

NORBERTUS



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL



I felt privileged earlier in November this year, to be part of a Eucharistic celebration at St Patrick's Catholic Church in York, honouring the 60 years of Norbertine service to the parish and the Diamond Jubilee of Fr Stephen Cooney's priestly ministry in the area. To think that within 24 hours of arrival in Australia, Father Peter O'Reilly and Father John Reynolds, names familiar to us all I'm sure, were welcomed to York with a civic reception in the town hall by the York Municipal Council.

As we swing our attention to this edition of *Norbertus*, Issue 34, it is amazing to think how far and wide the Saint Norbert connection has spread. It would have been inconceivable to think at that time, that by 2019, we would be reading about the

incredible exploits of our ex-students. From a purely personal perspective, it is always great to know many of the faces behind the names included in *Norbertus*.

The Kelly surname across varying family links, is synonymous with our College; I had the pleasure of teaching Matthew Thomas and delight in his achievements but also that of his sister Alycia (Class of 2005) who has taught my children at primary school; Joe Sciorilli and I have communicated collegially and often in our roles as members of our various school leadership teams; SNESA and all involved provide a great connection socially and in the sporting sense for our community; Hilmar Aevarrson was in my class whilst on exchange at Saint Norbert College and the smell of his dried fish will never leave many of us, and; I am still in awe and admiration for our

ex-students in the armed forces, none more so than Jody Tièche, who always struck me as a young man who put others before himself.

The strength of any community comes from the people and it is this Koinonia, this fellowship that makes the Saint Norbert College community so strong. I thank the editor of *Norbertus*, Frank Mulligan, and all the contributors to this edition, for doing their part to help maintain the strong ties that bind our community from the past, in the present and for the future. Please enjoy and keep in touch!

God bless.

Simon Harvey
Principal



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to Issue 34 of *Norbertus*, the magazine for the alumni of St Norbert College. In this issue we look back in time at what the College was like in 1989 and 1999 and also feature collages from the Class of 1977's latest catch-up, and the Classes of 1986 and 1989 reunions that were coincidentally held on the same day in October. St Norbert College alumnus Mr Joe Sciorilli (Class of 1985) returned to Treasure Road as a teacher during the 1990s and went on to work in middle-management roles at a variety of Catholic colleges before accepting a position as Head of Senior School at Ursula Frayne Catholic College. Joe kindly agreed

to appear in this issue's "Where Are They Now?" section and it was great to catch up with him.

As usual, we check in with some former students, including two brand new doctors of medicine, Matthew Thomas and Clare Bradley; a student from the 1960s, Terrence Walsh; distinguished soldier, medic and talented photographer Jody Tièche; Class of 2015 graduate Julia Nabizadah, who has set up her own charity for underprivileged families living in Herat Province, Afghanistan; physicist John Wojdylo who is working in Japan; and – after some detective work – *Norbertus*' Scandinavian operative successfully tracks down 1999 Icelandic exchange student Hilmar Aevarrson in between shifts working as a fireman at Keflavik International Airport near Reykjavik. The achievements, experiences and stories of these former students are many and varied, to say the least.

On the SNESA front there are plenty of action and social photographs from Soklich & Co Oval, as well as some from the League team's unfortunately ill-fated Grand Final

appearance at Wyong Reserve in September. Thanks are extended to hard-working SNESA President Mr Rafic Aoun for his post-season footy wrap-up as well as the inside story on the glitz and glamour that is the SNESA Awards and Presentation Night.

Norbertus is also grateful that St Norbert College alumnus and father of five alumni children, Mr Mark Kelly, has been kind enough to pen his thoughts about his links with the College over the last 40 years or so as guest columnist and, as usual, Principal Mr Simon Harvey has contributed his insights too.

All this and more in Issue 34 of *Norbertus*. If you hear any news about St Norbert College alumni – whether it be an engagement, a marriage, a baby, a promotion, an achievement or even some travel – please get in touch with fmulligan@norbert.wa.edu.au

Frank Mulligan
Editor

The Old Schoolyard

MR MARK KELLY – GUEST COLUMNIST

Do you remember the days of the old schoolyard, we used to laugh a lot, or so the Cat Stevens classic goes.

I do remember laughing a lot. Good times with good mates. Not too sure about the learning experience, but all in all, good fun. I attended St Norbert's between 1972 and 1977. One of my early memories revolved around the removal of an Australian Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, in 1975. You remember 1975? Before the internet, before emails, Google, Facebook and myriad other annoyances. But I digress. I remember one of our teachers, a Mr Scaffidi, being distraught that the sitting Labor Prime Minister could be summarily dismissed.

If I was in Year 12 at the time (I was in Year 9), I would have been able to go to the "smoking room" and enjoy a cigarette with my mates, with the blessing of the school hierarchy. The room was in the middle of the school in an upstairs room and was provided for the senior boys to "chill out".

This was also before the introduction of girls, which I think took place about two years later. I was in Year 11 when we were graced with three girls in our classroom. The last time we had female representation in the classroom was when I was in Year

5 at St Joseph's. The girls in our year were actually quite normal, which was probably a bit of a surprise to most of us. Hence my preference for a co-ed school for my own children years later.

I have five children and they all graced the halls of St Norbert's. Unlike myself, they all went on and completed or are still completing various studies at university. I must admit I found school largely boring and a lot of the information and delivery lacking somewhat. There did not appear to be much of an effort to deliver information in a way that grabbed my attention. Or it could have been that I was easily distracted and goaded a number of my teachers and wasn't really interested.

I left school at the end of Term 2 (there were four terms in those days) in Year 11 and started an automotive mechanical apprenticeship, which I went on to complete four years later. I then joined the Western Australia Police Force and spent the next 20 years further honing my life skills (and sense of humour). Whilst I was in the force, I was promoted and took up a position as a facilitator at the Leadership and Management Faculty at the Police Academy at Maylands. So, I came the full circle from being a disruptive student to trying to keep the attention of adults and helping them learn.



Mark Kelly during his schoolyard days in 1977.



Mr Mark Kelly.

The Old Schoolyard MR MARK KELLY – GUEST COLUMNIST

This later led to me working for myself as a training consultant and facilitator, which I have been doing for about 16 years. I find that people are genuinely inquisitive if you provide a forum where you acknowledge their experience and allow them to express their ideas. And throw in a dose of good humour.

But getting back to St Norbert's, sport was always a big part of our educational experience. And it was a part I actually enjoyed. We played footy on the school oval, when it wasn't submerged by a recent rainstorm. And sometimes when it was!

I remember there were always a hard-working group of parents and friends that were continually on the hunt for ways to raise funds to improve the school and the scholastic experience. Not unlike today, I guess. One of the projects that came to fruition was the swimming pool that still is used today. It was a mammoth effort at the time to get the funds and expertise to construct this well-used facility.

After construction, the swimming club held a 24-hour swimathon to raise much needed funds. We were all excited to participate, but I must say it wasn't nearly as much fun getting up at 3am to swim our leg of the marathon. But we certainly did remember it.

I loved playing football when I was at school and the SNESA Football Club was also established in those early days. I continued to play footy after I left school at a variety of clubs but came back and played for SNESA for the last three years of my career. It was good to rekindle old friendships and I was warmly welcomed.

St Norbert College and its associated entities have always been a welcoming and friendly environment. It doesn't matter how long you have been away, there is always a warm welcome upon your return.

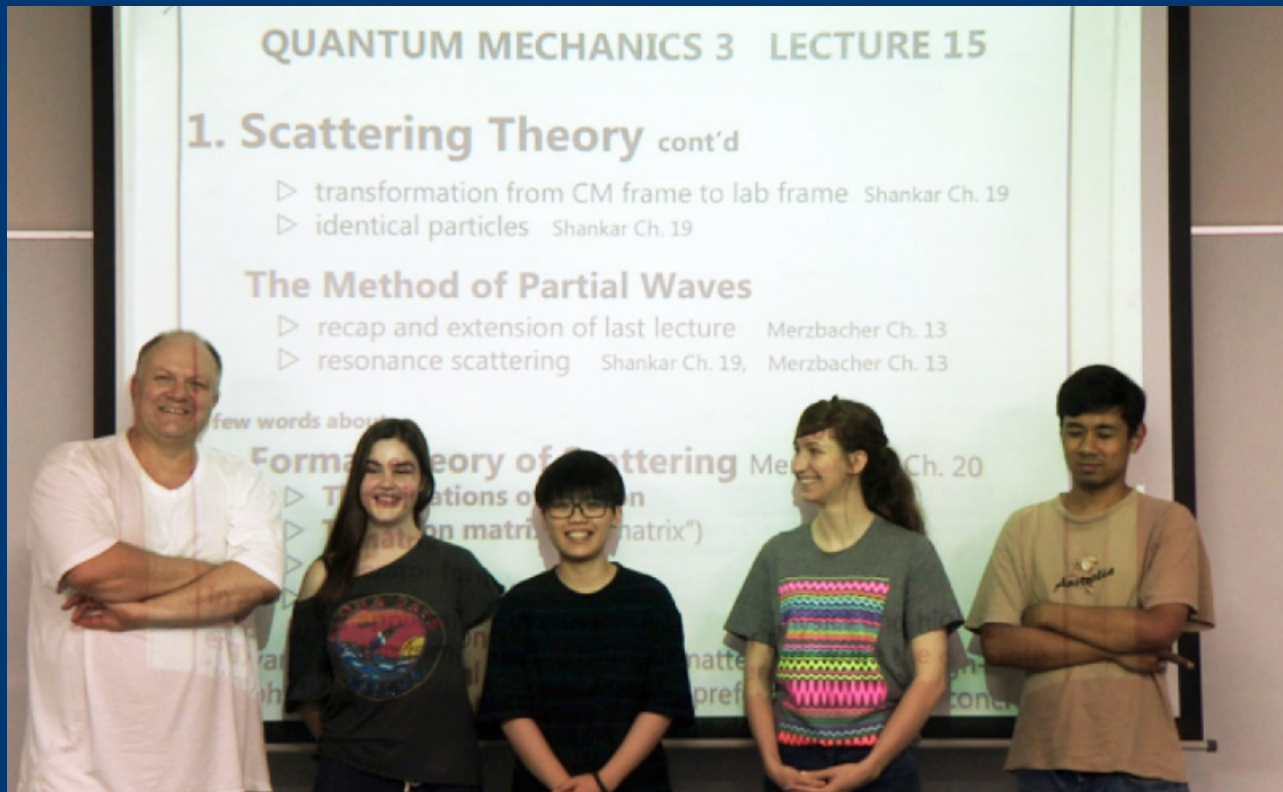
For me, St Norbert's has always been about being a community. A real faith community where all are welcome. I believe it continues in this vein to this day. I am proud to say that I have attended this school as have my children. It has given me and my children the basis of a successful life. Long may it continue.



Lunchtime during the late 1970s at St Norbert College.

An Unconventional CAREER

PROFESSOR JOHN WOJDYLO (CLASS OF 1982)



Professor John Wojdylo pictured with his Year 3 Quantum Mechanics 3 class of Spring Semester, 2019, at Nagoya University, Japan. These students are from Vietnam, Fiji, Canada, and Western Australia.

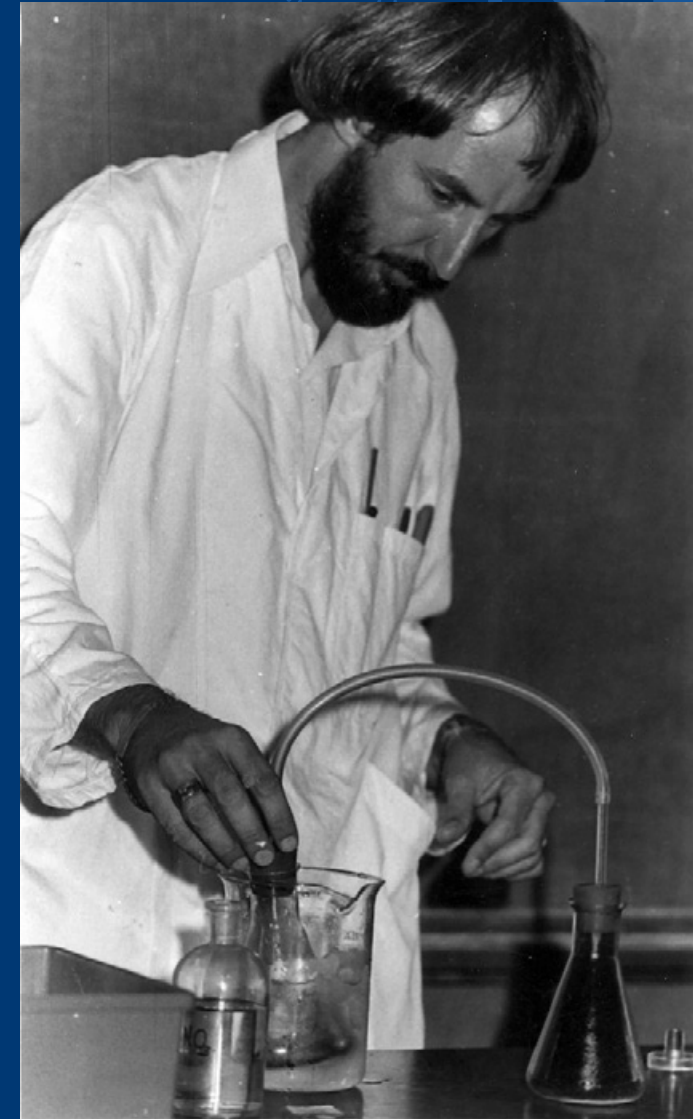
John Wojdylo (Class of 1982) is currently designated professor at Nagoya University, Japan, where he teaches theoretical physics and mathematics to international university students.

