The OPtimist

Highlights & news at Blackfriars

Edition 3 Spring 2013

Mr. Brian Turner, Principal with Jacob, Gracie, Audrey, Peter and Sadie
Welcome to another edition of the OPTimist. The response to this publication has been very positive and I look forward to watching future editions develop in various dimensions.

It has been a hectic start to Term 4 with the Year 12s completing their schooling and preparing for exams. The school still celebrates the end of the senior year with a final breakfast with staff, farewell assembly, Mass and rite of passage, followed by the Academic Assembly at Bonython Hall in the evening. The last graduation event, the Graduation Dinner at the Entertainment Centre, is held in late November after the exams have been completed. While most of the Year 12s are finalising their year, about 12 students will accompany several staff and I to Vietnam on our inaugural Pilgrimage. The students will visit various missions and Dominican parishes in Vietnam. The immersion will be an enlightening and challenging experience as the mission and spirituality in these parishes is quite remarkable compared to our context.

I hope that everyone is aware that the Diamond Jubilee Ball is fast approaching in the second week of November. Tickets are selling fast and if you have not yet purchased one please do so by accessing the school website. This weekend promises to be a wonderful celebration of the past and present and we look forward to seeing a large number of our past and present students in attendance. It promises to be a wonderful gathering commencing with the Diamond Jubilee Ball on Saturday 9 November and flowing over to Sunday with celebrations, including a Mass in the Chapel at 11am, the Official Opening of the Early Learning Centre at and the Jubilee Birthday Party in the afternoon from 12-5pm. This is a great time to reacquaint with friends, staff and the Dominican Friars who have been associated with Blackfriars over the years, as well as the present members of the Blackfriars community.

To update the status of the enrolment numbers for 2014 and 2015, I advise that we are well in excess of the current student numbers, and in some year levels there are waiting lists as there are no longer places available. If you, or a relative or friend, have not yet enrolled a sibling and intend to, it is prudent to contact the school as soon as possible.

Next year, the building works associated with the Master Plan will commence. The Drama Theatre will be an outstanding facility located in Hound Hall seating an audience of over 200 people and will be a great asset for the Drama / Arts faculty in the school. Extensive works have commenced on the sporting ovals and surfaces to ensure that the facilities are maintained and upgraded for the summer sporting season, which began on 18 October 2013.

We wish the Year 12s every success and hope they are justly rewarded for their efforts as they face the challenges of the future and their life beyond Blackfriars Priory School. The school also farewells some long serving staff who are retiring or moving on to take up other employment:

After 40 years of dedicated service to the school Steve Dabrowski will retire from teaching at the end of this year. Steve has made many important contributions to the school community over a long period of time and for that I forward appreciation and gratitude. Steve’s passion and commitment to teaching has enabled many students to benefit and appreciate their educational experience in his classes.

Other long serving staff who have recently left our community include:

Mrs Gillian Cox, the Primary Librarian who has retired to spend time with her family.
Dr Cheryl Bawhey, Laboratory Assistant, has moved to Newington College in Sydney, and Ms Fiona Dunstan, Student Counsellor is moving to Christian Brother’s College.

We wish them all the very best in their new ventures and thank them for their contribution to our story and history.

In the coming weeks the Prefects and House Captains for 2014 will be announced. Next year we are planning to further strengthen the Pastoral Care and House system and include the Primary students into the senior structure.

We also pray for those old scholars and family members who have recently passed away or have bereavement anniversaries. It was this time last year when Jacob Stengle unfortunately died in a car accident. The Year 11 students recently organised a liturgy to honour and remember Jacob. The liturgy exemplified the reverence, spirit and compassion that is so unique to our community.

Mr Brian Turner
Principal
Leading a process for continuous improvement through the development of a professional learning community was part of the vision for Blackfriars Priory School. The aim was to develop a culture of innovation, collaboration and inquiry through the development of a professional learning community to improve student learning outcomes and acknowledge the value of professional learning through shared leadership.

Guided Inquiry Professional Learning Team

Staff attended the Guided Inquiry Conference in Sydney with Dr Ross Todd, a world-renowned speaker in this area. Their participation in this conference gave staff the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of Guided Inquiry and then collaboratively develop an Australian Curriculum Unit of work. Brigitta Ragg and Danielle Hayes will continue to share and build the capacity of staff to use guided inquiry as an approach to thinking, learning and teaching that will change the learning culture of the school. Their knowledge is being shared through the development of units of work, resources and professional development offered to staff. Twenty first century skills are learned through our curriculum, which in our Middle School, is integrated, project based and student centred.

Through a guided inquiry approach we aim to engage students in addressing real-world problems, issues important to humanity, and questions that matter as part of our Dominican Community. Below is a snapshot of some of the work taking place to empower teachers and students to collaborate and develop digital literacies.

Brigitta Ragg, Head of House

Guided Inquiry has initiated a real change in thinking for my Year 8 students; it ‘turns the tables’ and requires them to be active participants in the learning process rather than passively receiving information and instruction from the teacher. While, at times, this has been challenging for the class, as the term has progressed, their confidence as independent learners has grown. It is exciting to see this change in their attitude to learning; as a Year 12 teacher I know that the skills they are developing now will be crucial to their success throughout Secondary School.

