

The WEST PERTH BELLE

2020



St Mary's Together Apart

The COVID-19 crisis has thrown the world as we know it into disarray, and we are all facing situations where we have had to learn and adapt quickly. Our thoughts are with our Old Girls around Australia and the world as we face these challenges.

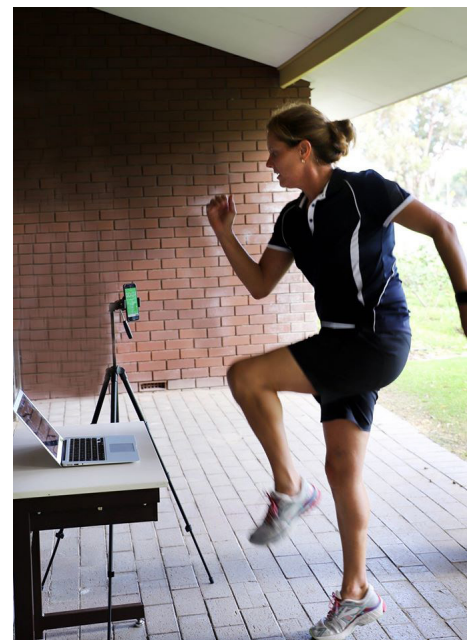
The school environment is one where we have experienced a huge amount of change, and, in true St Mary's style, we have endeavoured to adapt with grace, resilience and strength.

I have been so proud of our girls and staff and the extraordinary way they transitioned to remote learning at the end of Term 1. Term 2 saw a staged return of students, including almost all our boarders. All of our decision-making has been guided by

our commitment to provide a safe and secure environment for our staff and students. The messages of support we have received from our St Mary's community have been overwhelming and I am grateful to be part of such a caring community.

No one knows what the future holds; however, we are committed to staying connected with our community and hope you enjoy reading this issue of *West Perth Belle*. We hope you are keeping well, and we can't wait to see you all again soon.

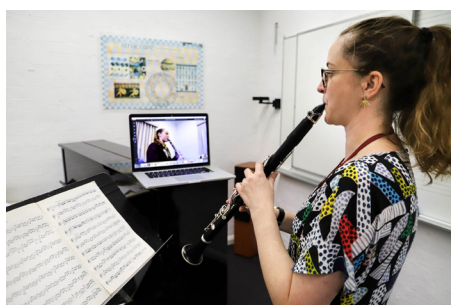
Mrs Judith Tudball
Principal



TOP St Mary's boarders showing their gratitude.
RIGHT CENTRE Phys Ed goes online with Mrs Garnett.

BOTTOM RIGHT Mrs Tagore's online science lesson.

RIGHT Music teacher, Miss Upton, taking a student through her online clarinet lesson.





Boarding at West Perth

This year, we commemorate fifty years since boarders moved from West Perth to Karrinyup, and 1970 also marked the end of St Mary's association with Colin Street. How things have changed over that time and what better way to celebrate this milestone than share some of the boarding stories we have gathered.

"When I was a boarder at Ventnor Avenue, I organised a midnight feast, yummy food brought by my mother. We were about to take our first bite when we were sprung and sent to bed! I remember when I was at the first boarding house in 1946, some of us used to lie on top of the hedge to watch Betty (an Old Girl who was a few years ahead of us and now our housemistress) go out all dressed up to balls and things." ~ 1950s

"The naughty girls climbed out the window to meet the Hale boys from around the corner. Hale School was in West Perth then, and the boys joined us for church services in St Mary's Church. I remember that we younger ones were threatened with wooden hair brushes by the Boarding Prefects if we were naughty." ~ 1950s

"Boarding in School House, Colin Street, had a number of benefits, mostly being close to the kitchen. Back Dorm only had a partition, which didn't reach the ceiling, between the dorm and the kitchen. After lights were out at night, it was the order of the day to slip over the partition and land on top of the fridge. This was a godsend for us ever-hungry boarders. We would then feast on whatever leftovers we could find in the fridge or take them back into the dorm with us. We have no memories of ever being caught doing this." ~ 1960s

"Each Saturday morning, the boarders were allowed to go shopping in West Perth, in 'civvies'. This was one of the few times we could leave the school without wearing our uniform." ~ 1960s

"Boarding in No. 18. in 1969 was good fun. There was a significant amount of smoking that went on in each dorm and the range of perfumes that were used to hide the smoke smell was often overpowering." ~ 1960s

"I think it must have been sometime in Year 10, probably under a full moon (!), when a few of us decided to escape at night to the outside world. We went through the wood fence on the street behind the boarding houses, and after a boring evening of roving up and down the street (Kings Park Drive?), we stealthily made our way back into the school grounds and back to bed without being caught. We did it at least twice." ~ 1960s

Our stories above have been featured in the 'St Mary's Memories' book published in 2015.

ABOVE Boarders laundry day BELOW Front and rear of the School House on Emerald Terrace



A Time to Reflect

In 2021, St Mary's will mark its centenary and it has been an important time for us to reflect on the School's development since 1921.

The School's history was top of mind for Principal, Mrs Tudball, when, just before Christmas, it was her pleasure to have lunch with Lorrie Maley (Rowledge '33).

Lorrie, now 103, has been a regular attendee at Old Girl events and a donor for many years. She is also one of the few people in our community to have met each of the 10 principals who have led St Mary's over our 99 year history. What an honour it was for Mrs Tudball to be able to thank her personally for her wonderful support.



Congratulations Deac!

We are pleased to share with you that our 'Deac', Reverend Joyce Polson, recently celebrated sixty-five years of ministry in the Anglican Church.

