Business specialising in international marketing. Our daughter Sarah was born, and I became a volunteer business mentor.

My passion for cars and racing has taken me around the world and allowed me to live out all my childhood dreams and I feel very privileged.

Today I own a business called Tastint. I still actively mentor drivers and business owners. The advice I give to young people is to follow your passion in life and you will succeed. We are here for a good time not a long time, so enjoy life’s journey of highs and lows, twists and turns, when someone says “You won’t make it!” or “It will never happen!” use their negativity as motivation to prove them wrong!
Natalie Frankcombe (nee Hills 2002) runs 10th Planet Jiu Jitsu in Moonah with her husband, teaching self-defence classes in the afternoons.

Nat has had a very successful competitive career in martial arts and in May 2019 competed in the ADCC Asia and Oceania trials in Tokyo, Japan, and was a silver medallist in her under 60kg female division. Nat remains the highest ranked Tasmanian jiu jitsu exponent. As she is self-funded, all her training, learning and competing comes at significant cost. We wish her the best in developing her skills.

Natalie enrolled at Dominic College in Year 4 1996 – her father, Andrew, played cricket for DOSA and was a DOSA Cricket Club Committee member.

During high school I excelled in Art and Sport, winning art awards at the Royal Hobart Show and being nominated for the Fr Kevin O’Mara award for excellence in sport. I enjoyed portraiture with Ms Spencer. I enjoyed her eccentric and eclectic personality and her passion for creating quality artwork with meaning and soul. Mr Williams’ dry sense of humour and his no fuss, honest attitude is still something I remember.

In Year 10, I coached the Dominic Year 7 Basketball team (which included my sister Peta) to State titles. I participated in basketball, netball, softball, hockey, water polo, cross country, swimming and athletics. I even held the Dominic javelin record for many years!

I went on to Guilford Young College and continued playing netball, basketball and volleyball. I even approached my sport teacher at the time for guidance to commence boxing, which was denied. Imagine if I could have started my martial arts journey then!

I took up an apprenticeship to become a veterinary nurse, but left in my first year. I had worked for Coles since I was 14. I focussed on this and became a Customer Service Manager.

I was at Coles for eight years then undertook a temporary administration role in a Federal Government agency.

Thinking I had found my calling, I worked tirelessly, completing extensive post-college training in Business Management, Government and Human Resources.

I met my husband Jeremy in 2006 through the local punk music scene and together (with a lot of encouragement by him) we commenced our martial arts journey, firstly through our Korean Martial Art of Gongkwon Yusul in which we received our Black Belts, and then 10th Planet Jiu Jitsu.

My sedentary desk job with the government saw me put on a substantial amount of weight. I was close to 100kgs at one point. After finding Jiu Jitsu I was hungry for further personal growth and development and pushed myself tirelessly to improve my health through diet, cardio, agility and strength work to feel...
better, stronger and fitter to further assist in my jiu jitsu training.

Recently I took long service leave to continue my fitness and health education studies, and became a qualified personal trainer to help drive my sporting career and to assist my students with their journeys.

After doing all I can competitively in the Tasmanian jiu jitsu scene, for the past few years I have been travelling interstate to seek out opponents. In 2018, I won the Aus Sub Only Specialist Female Title Belt in Sydney in August.

I had an exhibition match with Boa8 that was live streamed online in which I finished my opponent just outside of a minute. In September 2018 I entered the ADCC competition in Melbourne, defeating both a brown belt world champion and a black belt multiple world champion via submission, to take home the gold.

These wins showed me how good I could be and so international competition is a significant goal of mine in the 2019-2020 seasons.

In December 2018, I had the immense privilege of being promoted to Brown Belt by my coach in Melbourne alongside our Head Coach who was visiting from Los Angeles. This promotion in rank has made me the highest ranked female Jiu Jitsu practitioner in Tasmania, as well as the only female 10th Planet Jiu Jitsu Brown Belt in the Southern Hemisphere!

In addition to my competitive aspirations, I am driven to provide my students with the best version of myself to assist in motivating them in their values and goals. I am always looking at how I can grow my club with a specific focus on kids, teens and women’s programs, as self-defence techniques, awareness and knowledge are vital skills to possess in today’s society.
Kath McCann is the Sales and Marketing Manager for the Federal Group in Tasmania and has held significant roles for Tourism Tasmania. She is a Director of Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania and a member of the Tasmanian Heritage Council.

‘Keeping good, young people in Tasmania is a big issue for us,’ Kath told the Mercury’s Saturday Magazine in 2014.

Kath and her husband Adam Sproule, are raising children Oscar and Harriet. ‘We even considered moving away and working somewhere else, but the opportunity to make a difference for business here is one we valued really highly. We want our young family to grow up in a Tasmania full of prosperity.’

Kath is also on the board of Oakdale Enterprises (part of the Oak Possability group), a not-for-profit organisation that produces a wide range of quality products and services. Oakdale train and employ more than 100 people with a disability.

Kath is passionate about education, participation and community service and is proud of the way Dominic College shaped her values and skills.

Kath was from Bridgewater – both her parents attended Dominic College. Her father, Stephen McCann, went to St John’s primary school at Glenorchy, then to Savio College from Year 4 in 1966 and completed his HSC at Dominic in 1974. Kath’s mother, Roseanne Watson, went to Holy Name in 1972 then Dominic College, Class of 1975.

She said that there was never any question of which school she would
Kath started in Prep in 1987, with Mrs Foley as her teacher, after Kindergarten at Glenorchy Primary. Kath and her brother, Andrew, were in day care after school in Glenorchy. Around this time the family moved from Bridgewater to Old Beach. Kath says that she hasn’t lived in Glenorchy but her grandparents did then and now her parents live close by.

I loved school and look back very fondly on my time at Dominic College. My children, Harriet and Oscar, are coming from primary school into high school now and I can only hope they have the education and the experiences I had.

One teacher who stood out for me was Chris Fagan, now coach of the Brisbane Lions. Chris was my Year 6 teacher and he had a significant impact on my life and development because he was more than a teacher; he was a life coach and I think he was able to give something special to me and the students in our class at the right time in our development.

Starting at the Middle School in Year 7 we had a number of teachers who were also just starting their teaching career: Miss Byrne, Mrs White, Mr Reinbach. They were fresh and so enthusiastic and we could feel it. We also had some of the elder statesmen, but this youthful energetic enthusiasm made the balance.

I was in Year 9 Gold with Mr O’Keefe (he had actually taught my mum as well, and a number of my aunties and uncles) and he was my Maths teacher and a terrific teacher. He took a really holistic approach to learning.

I was actively involved in a range of pursuits, from Peer Support to St Vincent de Paul and I think I participated in just about every sports and every activity put in front of us.

Whether academically or not, ultimately what we had was a really great group of quality people and I think that’s testament to the College and the Salesian education provided. Probably the saddest thing for me was not having the opportunity to do Year 11 and 12 at Dominic College, as Catholic senior education changed with the introduction of Guilford Young College.

I was proud to be College Captain in Year 10 in 1997 with Mark Fitzpatrick. Mark at that time demonstrated a lot of talent and skill particularly in the arts side, where I came probably more from the sports side and I think together we hopefully provided some leadership connection for a range of students.

My work with St Vincent de Paul at Dominic has never been lost on me and in some respects paved the way for some of the decisions I’ve made since, such as participating in programs with Glenview. My pop (David Watson) actually worked at Dominic College, but he finished his career working at Glenview. I saw the value of the generosity and humility of people participating in community life.

I remember at the time, for me, it was a little bit confronting, walking into an aged care environment and participating in Dominic College’s St Vincent de Paul programs.

After College, I enrolled in Arts/Law but I took the law out pretty quickly and moved into Commerce/Arts, a double degree at UTAS. I ended up doing a double major in a psychology and marketing degree with the commerce component. At that time I was the only graduate that year with that degree. But for me it made good sense: understanding how people behave and ultimately make decisions, overlaid with communications and marketing - join those two together and you have quite a compelling skill set.

I had a really great time at UTAS, I worked all the way through in part time capacity but I was fortunate enough in my last year to be given the opportunity to take on the graduate role for the ANZ Bank in Tasmania, which was a wonderful starting spot for me professionally.

That provided me with an outstanding opportunity to work around different parts of the business and ultimately team up with other graduates in the Bank of Australia, as well. It was a terraced program but I didn’t see a career for myself in banking and from there I moved into my first government role which was in export and market development working in the retail, food and beverage sector in Tasmania,
and then my first role moving into the tourism space.

I've been with the Federal Group five years. I started as a Sales and Marketing Manager for Wrest Point but in the last 12 months I now have responsibility for Launceston Country Club as well, two quite different properties but similar markets in many respects.

This sees me travelling up and down the highway a little bit… it's a great challenge as we have 1000 staff across the two sites and we are on a transformational journey so it doesn't come without its challenges.

I look after all sales and marketing: all event sales, everything from a conference to a meeting as well as entertainment for the whole group, so all the major shows, like Fat Boy Slim, or Ministry of Sound, or Red Hot Summer in Launceston. Ultimately I look after all the sales and marketing from food and beverage, bars, dining, gaming, and accommodation.

My leadership style has definitely evolved from those Dominic College early seeds. Clear communication was always important, whether addressing the Year 10 Formal or speaking in assembly. Leadership in action (by deeds not words) was about being a participatory leader and getting in and being with your community.

And the other thing for me, this is why I really liked the combination of who we had at that time, is that the SRC wasn't all about sport or all about academia or all about community, we had really good coverage that allowed everyone a place, so being positive and having a growth mindset and being optimistic.

I sit on the board at Oak. It is an amazing business, we have really grown. We have 100 staff now - we are the biggest employer in Tasmania of people with a disability and the role that we play in changing people's lives - not just those with a disability but their friends, peers and colleagues. Providing meaningful purpose through work is something that you can just never underestimate.

Last year, we took three months off and campervanned around Australia. The last time I was in Central Australia was on a trip that changed my life: the school trip which happened when I was at Dominic College in Year 10. We flew into Darwin and we travelled through central Australia visiting Kakadu, Uluru, Kings Canyon. The trip, had a profound impact on me personally. To see and experience indigenous Australia had quite a spiritual connection for me. When we got to Uluru, the light, colour, indigenous Australia, dreamtime all became connected. Looking back, I had this absolute need to take my family and children out there.

I feel extremely passionate about Tasmania and the liveability of this place, so for me continuing to impact and influence and participate in ensuring Tasmania is as economically, socially and culturally prosperous as it can be, is important. What that looks like in terms of the actual jobs I take in the future, who knows?

I am also very passionate about personal wellness; your emotional, physical, psychological and spiritual health and wellbeing. I think there is an undisputable link between your wellness and your performance and the type of person you are. The College taught me that a participatory environment was a key and this is something for which I am forever grateful.