Since leaving St Norbert College, John's career path has been nothing short of extraordinary, and nothing like the "conventional" academic path of achieving a degree, then a doctorate, publishing innovative academic papers, attending conferences and building up an academic network before becoming professor of a department. John's path has had many twists and turns, including:

- Commencing a PhD in modern applied mathematics which was punctuated by a stint of teaching English in Japan and some time spent in Xinjiang in far west China near the Afghanistan border, before determining his work was not rigorous enough to be published, which resulted in John's expulsion from the program.
- Having some of his China and Japan photographs selected for display around Western Australia when some of John's work was deemed "outstanding" by judges in the West Australian Professional Photographer of the Year Award in 1991.

- Joining a Polish professional theatre company in 1992 where he not only translated a play into English, but was also the company's jack of all trades, ranging from being assistant director to promotional flyer distributor.
- Translating a short Polish novel written by his grandmother which was based on her first husband's life before he died in Auschwitz in 1941.
- Having some film reviews and articles published in the international foreign language film magazine *Cinema Papers*.
- Commencing a PhD in theoretical physics in 1995 at the University of Western Australia, supervised by top Russian physicist Eugene Bashkin whose research in theoretical condensed matter physics specialising in helium appealed to John. Eugene died from cancer in 1997 but a good friend of his invited John to continue his PhD at the Institute for Theoretical Physics at Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria.
- Lecturing in second-year statistical mechanics and thermodynamics in 1996, including to 13-year-old child prodigy Askhay Venkatesh who last year won the Fields Medal, the most important mathematics prize in the world.
- Polishing his German language skills by joining the translator team at the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, one of Germany's leading papers for a couple of years.
- Becoming a columnist for the online edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald* from 2000 to 2002, contributing to Margot Kingston's blog as the resident contrarian.
- Cracking the code to devise a formula that had evaded other mathematicians for a couple of centuries, having the proof published in one of the top mathematics magazines in the world and winning a prize at UWA for best mathematics paper in 2004.
- Teaching English to migrants and refugees at Central TAFE in 2008 where John enjoyed some of his most satisfying teaching experiences as a result of identifying similarities between the students' remarkable life experiences and those of his own family who were no strangers to deportation and persecution at the hands of the Nazis and later the Red Army.
- Finally securing his PhD 11 years after starting it and being awarded a distinction based on the recommendation of world famous physicist Lev Pitaevski.
- Simultaneously being offered two teaching jobs at Japanese universities which saw him accept the Nagoya position and finally begin to live above the poverty line for the first time in 25 years!

John has generously issued an invitation to members of the St Norbert College community to make contact: *If anyone is passing through Nagoya, perhaps on the way to Kyoto from Tokyo, or maybe to see the Japan Grand Prix held in October every year near Nagoya, you're welcome to drop me a line at john.wojdylo@s.phys.nagoya-u.ac.jp and we can have a coffee. I can show you Nagoya University!*



Mr Robert Craig – a teaching role model for John Wojdylo.

A Sense of Community

JOHN WOJDYLO'S MEMORIES OF ST NORBERT COLLEGE

I remember the sense of community, especially in Year 12. At that stage of your life you're still learning how to be with others despite your own youthful (or perhaps, as in my case, permanent) idiosyncrasies; every day can feel like walking through a minefield and you seek the safe haven of close peers. From 1978 to 1982 the year groups were small – only around 40 in Year 12 – and it seemed like you were connected, if just a little, even to peers you didn't talk to much.

I remember feeling respect for many of my peers, irrespective of their academic performance or reputation or anything else. I felt I could learn from just about anybody. Out of many examples I'll pick a couple. Paul Mulvey (if you're reading this, g'day!) left school after Year 10 and became an electrician. We played cricket for Cannington Cricket Club at Coker Park, as well as for St Norbert's. One day he was visiting my place while I was solving some logic puzzles in a magazine I'd buy regularly. I showed them to him, and within a minute he'd solved a few of them in his head. He was sharper than me with these puzzles!

Others in my close circle of friends had strengths – Roy Martinus, Helier Nicholls, Warren de Fonseka. And the others in my cricket circle, too: Michael McManus, Victor Anderson and Mark Robert who had a larrikin, uppity defiance, gritty determination and a sense of fairness. Although my marks were usually higher than theirs, I never, ever felt an

arrogant sense of superiority – because there's more to life than grades. They could all teach me something. Maybe I felt like this because our family was ordinary, because nobody else in our household seemed to have academic ability. My father was a fitter and turner before retiring around 15 years ago; my mother, a barmaid and then nursing aide. They both had their strengths, too.

The sense of community for most students had developed over many years before St Norbert's. Quite a few had come through St Joseph's Primary School. One student – Stella Serafino – had had the same journey as me all the way from Grade 1 at St Joachim's. Andrew Lozyk likewise, although he left in Year 10. I wonder how everybody's going. I know that some are not with us anymore.

The teachers at St Norbert's, too, were supportive and able to relate on a personal level. This eased the harshness of the daily challenge, so I could step out into the unknown with hope.

Of all the teachers, Mr Robert Craig was the most pivotal for me in Year 11 and 12. It's my own fault that we've not kept in contact. He called me a "crazy Pole" – not wrong there – and we spent many mornings before school talking in his lab prep room about how I could improve my work and about many other things on a personal level too; random thoughts, congealing philosophies. He demanded high standards, but you always knew what was required, the level you needed to strive for. The task was clear-cut. He's one of the teachers I model my teaching on.



John Wojdylo (centre) as a member of the senior tennis team in 1982.

Sandro Sandri in 1978 was the first who gave me the feeling of mastering mathematics and, moreover, that possessing that fleeting clarity can make you feel great. His personal concern for you and encouragement was key; I didn't feel alone in my struggle to understand. I felt deflated when he moved to St Brigid's in 1979.

Mark Carroll introduced me to Shakespeare, performing in public and the electric guitar. One day he brought his electric guitar to the English class, hooked it up to an amp, and started belting out B.B. King. The raw energy of that sound blew me away and I was hooked on that instrument – and B.B. King – from then on. I never learned how to play it but still love the sound. Years later I bumped into Mark at UWA where he was doing a physics degree. Cool!

Ms Cox in Year 11 had a mellow, ethereal voice that trailed away into the ether and made you think about the emotions being expressed in whatever literary piece we were reading. She'd play tapes of pop songs and ask us what we thought the lyrics meant. She made us see that multiple interpretations were possible, that some conclusion we fixate on as "obvious" might just be a symptom of our misplaced certitude. One day she played Cold Chisel's "Choir Girl". "She's my connection..." I didn't understand that line until many years later; it's important in life to understand "connection", I feel.

Father Cusack showed us documentary videos including one of sugar cane farmers in Cuba working under unjust conditions. It was the time of the Solidarity movement in Poland, as well as the election of a Polish pope, Pope John Paul II – Karol Wojtyła. Due to the similarity of our surnames I used to joke that he was my uncle. Father Cusack mentioned these to me often and it felt good that somebody was aware of events in

such a faraway country – a country that to me felt like a long-lost home even though I'd never been there – and cared.

Father Peter (back then he was Brother Peter) taught us religious education. I remember his sharp intellect, his crystal-clear arguments on ethics and various points about religion. We were always encouraged to make up our own minds, which I encourage in my own teaching. Even in primary school I enjoyed reading history, and here we were learning the history of Christianity, which is an important part of the history of the West. We also learned about other religions, which helped me understand what is meaningful to people in distant lands who I might one day meet. Now, in Japan, I can see the influence of Buddhism, Shinto and Confucianism all around me, and understand something about my colleagues because of it.

I think some teachers sensed that I was a bit "different" and made the effort to connect, and I really appreciate it, despite, at times, my immature behaviour. Besides Robert Craig, there was Ms Wunnenberg in Grade 7 at St Joseph's and Andy Chalkley in Year 11 and 12. Incidentally, sorry about the fish in your hubcaps, Andy. I know how much you liked that yellow Ford Capri.

I was introduced to Japan and the Japanese language at St Norbert's, first by Peter Williams then by Shane Glass. The study trip to Japan in 1980 was one of the highlights of my St Norbert's experience. Miss Glass's way of teaching the language connected you with the culture, as if you were travelling in Japan during class and getting to know the Japanese people – so much more than grammar rules and kanji. Japanese has stayed with me all my life.

The foremost feeling from those St Norbert's days is the sense of unfulfilled potential, the



John in Year 12, 1982.

sense of inability to bridge the gap between what I could imagine and what I was capable of achieving at that time – and that the gap could only be bridged sometime in the distant future after learning from many mistakes. That's in no way a failure of the school. I felt it even more acutely at UWA, as an undergraduate, and later as a postgraduate. I've got used to it now. Importantly, through perseverance and an insatiable desire to improve, the ingrained memories of tough experiences have handed me the techniques that make goals reachable, through conscious application of the basic steps that I have mastered. High school maths – and undergraduate university physics and maths – seem so easy now. In my teaching I want to help other people see that it's easy, too.

Some Observations and Advice for Current St Norbert College Students

What kind of advice would be credible from a guy who's been "poor" for most of his life? Well, put it this way: I remember what works in the long term. For one thing, whether you're aspiring to enter a vocation or university, do what you have a passion for. Make sure your work is not just about money, but is something you find fulfilling, inspiring, that satisfies a deep need within you. That makes you feel good even if you might not earn much money for a while.

Learn to do what you're doing well and identify your weak points and work on them. Take every opportunity to improve yourself. Find people you can learn from, observe how they do things, talk to them, get ideas from them. Understand the ideas in your own individual way then master the execution of them. Always make sure the ideas make sense to you, that you understand the plan or strategy. If not, talk to somebody – a fellow student or a teacher. Be proud of your work: carry out every task as well as you can. If you're aspiring to become a tradesman, what is the industry's best practice? Strive to be the best! Make

a name for yourself that your community respects. Here's a tip: check out how the Japanese do it.

About academic work, master every step that you are taught – even if you fail a test you can learn from your mistakes and vow never to make them again. Be able to explain every sentence in every textbook. Get organised and do exercises well – test yourself by solving extra problems. In this way you'll learn how to avoid debilitating panic and how to proceed without fear.

For those aspiring to enter university, I'll tell you this. If you want to get a super ATAR score, it's really easy to game the system. Just find out what you're good at and take the easiest subjects you can do well. Australian unis these days don't seem to care if you take the easy option, so why not? The problem with that is you won't learn much and you won't improve yourself. You'll just enter the rat-race of employment, probably end up with a comfortable life, but you'd have missed an opportunity for a more fulfilling life. Australia needs people with higher skills, people who do advanced things well. Mathematical and numerical skills, in particular, are super important in technological societies. Even just to fix a modern car. Numeracy skills you learn at school and university will stay with you for the rest of your life. And it's easier to learn these when you're young because you don't have the responsibilities that are a drag on your time. From my vantage point in Japan – seeing the applicants for our undergraduate degree programs – Asia is so far ahead of Australia it's scary. So be brave and take specialist mathematics.

We need more girls doing the "hardest" – I mean, most rewarding! – maths. I want to tell girls reading this something. Although there are exceptions, of course, as a general rule, girls tend to approach maths problems differently to boys. Steps of reasoning condense from a thought cloud. Boys tend



John receives the 1982 St Norbert College Dux award from Archbishop The Most Reverend Sir Launcelot Goody.

to focus into a kind of tunnel, like following the paths in an electronic circuit. Both ways of thinking can go wrong. Some boys can't see the wood from the trees and some girls can't see the trees from the wood. But mathematics is universal and both boys and girls must understand the same basic principles and solve the same problems.

Of all the pieces of advice I could give, one stands out far above the others; your health and your family are the most important things in life. If I'd gone to some fancy high school with a lot of advanced academic support and really smart peers, I probably would have ended up with a conventional career, possibly at a top university, made a lot more money. But I wouldn't have met my wife, had a wonderful family, found myself in a place with such great opportunities for kids.