This change in learning style has not just benefited my students. The process has required me to work more closely with our teacher-librarian, Danielle Hayes, and our Literacy Coach, Frankie Roberts, as part of the National Partnerships program. Drawing on the experience of others has developed me professionally and this collaborative approach to teaching has positively impacted learning opportunities in the classroom. Danielle, Frankie, and I have been documenting our observations and reflections throughout the process and look forward to presenting these to staff in Term 4. Guided Inquiry has empowered me as an educator, and, most importantly, my students as twenty-first century learners.

Phi Nguyen of BM

Guided Inquiry was good because we were given the opportunity to go in-depth with our question and do a lot of research on a topic that we chose. It was better to design your own question rather than be given a question by the teacher. At times I thought there was too much researching but I liked having the information and the independence to choose how I wanted to present it. I made a website using Weebly. It was the first time I have ever made a website!

Reading to Learn Professional Learning Teams

The school has established five Professional Learning Teams, consisting of 20 teachers from various year levels and curriculum areas, to develop an inquiry question and undertake action research around the integration of Reading to Learn pedagogy in our classes. Training was provided internally by Frankie Roberts and Kerry Hesketh, who facilitated three half day workshops, focussing on the six major Reading to Learn strategies. This professional learning assisted teachers to meet the identified needs of students. The inquiry based model encourages teachers to find new solutions to persistent issues, by challenging assumptions about their practice.

The aim of the Reading to Learn PLT is to:

- Introduce the Reading to Learn pedagogy as both a mainstream and intervention literacy strategy and to measure its effectiveness on student learning.
- To further develop teacher knowledge about how language works to make meaning in fiction and non-fiction texts.
- To develop teacher expertise in explicit teaching of language and literacy, using a carefully sequenced series of activities that can be used to prepare texts and to scaffold student reading and writing in all curriculum areas and with all year levels.

The teachers are currently using reading strategies in the classroom to build student confidence and improve their performance. The work of our teachers is being recognised as best practice; a number of teachers from various schools in the state and overseas are visiting our classrooms and are engaged in professional dialogue with our teachers. Our visitors are observing the way in which our teachers are using their growing repertoire of reading strategies (Reciprocal Reading and Reading to Learn) to optimise student learning. The intention of these visits is to support the visitors in building their own capacity as teachers of reading across the curriculum. I commend the work of our teachers as they welcome these opportunities to share best practice with other colleagues in the state as we all strive to improve outcomes for our students.

As part of the research we will collect data around improvement of student performance, confidence and engagement in learning. The enthusiasm and commitment of all participants, through the trialling of strategies has meant that students are already demonstrating improvement in self-confidence, which is reflected in increased participation in all oral and written aspects of lessons. In addition, teachers have recognised the value of the time given to collaborate, plan effectively and observe demonstrations of the Reading to Learn strategies.

Mrs Anna Mirasgentis
Deputy Principal - Learning & Teaching
Strategic Development

The OPtimist magazine has proven to be a great success, with fantastic feedback being received from our community for the first two editions. The strengthening of community connections is truly evident as a result of the OPtimist. 2013 has seen major advances in key result areas identified in the Blackfriars Strategic Plan.

Blackfriars Foundation Incorporated

The inaugural Foundation Board has been active in establishing structures and processes to allow for the effective formation and operation of the Foundation. Our Foundation is now registered as an incorporated entity and an official charity through the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. The Blackfriars community has responded with generosity to the first Annual Giving Appeal which was launched in May. On behalf of the Foundation Board, thank you to all those who donated to this appeal. The funds raised will provide support to building projects tied to the school Master Plan and the Scholarship Program. As the Executive Officer of the Foundation I have worked with a very dedicated group of community members who make up the Foundation Board; thank you for being part of this important initiative. If you would like to engage in the future activities of the Foundation please do not hesitate in contacting me at the school.

Master Plan 2013 – 2015

Phase 1 of the Master Plan has focused on key projects including:

> The establishment of the Early Learning Centre. This unique facility located in what was previously the Drama Hall now provides quality long day care and early learning programs for 3 – 5 year old boys and girls. The children clearly love this space; it has been a privilege to be part of the development and implementation of the centre. The professional and diligent approach of the project architect David Romaldi and builder Marshall and Brougham has resulted in an impressive and world-class resource for preschool care and learning.

> The renovation of four Primary general learning areas. This work has resulted in a total transformation of these areas to state-of-the-art facilities. The design created by Mr David Romaldi was formed on input from our Primary staff. Students, parents and staff have all provided extremely positive feedback on this project.

Phase 2 will begin in 2014 and will see the development of:

> A modern Drama Centre (pictured below) that will incorporate high tech audio and visual resourcing with seating for over 100 people. Tied with this project are gymnasium upgrades including improved façade, storage and foyer spaces.

> Renovation of another two Primary classroom areas

> St Albert’s Science Centre

> Maher Building upgrade to Student Services Hub

> Extension of the main car park

The Master Plan activities have been led and managed by the Master Plan Committee, comprising Mr David O’Loughlin, Mr David Romaldi and Mr Brian Turner. The high level experience and expertise of this committee is valued and has been a critical component to the success of the Master Plan projects.

I look forward to meeting community members at the Diamond Jubilee year events in November and being a part of the continued development of Blackfriars.

Mr Vince Fleming
Executive Director: Strategic Development
2013 Annual Giving

The Blackfriars Priory School Foundation would sincerely like to thank the following people for their generous contribution to the 2013 Annual Giving appeal.

We also publicly acknowledge all those who donated anonymously.