I encourage students to absolutely focus on this because there will come a point in your life where you can't add it to your life: it has to be who you are and participation will ultimately make you a better person and a better contributor to the community.
Peter Joseph Lynskey says the Salesian priests and brothers, the lay teachers and the many parents who volunteered their time, all passed on important values, and still remain a positive influence today.

‘Dominic College has played a significant role in forming me as a husband, father and grandfather. I remember the life skills lecture that Father Freeman gave our Year 10 group in 1969. In a wonderful talk he said “to be a good Christian parent is to earn an honest living, be a role model to your children and listen to their problems and to always respect and show real love to your wife treating her and your entire family as you would like to be treated yourself.” I have tried to live up to this.’

Peter has moved around Tasmania and Queensland a great deal, but wherever he has gone he has sought ways to work with the local community of volunteers and sports people, to enrich the lives of everyone around him.

Peter’s parents, Brian and Sheila, lived on an apple orchard in the Huon Valley – his eldest sister, Anne, went to Sacred Heart Convent and then worked for the Archdiocesan office in Hobart. She married William Kitson and their children were at Dominic College in the 1970s and 1980s.

Peter’s older brother, Michael, was a boarder at Savio in 1957, but became a day student when the family gave up the Huon apple orchard and moved to Moonah.

Peter enrolled in 1963 into Year 4 taught by Fr Stettmeyer.

‘He was a father-figure to me,’ said Peter. ‘I remember many things so well!’ We loved the Bertie Beetles he handed out on your best behaviour days and I recall how the whole class had to go into pause mode to view a Robin Redbreast as it settled on the fence outside the classroom.

I remember him demonstrating making a cross with your thumb under your shirt. He said if you were eating in a public forum and wanted to say grace privately, this was what you could do.

Just before morning break he would make each student open their mouth to allow him to throw the goitre tablet to the back of our mouth! This was 10mg of potassium iodide given to all schools for students to combat Tasmanian iodine deficiency.

Class breaks during each school day involved drinking flavoured milk in 250ml glass bottles delivered daily and stored in crates outside the tuck-shop. Then it was playing in the playground. On wet days it was games of “hoppo bumpo” in the sheltered area that backed onto the bush land. On dry days it was socks rolled up and sewn together and two teams picked. AFL was played with plenty of gusto with teams staying together for the week and I’m sure most of the Savio boys were battle hardened when we took to the field in the Independent Schools roster each Saturday in the middle term.

I was in McCann House wearing green and it was a very keen competition each Wednesday between the Houses. Tennis was in Term 1: best of three sets...
singles, then doubles. Middle term was football; firstly at Eady Street, Glenorchy, delivered by one of Merv Cresswell’s buses, then after 1966 football was on our school oval. Final term was cricket and some rounders (baseball) on the main oval.

Our football teams competed in the state schoolboys competition until 1967 then we joined the independent schools when Years 11 and 12 were introduced. Our Opens and Under 15 teams travelled to Sunbury college at Rupertswood in June each year and were boarders for the long weekend in June for the Salesian colleges’ annual carnival. This was a real highlight in our lives and we relished this unique opportunity.

I left school in Year 11 and joined an insurance firm in Hobart and played football with Glenorchy from 1970-1974. I cherish those years playing for Glenorchy and many of those teammates have remained lifelong friends.

My father, Brian, died 10 February 1973, at 56 years of age. He had been school tennis coach, school football goal umpire and a strong supporter of any sporting cause that Br Thomson was involved with at Savio College. My mother Sheila remained on the P&F well into her 70s and many recall her forthright opinions!

I left Tasmania in 1975 to play football with Mayne in the QAFL league sharing a house with three other Tasmanians in a suburb called Geebung. Legend has it our landlady had a breakdown due to us but I assure you all that’s not true!

I worked jobs in Brisbane including quality controller at XXXX brewery, claims clerk at Sun Alliance insurance before I purchased a milk run to make my fortune!

I married Sandra Bonnitcha (from Hobart but we met only in Brisbane in 1976) and after a 3-year courtship, married at the Catholic Church at Daisy Hill on 9 June 1979.

Sandra and I now have three adult children and seven grandchildren with another due in July 2019.

While running the milk run I was engaged with Mt Gravatt Football club as a development officer managing over 1100 registered players in both primary and secondary schools competitions.

We returned to Tasmania, living and working in Penguin from 1982-1986 and I played in a premiership with Penguin in 1983 (reserves), and then became Secretary/Treasurer.

In 1986 we built a home on 5 acres at Legana near Launceston. As was always the case when we moved I sought out the nearest football club. After four years at Bridgenorth Football Club and having coached the reserves for two years I became president in 1989.

Through a desire to spread our wings we took on the challenge of ownership of the Wesley Vale Store which was built in 1881 and had significant historical value to the local community. We embraced the community of farmers who were very loyal and supported us very well. I linked up with Peter Knights at the Devonport Football Club as his Rehabilitation Officer and Fitness Coach (and general ‘gopher’) on match day running a marathon weekly as the senior team runner.

When I moved the family back to Queensland in 1994 I purchased two mail runs around the Mt Gravatt and Carindale regions and maintained these until 1999 when I had open-heart surgery and a near death experience.

I felt my late mother’s message was that the Lord does not want you yet as he has plans for you on earth. It took a while to realize that helping people less fortunate than myself was my purpose and I have spent the past 20 years working in Disability and Mental Health fields.

Currently I work with a group of people with dementia over the weekend and on a 1:1 basis with an acquired Brain Injury patient. These roles are challenging and rewarding and my mantra is to focus on the ability of these people not on their disability, and I believe that this earns their respect and creates positive outcomes.

I have always maintained an interest in Sports and Remedial Massage and I have undertaken upskilling and re-accreditation requirements. Since changing my life in 1999, I have been fortunate to work as a volunteer at many major sporting events, from the 2000 Sydney Olympics, to the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

I have had 15 years involvement with Queensland Indoor Cricket supporting them in my capacity as Sports Trainer and Remedial Masseur at National Championships. I am really looking forward to 2020 when the National Championships are held in Tasmania, from where I have been absent for too long!
Mates from the Class of 1985 and old DOSA Roosters, Patrick Ryan and Glen O’Keefe caught up at the Ashley Youth Detention Centre recently. Patrick is the Manager Custodial Youth Justice, and Manager of Ashley, and was pleased to meet with Glen, who is the Manager Youth Solutions Division, Colony 47. Both share a passion for working with youth and met to compare notes and strategies. Patrick and Glen enjoyed the friendships and camaraderie of Dominic College, especially in sports teams at and since school. Both Glen and Patrick have ended up working for the community, trying to help young people who experience hardships in their relationships with society.

Glen O’keefe
My very early childhood was in Claremont and I attended Holy Rosary Primary School through to Year 5. At the end of 1980 we moved to Montrose and my parents decided to transfer me to Dominic for Year 6 in 1981. I recall being very nervous about starting at a new school so late in primary school, but I was soon welcomed and settled in well. Year 6 at Dominic prepared me well for Year 7 at Tolosa Street but I had the unique experience of having my father, Graham O’Keefe, as a teacher and Deputy Principal at the ‘middle school’. This had its pros and cons! There was the assumption that I was good at Maths being the son of the Maths teacher, but my results quickly showed this not to be the case.

I also was quickly given the same nickname as dad, GOK, and this stuck so much that some students from other grades didn’t actually know my name. Even some of the teachers called me GOK. No one knows me or calls me by this anymore, but occasionally in the streets of Hobart I hear someone yell out “GOK” and my school days come rushing back to me.

I actually had my dad as my Maths teacher in Year 8. I can remember as dad walked into the class room the class would stand up and he would say “Good morning class” and the room would respond “Good morning Mr O’Keefe”. This was always an awkward moment for me: I didn’t want to call him Mr O’Keefe and I had already said good morning to him. My best option was to just say nothing.

I played the traditional sports at the time; football (AFL) in winter and cricket in summer and have fond memories of being involved with some very successful teams. The football team in particular had great success. As I was younger than others in my year I was able to play with the grade below me and we rarely lost a game. I remember the annual practice matches against the year that I was from and playing against my mates for bragging rights.

I strongly believe the education and values I learned at Dominic helped lead me to where I am in life now. I am married with three children, all of whom have been engaged in Catholic education. My career has been of growth into executive management role in community services. I am working at Colony 47 as the Manager of the Youth Solutions Division. The school’s motto, ‘Live by the Truth’ remains as one of my most important values and one that I would encourage all students to hold close to them.
I have very fond memories of my school days at Dominic. It was full of great friends, teachers and people. I have re-connected with many from my school days on Facebook and it is so good to see the long list of amazing people that Dominic College has produced.

**Patrick Ryan**

I grew up in Lenah Valley, the youngest of seven children. My father was a conveyancing clerk and we were a Catholic family. My twin brother, Chris, and I started in Immaculate Heart of Mary School, which at that time only went to Year 3, and we finished off at Lenah Valley Primary. We both went to Dominic from Year 7 in 1982 following our elder brother Donald (Don) who graduated Year 12 in 1980.

I did Italian from Year 7 to Year 11 with “Signora Costa.” I didn’t particularly like Maths, but plodded away. I got some of it, but not all. I liked Mrs Smith’s Social Science classes. Our Class teachers were good too. I was 7 Blue with Fr O’Mara, 8 Black with Mr Greg O’Keefe and then 9 Gold with Fr O’Mara again. Year 10-12 I was with Mr Singleton, who was someone I really liked and got on with well.

Sports stood out. My brother, Chris, and I did tennis, soccer and basketball at school. I was a proud “Tweed Tiger” as we christened ourselves. Our basketball coach, Paddy Whelan, was the Assistant Coach of the then Tassie Devils basketball team, and American, so loved his basketball. I vividly recall him yelling at Mr Pullen (who was umpiring a game), “A blind man could have seen that foul!”

I was a shy kid at school, and didn’t do a lot of ‘production’ work. I was in the school choir though, and I recall ‘My Fair Lady’ when I was in Year 7, which was at New Town High School. I remember seeing it on the news, and one Jocelyn Helmich blowing bubble-gum bubbles in the background (I really do remember some odd things).

I left Year 12 as a 17 year old and wanted to join the Police but was too little and too young. Back then, you went around and door-knocked for a job. I did that during Term 3 (only three terms then) and started work about a week after I finished school at the Savings and Loans Credit Union (doesn’t exist anymore). Nine months later, on 1 August 1988, I started my career with the Police.

I stayed with Police for 28 years, becoming Senior Sergeant, and worked all over the State. I am now the Manager of Custodial Youth Justice, at Ashley. It’s a long story, but I’m on leave without pay from Police, so 31 years (almost) later, I’m still tied to Police, but my ‘job’ is with the Department of Communities as a Senior Manager, which I’ve done for over two years now.