St Norbert College, though just a modest school back then, set me on my current path. If I had the choice, I wouldn't change a thing.

Living The College MOTTO

JULIA NABIZADAH (CLASS OF 2015)



Julia Nabizadah helps distribute cooking oil and rice.

Julia Nabizadah (Class of 2015) spent the first three years of her life in her native country of Afghanistan where she remembers the day-to-day struggles her family had to endure as a result of war and corruption and the general lack of freedom, particularly for women and girls.

After her family was fortunate enough to emigrate to Australia, Julia and her mother visited Afghanistan several years later and they were shocked at the widespread poverty and despair that greeted them. "I thought if I was still living in Afghanistan, I would not be safe, I would not have freedom of movement, I would not have an opportunity to receive an education or to live freely as a woman." Julia recalled. "I vowed that when I grew up I would return to Afghanistan to help in whatever way I could, on whatever level I could."

In 2010 Julia enrolled as a Year 8 student at St Norbert College as a member of Mr Collins' Kilnacrott Homeroom and she graduated in 2015. During her time in high school Julia says Campus Ministry Coordinator, Ms Margaret Kyd, had a big influence on her outlook on life and influenced her eventual career path. On a personal level, Julia found Ms Kyd to be a continual source of inspiration. "Her words of wisdom, continuous support

and regard for her students truly inspired me to get out of my comfort zone and encouraged me to help make a positive change in the world, just like she did," Julia said.

Julia rates the opportunity to participate in two Kairos retreats – once as a leader – during her time at St Norbert College as her most significant experience at school because she learnt numerous skills and was inspired by the life stories of her peers. "Kairos was a life-changing experience which helped me form close relationships which are ongoing to this day, and the overall experience motivated me to study social work at Curtin University so, some day and in some way, I could help others who have experienced challenging lives like myself," Julia said.

This year, inspired by the St Norbert College motto of "prepared for all good works" and driven by a desire to promote human rights in her home province of Herat in Afghanistan, Julia embarked on a journey to assist poor families by supplying them with some basic staples such as rice and cooking oil. Once again, she was shocked at what she found – no running water, extreme poverty, unemployment and sickness. "Many people earn less than \$2 a day and some families have no choice but to marry off their children at a young age just so they can afford to survive," she said.

Julia was simultaneously disheartened by the extreme poverty and lack of assistance these people receive, yet inspired by the strength they display on a daily basis to overcome adversity. "I left Afghanistan enlightened and motivated, ready to commence another program to help more people struggling to meet their daily needs," Julia said.

Julia's work has been recognised and acknowledged by Amnesty Australia and an article on Amnesty Australia – WA's blog for World Youth Skills Day stated that Julia's "desire to help those of the same roots as her, who were not as fortunate to have a life free of poverty and war in Australia, is powerful and altruistic".

Julia is very humble about her humanitarian work in Afghanistan and is quick to acknowledge the support she received from family and friends, especially when she questioned her ability to make this program a reality.

The St Norbert College community is proud of Julia's courageous commitment to helping the struggling families of Herat Province and *Norbertus* looks forward to following Julia's inspirational efforts in future.



Julia in Year 12.



Women and children queue for food supplies.



A street scene in Herat Province, Afghanistan.

From Queens Park to TARIN KOWT

JODY TIÈCHE (CLASS OF 2001)



Jody and his wife Vicky on their wedding day.

Earlier this year, current St Norbert College teacher and Class of 2001 alumnus Aaron McGoorty drew *Norbertus'* attention to a story about fellow Class of 2001 alumnus Corporal Jody Tièche, who had recently featured in a series of newspaper articles, a podcast and a documentary called "Voodoo Medics", the amazing story of Australian Defence Force Special Operations Army Medics serving with the 2nd Commando Regiment and the Special Air Service Regiment. When the medics are fully embedded within the two regiments and perform the role as a platoon, or Troop Medic or 'Kilos' as they are nicknamed – they assume the title of 'Voodoo Medic', based on the two aspects of unconventional medicine and unconventional warfare. The documentary tells the story of these medics and their heroic deeds during the conflict against the Taliban in Afghanistan just over a decade ago, and follows them home as they return to life in Australia.

One of *Norbertus'* Eastern States operatives managed to get in touch with Jody and – despite a very busy schedule including recently moving states, starting a new job and being married with a toddler son – he was kind enough to write an article (see page 14) about his memories of St Norbert College and what he has been up to since leaving school.

In his article, Jody mentions that his sister and St Norbert College alumna Carli (Class of 2000) had joined the Australian Defence Force and her experiences influenced Jody to consider a similar path. One role in the Australian Army – that of a medic – appealed to Jody, and after undergoing intensive study and training, he was subsequently deployed on missions to East Timor and Afghanistan. However, in his article, Jody's rather understated style did not give a true indication of the role he performed as a special breed of combat soldier and medic, trained to the same punishing standards as Australia's Special Forces and exposed to the same dangerous frontline combat situations.

"Voodoo Medics" is an award-winning documentary written, directed and produced by Australian journalist Kristin Shorten, which was released in October 2018 during the Invictus Games in Sydney. It was awarded the Best Documentary Award at the 10th Annual Media Film Festival in Los Angeles and recently appeared online as an eight-part mini-series on the Daily Telegraph and other News Corporation newspaper websites.

In the documentary, Jody and his fellow platoon members recount some of their experiences fighting in extremely inhospitable conditions against the Taliban, including the occasion when Special Forces Commando Pte Chad Elliott was seriously injured when two-dozen Taliban fighters attacked an Australian foot patrol with AK47 machine guns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers, with Pte Elliott taking the brunt of the assault.

When a "priority one casualty" call came over the radio, Jody sprang into action and began to put his medical and military training into practice. With no regard for his own personal safety, in a situation that reminded those present of scenes from Hollywood war movies such as "Saving Private

Ryan", Jody stemmed the blood-flow and used an antenna shot off a vehicle as a splint to brace Pte Elliott's legs, before organising an evacuation to a safer location where he could be stabilised further and eventually evacuated by a Blackhawk helicopter to a military hospital at Tarin Kowt. To demonstrate how dangerous and how immediate the situation was, Pte Elliott kept shooting at the enemy while Jody was treating him.

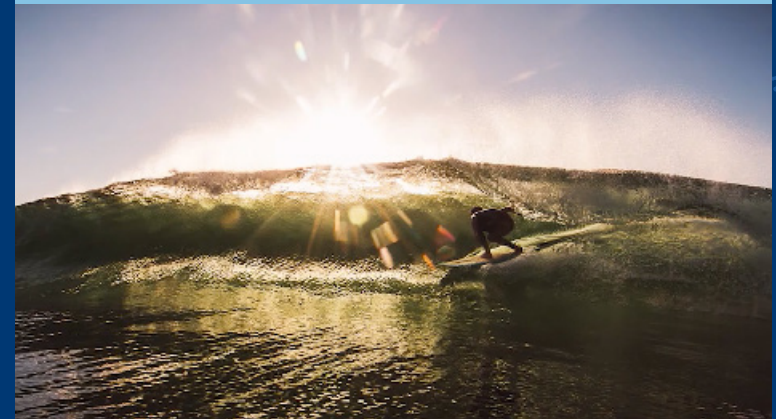
Reminiscing on their experiences in the documentary and podcast, Jody explained how he sometimes used dark humour as a coping mechanism, while Pte Elliott said Jody's laid-back approach put him at ease, and later described him as "the perfect medic". There is no doubt that Jody's training, quick thinking and courageous actions combined to save Pte Elliott's life that day, elevating his execution of the St Norbert College motto of being "prepared for all good works" to a completely new, incredibly high level. *Norbertus* congratulates and thanks Jody and Carli, and all members of the Australian Defence Force for their dedicated and courageous service to Australia and the protection of our way of life – a way of life we often take for granted without considering the sacrifices of those such as our own alumni, Jody and Carli.

To listen to the podcast featuring Cpl Jody Tièche and his fellow platoon members, go to Episode 12 at: <https://www.owltail.com/podcasts/TFA8g-Voodoo-Medic/episode>

To watch Kristin Shorten's eight-part series documentary "Voodoo Medics", go online. *Norbertus* is grateful to Kristin for permission to use the images from her production contained in this article.



Jody (right) and his good mate Jamie Hendry at the 2001 Interhouse Athletics Carnival.



A keen surfer, Jody has pursued his keen interest in surf photography since leaving the Australian Defence Force.



Jody and his wife Vicky with son Baylin.

Voodoo Medic JODY TIÈCHE

My name is Jody Tièche. I graduated from St Norbert College in 2001 and six months later I joined the Australian Defence Force as a medic with the Australian Army.

Following my initial training, I was posted to the same unit as my sister Carli, also an ex-student of St Norbert College. Carli, a qualified Army chef, was a great influence on my decision to join the Australian Defence Force, based on her experiences during her operational deployment to East Timor in 2001 as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping mission for six months with the Army.

As I researched possible career options there was only one job description that really interested me, and that – despite the lengthy study required – was to become a medic.

The training and education required to become a medic is a combination of university and TAFE lecturers and military instructors for the Basic Medic level through to the Advanced Medic level/Underwater Medic Dive Clinician. My study included clinical placements within the public health system, including emergency departments and hospital wards, and on-road placements with various ambulance services. These placements assist the medic in the practical consolidation of knowledge and skill-sets taught.

The training has come a long way for the modern Australian Defence Force medics in recent years. Once you reach the Advanced Medic level you receive the Diploma in Paramedical Science and provides significant RPL toward the Bachelor Degree in Paramedicine offered by various universities. Most ADF medics pursue this and complete their studies via correspondence. This is highly encouraged by the ADF in order for members to gain national registration as paramedics.

I was posted to East Timor in 2006 as part of the resuscitation team which is rapidly deployed to conflicts or natural disasters for what was supposed to be a two-week mission, but turned into a six-month deployment. In 2007 I was posted to 4 RAR (Commando), renamed as 2 Commando Regiment. The 2 Commando Regiment forms part of the Special Operations Command in the Australian Army and are based in Sydney. They are tasked with both domestic and international counter-terrorism special operations. This unit was definitely a highlight of my military career. I deployed as a platoon medic to Afghanistan in 2007 and again in 2008 as part of the Special Operations Task Group.

I am very proud of my time as a medic and grateful for the opportunities it has provided me. The job role was exciting and I was constantly learning modern military medicine or tactical aspects from the commando operators. Returning back home to Australia after those deployments, I felt I wanted to pursue other avenues in life and decided to move back to Perth and work in the paramedic profession.



Cpl Jody Tièche, pictured with fellow Australian Special Operations medics (nicknamed "Kilos") in front of a Blackhawk helicopter. The Blackhawks are used for medical retrieval missions to transport sick and injured personnel from the battlefield to a forward surgical team at the main base.



Meandering rivers and streams from the mountains provided Jody and his fellow Kilos some reprieve from the heat and were just part of the spectacular scenery encountered during their patrols.

Since Army life I started working as a paramedic in the natural resources sector on the mines, then moved offshore to oil and gas platforms along the North-West Shelf of Western Australia. It was here where I met my wife Vicky who was working as a sports and exercise scientist providing personal training and health assessments to crew on board. We decided to move to Byron Bay where we lived for six years and built a home on the coast in Pottsville. We have a beautiful 15-month-old boy Baylin who is a happy little adventurer. We recently moved to Adelaide to be closer to Vicky's family and are enjoying the outdoor life up and down the coast.

I completed my Bachelor Degree in Paramedic Practice through University of Tasmania and am now a registered paramedic. I work as a casual instructor for an ex-Army medics' company TacMed Australia who facilitate high threat tactical medicine training for law enforcement and government bodies across Australia and New Zealand. I have also pursued surf photography as a side-hobby on my time off from work. My wife and I love to travel and explore both Australian and overseas destinations when we have a chance to, so I'm always lugging my camera gear and surfboards on trips away.

I have fond memories of my time at St Norbert College and the mates I still keep in contact with to this day. I must admit it's refreshing to see a lot of my school year still keep in touch with each other even after all these years. Reflecting back on my time at St Norbert College always brings a smile to my face thinking about how lucky we were to have had such a good mix of personalities – both students and teachers. Hopefully there'll be a visit to St Norbert College to see some familiar faces again sometime in the near future. I want to wish all the students of St Norbert College all the best in your studies and the fun times ahead!



Summer in Helmand Province, Afghanistan in 2008, which Jody likened to "somebody holding a hairdryer to your face". Much-needed food and water rations and ammunition were dropped by parachute at night by aircraft, or brought out by these Chinook helicopters when the platoon was on extensive patrols away from its main base.



Carli Felstead (nee Brown, Class of 2000) is Jody's sister and she was also deployed to Afghanistan with the Australian Special Operations Command in 2008. Carli has since discharged from the Army and is back in Perth, married and very busy with five children.