- John Balkwill
- Joe Bayer
- Jon Harmer
- Jason Haseldine
- Peter Herriman
- Dean Hobdy
- Patrick Kelly
- Wayne and Monique Lawrence
- David O’Loughlin
- Dennis Rodrigues & Carolyn Cheah
- Rolf Scharfbillig
- Joanne Sutton
- Mandy Varricchio

Mr Vince Fleming
Executive Director: Strategic Development

Speaking of Which

Blackfriars students recently participated in a local council consultation event at Norwood Town Hall organised by the Eastern Region Alliance; Prospect, Unley, Campbelltown, Norwood, Payneham, St Peters and Tea Tree Gully Councils.

The two day event involved 600 students aged 11 to 18 from over 15 schools. There were 10 stations where students could get involved including completing a comprehensive survey on iPads, being a Drop in the Ocean and explaining what they would like to change in the world, Mayor for a Minute, a dress up photo booth showing what students want to be when they finish school and the support they need to get there, a hands on activity where students could build their ideal city and The Backyard, a space filled with giant games, deck chairs and beanbags, fruit and water where the students could relax, hang out and mingle with students from other schools.

Feedback provided by students is used in developing the ERA budget and individual Council’s Youth Development Strategies.
The first term of Blackfriars Early Learning Centre has proven to be quite remarkable. Investigation, exploration, curiosity and collegiality have all been pursued.

Through the term we had many visitors including the School Board, many of the staff, current and future parents and Father Herald De Souza OP from India. What a contrast it must have been for him, coming from one of the most poverty stricken areas of the world to our stunning facility. Of special delight for our 3-5 years olds was the visit of the Blackfriars Hound and then the scallywag pirate. We were all “Ahoy there me heartyies” for some time afterwards. We have regular weekly visits from 8T; three boys at a time who come to share literacy and learning with our children. We look forward to continuing with this reciprocal partnership with the school for both learning and community connections.

We are especially thrilled at the way in which the whole school has embraced the development of the Early Learning Centre. Recess and lunch times see the boys often chatting to our children and happily including them in soccer and football games when we venture out onto the oval. We have regular twice weekly visits to the library and take part in whole school mass and assembly. During Book Week we integrated with the Primary School wearing our fantasy hats for photographs, face painting and then a trip to Hogwarts lolly shop. The Reception and Tuck Shop staff love to have our children visit for a chat.

Our provocations [enquiry questions] developed around two focus areas. The reading of the story A Tiny Seed by Eric Carle with the response: “I’ve got seeds at home that I can bring” from one of the children was the impetus for a focus that lead us from planting to the development of a garden centre for dramatic play and then to the growth of a giant beanstalk entwining itself around the beams of the art room. This work encompassed many areas of the curriculum; observation, recording, nurturing, fine motor skills, numeracy, literacy and imaginary role play to mention just a few.

The second provocation was teacher initiated. It revolved around “Belonging”. It was important that our very first students felt that they ‘belong’. Belonging, Being and Becoming are important elements of the Early Years Learning Framework. Belonging relates to connections. For us this means connections with the Early Learning Centre, family, school and community.

Term 4 will see us developing a “Sense of Community” throughout the school. This will be done through the eyes of our children and recorded digitally.

Our first term proved to be very challenging and exciting. Congratulations must go to staff for their motivation, enthusiasm and commitment. We look forward to all the challenges and fun Term 4 and beyond will bring.

The Early Learning Centre is open from 7.30am – 6pm each day. It is closed on weekends and public holidays.

For further information about the Early Learning Centre and its programs please feel free to contact me on mobile 0408 708 916 or via email kmcentee@bps.sa.edu.au.

Mrs Karen McEntee
Director Early Learning Centre
How quickly can one term go? I have been asking myself this question as Term 3 seems to have flown past in an instant. Firstly there has been some change to the Wellbeing Team with the biggest being the departure of the Deputy Principal of Wellbeing and Administration, John Lambert. John has been an excellent servant of Blackfriars for over five years and we wish him every success in his new position at St Michael’s College.

I was appointed as the Acting Deputy of Wellbeing and Administration for a six month tenure and am enjoying the role, working closely with the wonderful students and staff we have here at Blackfriars. Ms Alison de Souza also joined the Wellbeing Team as the new Student Activities Coordinator and she has been keeping very busy organising a number of events with the students.

St Dominic's Day was a huge success once again in 2013 where on 7 August the entire school came to life. The ELC students enjoyed their first school Mass and then it was a day of activities and fun with the rock climbing wall and sumo suits proving a real winner. Congratulations to Khuong-Daniel Nguyen who was the winner of the major prize, a Lenovo tablet. Well done, Daniel! Also a big thank you to all of the staff involved in making it such a special day.

The South Australian Fire Service presented to our Year 10 students about Road Awareness and traffic safety. The statistics of young people, particularly men who die in road accidents are just too high to ignore. The talk centred on who wanted to be a risk taker, who wanted to be responsible and who wanted to look after their mates. This was a very valuable presentation which will hopefully stay with the boys as they begin to take driving lessons and travel in cars with older students.

The school Intercol against CBC was another resounding success and all matches were played in great spirit throughout the week. A best-on-ground medal was awarded in all year levels and in the senior years a trophy to the winning team. Unfortunately we could not get over the line this year and lost narrowly 4-3. It was a real credit to our school the way our boys competed with vigour and class. Well done to Mr Leo Panzarino and all staff who helped make the week a success.