It’s a challenging but rewarding job, and I’d ultimately like to do myself out of it and have no young people in detention! In a nutshell, the principles of custodial youth justice are Responsibility (young person takes responsibility for their wrong doing), Reparation (young person gives reparation where able, such as paying the cost of damages), Diversion (we divert young people from detention through early intervention and work when in custody), Rehabilitation (through our work when in custody) and Deterrence (again, through our work in custody, and into release, to deter a return to custody).

Don’t underestimate how well regarded Dominic College is. The school has cast a wide net over many years, and it’s not hard to find an Old Scholar who might be looking to employ someone, or someone you can reminisce with. Keep in touch with your school, like I did playing with the DOSA Roosters, or through Veritas. Find work you like to do. Take some risks: ask questions, rather than wondering.

I do wish though the school had kept its fawn shirts, and the yellow for matric. I still wish there was a matric there, and that we had School Certificate and Higher School Certificate. Ah, the good old days!
Make a friend, change a life.
Dr Keith McVilly (Class of 1983)

Dr Keith McVilly is Professor of Disability & Inclusion at the University of Melbourne. Keith said that what gave him the greatest satisfaction in his career was ‘sharing journeys’ with clients and with his students, learning from and contributing to the lives of others along the way.

‘My work involves a lot of working on societal and systemic problems, and finding novel solutions to “wicked” situations in our world (situations that defy resolution). I enjoy the opportunity to challenge current thought, especially where it is beset by prejudice and lacking any basis in evidence. And I enjoy building the evidence for new ways of thinking and acting, especially where this opens up opportunities for people who have traditionally been left on the margins or excluded from our communities.’

Keith was born and raised in New Town, an only child to Raymond and Dallas McVilly. He went to Swanston Street Kindergarten, and then Sacred Heart College to Year 4, then enrolled at Dominic College in Mrs Doyle’s Year 5 class.

‘I loved school and everything to do with learning new things – I was never into sport. I have fond memories of my middle school years (Year 7 with Mrs Conboy; Year 8 with Mr Blucher; and Year 9 with Mr O’Keefe).

I spent lots of time with Mr Grace in the library who taught me a love of books and the value of knowledge; fond memories of Mrs Smith for Social Science, and especially History; Ms Graham supported me through my struggles with quadratic equations; Mrs O’Brien taught me a love of cooking; Mrs Costa tried to teach me Italian (she tried!); Fr O’Mara was a great friend; and Fr Moate never got to cane me! I never made it as far as his Level 3 English class though. I so wanted to study Shakespeare with Fr Moate, but my spelling was atrocious so they kept me back in Level 2 English.

I enjoyed my senior school years, with Sr Margaret Mary as the Deputy Principal. I had great fun with Mr Gatt and Mr Singleton, and will always remember Mrs Woodhouse and her commitment to scholarship in Comparative Religion - she nurtured in me a critical mind. Mr Bowes was my stand-out teacher, with his love of Greek History, literature and the performing arts, and generally his freedom to be himself. Mr Forshaw tried so hard to teach me Advanced Maths! And Fr Cau taught me golf!

Mrs Hawkins and Mrs McIntyre coached our debating team (which included Fiona Sheehan and Michael O’Keefe). This experience provided a firm foundation for much of my work going forward post-school – to think critically and analytically on my feet and under pressure, and to not take myself too seriously!

So, for me Dominic College was partly what I learned in the class, but more so what I learned by being part of this College community. There were those of us in my class who had family at the big end of town, in business and in politics. And there were my fellow classmates whose family were down on their luck.

There were the kids who were the thriving intellectuals, the kids who did make it to Fr Moate’s English class. And students who just got to school. There were some of us who had been in Tasmania for several generations, some whose heritage went back 50,000 years and some kids in my class who had only just arrived.

I learnt a lot in classes from wonderful teachers here at this College. My grades were pretty ordinary but I’ve ended up with a PhD and professorship so I’ve done OK - a lot of the time it’s about dedication and persistence. It’s also not so much what you’ve learnt, but who you’ve learnt it with - the companionship of my friends and of my teachers who have really focused me on the importance of human relationships and of promoting acceptance, understanding and inclusion of the outsider in our society.

In this rich diversity we forged a community and I learnt the importance of belonging.

Post-school, I spent some years in the diocesan seminary, Corpus Christi College at Melbourne. Returning to Tasmania I took up studies at the University of Tasmania in Psychology and Sociology. During this time I worked for the St Vincent de Paul Society (mainly at Bethlehem House) and at St Joseph’s Crisis Accommodation Centre. I later worked for the Department of Human Services, supporting people with intellectual disability moving out of Willow Court Centre.
I undertook my Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology at the University of Tasmania. I worked for some years in the UK, at a research centre in Wales. When I returned to Australia I worked as a Psychologist with the Department of Human Services, and in private practice for people with predominantly workplace injuries and those with injuries arising from motor vehicle accidents.

I then moved to NSW, where I had been offered a Scholarship to do a PhD at the University of Sydney – my thesis was titled: “I get by with a little help from my friends; adults with intellectual disability and loneliness.” I took up a teaching position at RMIT University at Melbourne. I worked for a while at the University of Minnesota, USA, and then Deakin University where I was made an Associate Professor in the School of Psychology.

In 2016, I was offered the newly created position of Professor of Disability & Inclusion in the School of Social & Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne.

The centrality of relationships to well-being reflects my lived experience; we are largely who we are because of who we meet and travel with in life. While many people choose to focus on and define life in terms of what they do and what they achieve, I think it’s more important to focus on who we are and, importantly, who we are in relationship with others.

Very few of us have the chance to change the direction of human history, but every one of us should seize the opportunity to contribute to the life of a friend.

There are many injustices in the world that we can never hope to set right, but each of us can relieve the loneliness in the life of another, and in my view this is probably one of the most important things that anyone of us can do regardless of our abilities, opportunities, or position in life.

I hope that each and every one of you can reach out not just to your friends, to reach out to someone who mightn’t be as cool as you, someone who mightn’t be achieving at the same level as you are, someone who is not already a friend of a mate, but someone who you know just happens to be there in the class or your community. Reach out and find out who they are, what’s important to them, just reach out and include each other in your own lives.

For me, this is one way we can all answer the call to “live by the truth”.

Bee-keeping is one of Keith’s more unusual hobbies. Keith and his mother, Dallas, in the Dominic College Chapel, where Keith sponsored one of the new Stations of the Cross.
Andrew Skelly is Senior Station Officer and Training Officer for the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) and has over 30 years' experience. He has managed 30 firefighters and five fire stations in the Hobart City area, provided excellent leadership at fire and rescue emergencies, and coordinated operational training and development of team members.

Andrew developed the Tasmania Fire Service Remote Area Team Program. He managed firefighting teams combating bushfires burning in wilderness areas inaccessible to tanker crews and developed training in helicopter operations.

‘My connection with the fire service started when I was a kid at Dominic College. Dad was a volunteer firefighter. It was only a small brigade in a small town. We’d get a call and there was an air raid siren in the middle of town so if we heard the air raid siren we had to let Dad know.’

Mum and Dad lived on the river front on the old Boyer Road so I had a walk to the bus stop (just under a 1km), catch the bus into Glenorchy and another bus up Tolosa Street when at the top school in Year 7. Lots of time was spent on the bus or waiting at the bus stop. After school activities like sports training meant catching the late bus, or if you were lucky cadging a lift with a mate or talking mum into picking us up.

At the time I thought school was close to being in prison and didn’t like it much at all. Being in Michael Woolford’s class was the highlight of my time as well as art classes with Mrs Shudnat. PE was good with Chris Hatch - I liked running and Chris organised different sports, not just footy and cricket, for us to learn.

I took too many classes with Mrs Smith whom I didn’t get on with. It wasn’t much fun going to Fr Moate’s office, as he seemed to like using the cane.

There was a big fire at Broadmarsh on my first day of Year 10 and that was probably my first day of firefighting as I tagged along with Dad and jumped on the truck and we were out together protecting houses and driving through the bush.

Until then I had no idea of what career or job I would be interested in. Fighting fires just clicked with me, working in small teams, being a part of an organisation doing stuff that makes a difference to someone else. And then I found out you could get paid to do it, so I started studying a bit harder, as the minimum age was 18.

I left Dominic at the end of Year 10 to go to a college with a bigger selection of classes and where I didn’t have to wear a uniform. I completed Year 11 and was half way through Year 12 when I was 18 years and 2 months and applied successfully for a job as a firefighter.

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Here I am over 30 years later and there’s still new stuff to learn. It’s an honour and a privilege that you actually get the chance to provide some leadership. You spend 48 hours per week, on day shifts, night shifts, all together with a small bunch of people who resemble a family. And again, there’s the teamwork of helping others come through the ranks and the training.

The big thing with working with the fire service is the opportunities you get to do a whole range of different jobs. I was looking for a job where you could make a difference, on someone’s worst day hopefully you’re performing at your best.

Over the years I have mainly been working in the South at the Hobart Fire Brigade, but I have also worked from Launceston twice and spent time on the trucks at the different fire stations, working in training (managing recruit courses, coordinating and instructing courses). A highlight was being given the opportunity to develop and manage the TFS remote area firefighting program. I have travelled all round the state fighting bushfires and had four deployments to the mainland leading teams. I’ve also travelled to Hong Kong to instruct Park Rangers.

School never made much sense to me at the time. I was pretty naïve and immature through most of it. However, as a firefighter there is a lot of Science, Maths and English in all the work we do.

For all the students doing it tough and unsure of why they are studying and what they want to do as a career (like I was), hang in there as you never know when an opportunity comes along that might be the start of a great adventure. Things will go wrong, but don’t be afraid of failure as we all fail: learn from your experiences.
Ryan Elson (1989)
Ryan Elson has been a police officer, a real estate agent, president of the Redcliffe Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, founder of Tribe, a social support community, and a resilience trainer. In between his various careers he has had experiences of instability, family illness and crisis.

Ryan had a disturbed and calamitous family life growing up but found boarding at Dominic College in the 1980s was his way to turn his life around.

‘If you always do what you’ve always done, you always get what you’ve always got!’ he says. ‘As a result of my life experiences I have become acutely aware of the importance of social support, interaction and belonging. We as a society have fallen into the lazy and ineffective trap of relying on government to fix community issues whilst we sit back and do nothing aside from complain that nothing has changed. Human beings are social creatures. We have always been and remain tribal. Throwing money at a problem, creating short term band aid fixes so as to tick a KPI box are not the answer. We as a community need to step back up and provide each other with support and guidance.’