Jody recounts some of his wartime experiences in the 2018 award-winning documentary "Voodoo Medics".

Living The College MOTTO

CLARE BRADLEY (CLASS OF 2013)



Clare takes a break from her studies in Northam.

St Norbert College alumna Clare Bradley's interest in science was heightened when she was awarded a science study trip to Europe in 2013 and after graduating she enrolled in a medical degree at the University of Western Australia. Clare's outstanding ATAR score of 99.85 still remains as the most successful by a St Norbert College student.

Clare Bradley (Class of 2013) has recently completed her second-last year of medicine at the University of Western Australia and eventually hopes to specialise in obstetrics. Clare's interest in science and medicine developed from an early age and was significantly enhanced when she was selected to attend the Australian National Youth Science Forum held in Perth and Canberra in January, 2013.

Based on her excellent performance at this forum, Clare and nine other budding Australian scientists were selected to join 350 students from around the world to attend the London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF) in July, 2013.

"Attending the Australian National Youth Science Forum was an inspiring and amazing experience," Clare recalled, "and I was really thrilled to be chosen for the LIYSF."

During her London experience Clare attended lectures and visited scientific research establishments such as the Chemical Engineering Department at the Imperial College, the Department of Engineering at Oxford University and the Space Science Laboratory at the University College of London. After London the students visited some scientific establishments in Paris and Geneva, where the highlight of the trip was a chance to see the largest particle accelerator in the world, the Large Hadron Collider.

Upon her return to Perth, Clare described the LIYSF as "the most amazing experience of my life", and was sure that some branch of science would be her vocation. "Although I was not still entirely sure what specific direction to pursue as a career, the LIYSF showed what vast potential science had and I had a much better idea. My trip to Europe consolidated my desire to pursue science, but not necessarily medicine."

Clare had enrolled as a Year 8 student at St Norbert College in 2009 and was a member of Ms Lim's Kilnacrott Homeroom. Being awarded Runner-Up Champion Girl at the Interhouse Swimming Carnival in 2010, and her Year 11 and 12 chemistry classes are some of Clare's happy memories from her time at St Norbert College. "I was terrible at swimming but swam in a large number of races and somehow earned enough points! And I loved chemistry with Miss Fairhead. We had a great, small class full of students who were all happy to help each other," she said.

Clare is very enthusiastic about science and would encourage more St Norbert College girls to study science subjects in senior school. "I would also love to see more Year 11 girls apply for the National Youth Science Forum because it gives you a great taste of the different careers available in science. Also, don't be afraid to ask for help or get a tutor like I did at the start

of Year 11, and make sure you select appropriate subjects in Years 11 and 12, especially for medicine. Funnily enough it's not essential to do human biology in high school and you can pick it up at university."

Clare has worked extremely conscientiously during her degree, receiving several academic prizes and volunteering for several worthy causes such as the Dr YES program conducted by the Medical Association of Australia, and spending some time in Ethiopia as part of a health education project. "With Dr YES, I was part of a group to visit schools in Kalgoorlie, Bunbury, Geraldton and Albany where we spoke to high school students about mental health, sexual health and alcohol and other drugs, while the trip to Addis Ababa was to conduct a health education program at the School of St Yared and donate reusable feminine hygiene products to the students."

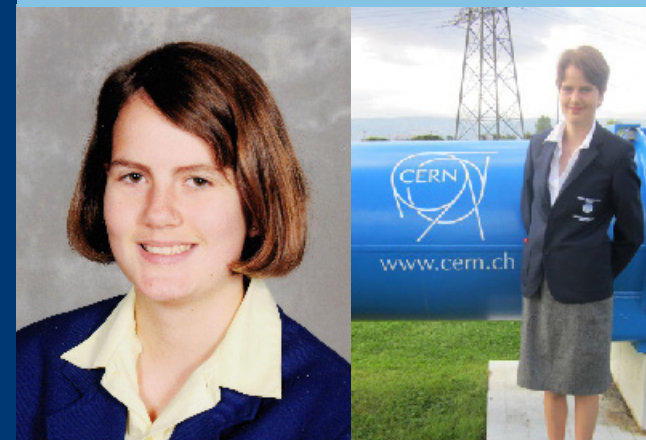
Clare has just completed one year studying in Northam as part of a program called Rural Clinic School, where medical students spend a year in a rural community in the hope that they will return to the country as qualified doctors, and this program has resonated with her. "My main goal as a doctor in future is to be helpful in a low resource setting, perhaps in a low-income or rural district in Australia," Clare said.

Clare is enjoying her studies and is convinced she has made the right career choice. "I loved problem solving at school and medicine provides plenty of opportunities for that. The further I go along this career path, the more I realise it's the right choice for me."

Norbertus congratulates Clare on her studies, achievements and contributions to date and admires her generous and community-minded outlook which encapsulates the St Norbert College motto of being "prepared for all good works".



A science experiment in 2013.



Clare, pictured here in Year 9 in 2010, was Dux for each of her five years at the College. Her ATAR score of 99.85 in 2013 stands as the highest ever by a St Norbert College student.

Clare pictured during the London International Youth Science Forum trip in 2013.

Alternative Aspirations

MATTHEW THOMAS (CLASS OF 2002)



On stage with Elora Danan.

Athlete, budding accountant, rock star, football coach, sports scientist and doctor. These are just some of the interests and achievements St Norbert College alumnus Matthew Thomas (Class of 2002) has chalked up since leaving school 17 years ago.

As an athlete, Matthew was never beaten in a single cross-country race and scored hundreds of points for Xanten during his time at the College. "I won a fair few athletics awards and trophies but my happiest athletics memory was being a member of the Xanten open relay team that won by about 100m in my final year of school," Matthew recalled.

Success continued after school at Willetton and Southern Districts Athletics Club where Matthew had competed since he was a six-year-old and saw him retire as the club's overall events record holder.

Music is another one of Matthew's passions and is central to some of his memorable times at St Norbert College. "Being on stage at the final graduation assembly, singing and playing with John Leotta, and performing on stage at the Perth Concert Hall as a member of the concert band really stand out as memorable occasions," Matthew said.

Armed with these positive memories and despite the fact that he was "more of a maths and science guy", Matthew considered studying a music degree at university but changed his mind when his geography teacher, Mrs Anna Scanlan, urged him to consider other options.

"Anna was a great teacher and was honest, upfront and genuinely interested in her students. I respected her immensely, so I took her advice and it turns out it was a smart decision which has had a profound impact on my career trajectory."

Matthew commenced a finance and accountancy degree and was almost finished when he realised a career on St George's Terrace was not for him. Much to the dismay of his parents Matthew did what any unemployed 20-year-old would do in similar circumstances – he formed a rock band, Elora Danan. For six years Matthew tasted success with three different bands, three EPs, two albums and countless national tours playing for up to 1000 people per night, and mum and dad were slowly coming around to accepting his decision. Eventually, however, the market began to shift. "Playing in a touring rock band was incredibly rewarding but tough on the wallet, and gradually the tours slowed down and demand for our music started to wane, so I started to think about a long-term career plan."

In between tours and completing a Bachelor of Science degree, and also when injuries permitted, Matthew played 55 games of football with SNESA before a broken leg simultaneously put paid to his playing career and opened his eyes to the possibility of a career in medicine. "I broke my leg around the time my career was at a crossroad and with the help of great

mate and great bloke, St Norbert College alumnus Dan Williams, and his mum, I got operated on by highly regarded orthopaedic surgeon. It was my experience with the surgeon that solidified my aspirations to become a doctor."

Matthew will be graduating from the University of Notre Dame this year with a Doctor of Medicine degree and after his final exams will be volunteering in Samoa for a month at Tupua Tamases Meaole Hospital in the obstetrics and gynaecology department. After a stint as an intern at Royal Perth Hospital in 2020, Matthew will begin to specialise, possibly in the area of psychiatry. "It's inevitable that my future speciality of choice will change down the track, but I am very interested in psychiatry, focusing on children and adolescents," he said.

In the meantime Matthew is also keeping busy coaching the SNESA Thirds team which is currently sitting fifth on the ladder and aiming to be part of the finals action in September. Football provides an outlet where Matthew can catch up with mates like Anthony Lo Presti and get away from the stresses of intense study. "I've loved my involvement with SNESA. With a pretty busy diary I enjoy being able to come to the club, watch the footy and hang out with a great bunch of mates. It's an incredibly welcoming club and there's no other place I'd want to spend my Saturday."

Norbertus wishes Matthew well as he commences what promises to be successful and exciting career in medicine and sincerely hopes he can steer the SNESA Thirds to success!



Matthew in the 2002 Koinonia.



Matthew, pictured with fellow SNESA football player Corey O'Connor, was awarded a Br Patrick Doolan Medal in 2012.



Matthew, pictured with his sister Alycia, after graduating with a Bachelor of Science (Sports Science) from the University of Western Australia. Alycia has taught at St Emilie's Catholic Primary School in Canning Vale for 10 years.



Matthew Thomas relaxing on a Saturday night at Soklich & Co Oval after coaching the SNESA Thirds team.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Mr Joe Sciorilli

Mr Joe Sciorilli was a student at St Norbert College from 1981 to 1985 and returned as a teacher between 1990 and 1998. Currently Head of Senior School at Ursula Frayne Catholic College, Joe spoke to Norbertus during half-time at the Br Pat Memorial and Past Players Day at SNESA in June.

Norbertus (N): Joe Sciorilli, welcome to Norbertus and thank you very much for giving up the all-important half-time break to talk with us.

Mr Joe Sciorilli (J.S.): It's a pleasure.

N: Before we discuss your time as a student and teacher at St Norbert College, and your subsequent positions in Catholic education, can we talk about your early years? Where were you born, your family, your suburb and what primary school you attended.

J.S.: I was born in Bentley Hospital. I grew up in Gosnells at a time when the suburb had a semi-rural feel. We had a huge block with a chook pen, heaps of fruit trees and dad maintained a significant vegetable garden. I had cousins living nearby and we were always out and about on bikes and skateboards. I went to St Munchin's Catholic Primary School.

N: You attended secondary school at St Norbert College. Any idea why you and your parents selected this College, which went on to have quite an important role to play in your life?

J.S.: I was enrolled into Trinity College and St Norbert College. My sister, who is four years older than me, went to Mercedes. My parents left the choice up to me. After seeing

my sister commute for so long each day, I chose the shorter bus ride.

N: Thinking back to your time as a student at St Norbert College, what are some of the memorable experiences you recall?

J.S.: I enjoyed moving into high school with a greater number of students to meet and enjoyed the broader learning opportunities of electives. I got involved in sport, the Student Representative Council and enjoyed most of my subjects.

N: Do you recall any favourite subjects or teachers?

J.S.: I liked mathematics, science and PE. Several teachers were very influential for me. André Papineau was my maths teacher from Year 8 to Year 12 and my Year 12 Homeroom teacher. An exceptional teacher who genuinely cared about kids. I had the pleasure of working with him as a colleague at Corpus Christi and he was a clear favourite for so many from my year group. Sheryl Gardner was a terrific English teacher and Peter Glasson was ahead of his time as our physics teacher. Peter taught in more of a university style with the view of getting many of us ready for the next step. I didn't realise this until much later.

N: What sports did you get involved in at St Norbert College? Is it true you were part of the inaugural premiership winning 1st XVIII team of 1985?

J.S.: I played almost anything that was on offer. I enjoyed athletics and played football. The football team we had in 1985 was special and achieved success because it was deep in talent without an abundance of stars. Sport can be a great leveller and I took a lot of enjoyment out of beating the "rich" schools. I used to read the football reports at assemblies.



Joe Sciorilli at the 2017 SNESA grand final match against Dianella-Morley.

N: Do you still keep in touch with any schoolmates?

J.S.: I keep in touch with quite a few people. Claude di Prinzio, Kevin Kelly, John Wilson, Peter Robert, Dom Daly and Anthony Harper. The ex-students football club kept us together through our twenties and we have maintained contact since, through a variety of ways. All of our kids know each other which is quite special. A successful 30-year school reunion also helped to re-ignite connections again within our year group which continues today through Facebook and various catch-ups. Looking back, I was fortunate to meet many genuine people through my association with St Norbert's.

N: Is there any truth to the rumour that your good mate John Wilson has discovered the fountain of youth and that he never runs out of steam at social functions?

J.S.: Let's say that John Wilson has the strongest constitution of anyone I know. He organised another school reunion after the initial one. I didn't know that you could get a decent Chinese meal at three in the morning in Northbridge ... but John Wilson did!

N: After school you joined SNESA. How many games did you play, and how enjoyable has your association with the club been?