The Year 9 boys endured some freezing cold nights on their three night camp in the Flinders Ranges. The Year 9 camp is a culmination of the previous year’s camps where bush camping and cooking skills are refined. The mountain biking and trek to the top of Mt Remarkable were two things the boys really enjoyed, as was a warm bed when they returned!

All Year 8 students have been learning some important life skills this term as they participated in the Aquatics program at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre. These skills are vital for any person living in Australia and it was great to see so many of the boys involved and improving their swimming techniques as well as learning other survival skills. A great time was had by all.

With the Vietnam Pilgrimage taking place in November it gave a real focus for the fundraising of two events held this term. The Middle School Disco was attended by over 300 students; the biggest we have had for a long time. The boys and girls had a great time in Frassati Hall and danced the night away. The Year 11 Informal was held on 20 September for the very first time. The event was organised when a number of enthusiastic Year 11 boys came to the Wellbeing Team with an idea to raise some funds. The students invited girls from local schools and everyone was dressed up and had a great time. Special guest DJ Luke Macolino entertained the crowd.

Combining the funds raised from these two events alone, just under $5000 was raised. This is a fantastic effort and shows the generosity of our community and our willingness to help others.

Lastly our school community rolled up their sleeves and donated blood during Week 10. You may have seen the Red Cross Donor Mobile parked in the front car park. Over 40 donations were taken from staff and students, which means over 120 people could receive lifesaving blood from our community. Hopefully many of the boys will continue to donate blood once they leave school as the Red Cross is always seeking donations.

Mr Andrew Whiteman
Deputy Principal, Wellbeing & Administration
Mark McPeake, Thomas Verco, Matthew Astanowicz and Kyle Fontanabella

Year 9 Flinders Ranges Camp

Anthony Gosti, James Cosenza and Diego Bueti

Kent Chau, Chy Lim and Jordan Lam

Year 8 students at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre

Sajed Bakhsh, Red Cross blood drive
Semester 2 2013!
At the beginning of Term 3, we welcomed to the Blackfriars School community a number of new students across the Primary School. In particular, we welcomed nine new Reception students who commenced their first day of school on Tuesday 23 July.

The following students and their families commenced their learning journey at Blackfriars at the beginning of Term 3:
- Reception
  - Antony Barresi
  - Nathan Bishop
  - Harrison Ellis
  - Chester Glancy
  - Yaseer Haidery
  - Minh Nhat Lam
  - Jett Parsons
  - Jermaine Zaharis
  - Benjamin Zeuner
- Year 1
  - Martin Nguyen
- Year 2
  - Alexander Zeuner
- Year 5
  - James Earl
  - Haymish Smith

Staff Changes
We also warmly welcomed back to the Blackfriars school community, Vanessa Biedrzycki. Vanessa is working alongside Jacqui Gagliardi in the Reception classroom. Vanessa previously worked with Claire Holland’s Year 4 class during classroom. Vanessa is working alongside Jacqui Gagliardi in the Reception classroom. Vanessa previously worked with Claire Holland’s Year 4 class during classroom. Vanessa is working alongside Jacqui Gagliardi in the Reception classroom. Vanessa previously worked with Claire Holland’s Year 4 class during classroom.

Celebration of the Sacraments
On Wednesday evening 12 June, 15 students celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation at Rosary Church. His Grace, Archbishop Philip Wilson confirmed each of the boys who were supported by family, friends and staff.

Saturday 15 June the boys then celebrated their First Eucharist with Fr Alex Vickers OP, Fr Mannes Tellis OP and the Rosary Parish community.

We congratulate the following students:
- Lachlan Zurcher
- Jesse Taylor
- Francesco De’Angelis
- Marc D’Angelus
- Austin Mikajlo
- Thomas Turner
- Isaac Lawrence
- Charlie Griffin
- Christofer Hoang
- Matthew Hoang
- Tommy Karamatic
- Max Smulders
- Daniel Sutton
- Luan Syndicas
- Anthony Quaini

Reconciliation
On Wednesday 11 September, six students from the Primary School celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Chapel of St Albert the Great. The Sacrament of Reconciliation invites us to acknowledge the poor choices we have made and then make an attempt to make things right and highlights the forgiving, compassionate nature of God.

Thank you is once again extended to those involved in preparing the students for the celebration of this Sacrament; Fr Mannes for bringing Christ to us, the parents as first teachers of faith and to the staff at Blackfriars who are mentors and educators of the faith.

Congratulations to the following boys:
- Andre Fratini
- Joseph Kelly
- Aidan Luther
- Nick Sciancalepore
- Damon Spratt
- Kalan Williams

Curriculum
During Terms 2 and 3, there were many events across a range of curriculum areas in which students in the Primary School participated. The boys continually demonstrate real engagement in developing themselves and following areas of interest and passion.

Commitment to these events is often required outside the day to day learning within the classroom and does not take into consideration excursions and other school activities many of the classes have also been involved in.