Ryan was born in August 1973 in Subiaco, but left WA when four and started school at St Therese’s at Moonah. He says he started to become aware something was wrong with his family then. He began to feel the tension and see the difficulties between his parents.

‘My Mum was a beautiful soul. She was a nurse and working as a mobile carer for the Hobart District Nursing Service. She would drop us to school each day and we would either walk home or a friend of hers would pick us up. My Mum would cook us Toad in the Hole (which we thought was fantastic) and lamb chops in the upright grill. I loved her.

My Dad on the other hand seemed to do nothing. I remember him lying on the day bed in the lounge room most days whilst Mum was at work. I also remember him having a vinyl book keeper’s bag and some of the scrolling stands that show the betting odds. He was obviously a bookie. From him and Mum fighting about money, he wasn’t a very good bookie.

My first direct memory of his violence was hearing him and Mum having a screaming match one night. Dad had Mum pinned against the wall and was yelling into her face. I ran to them and pushed between them only to receive a cracking back hander from Dad which sent me flying back up the hall. It became more frequent and I was often in the middle of these physical altercations. Dad would occasionally stop when he saw me but not always. Mum would cuddle me and escort me back to my room.

Things did not improve until I was 7 years old. I got home and Dad sat me down to tell me that he was going away. It turns out that Mum had given him the ultimatum that unless he stopped drinking he could not live with us. He was crying and hugged me saying that he would come back once he had sorted himself out. I was heartbroken. Just like that he was gone.

One December day in 1982 Mum had to go to a conference in Launceston so she had a co-worker in the car as she dropped us off in the St Therese’s car park. I got out and she said, “Come and give me a kiss”? I said “Nah” and ran off.

After school that night I was waiting at home for Mum to get home after work as usual. There was a knock at the door, standing there was a huge policeman. Mum had been in a car accident.

Mum was crying.

The next night we all sat down to watch the news. Mum’s orange Cortina was now a smashed turned inside out mess of a thing with fluid all over the place and cop cars all around it. I remember the words “Critical” and “Cleary’s Gates” said by the news reader. I turned around to see my Auntie and Granma in tears with their hands to their faces and my Uncle staring ashen-faced at the screen.

In the morning Auntie Audrey sat us down and told us that Mum had died overnight. Dad was on the phone and wanted to talk to me. He was crying.

He told me that everything was going to be OK and he would be back when he sorted himself out.

The next few months were awful. I remember Granma and my Uncle and Auntie arguing about what they were going to do with us. I got moved into my Uncle’s house. My Uncle was my legal guardian. Mum had asked him if something should happen to her would he look after her children. I’m sure it rolled easily off his tongue when he said yes. My Uncle and Auntie were not prepared for this life that had been thrust upon them.

The stone cold fact is that no one has ever hit me as hard and as often as my Uncle. His standard plan was to call me over and say he wanted to talk to me. He was crying. He told me that everything was going to be OK and he would be back when he sorted himself out.

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The stone cold fact is that no one has ever hit me as hard and as often as my Uncle. His standard plan was to call me over and say he wanted to talk to me. He was crying. He told me that everything was going to be OK and he would be back when he sorted himself out.

The next night we all sat down to watch the news. Mum’s orange Cortina was now a smashed turned inside out mess of a thing with fluid all over the place and cop cars all around it. I remember the words “Critical” and “Cleary’s Gates” said by the news reader. I turned around to see my Auntie and Granma in tears with their hands to their faces and my Uncle staring ashen-faced at the screen.

In the morning Auntie Audrey sat us down and told us that Mum had died overnight. Dad was on the phone and wanted to talk to me. He was crying.

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After a few months I was moved back to Granma’s as my guardians had had another baby. I’m pretty sure that it was about now that I started acting up. I really disliked Granma and I started to behave pretty badly. Aside from the usual not cleaning my room stuff that kids do I openly refused to do as she asked, I swore at her and laughed when she hit me. When she could do no more she would call my Uncle to come down and sort me out. I then started to steal. I started off stealing money from Granma’s purse when she was asleep and when I couldn’t do that I would shoplift. For a while I got involved with a few dodgy kids who were stealing cars and stealing from people’s houses. I was pinched for shoplifting a glow-in-the-dark skull from K-Mart and although the police gave me a warning, that was it. I would be going to Boarding School in Year 7. I would be living there for five nights a week and could come home for weekends.

Dominic College Middle School was six kilometres away. On my orientation day we were shown the big rooms packed with beds, large bathrooms with 20 sinks and 10 showers and the big dining room by the priest in charge. All the while we were being watched by a group of unruly looking lads who would very soon be my boarding school brothers. I had a feeling that instead of being the big guy of primary school I was now firmly at the bottom of the pecking order and I was scared.

I then met my fellow newbies also starting Year 7 in 1986. Damon first, from Dover and looking as scared as I felt. Timmy, small and looking even more scared than I felt and lastly Ben who looked confident and capable. I hoped I looked like he did.

We were introduced to our boarding master known as Sarge. I felt so lonely and afraid on my first Sunday night but every other newbie did too. We then got told by a few of the Year 8s that it was movie night so we followed them downstairs to the dining room. There were heaps of seats in front of the TV and behind that the head priest had a small room open that was packed full of lollies, chips and soft drink….we had our own little tuck shop!

I have no recollection of the movie but I remember us newbies got stirred up a bit. What really struck me though was how happy everyone seemed to be! It didn’t seem at all like the dismal lonely prison atmosphere that I expected!

In the days that followed all the normal new school stuff happened. New classes, new friends, new girls, a fair bit of chest puffing from the lads and the standard pecking order rituals. It was all pretty good. Friday afternoon came around and I, like all the other boarders, was looking forward to going home. I got picked up, taken home and it was, as usual, just awful.

After a few weeks I realised I loved boarding school! Ok so the priests and brothers could be a bit natty occasionally but I was hanging out with new friends every day and no one hit me around the head! This was awesome!

The older boarders looked after us against anyone else. They told us how to get around the school, which priests and brothers to avoid and if anyone had a drama with a day student (“day rats” as they were occasionally known) they would be surrounded by bigger boarders and told that it was “fight one boarder, fight them all”.

I had never experienced anything like this. It felt like what I thought family should feel like. I felt safe. I felt strong!

Of course as in any family it wasn’t all roses. Senior boarders looked after us against anyone else. But if you had a drama with another boarder you generally had to sort it out on your own. A fair few smack downs took place generally about respect (or lack thereof) and most were well deserved. I know for certain that my only one was very well deserved. I probably got off lightly.

Physically I was above average: solidly built. I wasn’t scared of much. What could be scarier than home? With the backup of my boarders I started feeling pretty cocksure of myself. I started feeling like I was top of the food chain and, sadly, I started becoming a bully. I threw my weight around, belittled people and was generally natty.

I so deeply regret behaving like this, I have no excuse but all I can put it down to was that I had always felt so insignificant that I wanted to be above others. I have since apologised to many of the people I bullied during this time but I’m sure I caused a lot of damage.

One of the things I regret most is the way we newbies treated another one of ours. Woodsy unfortunately arrived a few weeks into the school year after we newbies had bonded. For whatever
treated me like one of their own. I am parents fed me, washed my clothes and friends' houses where their awesome as possible often staying weekends at I spent as little time with my family I hated Fridays and leaving school. main driveway. style skateboard races down the school's epic take-no-prisoners smash-up derby-20 other boarders and had absolutely top courts for hours, played cricket with ours alone! We played basketball on the bell had gone the entire school grounds were many other perks! After the final training on an almost daily basis there soon became one of our mates. pathetic. I stopped picking on Woodsy all the faces in the crowd looking at me walked away, I stood there looking at kicking. Woodsy's brother turned and not interfere should I ever require that single boarder in attendance would was not in charge here and that every of pride but I was fully aware that I show. If I hassled Woodsy one more time training who had stopped to watch the show. if I hassled Woodsy one more time I could not do anything bad enough to before. I loved going to Damon's town with an air rifle strapped to our backs. We then made homemade explosives out of shot gun shells and threw them around the back paddocks! It was amazing! The Middle School Principal in my first two years there was Fr Kevin O'Mara. He was the single scariest thing in the school for newbies and no one wanted to have to go to his office for any reason whatsoever. Due to my shenanigans I was one of his most regular visitors and I got to know him pretty well from very early on. I got stacks of yard duty, after school detentions and smacks around the head from him but it was weird. I felt closer to him than anyone in the school. Yeah, he punished me but I knew I had earned it. He also talked to me though, particularly in the evening after school in his office.

By Year 8 I was often in there talking to him about home and he tried to help me make sense of it all. He was a good man to me and I am grateful for him. He left when I was in Year 10 and died in Melbourne when I was in Year 11. I got asked if I would like to represent the school at his funeral with some other seniors and I went to Melbourne on my first trip away from Tassie. I felt very honoured to be there and grateful the school had asked a troublesome lad like me to go along and knew what he had meant to me.

I began Year 8 as I had finished Year 7: being a disruptive. The bad notes rolled in, my Uncle was called and I copped the usual but I didn't really care. They didn't want me at home, I wasn't doing anything bad enough to get expelled for and I think the school always knew that I was a kid with no parents and whose guardians weren't the most loving. I probably got away with more than I should have.

reason us stupid 12-year olds didn't accept him and I may have been the worst. We tormented him, stirred him, ignored him and generally made him feel bad. We short sheeted him and put "itching powder" in his bed. Woody's finally cracked.

Woodsy had an older brother boarder in Year 10 who was about a foot taller than me. One afternoon we were on the netball courts watching the girl train (another boarder perk) when my name was yelled from behind me. I turned to notice there were a heap of senior boarders around me and striding towards me was Woodsy's big brother. He grabbed me by the collar and pushed me backwards repeatedly until my back hit the concrete wall and I had nowhere else to go.

All boarders and passers-by silently watched on including those at netball training who had stopped to watch the show. If I hassled Woodsy one more time a serious kicking would be delivered. I giggled off a bit to preserve a little bit of pride but I was fully aware that I was not in charge here and that every single boarder in attendance would not interfere should I ever require that kicking. Woodsy's brother turned and walked away, I stood there looking at all the faces in the crowd looking at me in silent judgement. I felt so stupid and pathetic. I stopped picking on Woodsy then, as did all the other newbies, and he soon became one of our mates.

Aside from watching the girls netball training on an almost daily basis there were many other perks! After the final bell had gone the entire school grounds (which were substantial) were ours and ours alone! We played basketball on the top courts for hours, played cricket with 20 other boarders and had absolutely epic take-no-prisoners smash-up derby-style skateboard races down the school's main driveway.