J.S.: I played around 230 games and had various leadership and committee roles. I loved my time there and as much as I enjoyed the involvement in some on-field success, what really stands the test of time is the amazing friendships formed through that involvement. It's like I gained many older brothers through that time.

N: *Norbertus* has spotted you down at the club on a couple of occasions, so you still keep an eye on how the club is faring?

J.S.: I am impressed with how well the club is running. It is pleasing to see that the club still provides the avenue to stay fit through sport and builds community by bringing families together. To be quite honest, I don't know any players at the club but I try to attend when there is a past players event.

N: After school you commence studies to become a teacher. What drew you to a career in education and where and what did you study?

J.S.: I went to UWA and completed a degree in human movement and then a Diploma of Education. I was going to go into an area that they were calling corporate health. It was about fitness and

health programs for employees of large companies. The 1987 recession knocked out a lot of these programs in Australia, so I went on to focus on teenagers.

N: After graduating you commence as a teacher. Was your return to Treasure Road your first teaching position?

J.S.: I had my first teaching interview lined up for Seton Catholic College and called into St Norbert's to get a reference from Br Pat in late 1989 prior to the interview. The Principal saw me, invited me into his office for a chat and I was offered a job at St Norbert's for the following year.

N: What was it like returning to your old school as a teacher? Were any of your teachers still on staff?

J.S.: Getting used to being on first-name basis with some former teachers was a little odd initially but that was all. I must say that the Norbertines and many senior staff created a warm and welcoming environment for the commencement of my career. They gave me a very good start.

N: You taught at St Norbert College from 1990 to 1998. What subjects did you teach, and what other areas of College life did you become involved in?

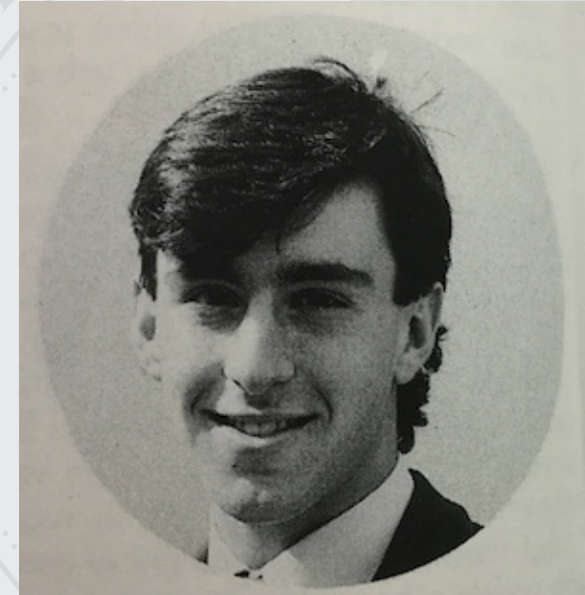
J.S.: I taught physical education, mathematics and religion. I supported an extensive outdoor education program at the time through many camps. I coached dozens of sporting teams and participated in retreats.

N: You taught with a few former St Norbert College students: Alice Alibrandi, Christine Bean and John Pollaers. What was that like?

J.S.: It was a terrific staff, both professionally and socially. There were many good teachers who also made the time to come to the staffroom or attend any social events. It explains why I stayed there for nine years. It wasn't until I moved to other schools that I realised how progressive and innovative those staff members were.

N: What were some of the memorable experiences, incidents and events you recall from that time?

J.S.: We had a staff colloquium that started with clarity and purpose, but ended a little blurry. Again, it was terrific for building social capital!



Joe's 1985 Koinonia portrait.



Joe (back, centre) as a member of the successful 1985 St Norbert College 1st XVIII.

N: Who were some of the interesting, humorous or inspirational people you met during your time teaching at St Norbert College?

J.S.: Brian Rogan added energy and his uniqueness to Presentation Nights and other events. John Pollaers had a knack for making professional development days more fun and interesting. I enjoyed working with Chris Houlihan in his role as Deputy Principal. There were quite a few young staff at the time and everyone made the effort to go to the staffroom. I would catch with Anthony Byrne, Slivio Lombardi, Paul Van Vliet, Dario Bottega and many others quite regularly.

I had one tough Year 8 religious education class one year in terms of behaviour. I came up with some different ways to settle the students into the lesson that were starting to work. Anthony Byrne and Amanda Allen knew this so they did whatever they could to disrupt that class once I had them on track. Impromptu knocks at the door and so on. I did get them back, however.

N: Of course, one important person you met on staff was Marie Carbone. Could you please tell our readers a little bit about Marie?

J.S.: I met Marie at St Norbert's. We both commenced there in 1990 and started dating at the end of that year. We've now been married for 25 years and have two daughters.

N: Could you please take our readers through the positions you've held since leaving Treasure Road?

J.S.: I moved to the South West after St Norbert's and was the Head of Physical Education at Bunbury Catholic College for five years. I then moved to Corpus Christi College as Head of Physical Education for about four years. After Corpus, I was a Deputy Principal at Kolbe Catholic College for eight years and am now at Ursula Frayne Catholic College as Head of Senior School.

N: What does your current position at Ursula Frayne involve?

J.S.: It is a K-12 school and I am responsible for all curriculum and pastoral matters for Years 10 to 12. My Principal has given me the freedom to shape the senior school within our overall goals and I have enjoyed the opportunity to enrich the senior school journey for the betterment of the students.

N: Do you think any of the skills, influences, systems or methods that you may have picked up during your time at St Norbert College have an influence on the way you go about your work today?

J.S.: The school was highly organised and innovative during my time there. The students were broad-ranging in ability and behaviour, so I developed skills there too. Those three areas were a distinct advantage when I moved to Bunbury and then you continue to add to your repertoire.

N: Could you tell us a little about your family and what you like doing when not busy with work?

J.S.: My wife Marie currently does relief work and short-term contracts at various Catholic schools. My eldest daughter Caitlin is finishing her biomedical degree and will moving into post-graduate studies next year. Jasmine is currently completing a Certificate IV in IT.

Outside of work, we all try to weave in some exercise into our lives. These days for me it's a few spin classes and walking our Labrador Koko daily. I like to read a few books each year that aren't related to education. I like to cook and am a passionate member of the Fremantle Dockers.

N: That's about all we have time for, Joe. Is there anything else you would like to add about your links with St Norbert College?

J.S.: For me schools are like time capsules. St Norbert's was very different in the 1980s when compared to 1990s. Yet from both eras, I have met many quality individuals who continue to enrich my life today.

N: Thank you very much for giving up your valuable time, Joe. Congratulations on your outstanding career in Catholic Education in Western Australia to date and thank you for all you have done for St Norbert College and SNESA. Best wishes to you and your family for the future.

J.S.: Thank you for the opportunity. Best wishes to everyone at St Norbert College.



Joe Sciorilli celebrates Catholic Education Week in 1997 with former students and St Norbert College staff members Christine Bean, John Pollaers and Alice Alibrandi.



Marie and Joe Sciorilli with daughters Jasmine (left) and Caitlin (right).

KEEPING THE NORBERTINE SPIRIT

Terrence Walsh

Terrence Walsh (Class of 1971) commenced at St Norbert College in 1967 as a Year 8 student when the enrolment number was 80 students, Fr Laurence Anderson was Principal and Fr Peter O'Reilly was Prior. Now retired in Brookton, recently Terrence was kind enough to speak to Norbertus about what life was like at the College in the early years.

Norbertus (N): Mr Terrence Walsh, welcome to *Norbertus* and thank you very much for your time.

Mr Terrence Walsh (T.W.): My pleasure, it's good to chat about the old days.

N: Where were you born and where did you live as a boy?

T.W.: I was born in 1956 and like most children in Perth in those days, I was born at King Edward Hospital, Subiaco. We lived in various places – Fitzgerald Street, North Perth, West Perth, Harvey, Cannington, Kenwick, Gosnells, Maddington.

N: That's quite a lot of moving around.

T.W.: Yes, we were always moving. Dad never really believed in buying so we rented until we finally bought a home in Kelmescott about the time I started at St Norbert College.

N: What was Queens Park like in those days?

T.W.: Very different. There are still some landmarks there like the old fish and chip shop on Railway Avenue and the barber shop where I used to get my hair cut after school by some Russian bloke who did a good job. The newsagent has gone, so too the grocery shop Mr Hambley had. He lived at 85 Railway Avenue and the shop was on the corner of Treasure

and Railway. That's where we acquired our lollies and some mates used to play pinball. I was never ever any good at it and still aren't! The Coronation Hotel's gone too. My father and his mates frequented there.

N: What year did you start at St Norbert College?

T.W.: I started in 1967 as a Year 8 but we called it First Year in those days. Fr Anderson was Principal.

N: What were the facilities at the College like back then?

T.W.: I think they were pretty good.

N: That's very encouraging. *Norbertus* has often heard about things being fairly basic with some fairly negative feedback from some of the early students.

T.W.: Well, the rooms were new, as well as the desks, and the floors were shiny floorboards. There was a good tuckshop and the toilets were very good too.

N: Who were some of the teachers you recall, and what were they like?

T.W.: The teachers I had at the start were Fr O'Donohoe (form teacher), Fr Anderson (Catholicism), Mr Quinn (social studies), Mr Reoch, an American, (bookkeeping), Mr McDermott (English), Mr Prendegast (science and chemistry), Mr Scaffidi, Mr Atherton, Mr Devine and later Fr Cusack. We also had Mrs Cornwall who taught us speech a few times but sadly she passed away.

N: Not a bad effort to remember all those names, Terrence. Do any stand out in your memory?



Mr Terrence Walsh recently visited his old school and was very impressed with the facilities current students enjoy.

T.W.: I found Fr O'Donohoe a very good teacher, hard on discipline but fair. Bit like my dad, so I was fairly used to it. Fr O'Donohoe was always a hard worker and was always very involved in the school. We respected him for his love of the school and for being a very good teacher, especially about teaching us the principle of justice. Fr Anderson was such a very nice person who taught us religion but sadly he passed away. Later on, we had Fr Cusack and he was good.

N: Are there any funny incidents or stories you recall from your time at school?

T.W.: I experienced some family tragedies while I was at school so times were tough but the school was beautiful and my mates and I and the teachers tried our hardest. One highlight, I remember, was after a couple of years Fr O'Donohoe introduced dancing after school with the girls from St Brigid's in Kalamunda and we used to hold dances. Our feet used to go all over the place. In fact, I met my first girlfriend there and I still owe another one of the girls a letter!

N: I'm sure there's still time to drop her a line, Terrence! In fact, I am not sure if you remember a former student Kevin Mulvey from the late 1960s, but he also said in the book published to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the foundation of St Norbert College that the dancing lessons were very much appreciated as it was one of the few chances the boys had to socialise with girls. He said "We would spend ages in the toilets brushing our hair before dancing lessons. Then the dancing teacher from Gilkinson dance studio would try to get us to hold the girls close while Fr O'Donohoe stood by the door trying to get us to dance further apart."

T.W.: That sounds about right. I also recall Fr O'Donohoe had a model plane and a few of us used to come every Saturday to work on it at the old Tillemans' house which was virtually on the College grounds. Sadly, one day it crashed and we panicked a bit but Father was really good about it. We had good times playing cricket and a bit of athletics. I never really got into athletics because apart from long jump which I was pretty good at, the rest of the events were as bad as my mathematical skills!

N: What were your best and worst subject, apart from mathematics?

T.W.: Actually, tech drawing was my worst, even though Fr O'Donohoe taught it. I just don't think God made me for arithmetic and angles! I loved all the other subjects, especially social studies. Even now I am always looking at Google maps or reading up about different parts of the world. And probably maths was my second worst subject but that was partly due to the shaky instruction I got at Marist Brothers before St Norbert's. Fr O'Donohoe also taught us maths and it used to frustrate him. Later on, Mr Devine taught us. He was a good bloke.

N: Did you keep in touch with any of your classmates after you left St Norbert's?

T.W.: Sadly, I did not, although I think of them from time to time. We all go our separate ways in life, that's the way God wants it I think. I always think of my mates when I go through Queens Park on the train and have been in to visit the new church. It is beautiful. The school has certainly grown and is very different now.

N: What type of career path did you follow after you left St Norbert's?

T.W.: At first, I was a junior clerk at Allanson's Timber in Beckenham but unfortunately it burnt down. Then I got a job as a junior salesman at G.R. Wills & Co in their Wellington Street warehouse in Perth. I left there after a few months when I passed the Post Office exam and ended up working there for nearly 27 years until my back failed in 1999. I passed the clerk's exam but started as a telegram boy and then worked in a variety of positions and locations. My longest post was at Cannington where I had good bosses and enjoyed good comradeship and socialising with the blokes I worked with. They were free and easy times without any worries. I also studied at TAFE during my career and achieved a variety of Certificate IIIs.

N: Did you have any interests outside work?