Over the past two terms students have participated in:
- English
  - Book Week celebrations
  - Start Smart Financial Literacy Sessions
  - Fantasy Day
- Mathematics
  - Australian Mathematics Competition
  - Mathematics Enrichment with the Mathematics Association of SA
  - Start Smart Financial Literacy Sessions
- Arts
  - Primary Arts Evening
- ABODA Music Festival
- Annual Blackfriars Music Concert
- Catholic Schools Music Festival
- Physical Education
- Catholic Schools Athletics Carnival
- Catholic schools Cross Country Carnival
- Knockout Soccer matches
- Health
- Life Education visit

Rainbow Reading
During Term 2, Rainbow Reading was introduced to the Primary School. This program is designed to complement existing home and classroom reading programs and is designed to help students to become more confident and competent readers. We thank Mr Carl Todman, Literacy Coordinator for introducing this program to the Primary School. This intervention program also follows the successful introduction of the Reading Recovery program for Year 1 students in 2011.

Restorative Practices
Restorative Practices help build capacities to enable students to self-regulate behaviour and assists teachers, students and parents to build, maintain and restore relationships.

Throughout the year, the Primary School staff have been involved in professional learning around Restorative Practices.

On Monday 12 August, the Primary School staff attended a presentation on Restorative Practices led by Samantha Kourakis, a school counsellor from Redlands School in Sydney. Along with colleagues from other Catholic schools, staff listened to Samantha discuss her experiences in seeing Restorative Practices at work in schools in the USA and Canada.

I know that many staff were inspired by Samantha and also by what they saw and are already incorporating some of these practices into our school and classrooms.

Looking Forward- Learning Spaces!
Over the approaching summer holidays two more learning spaces will be refurbished, including an indoor/outdoor learning space, new furnishings and wet areas. The classrooms will again be great spaces for learning and teaching and continues the upgrading of the learning spaces within the Primary School.

Mr Todd LaForgia
Deputy Principal, Head of Primary School
Reception boys participating in a Road Safety Program

Antony Barresi, Jermaine Zaharis and Gilbert Abinicous

Reception boys played AusKick at AAMI stadium

The boys cheering Port Adelaide players onto the ground

Mrs Gillian Cox in the Primary Library with students during Book Week. Kaden Baxter, Miss Jacqui Gagliardi and Mr David Richardson on Fantasy Day. Tommy Karamatic, Anthony Quaini and Alex Maloney, Year 4 on Footy Colours Day
On Friday 13 September the Primary school celebrated Grandparents/Special Person’s morning. All classes (R-6) were involved and it was wonderful to see this event so aptly supported by our families and fantastic to chat to so many grandparents who are understandably very proud of their grandsons. A special thank you to all those involved in organising a great celebration!

Mr Todd LaForgia
Deputy Principal, Head of Primary School
Year 4 students have been participating in weekly painting workshops with local Aboriginal artist Jacob Stengle. The boys have been learning and practising different techniques with acrylic paints including sunsets, bush, reflections and waterfalls. Next term they will complete the program by applying what they have learnt to design their own landscape painting. Jacob has been commissioned by the school to paint a mural on the west facing wall of the science building as a celebration of the life of Jacob Stengle Junior, Blackfriars student who died tragically last year.

Mrs Robyn Carmody
Primary Art Teacher
In 1958 the building at the corner of Highbury and Bradford Streets was purchased. This was renovated so that the Primary School would move down to this site. Ferrer House was opened in 1959 while the front room of the house continued to function as a corner shop. Fr Fitzpatrick, and later Fr John Neill, acted as Head of the Primary School in Ferrer House until the new Primary Block, built by Fr Bonaventure Leahy, was opened in 1968.

Ferrer House had many different uses over the years. When the Primary School moved out it was used by the Amateur Wrestling Club to train our boys in Olympic Wrestling. Some of the boys went on to win South Australian and Australian titles in the sport. Later Fr Joseph Wilson encouraged some of our parents involved in the building industry to donate some tools and equipment so that the rudiments of woodwork could be taught. These classes were the foundations of the Art and Design programme and the subsequent workshops, built in 1975, and the blossoming of the artistic skills for the students. The Physical Education staff used the facilities for a number of years following this. In 1976, under the guidance of Mr Tony Sheehan, Peter Medon and Tony Rossi were entered into the Guinness Book of Records for playing Table Tennis for 4 hours and 33 minutes. In 1979, Mr Ron Fox had put forward the concept of giving our Year 11 students the opportunity to study subjects aligned with the trades and apprenticeships. This was the beginning of the Transition Course offered to our students as an alternative to the P.E.B. course or the Business Course which had also been recently set up. Ferrer House was the ideal location for this type of course. The boys studied the set subjects of Religion, English and Mathematics but then had the opportunity to learn about car maintenance, welding, spray painting, cooking, fibre glassing and associated skills. It also allowed an easy move to place the boys on Work Experience without missing out on the sequential subjects of the normal courses. Gradually these courses came under the umbrella of the SACE and could be placed in the general timetable. When the opportunity came to purchase a building in Highbury Street adjacent to the school property, Ferrer House was sold to a private owner.

One other noteworthy incident in 1958 was the holding of the raffle of a Holden car. The father’s Club organised the raffle, and the drawing of the winning ticket was to be the main entertainment at a dinner function. The name which came out of the hat was that of the Dominican Fathers. The people involved were somewhat confused by this outcome and were not sure how to proceed. Finally, after a murmured conversation behind the scene, it was announced that the Dominican Community had won the raffle. It should be added that a later meeting of the Dominicans decided to sell the car and use the money for the benefit of the school.