I hated Fridays and leaving school. I spent as little time with my family as possible often staying weekends at friends' houses where their awesome parents fed me, washed my clothes and treated me like one of their own. I am forever grateful to these people and I hope they know it. One of the greatest things about my fellow boarding lads was that they lived in the country and I got to go there! I loved going to Damon's place where we rode bikes around his town with an air rifle strapped to our backs. We then made homemade explosives out of shot gun shells and threw them around the back paddocks! It was amazing!

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me an opportunity to hang out with the 11s and 12s on a fairly even level. This relationship came in handy a few months later when I tried out for basketball and I was proud to be picked for both the Year 10 side and the Varsity (Open) teams.

My temper had always been fiery. I was a very angry young man inside and I was struggling to hold it in, often fighting with other kids or explosively losing it over very small things. I knew it was wrong and I have often hated myself for it. I was always smiling and messing about but inside I had a whole heap of hate, hate for my Uncle, Granma, God and myself.

On the flipside I was doing better at school now, perhaps the expectation that I had to be a clown each day had died off. We were treated like young adults, not kids and I really enjoyed this feeling of respect. I was enjoying a few classes, especially English and Science and my grades were going in the right direction.

I met a girl named Alf. She was a very quiet redhead in my Science class and in all honesty I didn't really notice her for a while. I was too busy chatting up the other better known girls. After a while, I was too busy chatting up the other kids or explosively losing it. I could understand the work just fine. Where I struggled though was that I didn't have any experience with actual studying and I hadn't ever had to write papers or convey my understanding to this level before.

We had a Bio test and I thought I had done pretty well right up until we were given our results. I had failed badly. My misery burst forth again. I got up and ran out of the class.

Mrs Mac asked me if I would put a Saturday aside with her to learn how to study and how to write my answers at a higher level. I agreed and a few weeks later she came around to my house where we sat at the kitchen table with paper and heaps of different coloured pens. That day she explained to me how she studied, having a different colour for every new point so it stood out, what to study and how to expand on my answers. This was one of the most productive days of my life and it changed me forever.

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I rocked into Bio putting on a brave face and there was my teacher, Mrs Mac. Mrs Mac was a full-of-beans English girl in what I would guess was her mid-20s with a cracking accent and a pixie hairstyle. She was lovely! I'm not sure if she knew my background but if she did she never mentioned it. The year kicked off and I could understand the work just fine. Where I struggled though was that I didn't have any experience with actual studying and I hadn't ever had to write papers or convey my understanding to this level before.

My uncle told me he felt my going on to Year 11 was a waste of time and money as I was probably going to be a labourer all my life. The Wilsons came to the school to speak on my behalf.

Eventually it was decided that I could do one Level 3 class and four Level 2 classes. If I could pass all of these I could do more in year 12. That first Level 3 class was Biology.

I was getting worse. They made my time with them miserable and one weekend I was hit in the face again and I snapped. We punched and wrestled throughout the house and yard and there was teeth and blood.

Alf’s grandmother was giving her a lift over to join me and I ran to the car. I yelled at her to get out of there and she reversed out. I'm not sure how she got us to the Wilsons but she did, she was silent and shaking like a leaf.

Alf was in tears and I was bleeding. When we got there obviously the Wilsons were shocked. They were not violent people and weren't used to this sort of thing. Mrs Wilson started patching me up and Mr Wilson went to see my Uncle. He was told that I was never to return and they were welcome to me. I was allowed back the next morning to collect the stuff out of my room but I was never again to go to the house.

I never stayed there again. I was gone and I was never coming back. That night as I sat there bloodied and bleeding I felt like the sun had finally come up. I had no idea of what the future held but at least it felt like I actually had one.

Ryan with his new granddaughter, Layla. The last 12 months have been wrenching for the family, with the death of Ryan's son, Jake, from a rare form of bone cancer, discovered while he was in Year 12.
Maggie Baker (2018) was presented with the Br Peter Dezani SDB Best All Round Student Award, the College’s most prestigious award, at the end of Year 10.

Maggie was College Captain in 2018 and was crucial to the foundation and success of the College’s first Mental Health Week program in 2018.

Maggie said her family were from New Norfolk and that she went to primary school there before coming to Dominic College in Year 7. Her sister, Kate, was a Mission captain when Maggie was in Year 7.

‘I loved DC and I would go back there right now if I could!’ she laughed. Sports Science and Commerce were her favourite subjects. Now at Guilford Young College in Year 11 she is taking Sports Science, Maths, English Writing, Religion and Society and Legal Studies. Maggie says it is different at GYC, a big step up.

‘There’s more work and higher expectations. I have to be organized! I put everything in piles of when the assignments are due and just do it in order.’

Maggie would love to be a paramedic or join the police. She advises our current students to keep fighting, no matter what.

‘If you are struggling, see Mr Davey, Mrs Davey or Ms Gilligan. They really do have your back and will help. Keep fighting and stay strong.’
Emma Coad (2011)

Emma’s family has long been connected with Dominic College, with her father, Craig, an old scholar and his five brothers and sisters attending Dominic College in the 70s and 80s. Emma enrolled for Prep in 2001 when the primary school was in Bowden Street. Seventeen years later, Emma Coad was named valedictorian at the University of Tasmania in 2018 and is going on to further study at historic Oxford University in England towards the end of 2019.
I really enjoyed studying Sport Science at Dominic—I even continued on and studied the pre-tertiary course at GYC. At that stage, I wanted a career in a field that would utilise the subject. I was planning to study physiotherapy after I left college. I had a place at a physiotherapy course at a Sydney University, had my travel and accommodation all sorted, but something stopped me. I realised by the time I finished Year 12, that even though I enjoyed Sport Science for the three years studying, I wasn’t sure whether I wanted to continue.

My path hit a slight glitch. I took a gap year, worked, and tried to figure out what I wanted to do with my life. I’m a fierce advocate now of the gap year—we place a lot of pressure on 16, 17, 18 year olds to know exactly how they want their lives to be planned out with relatively little actual life and work experience on which to base such a monumental decision. I’m so thankful that I took that year, otherwise I never would’ve decided to focus my future studies on literature, history, and education. Perhaps this path wasn’t as daring as moving interstate to study a competitive degree, but I’ve been presented with some amazing opportunities that never would’ve been an option had I not studied a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Tasmania.

I decided to complete a double major in History and English. School was never something I found incredibly challenging growing up, but it didn’t take long in a tertiary setting to learn that natural smarts won’t get you far without the work ethic, organisation and time management, and passion for what you’re studying to back it up. It took a couple of semesters, but eventually I found a system that worked for me and allowed me to channel the best results I could without dedicating all my time to study.

However, when it comes down to it, I believe that the passion that drives you to learn in your chosen field is perhaps the most fundamental, and also most overlooked, variable that leads to success. I mean, I enjoyed studying literature so much I stayed for an extra year to complete an Honours course in English.

My Honours year made me realise the value of education, the humanities, and the significance of lifelong learning to the individual and society at large—a value that is born and grows from quality primary education. It was by far the most challenging year of my degree, but it cemented in me the feeling that the path I was on, that all those choices I made four years prior, were absolutely worth it and were going to continue to shape my future.

For my Honours project I researched the relationship between gender and nature in post-apocalyptic novels written by women—something I found incredibly eye-opening given the current global climate situation that’s unfolding. It was an exploration of all that it means to be human in a world on the brink, of what makes us human, and our (destructive) impact on the earth and the other species that inhabit it.

I also took this year—and my subsequent valedictory speech at my graduation ceremony last year—as an opportunity to address how the Humanities are viewed within education more broadly, but also in relation to politics and science. The Humanities are vital to understanding the place of humanity, as a species alongside other species, on this planet that’s dying, historically, and in the future.

With all these thoughts swirling in my head, I looked ahead to my own future, one that I hope I will build in the education sector. But first, I was given one final opportunity to commit to this future of renewal and change. I applied for a scholarship, generously funded by Father Michael Tate, to attend Oxford University for a year, studying a Diploma in Theology and Religion. Just a couple of months ago as I write this I received an official letter of offer from Oxford. I start classes in October.

I am incredibly excited for this opportunity, not only for its value in sustaining and improving knowledge in this area, but also to study abroad and immerse myself in the tradition of the university. I am hoping this course continues to shape and ground how I envisage the future of the humanities, the future of education in Tasmania, and what part I can play in that future.
is fun!
Dr Alison Magill (1993)

Alison Magill grew up in New Norfolk. Her father, Thomas, was a rigger and mother, Marie, a nurse who retired to have children then returned to night shifts in the operating theatre. Alison and her younger sister, Gemma, attended St Brigid’s Primary and Alison enrolled in Year 7 at Dominic College in 1990. She recalled she had a friend across the road whose Dad was studying for a PhD in Zoology who used to take the young friends out trapping in the bush and that was the genesis of her interest.

Alison loved science from her early years as a teenager at Dominic College, recalling with fondness her Science teachers’ ability to blow up and transform matter in the laboratory and excite their students.

‘In the days before risk assessments and safe work procedures, which are designed to prevent people from blowing off their own fingers, I can remember Mrs Conboy herding the entire class out to the rivulet (near the Animal Husbandry sheds) with a bucket of water, a long pair of tongs and chunk of sodium. When you drop a chunk of sodium into a bucket of water, it’s a pretty spectacular hissing sound usually followed by a bang and some flames. Pretty amazing for a kid in Year 7 or 8 who had never seen anything like it.

Several years later, in Mr Singleton’s Chemistry class, we passed around a beaker of weak acid with instructions to drink some (which we did, don’t try this at home!). The taste is “interesting”. Another of Mr Singleton’s party tricks was to pour methylated spirits onto the bench and set it on fire (again, don’t try this at home!).

These moments and many more, set my feet firmly on the path to a career in Chemistry. Since that time, I’ve had plenty more fires involving both sodium and methylated spirits, but it’s safe to say I’ve never intentionally drunk acid again. Chemistry might have a reputation for being boring, for me it’s a lot of fun. I can take two (or three, or four) things and mix them together to make something that no one else has ever made before. Brand new stuff! Then, I get to try to figure out exactly what I’ve made and what I can do with it – it’s actually kind of addictive. Chemistry is fun!

I tossed up between Science and Medicine and decided on Science – and planned on Biology. But in 1st Year at University there were no cute, fluffy animals: we dissected starfish, earthworms…

I lived at home (we had moved to Austins Ferry) and worked at the supermarket, and I had a scholarship for my honours year and then secured a scholarship for my PhD.

Alison completed her BSc with first class Honours, followed by her Doctor of Philosophy (Chemistry) in 2005, awarded for a thesis titled “Synthesis and Decomposition of Methyl-Palladium (II) N-Heterocyclic Carbene Complexes.” She has worked at the University of Tasmania, the University of Sydney and the University of NSW, where she continued as a Postdoctoral Research Associate and then Senior Research Associate until 2015.