T.W.: I played cricket for Kelmscott for most of my working life got invited to play for Bentley for a few dollars, but a bit too far from Kelmscott. I also played a bit of footy when my knee



Kevin Mulvey pictured above in 1968. Like Terrence, Kevin looked forward to the dancing lessons organised by Fr O'Donohoe.

Terrence in Year 10 in 1969.

permitted. I almost played for my dad's club East Perth but training five nights a week was not for me. I also had an interest in horses and did some training and driving for a professional stable.

N: How did you end up living in Brookton?

T.W.: I bought five acres and a house in Brookton with my super as I wanted to run some livestock and Perth was just getting too large. I always loved the bush too. My mum's cousin used to live just outside Brookton so I used to come down here as a child. The first thing I did after I moved down was to find the Catholic church and lo and behold, it was run by a Norbertine priest, Fr Cooney.

N: So, you were reconnected with the Norbertine spirit?

T.W.: Yes. I met up with Fr Cooney and because I had been an altar boy during my life I started to give him a bit of a hand and it brought me back to St Norbert's again.

N: That's great, Terrence. So, you are content living in your parish in Brookton?

T.W.: Yes, I am. I have had a good life. I am going on 63 now and every year my faith and belief in Christ grows stronger. Sorry to all my mates from the old school that I didn't keep in touch, but we go our different ways and that's life.

N: You never know, Terrence, one or two of your old mates might read this and get in touch. Maybe the girl to whom you owe the letter too! Thank you very much for contributing your story which makes up part of the history of St Norbert College. Much appreciated, Terrence. Best wishes for many more happy years of retirement in Brookton.

T.W.: Thank you for the opportunity, it has been a pleasure.



Fr O'Donohoe, pictured at a 1972 awards ceremony, was one of Terrence's favourite teachers at St Norbert College.

MY BEST DECISION

Hilmar Thor Aevarrsson

Hilmar Thor Aevarrsson (Class of 1999) attended St Norbert College in 1999 as an exchange student from Iceland and rates his experience in Perth as life-changing. Norbertus' Scandinavian operative recently tracked Hilmar down to the Keflavik International Airport near Reykjavik, Iceland, where he works as a fireman and was kind enough to answer a few questions about his time at St Norbert College and his life since returning home.

Norbertus (N): Thank you very much for your time, Hilmar, welcome to Norbertus.

Hilmar Aevarrsson (H.A.): You are very welcome and thank you for considering me for this article.

N: You attended St Norbert College as an exchange student in 1999, as a member of Mr Damien Flanagan's Kilnacrott Homeroom. How did you end up at St Norbert College?

H.A.: Yes, I was an exchange student there for one year. I didn't apply directly to attend to St Norbert College and in fact I didn't know what school I would be attending. When I got the confirmation from the exchange program, they said that they had found a family which would host me and that family turned out to be the Catalano family whose children attended St Norbert College. Mrs Catalano (Mrs Bolden now) had taken in an exchange student before and she decided to host again.

N: How did you enjoy living with an Australian family?

H.A.: It was great. Mary had three children living with her at the time and I shared a big room with Laurie and Joseph, and her daughter Katrina had her own room. Going to the

beach with my host family and trying to learn how to surf are just some of the new experiences I had during my time in Perth. Sitting on a sandy beach fishing or going to the speedway with Laurie and his dad Joe are things that I loved doing.

N: Was family life in Perth very different to Iceland?

H.A.: Overall, family life was wasn't very different to what I was used to, I must say. We had household chores we had to do and that was the same as back home in Iceland. Living in Perth was great fun and pretty special for me. It was also fascinating for me because my home town in Iceland only had a population of about 12,000 people at the time.

N: What attracted you to the student exchange program in the first place?

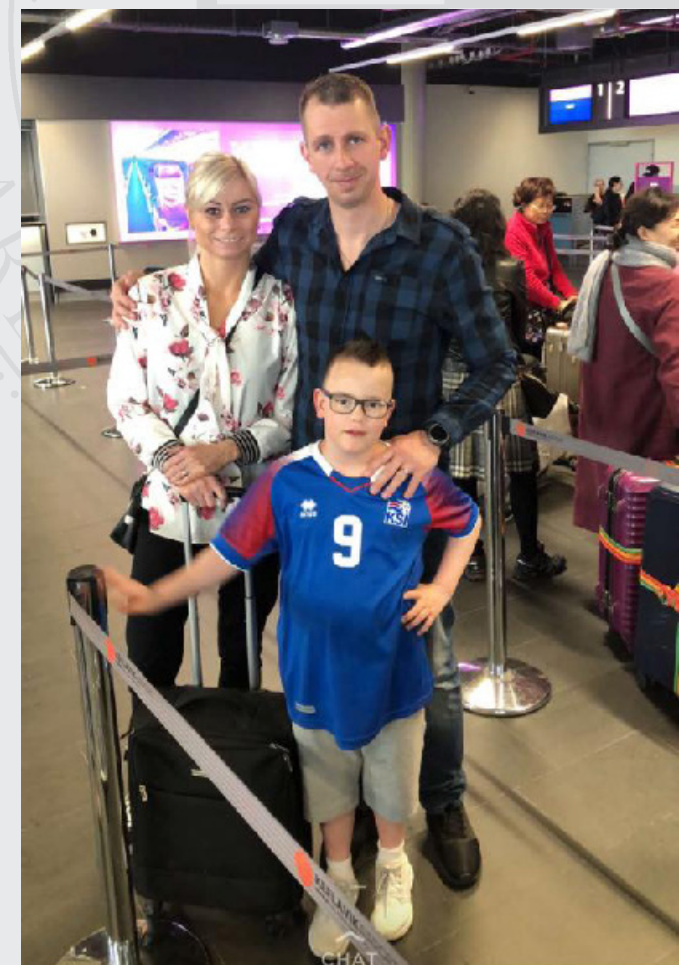
H.A.: The whole reason about why I went into the exchange program was basically because I did not want to go to college here in Iceland. Our school system is a bit different to yours, so when you finish Year 10 you go to college and from there, on to university.

N: Was Australia your preferred destination?

H.A.: Not really. I decided to find a place that would be really far away from home so that I would not have the chance to back out and go back home if things did not work the way I wanted them to. So off to Australia it was!

N: And how did you settle in to life at St Norbert College?

H.A.: Initially I did not quite understand the meaning of a Catholic school. I just assumed it would be more religious. It took a little time to get used to all the rules – especially the no swearing and cussing



Árney and Hilmar with their youngest son Gardar Thor.

rule! Other differences included wearing a uniform and addressing the teachers as "Miss" or "Sir". That was hard to get used to. I must say Miss O'Neill was very helpful when it came to learning the rules and customs. Laurie and Katrina were also very helpful and protective of me and soon I settled in and began to make friends. I even began to think and dream in English.

N: Do you still keep in touch with some of the friends you made at St Norbert College?

H.A.: Yes, I still keep in touch with a lot of my mates from Perth – Brian DeRozario, Damien Jones, Zaw Zaw Yee, Tuan Chung, Aldo Monerie and Mark Oakes. Tuan lived around the corner from the Catalanos, so I probably caught up with him the most. In fact, I was only talking to my host brother Laurie the other day.

N: Do any subjects or teachers stand out in your memory?

H.A.: My favourite subject at St Norbert College was outdoor education and Mr Harvey, the teacher, was a favourite too. We did an excursion to the Margaret River region where we had to put into practice all the theory we had learnt in class. We hiked, biked, canoed and navigated in pairs with just a compass and a map. It was one of my best memories of my time at school.

N: That sounds like a fantastic experience for an exchange student, Hilmar. Are you aware that Mr Harvey is now the Principal of St Norbert College?

H.A.: No, I was not aware of that. He was definitely one of my favourite teachers.

N: Mr Harvey is also *Norbertus'* favourite too for some reason! So, all in all, Hilmar, how would you sum up your experience as an exchange student at St Norbert College all those years ago?

H.A.: Considering my overall experience of the exchange program to Australia, I think it is the best decision I have ever made in my life. The time I spent there was really beneficial for me. I matured a lot and my experience has helped me to look at things from a different perspective.

N: What type of study or career path did you follow when you returned to Iceland?

H.A.: I started to work when I returned to Iceland. It took me a few years to realise that I wanted to study again. I met my wife, Ármey Guðný Sigurðardóttir, in 2006 and in 2007 we packed our bags and moved to Denmark with her two little boys. I completed a technical degree but soon the global financial crisis forced us to move back to Iceland where I commenced a mechanical engineering degree.

N: Did you work in that field in Iceland?

H.A.: No, I did not complete that degree. I was actually working in a goldmine in Greenland when Ármey, who was pregnant, experienced serious complications and our son was born prematurely weighing only 710 grams and about 30 cm long. But after 110 days in hospital and one major operation, he is now a healthy, energetic and fun nine-year-old.

N: That's fantastic news, Hilmar. What is your son's name?

H.A.: My son's name is Gardar Thor.



Ármey and Hilmar on their wedding day.



Hilmar and friends on their way to the 1999 St Norbert College Ball.

1959-2019

60

YEARS

OF SERVICE

THE NORBERTINES
IN AUSTRALIA

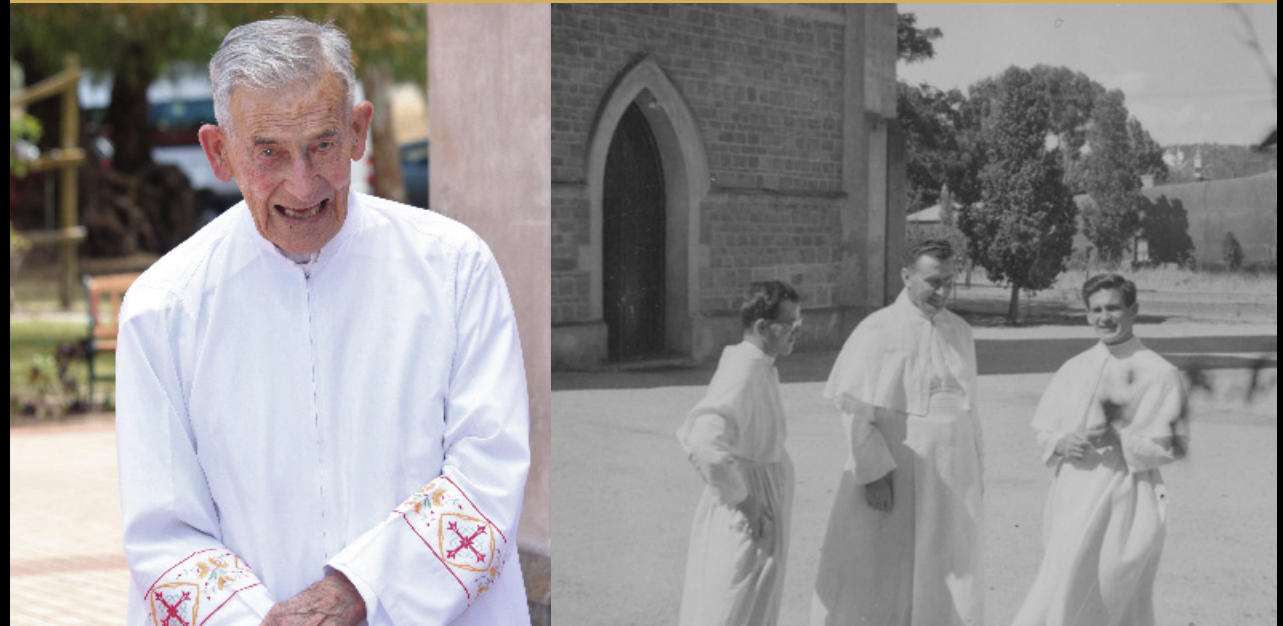
Congratulations

FR STEPHEN COONEY AND THE NORBERTINES ON 60 YEARS!

On Sunday November 3, the Norbertine Canons commemorated the 60th anniversary of their arrival in York and the commencement of their ministry in Western Australia. One of the Norbertine priests at the celebratory Mass was Fr Stephen Cooney O. Praem who is currently the parish priest of St Patrick's Parish, York. Earlier this year in July, Fr Cooney celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination as a priest with celebrations held in Queens Park and at York. *Norbertus* congratulates Fr Cooney and all the Norbertines on these important anniversaries.



York celebrations: Former parish priest of Beverley Fr Greg Carroll, Auxiliary Bishop Donald Sproxton, Fr Peter Joseph Stiglich O.Praem and Fr Stephen Cooney O.Praem, parish priest of St Patrick's Parish, York, celebrate Mass to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the arrival of the Norbertines in York.



Fr Stephen Cooney O.Praem has dedicated his life to the priesthood, this year celebrating his 60th anniversary as a Norbertine priest. Congratulations Fr Stephen!

Fathers John Reynolds, Peter O'Reilly and Stephen Cooney pictured in York in February, 1960.