We joined the Catholic Boys Schools Association for the annual Combined Athletic Carnival. The Blackfriars team won the Second Division, the Under 9, Under 11 and Under 14 trophies and established seven records. David Fogg in the Under 14s broke five records (including the U14 Relay) while the other record-breaking athlete was Leo Sexton. Both of these boys had sons who attended Blackfriars in later years. One of our Tennis teams took home the Championship Pennant for their Division.

The new Prefects for this year received their blazers and caps from the hands of V Rev Fr T Garde OP, The Dominican General-Visitor from Rome who was visiting the Dominican communities of the province. The new Prefects were: Michael Hughes, Glen McKinnon, Peter Smith and Michael Wilson.
Blackfriars teacher Ms Kathleen Johnson travelled to China during the July school holidays as a part of the Australia-China Bridge School Partnership.

Blackfriars has formed a relationship with Zhangdian No. 8 Middle School, Shandong Province, China, to better implement the Australian Curriculum cross-curriculum priority of Asia and Australia’s engagement with Asia. The China-BRIDGE initiative was facilitated by the Asia Education Foundation in partnership with the Catholic Education Office, South Australia. BRIDGE is an acronym for ‘Building Relationships through Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement’.

12 Catholic schools across South Australia sent a staff member to Zibo in Shandong Province, China, as the first step in developing a partnership with a Chinese school. Shandong Province was a logical choice because South Australia and Shandong have had a long-standing sister state relationship.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to be the teacher who represented Blackfriars to form the relationship with our BRIDGE school. Since this whole experience began, I have been pinching myself to ensure that it is all real. During the recent school holidays I travelled to Zibo to meet my partner teacher, Mrs Qing Wang, and work and live in her school community, Zhangdian No. 8 Middle School, Zibo.

Zhangdian is a modern residential and commercial district west of the Zibo CBD. Zibo is a small city for China with only 4.5 million people. This only highlights the difference in scale of population when you consider that Sydney with a similar population is Australia’s largest city.

Zhangdian No. 8 Middle School is a little over two years old and the facilities are very impressive. The school has a small student population compared to other schools in Zibo with 1600 students aged between 11 – 15 years. Some schools in Zibo have in excess of 5,000 students. Imagine! Zhangdian No. 8 Middle School has been designed to accommodate more students, and as the area grows they anticipate that the student body will swell to 2500.

The school is co-educational and both the staff and students were somewhat amazed, and indeed puzzled, when I explained that Blackfriars is a school for boys.

The BRIDGE experience initially involved three days of ICT training to establish the technology required to support a range of online interactions between Blackfriars and Zhangdian No. 8 Middle School. This training was followed by a seven night home stay with my partner teacher Mrs Qing Wang (English name Nancy). Nancy is an English teacher so communicating was relatively easy, for me at least.

To live with a Chinese family was the absolute highlight of the trip. I met Nancy’s extended family, close friends and neighbours, and despite the language barrier somehow we all understood each other; even though to a limited extent. I will never again underestimate the importance of gestures and body language. Nancy’s mother-in-law who lives with Nancy was particularly nervous about meeting me because I was the first ‘foreigner’ she had ever met (at the age of 73). The morning I said goodbye after the seven night home stay we were both hugging and crying, even though we still could not understand a word the other was saying.

The entire school community went over backwards to make me feel welcome, from the Principal to the youngest of the students. Zibo hospitality is incredibly generous, warm and genuine. I was fortunate to spend time with all 16 of the English teachers at the school, who were very keen to practice their English. I gained an invaluable knowledge of education in China and the friendship of some amazing hard-working and dedicated teachers.

I spent my days at the school teaching lessons about Australia to each and every English class. I was a novelty so every student wanted to hear my lesson! They were so keen to hear more about Australia that between lessons and during breaks the students would come and ask me questions. There was a steady stream of enthusiastic boys and girls filing in and out of the office space I shared with some of the English teachers, much to their amusement. This gave me the chance to ask the students questions about their lives and try to get some insight into what life is like for a teenager in China.

So what is life like for a teenager in Zhangdian No. 8 Middle School?

- Their school days are much longer (they start at 7am and finish at 6pm with a 1.5 hour break during the middle of the day).
- All students complained bitterly about the demands of homework and exams (to progress to senior school all middle school students sit exams. Their results directly determine which senior school they can attend to finish their schooling).
- While sport is part of the daily school curriculum, to play a sport for your school against other schools or for a club, is not a part of life in Zibo, China. Children who demonstrate outstanding sporting ability are developed though special programs.

While their school life is more demanding than the experience of our boys. When I asked the students what they liked to do in their spare time, their responses were:

For the boys – playing games and watching TV especially sport. Online games in particular were most popular.
For the girls – shopping, gossiping on social networks and watching movies and video clips. They are obsessed with boy bands whether Chinese or from overseas. As a mother of two girls it was rather amusing to find that most of the female students loved One Direction. The evils of globalisation!

Sound familiar?
Later this year Blackfriars will host Mrs Qing Wang and I look forward to the opportunity to return her warm hospitality with my family. I am confident that the Blackfriars community will make her feel as welcome as I did when I was in Zibo.

Ms Johnson with Mrs Qing Wang (Nancy)

Ms Kathleen Johnson
Head of Humanities and Social Sciences
The 7th Blackfriars v CBC Intercol concluded after a week of events.

The Intercol competition started with Debating on the Monday night with a Senior and Junior team representing the school away at opposition hosts CBC.

The Middle School team struck first for Blackfriars winning their debate 3-0 and regaining the Middle School trophy.