As well as her research, Alison has delivered lectures to undergraduate students, supervised postgraduate students, authored peer-reviewed manuscripts, supervised laboratory installations and organised symposiums.

Her work has involved processes of making chemicals which combine metals with organic fragments, then using these compounds to break apart carbon dioxide and nitrogen, to help research global warming solutions and create more energy-efficient fertilisers for a hungry planet.

‘Everything around us, including ourselves, is made of chemicals. A human body contains as many as 60 different elements, although we really only know for sure what 20 of them do. The smartphone in your pocket contains as many as 70 of the 83 non-radioactive elements on the periodic table. For those of you who have little or no interest in Science, can I suggest that even a basic understanding of Chemistry can go a long way to understanding the world around you. For those of you with an interest in Science, Chemistry is well worth the effort and can lead to jobs in so many different fields.

And remember, the most exciting phrase to hear in Science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not “eureka!” (I found it!) but “that’s funny...”.'
Claire Ferri heads Bury Kirkland Ferri, a team of skilled designers creating innovative, functional and authentic spaces in residential, retail, hospitality, health, education, business and commercial sectors. Claire has an unwavering desire to create beautiful, unique and considered spaces which speak of individuality, people and place. Her passion resonates through her work, imbued with an edgy, refined and fluid style. Claire never shies from a challenge and is driven by a personal aspiration to constantly evolve and create.
My family heritage is Italian, on both my mother and father's side but myself and my brother and sisters were all born here. I'm the youngest of four.

When I was in Year 2 before I went to Dominic, I remember mum sitting me down and having a conversation with me about where I would like to go to high school. The options were either St Mary's or Dominic. I asked if St Mary’s was all girls. ‘Yes.’ I said I’d like to go to Dominic then. I guess for me, even at that young age I thought the whole idea of not being around both guys and girls, learning about each other and having them as classmates and friends seemed weird. So I attended Dominic from Year 4 in 1990.

My mum passed away from cancer when I was in Year 6, so that was a pretty tough time. Death was something which most people hadn't experienced or had to deal with so I guess it put a whole different perspective on things for me, I was always very independent.

My favourite subject hands down was Art with Miss Spencer! But I loved anything creative, challenging or physical like Drama, Creative Writing and Poetry with Miss Byrne, Woodwork and Technical Drawing. I also loved Science with Mrs Conboy, Chemistry in particular, I found it absolutely fascinating. I guess I've always been artistic but technically minded and a “doer” - I like to do things with my hands.

I think high school is a pretty crazy time for everyone really, you're all growing, changing physically, mentally and emotionally, trying to figure out who you are and where you fit in. I think this is easier for some than others and appreciate that school isn't necessarily that great a time for everybody but overall, for me personally, I had a really positive experience of school.

Sports was a big part of my school life and I participated in many teams. Top of the list was swimming, netball, rowing, sprinting and athletics, particularly high jump! I have fond memories of swimming training in the crisp early hours of the morning before school, dark moody skies, under flood lights, having the sun come up and watching the light change under the water. There is something meditative about the rhythm of swimming laps.

Going on a Central Australia school trip in Year 10 was a highlight. We bussed all around central Australia, camped, visited Uluru, slept in an underground hotel in Coober Pedy, went kayaking down the Katherine Gorge and even swam with fresh water crocodiles in a local waterhole! It was an awesome experience.

I loved Drama and had roles in a couple of theatre performances, I played the wicked witch in Hansel & Gretel and was one of the choir of singing prostitutes in Little shop of Horrors. Hah! Great times!

I didn't have a clear career path. The only constant was that I knew I wanted to do something creative and I always worked hard. In my life I personally experienced some dark times and I would say at times I got lost along the way but managed to find myself.

Over the years I had quite a number of different jobs, and tried out a number of different lines of work and study. I worked as a kitchen hand (I had volunteered in the canteen at school), a supermarket supervisor and hairdresser. I was one of the first female crowd controllers in the state and worked as the door host of a popular nightclub, did childcare and early learning and hospitality management to name a few…

Although I did not have a clear goal, I loved learning new skills and seeing what opportunities the future held next. This proved to be invaluable as I acquired such a vast range of transferable work skills, communication skills, customer service, working as a team member and independently, multi-tasking and problem solving along with responsibility and management of people and workplaces.

I had always been interested in Interior Design since I was a very young girl. I had been working in hospitality management for some time and in 2004 just decided it was the right time, I needed to be challenged and I was ready to invest in myself and to do the study.

I remember from the moment I stepped foot in the building I felt completely at home and totally exhilarated being back in a learning environment again.

I was working full time in another role and doing interior design work on the side under my own business name.

Bury & Kirkland was a renowned interior design business and they'd been working together for 15 years. I knew of both Caroline Cumberbatch and Rebecca Kirkland through my other work, but after seeing my design of Willing Bros wine bar in North Hobart they approached me to work with them…then a relatively short time later, asked me to join as a partner of the business so, Bury Kirkland Ferri was created.
With a strong background in Hospitality myself, venue design has always been one of my favourite areas of design and something which I specialise in.

I loved my time in hospitality, it’s so fast paced, you’re often under the pump and you get a real buzz from it, everyone worked hard and played hard together. There’s nothing quite like a knockoff drink after a super busy shift and I’ve found the friendships you make in hospitality are forever.

There’s something really special about it, like another family. It’s also a really good thing being in service to others, I feel like everyone should do hospitality work at some point in their lives, it puts things into perspective. I’ve always worked well under pressure and I’m a social person, so I guess it really appealed to me on that level too.

That’s why I particularly love venue design, I get to blend those worlds and create unique atmospheres for people to enjoy. It’s an amazing feeling standing in a space that I’ve created and just watching how people interact with it.

So what does the future hold? Very busy times! I actually just recently took over sole ownership and management of Bury Kirkland Ferri, so being director and principal designer of a company is a lot of hard work… but getting to do something that I am so passionate about for a living is pretty incredible and I’m really proud of what I’ve achieved in such a relatively short time. Creativity and design has always been in my blood, so I guess I’ve been on a journey of learning and absorbing it and processing it my whole life.

In hindsight, it seems crazy that I didn’t do it earlier but I feel that was just the right time for me. You’ve got to just make the decision, be strong and put your mind to it and the universe opens doors.

School is a really special time, it may not seem like it now but it’s a huge time of growth, flux and transition. It might seem like a never ending journey but in the grand scheme of your life, this is only a brief moment so enjoy it as much as you can.

Use the teachers to your benefit! They are there to help you and they too were in your position once; some of them might be way cooler than you think.

Try to do your best at the things you’re not great at, and totally rock the things you are! Try to uncover the things you are passionate about.

Kindness is a great thing. Be kind to yourself and lavish it upon others. Everyone deserves the right to feel free and happy in themselves, including you. Be respectful, you never really know a person’s story or what they may be dealing with. A kind word or action is remembered always.

You are your greatest asset, try to understand yourself and be true to who you are. Make up your own mind on how you feel about things and take responsibility for your own choices. Sometimes things will be hard, but it is how you pick yourself up afterwards that others will remember, not the fall.

Don’t be afraid to try things because you might be no good at them. You only live once, we all learn from our mistakes and everybody sucks at something!

One day this will all seem like a distant memory and once all the fads and trends or bullies fall away, being most uniquely you is the most important thing you can do. You are worth it.

Claire with classmates at the Class of 1996 20-years reunion in 2016.
Maryanne Parkinson was one of the 18 girls in the very first Year 7 class to start at Holy Name on 6 February 1962.

My parents, Mary and Doug Parkinson, decided when I was nine, in 1957, to move from our house at Mt Stuart to 488 Main Road, Montrose - the original Glenorchy State School.

The old school had plenty of room for our growing family of eight children. My father was a tailor and very good with his hands so he soon got the big old school house into shape. Dad and Mum were very tolerant parents, loved people, so we had plenty of friends coming and going. My mother was an only child but made up for it with five boys and three girls.
I began my primary education at Sacred Heart, New Town, but with the relocation to Montrose I started at St John’s School. I enjoyed my first year at St John’s with three new enthusiastic Dominican Nuns, Sr Mary Damian Hunt, Sr Mary Celestine Shorten and Sr Mary Clare Murray.

In 1962 I joined the first students to commence at Holy Name, and we had two new Dominican Sisters to teach us, Sr Pamela Davis and Sr Frances Mary.

The Barn in Bowden Street across from the Convent was not ready for us to start, so our first class room was a musset hut, located behind the junior school. We thought we were lucky, but alas when the bad weather came it was not so good. We were soon in the Barn, a big improvement.

We just loved our Barn, it was warm, cosy and didn’t shake when the wind blew. The Barn became our sole class room, all our subjects were taught in the Barn. Several parents taught us home arts, needle work, typing, sewing and drama.

The highlight was sister teaching us ballet in the church hall. Under the guidance of Sr Pamela, we developed a very talented choir who performed on many occasions for the school community.

We had plenty of sport activities which I loved: soft ball, basketball and tennis was coached by the father of one of the girls.

I enjoyed drama, we performed Trial by Jury. After weeks of rehearsals, we had the church hall full of people on the opening night. It was a great performance by all and we were commended for our effort which made us very proud.

The pinnacle of my schooling was being appointed Head Prefect in 1965, the last year of my secondary education completing the Schools Board certificate.

As the summer holiday of 1966 was coming to an end my mother said to me ‘You must start looking for employment.’

I wasn’t interested, but as time went by I realised I would have to have some sort of work to pay my way in life. My father was a tailor but he didn’t feel it was the best option for me to pursue. I finally got my thoughts together, and answered a few advertisements, and decided to pursue chiropody.
I arrived at the Scholl Foot Clinic at 156 Macquarie Street, on time and was greeted by the receptionist, who happened to be related to me. It would only happen in Tasmania. I enjoyed my first day, my boss, Mr Tate was from England, and always addressed me as Miss Parkinson.

I was lucky that I started with another lovely girl. We became very good friends and still meet regularly long after retiring. As time went on, our boss Mr Tate started to train us in the skills of Chiropody. We had many sessions with him and he was a very good clinician, and a perfectionist.

In 1966 there were no schools in Chiropody in Tasmania therefore we learnt our craft as we worked, under the guidance of Mr Tate. We had many sessions with him and he was a very good clinician, and a perfectionist.

In 1966 there were no schools in Chiropody in Tasmania therefore we learnt our craft as we worked, under the guidance of Mr Tate. We were required to undertake theory exams and I successfully passed. The most interesting aspect of my work was not only treating feet, but meeting many interesting people. I loved learning what they did. Although I qualified as a chiropodist in 1970, the profession was undergoing change and the Chiropody Association of Australia adopted the name Podiatry.