1989

St Norbert College

PRIOR: Fr Tom McNulty O. Praem

PRINCIPAL: Mr Tom Corcoran

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mrs Carole Hayes

ASSISTANT DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr Peter Glasson

ST NORBERT COLLEGE IMPORTANT MILESTONES:

- Fr Peter O'Reilly, Fr Stephen Cooney and Fr John Reynolds celebrated 30 years in Australia
- Fr Peter O'Reilly celebrated his 70th birthday

ST NORBERT COLLEGE DEVELOPMENTS AND INNOVATIONS:

- The inaugural St Norbert College colloquium was held to determine the vision and priorities for the College's future
- Planning and preparation for the construction of St Joseph's Priory Church in 1990 was completed
- House captains are appointed for the first time

HEADS of DEPARTMENTS:

- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Fr Peter Joseph Stiglich O. Praem
- ENGLISH & LANGUAGES: Mr Christopher Kowald
- MATHEMATICS: Mrs Elizabeth Jepp
- SCIENCE: Mr Mark Johns
- SOCIAL STUDIES: Miss Desirée Grzenda
- PRACTICAL & CREATIVE ARTS: Mr Brian Rogan
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Ms Lynn Moxham

HOUSE COORDINATORS:

- KILNACROTT: Mr John Pollaers
- MAGDEBURG: Mrs Audrey Klein
- PRÉMONTRE: Mr Lewis Rowell
- TONGERLO: Miss Kym Leeson
- XANTEN: Mr John Van Nus



1989 St Norbert College Principal Mr Tom Corcoran.



Jeff and Maria Tillemans' house is demolished in preparation for the construction of St Joseph's Priory Church in 1990.

1989

St Norbert College



Having some fun in mathematics class.



1989 Dux Michelle Carrier.

Student Representative Council President
Narelle Jahn.

PARENTS and FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION: Mr Brian Cutjar (President) and committee members who oversee fundraising to provide:

- Computers to all the teaching departments
- New uniforms for the College volleyball team
- Subsidised bike helmets for St Norbert College students
- A cash donation to the library and Computer Studies
- Assistance to students who were selected to represent Western Australia in sport

ENROLMENT: 739 students

DUX: Michelle Carrier

PRINCIPAL'S MEDALLION: Sharon Cocks, Adam Drake-Brockman, Narelle Jahn, Bernard Makin, Kirsty Mc Dermott and Genette Wraight

LEADERSHIP AWARD: Narah Stuart

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL: Narelle Jahn (President) and fellow councillors, help organise:

- The Year 11 and 12 St Norbert College Ball at the Embassy Ballroom, the Year 8 and 9 disco, and the Year 11 and 12 river-cruise
- The St Norbert College Triathalon
- SRC representation at College staff meetings and the College Colloquium
- Representation at the City of Canning ANZAC Day ceremony

HOUSE CAPTAINS:

- **KILNACROTT:** Jeanette del Borrello, Natasha Soklich, Brett Grieve and Richard Veza
- **MAGDEBURG:** Bradley Johnston, Michelle Richardson, Karen Sleap and Brian Smith
- **PRÉMONTRÉ:** Elethea Bonomini, Paul Harvey, Vinka Harms and Fulvio Penna
- **TONGERLO:** Vanessa Gesmundo, Peter Shinnick, Michael Chan and Natalie Wieman
- **XANTEN:** Mardi Reynolds, Sandra Silvestri, Jason Glasson and Cameron Oxford

WINNERS OF SPORTS CARNIVALS:

- **SWIMMING:** Xanten
- **ATHLETICS:** Tongerlo

CHAMPION HOUSE: Xanten

1999

St Norbert College

PRIOR: Fr Tom McNulty O. Praem

PRINCIPAL: Mr Peter Hayes

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS:

- **LEARNING:** Mr John Bird
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL:** Mr Robert Henderson
- **SENIOR SCHOOL:** Mrs Jenneth Stibi, Mrs Sue Dyer (Semester 1)

ST NORBERT COLLEGE IMPORTANT MILESTONES:

- The College celebrates its 35th anniversary
- Fr Peter O'Reilly, Fr Stephen Cooney and Fr John Reynolds celebrate 40 years in Australia
- Fr Peter O'Reilly turns 80 and retires from his full-time ministry in October. He is presented with a certificate and cross "pro ecclesia et pontifice" (on behalf of the Church and the Pope)

ST NORBERT COLLEGE DEVELOPMENTS AND INNOVATIONS:

- The Fr Peter O'Reilly Centre has been utilised fully in its first year of operation
- A Talented and Gifted program commenced for Year 8 students
- The Family of Trades program was offered to Year 11 and 12 students for the first time
- The Holy Week liturgy involved drama students presenting biblical scenes as the House groups moved in pilgrimage around the campus
- The College was networked with fibre optic cable with more than 100 computers available to students

HEADS of DEPARTMENTS:

- **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Mr Keith Morgan
- **ENGLISH & LANGUAGES:** Mrs Nalda Smith
- **MATHEMATICS:** Ms Sharon Rainford
- **SCIENCE:** Ms Megan Wride
- **SOCIETY & ENVIRONMENT:** Mr Chris Reimers
- **CREATIVE ARTS:** Mr Brian Rogan
- **PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** Ms Lynn Moxham



Abbot General Emeritus Marcel Van der Ven is assisted by Br David, students and staff as he prepares to bless the Fr Peter O'Reilly Centre in February, 1999.



Queens Park Norbertine Canons, 1999.
Back: Br David Martin, Br Patrick Doolan, Fr John Reynolds, Fr Stephen Cooney.
Front: Fr Augustine Heron, Fr Peter Joseph Stiglich, Fr Peter O'Reilly.



The Fr Peter O'Reilly Centre was a great addition to the College, permitting indoor assemblies for the first time.



Fr Peter O'Reilly catches up with former St Norbert College Principal Mr Des O'Sullivan.

1999 Student Representative Council President, Natasha Abreu.

HOUSE COORDINATORS:

- KILNACROTT: Ms Marriann O'Neill
- MAGDEBURG: Ms Maria Leone (Semester 1), Mrs Sue Dyer (Semester 2)
- PRÉMONTRÉ: Miss Alice Alibrandi
- TONGERLO: Mr Anthony Byrne
- XANTEN: Mrs Tricia Van Nus

PARENTS and FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION: Mr Keith George (President), Mr Albert Raphael (Vice President), Mrs Cathy Salvia (Secretary), Mrs Gloria White (Treasurer) and committee members Mrs Carmel Millen, Mrs Pattie Rangitoheriri, Mrs Michelle Wheaton, Mrs Olga Hayley, Mrs Barbara Monaghan and Mrs Tecla Pontré who oversee:

- Assisting at the College Open Day
- Arranging guest speakers Judy Stringer (Drugs in Perspective) and Ian Lillico (Parent Seminar)
- The presentation of \$9000 to the Student Representative Council to add to the sum of \$6000 presented in 1998 for circuit training equipment in the O'Reilly Centre
- Running a stall at the St Joseph's 1999 Melbourne Cup Fair
- Commencing preparations for the 2000 St Norbert College Fair

ENROLMENT: 734 students

DUX: David Grimm

PRINCIPAL'S MEDALLION: Simone McMahon, Jonathon Bradford, Natasha Abreu, Beatrice Yong

CITIZENSHIP AWARD: Angela Sherlock

THE YOUTH MINISTER'S POSITIVE IMAGE AWARD: Matthew Zaffino

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL: Natasha Abreu (President), Angela Sherlock (Vice-President) and Elizabeth Carruthers (Secretary) and Candice Dodsley (Treasurer) who, with fellow councillors, help organise:

- The Year 11 and 12 Ball, the Year 8 and 9 socials, and the Year 10, and Year 11 and 12 river-cruises
- Fundraising for various Christian charities including adopting a foster child, the blanket appeal, Jeans for Genes Day, hot dog day, casual dress days and conducting stalls at the fairs
- The running of school assemblies

HOUSE CAPTAINS:

- KILNACROTT: Katrina Catalano, Ben Kontor, Ian Majewski and Fiona Walker
- MAGDEBURG: Jordan Aquino, Siobhan Connell, Larissa Cooney and Steven Gauder
- PRÉMONTRÉ: Adrian Al-Samarrie, Sheenagh Delany, Adrian Gimondo and Tamara Hannoush
- TONGERLO: Tammy-Michelle Lane, Trevor Marren, Jamie Passmore and Natalie Palermo
- XANTEN: Todd Daly, Troy Gorton, Amy O'Sullivan and Meghan Williams

WINNERS OF SPORTS CARNIVALS:

- SWIMMING: Magdeburg
- ATHLETICS: Magdeburg
- CHAMPION HOUSE: Magdeburg

ST NORBERT DAY *Celebrations*

CURRENT AND FORMER STAFF AND STUDENTS



Olivia Palermo (Class of 2009), Br John and Caiden Vales de Menezes (Class of 2015). Olivia is teaching at St Joseph's School, Queens Park, and Caiden worked as study supervisor in the College library each afternoon this year. In 2020 Caiden will be teaching at St Munchin's Catholic Primary School in Gosnells.



Brendan McGrath and Fiona Williams who taught typing, business studies and religious education at St Norbert College and is now working at La Salle College, Middle Swan. Brendan and Fiona were colleagues at CBC Fremantle before taking up their current positions.



Diana Tersigni, Desirée Grzenda-Day, Jenneth Stibi and Fr Peter Stiglich. Desirée is a former Principal of St Norbert College and Jenneth is a former Deputy Principal who is currently working part-time at Mater Dei College.



Sarah Gardner, Kim Walker and Carrol Abel. Kim used to teach mathematics at St Norbert College and is currently Head of Mathematics Learning Area at Servite College.



Chen Wang, Donald Nield and Diana Tersigni. Donald is a former Head of English and Deputy Principal at St Norbert College. He is also an alumnus of the College.



Chadwick Beins, Madeleine Macoboy, Lauren Mirco and Luke Nuske. Lauren is now teaching at St Mary MacKillop Catholic College in Busselton.

ST NORBERT DAY *Celebrations*

CURRENT AND FORMER STAFF AND STUDENTS



Diana Tersigni with Annette Morey, a former Principal of St Norbert College. Annette is currently Principal of Mater Dei College.



Donald Niold and Killian O'Reilly who taught science and was Head of Magdeburg House at St Norbert College for many years.



Tricia Van Nus and St Norbert College Principal Simon Harvey. Tricia taught science and several other subjects at St Norbert College, as well as making a significant contribution to the performing arts. Tricia retired from the College in 2004.



Kim Walker with Derry Eddy, who is in charge of maintenance at St Norbert College.



Sharon Rainford and Katherine Branchi. Katherine taught humanities and performed several middle-management roles at St Norbert College and is currently working at Iona Presentation College, Mosman Park.



Bronson Gherardi, Chris Brehaut and Peter Hayes. Chris (Class of 1987) is an alumnus of St Norbert College and is currently Head of Design at Aquinas College. Peter is a former Principal of St Norbert College.

—CLASS OF— 1977 Reunion

PAUL KELLY

After many years of holding Class of 1977 leavers' reunions, this time we took the initiative to invite students who left St Norbert College at the end of Year 10 in 1975 to our reunion at the Ambassador Chinese restaurant on October 18 this year.

The Class of 1977 commenced as Year 6 students in 1971 and was the last all-male class of St Norbert College. At previous reunions, quite often the conversation turned to what had happened to our brothers who departed in 1975, so it was great that seven could attend this time, along with seven of the Year 12 leavers as well as former St Norbert College staff member John Hulshoff, who was a prominent teacher back in those pioneering days.

The Class of 1977 was the College's sixth cohort of students and we all still have vivid memories of those formative years when life was not as politically correct as it is today.

Invariably the conversations of all 15 of us centred on the years 1971 to 1975 and the many and varied events and stories of those times which caused many a belly laugh! An indication of the enjoyment was the 15 of us standing for over two hours, before we ordered our meals.

It was so great to relive those memories and we are looking forward to catching up again next year. We are all proud of our trail-blazing years at St Norbert College, but who knows – next time we might even talk about the 21st century!



Having a blast: John Hulshoff, Leon Stommells, Ken Duncan, Paul Kelly, David Bianchini, Frank Picolo, Paul Williams, Peter Hughes, Leon Kleppe, Laurie Liddelow, Clint Wallace, Bernie Monneron, Vince Ceravolo, Tom Francas and Mike Brokenshire.



After a couple of hours, orders were finally placed.

—CLASS OF— 1986 *Reunion*

RUSSELL BAILEY

When we graduated as the Class of 1986, turning 18 was the 'big milestone birthday' on our radar. After all, we were now the adults we aspired to be, embarking on our lives ahead. How many of us at that stage, however, would have contemplated turning 50 years old? Fifty sounded so ancient back then.