The Senior School were not able to retain their title succumbing to the CBC team losing their debate 0-3.

This had CBC claim the first Championship trophy of the week.

On the Tuesday night the two schools Chess teams met in the CBC library, with Blackfriars levelling the series with a close 3-2 win.

Wednesday the 1st XI Soccer team played on the school pitch in difficult conditions. Unfortunately Blackfriars went down 1-0 handing CBC the Soccer trophy for only the second time in its existence; Tarun Vythilingham was awarded BOG for Blackfriars.

This gave CBC a 2-1 lead in the championship title race.

The Open Table Tennis levelled the series with a 17-7 win over their CBC rivals. This continued the unbeaten running of defending this trophy by Blackfriars teams. With this win Blackfriars took the competition to two all.

The Open A Basketball was a close match with only a six points separating the teams. Unfortunately CBC were able to take their chances and open up a lead in the second quarter to secure a 48-54 win. This win saw CBC defend their Basketball trophy and win a championship trophy taking the tally to 2-3 in favour of CBC, Kane Della-Pia was award BOG for Blackfriars.

This meant that the 1st XVIII Football team had to win for Blackfriars to retain the championship trophy.

The 1st XVIII Football team took to the field at CBC’s main oval. Once again in difficult conditions they trailed throughout the breaks.

CBC was able to withstand a strong challenge in the final quarter to hold on and win by eight points and in doing so won the Intercol Championship for 2013.

This took the overall 2013 championship between the two schools to 2-4 in CBC’s favour.

The result aside, the Intercol is a fantastic way for Blackfriars to round off the winter competition. It brings people from both school communities together to be a part of a special day in the school’s calendar.

It is a great way for the students in their final year at school to look back and have a defined memory of their involvement in the Blackfriars community and with their peers.

The Intercol experience is one that legends are born from, and that the Blacks boys will talk about over the years when they meet.

This is what being a part of a community and coming together demonstrating school spirit is about; shared experiences and memories.

It was a pleasure to see so many boys take part in this special event over the week.

Over the Intercol week many people come together to help make this a successful event, from the Blackfriars team coaches, old scholars and parents. Thank you to everyone who has been involved over the 2013 winter. Some other notable school performances include:

- Year 10 State Soccer Champions
- Year 8/9 Indoor Soccer State Champions
- Open Badminton State Runners up
- 8/9 5 a-side small pitch Soccer State Runners up
- 8/9 full pitch Soccer team finished 3rd in the State
- 8/9 Badminton have reached the top 4 in the state to be played in Term 4

Good luck to all of the boys who are representing the South Australia National Championships over the coming weeks in Water Polo and Soccer.

Mr Leo Panzarino
Co-curricular Coordinator
First XVIII Football team
Cameron den Dekker takes a kick with Alex Harriss in support

Victorious Open A Table Tennis team with trophy

Open A Basketball team
Kane Della-Pia, Year 12

Tom Hore Year 12 lines up a shot

Victorious Open A Chess team with trophy

Intercol Hockey team
Nicholas Fragoulis, Year 10

First XVIII Football team

Cameron den Dekker takes a kick with Alex Harriss in support
Rigorous debates are an integral part of Dominican Life as well as a defining component of St Dominic’s mission. His own debates with the Albigensian heretics are legendary, and interestingly, when he founded his three fold order, one was for the converted Albigensian women. Fittingly, Dominicans are Preachers and public discourse is essential. Understandably then, the tradition of debating at Blackfriars is a proud and important one.

Blackfriars has been a member of the South Australian Debating Association (SADA) for more than 30 years and at various times our students have competed in finals, represented the State team and have been involved as office bearers and adjudicators with SADA.

This year has been a busy time for our debaters. Not only have they been involved in the regular SADA competition, but also represented the school at two Intercols, and took part in the inaugural Great Debate organised by the Prospect Council.

Our Intermediate B debating team, coached by Miss Brigitta Ragg, has had a successful season, winning all but one debate which in turn, has earned them a place in the SADA Finals on Tuesday 22 October at the UniSA City West Campus. They will compete against Loreto College and argue that, ‘Australia should have compulsory military service’.

This team has also been unstoppable in our two Intercol debates. Firstly against CBC they had a stirring victory and then finally prised the Caleruega Cup from St Dominic’s Priory College. This was the third year of the Dominican Cup Debating Competition between Blackfriars and St Dominic’s, and our first ever victory.

Our other Intermediate team, comprised of Years 8, 9 and 10 students and coached by Fr Mannes Tellis also tasted success, bringing home the coveted Father John Neill Cup.

The Dominican Cup Competition was rounded off with a truly memorable debate between the Senior teams, competing for the Sister Jillian Havey Cup, in which they argued that ‘Philosophy should be a compulsory subject in all Dominican schools.’ St Dominic and St Catherine of Siena would have been proud of these highly intelligent and articulate young men and women. Their ability to synthesise core Dominican values and extrapolate the relative merits of Philosophy and Theology was astounding. A panel of three SADA adjudicators awarded the debate to St Dominic’s Priory by a very narrow margin.

This was the second time in a month that these two teams competed against each other. They also competed in the inaugural Great Debate, a Prospect Council initiative, in which local secondary students debate the relative merits of significant civic issues. One of the hotly argued issues that concerns the City of Prospect at the moment is whether to reintroduce wards for elected members. The Senior debating team, accompanied by coach, Mr Bob Becker and Deputy Principal Mrs Anna Mirasgentis, was briefed by Mayor David O’Loughlin and several elected Councillors on the nuances of this argument. Ostensibly, one could be excused for thinking that this topic would be rather dry, but in the hands of these two teams of very talented debaters, all present witnessed a truly engaging and spirited debate. Both teams earned well deserved applause from the sizeable Town Hall audience.