In 1973 I married my husband, Patrick, and started our family. We have three children: Timothy and two girls, Joanne and Alisa. While they were growing up, I operated my own business for several years providing a service to clients in nursing homes.

Once the children were at school I decided to knock on the old business door now called Hobart Podiatry Clinic and I asked if they had a position available. There was a vacancy of two days a week that was perfect for the family as I returned to work.

I worked for several more years and during this time assisted in moving the business closer to the city in Murray Street. I was now working full time and in 1987 I took the opportunity to become a partner. This was an exciting time in my life and I enjoyed the challenge and responsibility.

Not long after joining the practice my partner retired and I asked one of the senior girls to be a partner to help manage an expanding and busy business.

The Hobart Podiatry Clinic became a busy practice and we decided to look for bigger premises. We had a very good team of podiatrists who came from different states of Australia, England, and New Zealand. We had the offer to buy another business in Sandy Bay, a good way to spread our wings.

Finally in 2008 I became the sole owner. It was perfect for me as a one person practice, and not far from where we lived at Mt Nelson. I had seven years in the Sandy Bay Podiatry Clinic caring for my very loyal clients.

In time, everyone has to make the big decision to retire. Our eldest daughter had moved to England a few years before, married, had a three year old son and was expecting her second child. It didn’t take long to make up our minds. I decided to put my business up for sale.

Without the constraints of running a business I could now relax and spend time visiting family and in-laws in the UK, spend time with our son who now resides in Brisbane and enjoy the company of our youngest daughter who lives in Hobart.

I do enjoy my retirement, with many different interests: golf, needle work (sewing and tapestries), gardening and walking. Although my husband continues to work 2-3 days a week as an Honorary Associate, we do spend time together travelling and visiting family.

I feel very fortunate to have pursued and achieved such varied opportunities throughout my working life. None of this would have been possible without the support from my loving family, for which I am truly grateful.
Fr Bernie Graham, Dominic College Principal 1995 to 1999 said that the 1990s was a period of significant change in Catholic Education in general in Hobart, particularly with the creation of Guilford Young College, the establishment of Mackillop College and the impact that had on all the other Colleges which agreed to cease at Year 10.

The restructuring of Catholic Education in Southern Tasmania in 1994, resulted in Dominic College (and St Virgil’s, Mt Carmel and Sacred Heart) relinquishing Years 11 and 12, to commence Guilford Young College. Students from the Eastern Shore and Kingston were allocated to their own new local Year 7-10 schools. For Dominic College the loss of enrolments during this process led a period of successive annual deficit budgets.

In the Dominic College Primary School there had been one class in each of Prep, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3. An additional stream was added for Years 4, 5 and 6.

‘By the mid-1990s enrolment patterns were changing and it was becoming difficult to fill the second stream in Years 4-6, whilst there were additional enrolment enquiries in the junior primary classes,’ Fr Bernie said.

“To address this we decided to move to composite classes and introduce Kindergarten, for which there was a solid demand. We were not the first Catholic School to introduce Kinder, but we certainly were one of the early ones.’

Mr Jim Taylor, Dominic College Business Manager in the 1990s, and current College Council member, said that there was a Kindergarten on the corner of Tolosa and Bowden Streets (now a disability services provider).

‘This, essentially, was our feeder Kindergarten and parents had the perception that entry to Dominic
was somewhat automatic (a bit like
the present Discovery/Dominic
relationship).’

He explained that the State Government
policy was to commence relocating existing
Kindergartens to the nearest primary
school and the Bowden Street Kinder was
scheduled to move to Glenorchy Primary.

‘We were concerned that parents would
opt to continue their child’s education in
the relevant primary school rather than
enrol at Dominic College.’

The College secured a demountable
building and had it transported to the
Primary Campus.

As a temporary building there was no
planning approval required and minimal
building regulations, and the building
was placed on stumps and a timber ramp
was installed to provide access.

An existing class was allocated to this
building to release a space for the new
Kinder.

‘We ‘commandeered’ what had been
the Prep classroom,’ said Fr Bernie (to
Mrs Kaye Pullen’s displeasure!) It was
the largest classroom on the Campus
and the College made alterations and
additions to make it suitable for a
kindergarten including toileting facilities,
and also creation of a new fully fenced
playground opening off the classroom.

Kinder was a non-compulsory level
of education and so the Federal
Government did not provide recurrent
grants for Kindergarten students.

‘However, the State Government did
provide partial recurrent grants, but with
very strict requirements to maintain
separate accounting records,’ said Mr
Taylor. ‘It was very difficult to avoid
incidental cross-subsidisation given the
shared nature of facilities such as staff
room, play equipment, play spaces,
admin/maintenance staff and the
Deputy Principal. The Kinder relied on
donations of materials for some years.’

‘Annie Nolan was already a member
of staff, and so the planning for the
curriculum was done in a timely manner,
through 1997. Angela Gibbons was
employed as the Teacher Assistant (prior
to her undertaking Teacher Training).
They worked as a great team setting
everything up,’ recalled Fr Bernie.

‘There were protocols around setting up
Kinder in Catholic Education in those
days and we had to have committee
meetings and negotiations to scope
spaces, programs and likely enrolments,’
said Annie Nolan.

We had to take some space from the
Parish carpark to ensure the play space
was adequate.’

Dominic College now has three Kindergarten classes, named after three native animals: timita (possum), tuminana (little fairy
penguin), larila (platypus). We have been authorised to use the actual palawa kani names. palawa kani is the language of the
Tasmanian Aborigines. We believe this will signify the growth and acceptance of palawa kani in Tasmania, affirm the role language
plays in sustaining culture, and celebrate one of the world’s oldest cultures.
CELEBRATIONS
WEDDINGS, PARTIES, ANYTHING…


JESSICA SPROULE (2008) married Nathan Quarry 20 October 2018 on her parents’ property in the Southern Midlands. Jessica says that what made it exciting was that it was a surprise wedding! ‘Everyone thought they were just attending an engagement party!’ said Jessica.

DANIEL FORD (2004) married Sarah Hudson at Quamby Estate, 3 February 2018. There were five children in the FORD family and all attended Dominic College: HAYLEY (2011) is a Radiographer in Melbourne, KATHRYN BURRIDGE (née FORD, 2000) is a teacher at the Southern Support school, DANIEL (2004) Mechanical Engineer is working on the North West Coast, JAMES (2008) completed Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Pharmacy, and MICHAEL (2001) a Software Engineer working at Google at the Googleplex, in San Francisco. Thank you to their proud Mum, Gaylene for sending this in!

AMY MARTIN (1996) married Wayne Woods at St Francis Winery, Old Reynella, in South Australia 12 August 2018.

STEVE VAN DE KAMP (2003) married Samantha Zoltanski 15 September here with his Australian family then celebrated at a second reception in Nashville with her American family. Steve and Samantha live in Nashville, Tennessee, USA and Steve returned in time to play in the grand final for the Nashville Kangaroos in Germantown. After their winning celebrations, they all watched the AFL grand final. Educating the Americans!


MONTANA EYLES (2015) married Brandon Lawrence 11 January 2019 on Magnetic Island, Townsville, Queensland. ‘Brandon and I met in our time at Army basic training at Kapooka and we decided to tie the knot this year,’ said Montana. ‘There were no old scholars just a small gathering with our close family and friends from Tasmania and Sydney.’

RAYMOND PAICE (2009) married Sharna Hume at St Mark’s Anglican Church, Pontville, 16 March 2019.
... AND MORE CELEBRATIONS

MELISSA NEGUS (1996) married RICHARD GIBB (1994) 8 July 2018 in a beautiful ceremony they shared with their family and friends. Sadly, we learned that Mel had cancer and died 12 September 2018. A much-loved old scholar, may she rest in peace.

JOE DOYLE (2007) and Megan Carpenter were married 2 February 2019 at Steele’s Island. With them were Joe’s parents, Phil and Jane Doyle, brother TOM DOYLE (2009), and children Addyson and Macie.

LAURA CLARIDGE (2009) married Joshua Goldsmith on 12 April 2019 at Ratho Farm, Bothwell. The bridal party consisted of Laura and Joshua’s siblings; Amy, Samuel and Joseph Goldsmith, along with EMILY CLARIDGE (2011) and GEORGE CLARIDGE (2014), friend and Maid of Honour, Samantha Brereton. Laura’s Mum said it was a fantastic, surreal day, with gorgeous weather for the ceremony by the creek, reception in the Atrium, dancing in the barn with a fire-pot. Laura and Joshua headed off for their honeymoon to South Australia. The bride and groom met when Laura worked as a chef at MONA and Josh delivered for Hill Street Grocers – it was fate! How romantic!

ALEX HURSEY (2006) was engaged to Melissa Myers 13 October 2018. They live in Perth, Western Australia.

LAURA SMITH (2011) became engaged to Sam Maxwell 2 January 2019 when he proposed atop Mt Amos! Scenic!

LAURA WIGGINS (2009) became engaged to Nick Mayne in June 2018. They have been spreading out the celebrations, partying in October and enjoying a Fiji engagement holiday in February!

MADISON POPRAWSKI (2015) and MARC HARVEY (2015) were engaged 18 October 2018. Maddison said it was definitely a night to remember: ‘Dinner at Heston’s followed by a proposal. You asked me THE question in front of a whole restaurant full of people! Friends from school now life partners. How sweet!

KATE LE ROSSIGNOL (nee LONGEY, 2000) and her husband Paul welcomed their first child, a baby boy, 21 February 2019. They have named him Joe and Kate describes him as ‘healthy, happy and absolutely beautiful.’ He weighs 3.59kg.

Mason David Ede born 3.54am 31 October 2018 to MARK EDE (2008) and LAURI WALLNER (2010).
Scarlett Louise Casey, born 22 March 2019 to Andrew Casey (1989) and Natasha Atkinson. ‘She couldn’t wait to meet the world so she came a few weeks early!’ says Andrew. ‘We are already head over heels in love and we can’t wait to share life’s big adventure with her. Our heartfelt thanks go to all of the staff at the RHH Maternity Ward and the staff at the NICU where Scarlett stayed for a short while.’ Congrats also to Andrew for his Erroll – awarded for Best Supporting Actor (Professional Theatre) for Blue Cow’s Hamlet.

Ella Grace Cranny born 5am 22 September 2018 to Ashley and Daniella Cranny (nee Marino 2003). Daniella’s Mum Deb McClean (1975) is so proud of her second grandchild, taken at St John’s, Glenorchy, on her naming day.

Imogen Pryer (2008) and Nathaneal Chapman welcomed Audrey Therese Chapman at 11.31am 15 August 2018. Imogen said that ‘after three hours labour, she flew into the world 10 days before her due date.’ The family has now moved to Rockhampton.

Peter Law (1981) is a proud grandfather with his first grandchild, Riley.