Between the ages of 18 and 50 we would go on to experience life. Maybe there was university studies, travelling abroad, meeting our partner and marrying, securing that dream job, kids. The list goes on.

As distant as it seemed back then as graduating students, the years do fly by. Now in 2019, many of the Class of 1986 are celebrating turning 50 this year.

Thanks to social media, we have been able to recently reconnect with many of our classmates. This helped us organise a 50th birthday celebration for the Class of 1986, held on October 19 at the Empire Bar in Rivervale. We had a great turnout of students plus

some partners to reminisce about our school days and our lives since then. It was a perfect summer's evening as we took over the beer garden gazebo at the Empire Bar. Surprisingly everyone looked very similar to our younger years – well maybe just looking a little older, but still a very attractive bunch. After all there has been over 30 years in between so we are allowed a few changes here and there.

One thing we all had in bundles, were experiences to share – the good, the not so good, the learning experiences, the successes. No two stories were the same, but here we all were together again. The pizzas and finger food kept us well-fed, the celebratory drinks were flowing, and a great time was had by all. We will now need to set aside the next big milestone birthday, although after 50 the numbers to start to sound high! They do say however, age is just a number and it's all about how you feel.

Happy 50th, Class of 1986!



The Class of 1986.



Mathew Scott, Anne Bougourd (nee Conway), David Gooding, Richard DeFonseka, Jayson Mehnert, Russell Bailey, Vanessa Williams (nee Archdeacon), Mark Brown, Adrienne Throssell (nee Keith), Margaret Wise (nee O'Sullivan), Glen Beresford, Mark Ramsey, Jayne Owen (nee Heeley), Jennifer Bozikovic (nee Shinnick), Sandy Pelc (nee Perry), Jocelyn Bozikovic (nee Elder), Peter Bombardieri, Karla B Ortiz, Caesar Aquino and Wendy-Anne Smith.

CLASS OF
1986
Reunion



Richard DeFonseka and Anne Bougourd (nee Conway).



Jocelyn Bozikovic (nee Elder), Wendy-Anne Smith, Jennifer Bozikovic (nee Shinnick) and Sandy Pelc (nee Perry).



Jayne Owen (nee Heeley), Caesar Aquino and Jayson Mehnert.



Mat Scott, Russell Bailey and David Gooding.

—CLASS OF— 1989 *Reunion*

The St Norbert College graduating Class of 1989, some of whom haven't caught up in three decades, gathered for a special reunion in October.

The 30-year milestone was celebrated at South Perth's Windsor Hotel.

It was a well-attended event with ex-students sharing their stories over a beer and a rolling supply of canapés. A truly special night enjoyed by everyone!

GABRIELLA ROSSITTO



The Class of 1989.



Members of the St Norbert College Class of 1989 enjoyed a chance to catch up after 30 years, at a reunion held at the Windsor Hotel in October.

CLASS OF
1989
Reunion



Phillip Restifo, Frank Crisafio and David Ramsey.



Julianne Cardy, Dayna Willesee (nee Hine) and Kirsty Connell (nee McDermott).



Danuta Williams (nee Marszalek) and Narelle Pyne (nee Jahn).



Anne Ree-Nonis and Melissa De Alvis.



Mark Maguire, Sandra Maguire (nee Silvestri) and Charlette Barry.



Lisa Douglas and Martin Corrigan.



Gabriella Rogers (nee Rossitto), Charlette Barry, Paula Galdies and Andrew Wieman.



Gabriella Rogers (nee Rossitto), Martin Corrigan, Brian Kelly, Andrew Wieman and Julianne Cardy.



Charlette Barry and Narah Stuart.

ALUMNI SCENE

AT THE 2019 YEAR 12 GRADUATION SUPPER



Shimona Surin (Class of 2016) is studying psychology at the University of Western Australia and Gabriela Krcmar (Class of 2016) is studying primary education at Curtin University.



Belinda Donovan (Class of 2017) was on hand to celebrate her sister Marissa's graduation. She is currently studying occupational health and safety, and health promotion at Curtin University.



Airmias Berhane (left St Norbert College at the end of Year 10 in 2017) and Asala Ubu (Class of 2017).



MJ Jansen van Rensburg (Class of 2018), Liam Belsher-Smith and Madi Heron (Class of 2018). Madi works in the childcare sector.

ALUMNI SCENE

AT THE 2019 YEAR 12 GRADUATION SUPPER



Divya (Class of 2014) and Kriya La Brooy (Class of 2015) pictured with their brother Aidan at the 2019 graduation supper. Divya is currently studying environmental science at Murdoch University.



Randy Il Fuentes (Class of 2017), Ann Krister Jabagat (Class of 2017) and Randy's brother Paul who is in Year 10. Randy is studying nutrition at Curtin University and Ann is studying nursing at Murdoch University.



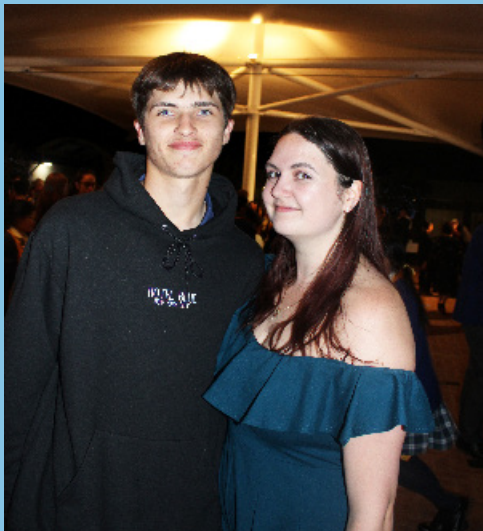
Australian Olympian Peter Bol (Class of 2012) was greeted by Margaret Kyd and Carrol Abel at the graduation supper.



Jasmine Seth (Class of 2013) is working as a primary school teacher and Yohan Neminathan (Class of 2012) and Shahana Neminathan (Class of 2010) are both civil engineers.

ALUMNI SCENE

AT THE 2019 YEAR 12 GRADUATION SUPPER



Amy Grover (Class of 2015) is studying early childhood education. She is pictured with Brayden Crombie (Year 10).



Michael Pambuka (Class of 2018) is currently working as a support worker. He is pictured with Ariannah Tilli.



Samuel (Class of 2018) and Nicholas Rowlands (Class of 2016). Samuel is studying engineering and Nicholas is studying health safety and health promotion at Curtin University.



Ms Justine Miller (Class of 1987) with her children Xander, Gigi and Tallulah Armenti.

2019 SNESA Football Wrap-Up

SEASON WRAP

SNESA Football Club has been promoted up to C2 grade in the Perth Football League (WAAFL) after the League team made its second grand final in two years. Unfortunately, the mighty Saints fell short at the last hurdle, going down to Jandakot by 21 points. Twenty-five new players called SNESA home this year across all ages and a total of 128 players played one or more games for SNESA in 2019.

The Club was saddened by the passing of loyal supporter Sue Biddle in August this year. Sue's son Darren (Class of 2010) is a much-loved teammate at SNESA and both he and sister Sarah (Class of 2013) attended St Norbert College between 2006 and 2013. The amazing connection and network of friends and family helped bring the whole club together, allowing our players to push each other to succeed.

The players also enjoyed each other's company with numerous events held throughout the year to help galvanise the already existing mateship. However, it wasn't just the players, with family and female engagement also at an all-time high this year at our ladies' day, quiz night and Kevin Kelly Medal Night.

FINALS STORY

Despite our League grand final loss, the 2019 journey was still successful. The club managed to field three senior teams once again with all three playing finals. Our Reserves finished fifth and played finals for the second year in a row, while our Thirds team scraped into finals in just their second year in the competition. Unfortunately, both our Reserve and Third Senior teams were unsuccessful. Although they only won two out of their last seven games of the season, the League team managed to finish third and had to travel to Secret Harbour for their first qualifying final. The Saints were no match for the dockers, managing only five goals for the game and losing by 80 points. However, they managed to turn it around at home, sending Ellenbrook packing in the semi-final, which then meant another trip down to Secret Harbour for the preliminary final. However, the Saints learned from their mistakes and, after conceding the first seven goals of the game, came back to take the lead, win by eight points in the final quarter and make the grand final.

SNESA LOOKS TO 2020 VISION

The club continues to grow with registered membership increasing as well as participation. We had record crowds at home and away games and our supporters continue to be our pillar of strength. Families and friends were what made 2019 especially memorable. We look forward to continuing our strong performance on and off the field with plenty of recruitment under way in the off-season, and our hard-working committee plugging away at sponsorships, events, marketing and looking after our members' welfare. As always, we are investing a lot of time and effort in developing our young players with the aim of putting together our first Colts team since 2016. This will be a great opportunity for current students to stay together post-high school and continue their strong bond and friendship, as well as enjoying all the fun-filled activities and events that SNESA has to offer.

A massive thank you to all our amazing volunteers and supporters!
Rafic Aoun, SNESA President



Br Patrick Doolan Memorial Medal winners, 2019: Kyle Mitsopoulos, (Thirds); Steven Di Fabio and Damien Cirillo (Classes of 2017 and 2003 respectively, tied in Reserves); and Caius Kelly (Class of 2005, League).



Milestone: Ben and Greg Hall help celebrate Josh Galea's 150th game.

Mr Rafic Aoun, SNESA President.

SNESA AWARDS

Kevin Kelly Medal Night

A massive thank you to Aloft Perth for hosting our 2019 Kevin Kelly Medal. A fantastic venue with food and drinks constantly flowing.

A huge thank you to the hardworking player partners Court Hall, Tila Hadzikadic, Kaylee Ardelean and senior player Chris Millstead (Class of 2004) for their planning, organising, coordinating and setting up of the room. Everything looked sensational.

It was by far the best SNESA Awards night in a long time with partners, families, friends and life members all attending to celebrate a great season both on and off the field.

A massive congratulations to Big Ben Hall who took home the prized Kevin Kelly Medal, earning the most votes from his peers for the 2019 season. Ben also took out the League Best and Fairest. Caius Kelly and Mark Colace (Class of 2009) had another great year with Caius finishing Runner-Up in the Kevin Kelly Medal and Mark Runner-Up in the League Fairest and Best.

Our 2019 Clubperson of The Year went to Senior Coach Mark Lupica whose passion, dedication and love for our football club improved the club's financial, cultural and moral position, providing a happy and safe environment for our young and senior players and members. Therefore, it was with great pleasure that the club announced the renewal of Mark's coaching role for the 2020 season.

A magnificent night, with the best people in the world, from the best football club in the world. See you all in 2020

MR RAFIC AOUN, SNESA PRESIDENT

CLUB AWARD WINNERS

Clubperson of the Year – Mark Lupica
SNESA Rising Star – Jaxsen Shinnars
Player of the Finals Series – Marcello Campo
Leading Goalkicker – Ben Hall
Most Umpire Votes – Ben Hall

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Mark Colace (Class of 2009)
Hayden Burgoyne (Class of 2009)
Josh Galea
Hayden Scott (Class of 2009)
Rafic Aoun (Class of 2004)

LEAGUE AWARDS

Kevin Kelly Medallist – Ben Hall
Fairest and Best – Ben Hall
Runner-up Fairest and Best – Mark Colace
Most Consistent – Michael Guest
Defender of the Year – Darren Biddle (Class of 2010)
Coaches Award – Jesse Abbott

RESERVES AWARDS

Wilson/Dent Trophy – Justin Baptist (Class of 2004)
Fairest and Best – Justin Baptist
Dual Runner-up Fairest and Best – Cal Butler (Class of 2007), Josh Italiano
Defender of the Year – Walter Julien (Class of 2015)
Coaches Award – Jake Hall (Class of 2015)

THIRDS AWARDS

Player Votes – Jacob Jones
Dual Fairest and Best – Glen Adams and Luke Edwards
Defender of the Year – Manny Hunwick
Coaches Award – Sean Burgess



John Wilson and Dave Dent present the Wilson/Dent Trophy to Justin Baptist, the Fairest and Best player in the Reserves.

SNESA AWARDS

Kevin Kelly Medal Night



SNESA FAMILY FRIENDS AND FUN AT THE FOOTY



SNESA FAMILY FRIENDS AND FUN AT THE FOOTY



SNESA GRAND FINAL

HOPES, DREAMS AND ULTIMATELY DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE SNESA GRAND FINAL

2019 C3 League Grand Final, Wyong Reserve, September 14: Jandakot 10.13 (73) defeated SNESA 7.9 (51)



SNESA GRAND FINAL



SNESA GRAND FINAL





PLAY COLTS FOOTBALL

— IN 2020 —

SNESA FOOTBALL CLUB

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE PRESIDENT, RAFIC AOUN ON 0423 869 440 OR PRESIDENT@SNESA.COM.AU



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