Reverend Joyce was admitted to the Order of Deaconesses in 1955, the only ministry open to women at that time. 'Deac' joined St Mary's in 1967 as Chaplain until 1994, and then returned in 2010 to assist the School Chaplain until her retirement from the School last year. She was made deacon in 1986, ordained priest in 1992, with the first group of women to be ordained as priests in Australia, and in 2015 became Chaplain Emeritus of St Mary's.

Reverend Joyce has made significant contributions to ministry in the Diocese of Perth, including several metropolitan parishes, the Diocesan Board of Religious Education, and St George's Cathedral. This was recognised in 1999 when she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia, for service to the community through the Anglican Church and then in 2013 'Deac' received the Enduring Service Award from the Australian Association of Religious Educators (AARE) for her length of service in ministry in the Anglican Church.

Congratulations, Deac!

ABOVE Reverend Joyce Polson with St Mary's students

Class of 2019 Results

Congratulations to the Class of 2019 on their outstanding academic and workplace learning results.

- St Mary's median ATAR 91.15, compared to the state median of 81.0
- 53.0% of students with an ATAR of 90.0 or above
- Four General Exhibitions
- Three Subject Exhibitions, in English, Marine and Maritime Studies, and Media Production and Analysis
- 21 Certificates of Excellence
- 50 Certificates of Distinction and 46 Certificates of Merit
- 48 VET certificates: 9 Certificate IIs, 21 Certificate IIIs and 18 Certificate IVs

Well done to the girls, their teachers and families.

RIGHT Class of 2019





Belles Come Together

The Fleur de Lis Club morning tea, held in October last year, was a lovely opportunity for Old Girls to meet new Principal, Mrs Judith Tudball, and also catch up with friends from their school days.

Mrs Tudball shared with guests her experiences and highlights during the first 10 months of her tenure and the plans she has for the future of St Mary's.

Old Girls were treated to a lovely morning tea in The Polson Room where many relished the chance to chat and reminisce with their school friends.

The Fleur de Lis Club is for Old Girls who left St Mary's 50 years or more ago and is a fabulous event for catching up with friends from West Perth and the early days at Karrinyup. Last year, we welcomed the Class of 1969 to the Club.

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1. L-R Sandra Barrett-Lennard (Smith '60), Leonie Coxon (Smith '61), Diane Porter (Wardle '60) and Jillian Thomas (Morton '61)
 2. Marie Eade (Baillie '69) and Toni Tait (Walker '69)
 3. Maureen Moffett (Thornton-Smith '55) and Joan Parke ('63)
 4. Beth Buchanan (Mickle '48) and Keeva Verschoor (Wittwer '62)

Lady Treatt's Legacy Recognises Performing Arts Excellence

Lady Treatt (Frankie Wilson '32, Head Girl) was an exceptional benefactor to St Mary's over many years. In 2015, St Mary's received news that Lady Treatt had left a gift in her will to endow scholarships. Her generous bequest has enabled St Mary's to establish a Performing Arts Scholarship to recognise outstanding achievement in the field of dance or drama.

In 2020, Year 11 student, Breanna Ireland, became the inaugural recipient of the Lady Treatt Performing Arts Scholarship. Lady Treatt's great passion for supporting girls' education will live on in the St Mary's girls who receive these scholarships, and we remain indebted to her for her devoted and generous support of St Mary's.



"I have always loved to dance because you can express how you are feeling, you can escape your worries and be true to yourself. This year and next, I'll be studying for a Cert III and IV in Dance as well as Dance ATAR, and I'm also participating in the Pre-professional Dance Program with the Dynamic Performing Arts studio.

My favourite form of dance is lyrical which includes various aspects of ballet, jazz and modern dance. I love being able to tell a story through movement, interpret the music and make it my own. Over the last summer holidays, I travelled to Sydney as one of only a handful of WA girls to compete in DanceLife Unite National dance championships, which was an amazing experience.

My ambition after school is to become a teacher of dance so I can share my love of dance with others."

~ Breanna Ireland.

RIGHT Breanna Ireland



You're Invited

The *Fleur de Lis* Club



Morning Tea

November TBC
St Mary's Anglican Girls' School

All Old Girls, who left St Mary's fifty or more years ago, are invited for a special morning tea.

To register your interest, please contact
Amanda Kemp on (08) 9341 9132.

CAROLS *by* CANDLELIGHT

8.00pm, Wednesday 2 December
St George's Cathedral

You're invited to join us for an evening of Christmas Carols at St George's Cathedral. Enjoy the wonderful sounds of both Hale and St Mary's Choirs.

All are welcome.

A CENTURY OF DISCOVERY

1921 ✿ 100 ✿ 2021

We are excited and proud to be making preparations to mark the 100th year of our exceptional school. Throughout 2021 and into 2022, we invite you to enjoy the celebrations at a series of 'Discover 100' events. We look forward to keeping you informed and sharing 'A Century of Discovery' with you.

KEY EVENTS AT A GLANCE

OLD GIRLS' DAY

Saturday 20 February

MUSIC IN THE VALLEY

Sunday 21 February

STAFF PAST AND PRESENT

CELEBRATION

Saturday 24 July

CENTENARY DAY

Tuesday 14 September

Further information will be available in late spring 2020. We look forward to holding the St Mary's Fair at a later date.

Events will proceed subject to Government COVID-19 advice and restrictions.

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The West Perth Belle is for St Mary's Old Girls who attended St Mary's in Colin Street and in doing so, helped to shape the history and culture of our school today. Through the pages of this annual newsletter, we endeavour to keep West Perth Old Girls in touch with each other, provide an opportunity for you to share memories of the students, staff and school in Colin Street, and celebrate the achievements of West Perth Old Girls. We welcome your comments and suggestions so that we can ensure *The West Perth Belle* is of interest and benefit to you.