Demi Rose Muir born to Nathan Muir (2006) and Shana Hall in June last year.


Maisie Eve Zofia Dillon born to Michelle Szczypka (1995) 2 December 2018. (Bentley is happy to help!)

Hugo Paul Taylor born to Bridget and Matt Taylor (1998) at 6.10am 1 May (our Dominic College Feast Day).

Ella Charlotte Alston was born at midnight 20 May 2019 at Mater Mothers Brisbane Hospital to Chloe and Glenn Alston (2005). Ella weighed 3.3 kg and their pup Oscar is impressed.

Wynonah Conway (2014) aspired to a career in tennis in Year 10 but at college she decided to try rugby to help with a girls team to represent Tasmania. She discovered her passion for contact sport and continued playing rugby over the years representing Tasmania many times and representing the UTAS Aon team around Australia in 2018. Wynonah made the Melbourne Rebels Super W team in 2019. ‘Despite a relatively late start to her rugby career,’ said Dominic K-10 Sports Coordinator, Nicole Millikan, ‘it seems it’s never too late to give a new sport a try!’

Congratulations to Craig Grace (1991) who coached the Glenorchy Women’s TSL team to a premiership in 2018. It was a close game throughout with Glenorchy’s accuracy keeping them in it and allowing them to inch ahead in the last term, 6 1 37 to Clarence’s 5 5 35. “It was a great contest and a fantastic showcase of women’s football,” Craig Grace said. “We thought we had more of the ball than Clarence for most of the game and believed at three-quarter-time that we just needed to change a few things structurally.”

Since winning the AFL Sports Ready Tasmania Trainee of the Year award in 2017, Kaitlin Hawkins (2013) has completed her traineeship, gained a permanent position with St Pauls Catholic School and is undertaking a Bachelor of Education (Primary) to become a qualified teacher. Kaitlin was awarded the Lance Barnard Memorial Award at the 2018 Tasmanian Training Awards in September.

Congratulations to Brett Pullen (1987) and Liam Pullen (2013) along with Zac and Riley Pullen, playing with Beachside FC and winning the Men’s Championship in 2018. Liam said that the season was one he would never forget. ‘I had the pleasure and honour to play with one of the best squads I could ever imagine. I also got the amazing opportunity to be able to play with both my dad and my younger brother Zac and Riley on the bench as manager, something that probably won’t ever happen again. I’m truly grateful to them all and the team for an incredible year and to win the league was that bit sweeter!’

Congratulations to three performing old scholars, Chelsea Jones (2018), Leah Venettacci (1998) and Ashlee Hey (2014) who were wonderful in Carrie – the Musical at the Peacock Theatre.

Congratulations to mad brewers Andrew Donovan (1996) and Anthony Young (1997) who successfully launched Forgotten Island Brewery in 2018 for craft beer lovers!

Congratulations to Stefan Le Mottee (1987), whose Blue Rocket shared in a Logie for Little J and Big Cuz. Also congrats to Stefan for his ongoing music; he is part of The Ray Martians, a group made up of Tony Brennan, Nicholas Stolp (1985) Stefan Le Mottee (1987) and Damian Stolp (1984). They launched Close Between the Syllables, their third album, in September 2018, following on from their first album in 2001, and second in 2013. They like to take their time.

Clare Combey (nee Kennedy 1996) received degree number three, an Associate Degree in Dementia Care, following her Science degree and her Masters in Audiometrics. ‘I am using it to specialise and improve audiology services to people living with dementia, and develop better training for audiologists in Australia,’ says Clare. She has worked as a specialist audiologist for nearly 15 years.
SARAH JOHANSEN (2016) completed her Certificate III in Animal Studies and was awarded an Outstanding Achievement in Vocational Education at the Vocational Education and Training Awards 2018. Sarah is currently completing a traineeship in animal grooming in 2019 employed in the animal husbandry industry.

JESS SABAPATHY (2005) an Associate and litigator at law firm McLean, McKenzie and Topfer was awarded the Tasmania Law Society’s Young Lawyer Award for 2019. Jess volunteered her services at the Tasmania Refugee Legal Service and the University of Tasmania’s Student Legal Service while she was studying, before two-and-a-half years at the Legal Aid Commission in Launceston. ‘In order to be a good lawyer, you really have to be able to connect to your clients on a human level,’ she told the Burnie Advocate. ‘When people come to a lawyer, particularly the kind of law we do, it’s because something bad has happened. Anytime we saw clients, even if we couldn’t actually do much to help them, they were still grateful that someone took the time to see them and discuss their problems.’ Credit: Brodie Weeding

Congrats to old scholar, CONNOR HAAS (2012), who not only was awarded his Bachelor of Business but then at his Defence Force graduation was awarded the RSL Sword of Service.

JOE LEAVER (1995) is celebrating 20 years in business. Joe’s business “Leaver & Son Piano & Furniture Specialists” first began in 1999 in Tassie. In 2005 Joe expanded the business to Adelaide and now employs 11 people across Tasmania, Adelaide, Melbourne and most recently Paris, France. ‘We tune, repair, restore and move pianos as well as restore vintage furniture in Tassie, Victoria and South Australia. Our main workshop and piano store is in Adelaide with around 40 new and used pianos for sale,’ said Joe.

DONNA ADAMS (1984) was inducted to the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women for her service to the community, police, emergency services and defence. In 2011 Donna became the highest ranked woman in Tasmania Police’s history when she was the first woman appointed to the rank of Assistant Commissioner. In 2016, Donna was appointed Deputy Secretary of the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, making her the Agency’s most senior woman.

Congrats to JAYDE BAILEY-MCSHERRY (2011) graduating from UTAS in 2018 (and subsequently gaining a job at Dominic College as a teacher).


What a year 2018 was for TIRI MASUNDA (2004). He has played basketball since Year 7 and has been a guard for the Hobart Chargers for ten years, culminating in their SEABL Championship victory in August. Tiri himself won the prestigious Margaret Turner Coaches’ Award.

Not only that but Tiri was Operations Manager for Scoot Boots, the innovative company producing the first update in horse shoe technology since Alexander the Great. Scoot Boots won several business awards including the Telstra Australian Emerging and Energised business category and the Tasmanian Business of the Year 2018.

Congrats to DR LOUISE HODGSON (NEE WESTCOTT 1978) who received her doctorate in 2019 from Monash University for Seeing is not enough for believing: Building mathematical knowledge for teaching through observing, deconstructing, and enacting particular pedagogies. Louise is pictured here with her husband Charley Hodgson and youngest daughter Georgia Hutchins, who is also a teacher.

... AND MORE CELEBRATIONS

In June 2018 MARGARET-MARY COWAN (NEE SOUTHWELL, 1978) was commissioned Chaplain of Uniting AgeWell Queenborough Rise Community in Sandy Bay, Tasmania.

KAREN WESTWOOD (1986) spent seven weeks (including her birthday) on the RV Investigator in freezing Antarctic waters as part of the science team researching whale and krill from January to March 2019. What a trip! Karen's research focusses on single celled marine microbes, which are the base of the food chain. One question she was examining: Do whales stimulate bacterial production through their iron rich faeces? Stay tuned for that one!


SOPHIE HALL (2011) graduated from UTAS with a Bachelor of Animal Science and has been doing field work in all sorts of places, such as Christmas Island, with Macquarie University.

MARK KOLODZIEJ (1977) and his team at Kolmark won the Tasplan Business of the Year and the Manufacturing Entrepreneur of the Year awards in the 2018 Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees Business Excellence Awards.

The very talented RYAN ENNIS (2013) graduated from UTAS in 2018 with a BCA (Theatre) and is now studying Acting at the prestigious National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA).

Old scholar, SAM PETERS (2016) while studying VET Hospitality at GYC, represented Tasmania in the national final of the Secondary School Culinary Challenge month in Melbourne, just the second time a team from Tasmania has been represented, and Sam won a silver medal. Sam was awarded a Southern Cross Care VET bursary for his work in Advanced Food Studies at Dominic College in 2016 and undertook a Certificate II in Kitchen Operations at GYC. Sam is now an apprentice chef with Solo Pasta and Pizza.

Congratulations to SHANIA KAVA (2014) who won the Work & Training 2018 Trainee of the Year. Shania completed her Dental Assisting Traineeship with City Dental and is now an integral part of the City Dental team.

Real Tennis legend, ROB FAHEY (1983), claimed another world title, defeating his 20 years younger opponent at the Queen’s Club in London, England, in May 2018. The match was the best of 13 sets and lasted three days. What a marathon! What a champion!

TONY CAPLICE (1979) launched his book Just One Word, Just One Smile: Life and Love After an Aneurysm in July 2018 at The Republic, North Hobart, with an emotional reading and with the support of family, including daughter SHARON CAPLICE (1995), friends and classmates from the Class of 1979.

 Anglicare Social Research and Action head, MEG WEBB (1991) was elected as an Independent for the Tasmanian Upper House seat of Nelson in May 2019. Meg's father, Tony WEBB (1963) helped doorknock and act as her 'roadie'? Meg is the first Dominic College old scholar in the Tasmanian parliament.
Br Peter Dezani SDB was an important part of Dominic College from 1966 till his death in November 2000, as a teacher, carer, Salesian, youth worker, mentor and friend. He was a modern day man, moulded in the spirit of Don Bosco. Most Savio boys, and Dominic College girls and boys, will recall him with love. He was a champion of communication, setting up DOSA and nourishing its Old Scholars for generations of students.

To honour his memory and service, the College and Old Scholar supporters have set up the Br Peter Dezani SDB Scholarship Fund, to assist a student to attend Dominic College whose circumstances might otherwise force a different choice.

Your donations would be very welcome, and tax-deductible.

Full Name

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Telephone (mobile preferred)

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Amount Donated Please make cheques payable to Dominic College

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All donations of $2 or more are tax-deductible.

Please return to Dominic Old Scholars Association, PO Box 256, Glenorchy TAS 7010

We hope you’ve enjoyed our publications, website and Facebook over the last 12 months, and that you’ll continue to visit us for the weekly newsletter, and all our news and publications. If you like our Facebook page, you can stay in touch with the many aspects of Dominic College – for students, parents and Old Scholars.

Come to your class reunion. Come to our fair, our special events and celebrations.

You can call us on (03) 6274 6000. And you can write to us: Dominic Old Scholars Association PO Box 256 Glenorchy TAS 7010 or even better, send us messages by email to oldscholars@dominic.tas.edu.au. Let us know your contact details: current and previous names if changed, postal address, phone number, years at the College.

Keep us updated with your celebrations and special occasions for our Old Scholars news. Send a photo!

If you want to visit the school we can organise a tour for you, as well.

But most importantly, stay in touch. Talk to us.