It is pleasing to note that the senior debaters have maintained this passion for debate and civic and sociopolitical awareness. Recently, Owen Nicholson and William Thomas competed in the United Nations Youth Association (UNYA) Evatt Debates. They have also organised a group of students to participate in the UNYA Young Diplomats Forum in November. The theme of this year’s Forum is ‘Responding to Conflict – Peacekeeping, the UN, and Australia’.

Blackfriars can be very proud of these young men, as well as indeed a long list of old scholars who were accomplished debaters. Interestingly, one of the conveners of the UNYA Young Diplomats Forum is recent old scholar, James Lawler.

Mr Bob Becker
Debating Coordinator
This year was a season of ‘what ifs’, but one that in many ways showed that BOSFC is up there with the best. Weddings as far away as Chicago and the inevitable injuries meant we had several players unavailable for a number of critical matches this year.

Despite that, the Hounds again made the finals (for the 7th time in the eight seasons since the club was founded) and played some great football. BOSFC continues to thrive with the support of the Blackfriars Priory School community and provides a pathway for BPS students to continue enjoying playing footy with their mates after completing their secondary schooling. The development of some of our younger players including James Faik ('12), Pat Harmer ('05) and Matt Rivett ('07) (prior to a knee injury) had a significant impact in many games and they have cemented their place as regular A-grade players. Simon Grgic ('11) and Jake Milne ('11) showed later in the year that they are up to A-Grade standard.

Also pleasing was our consistency of effort throughout the year. This enabled us to perform very well against the top sides. We were the first team to beat the then undefeated ladder leader, Rosewater, in round 15 by 43 points after also leading late in the round six game against them before a narrow loss. We had two very tight games against minor premier, Colonel Light Gardens, losing both by a combined total of seven points. In the first clash in round 17 we had a difficult shot at goal after the siren to win, while in the return match at home in round 18 we were in front with 30 seconds to go before their full forward kicked his 100th goal of the season for them to win by four points! Our largest losing margin for the year was 30 points against eventual premier, Westminster OS, showing we were competitive in every match and capable of beating any team on any given day.

Although it was disappointing to be knocked out in the Elimination Final, I think the effort of a core group of our players over the last four weeks of the year, when we were severely undermanned, finally took its toll and we simply ran out of legs in the last half.

Two members of our leadership group, Mathew ‘Emu’ Brincat (‘06) and Luke Bortolotti (‘07), were outstanding all year. Not only were these boys outstanding on match day, they are true leaders of the club; they support club events and are two of the best trainers in the team. I’d like to give a special mention to Trav Hillman (‘00) who, with Emu, is a co-captain of the club. Trav’s experience and communication skills have been a valuable asset to me personally as well as to the team. We welcomed a number of new players to the club, who made an impact in their first season with us. Andrew Daziani (’02), Tom Guerin (’05) and Daniel Mattiazzo all performed well and, just as importantly, are also excellent people to have within our club. Sean Curtis, Sam Horsell (’06) and Phuoc Vo were very consistent players throughout the year and Brad Hillman (’04) changed our season from the moment he moved to the half back flank to help us beat Lockleys, which was a springboard to the second half of the season.

Amateur sporting clubs can only operate with the generous support of many volunteers who give up their time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the committee; Tom Zed (’95), David Horsell, Denis Blunt, Michael Hogan, Carolyn Bortolotti, Meg Rogerson, John Demasi and Adrian Porcaro for their leadership, planning and commitment to supporting the players throughout the year. I also acknowledge the work of Heather Sandford, Matt Rogerson and Tony Harford for their important contribution to our club.

Having players unavailable during the year meant that we played 44 players in the A-grade team in 2013. I am extremely excited about the future for the Blackfriars Old Scholars Football Club as, perhaps for the first time in our history, we have a depth of players who are capable of playing at A-grade level. I’m sure this will raise competition for places throughout pre-season training and into the 2014 season. Go the Hounds!

Lee Swiderski
A Grade Coach
BOSA Soccer Club

Blackfriars Old Scholars Association Soccer Club (BOSA SC), founded in 1998 by a small group of old scholars, is a proud sporting and social club competing in the South Australian Amateur Soccer League (SAASL) Saturday competitions. BOSA SC is proud of its achievements over the past 16 years. In 2005, the Premier As won the SAASL league and cup double with the Division 6 team crowned league winners in 2012.

In 2013, BOSA SC has achieved SAASL Saturday league history in winning the highest honours “League Champions” across all of its teams Premier As, Premier Bs and Division 6. BOSA SC expresses its gratitude to Blackfriars Priory School for its support over the past 16 years and more importantly its support throughout the 2013 season. We are excited to return league winners honours across all three teams to the school community. How the 2013 season unfolded:

Premier A
Phil Scardigno (Premier As Coach) ensured the As squad continued to build on the success of the 2012 season that saw the team achieve 3rd position in league and compete in the Cup Final at Hindmarsh Stadium. Producing memorable moments of team work in closely contested games and moments of brilliance to save or win the game, the As proved consistency throughout the season which determined its success. After reaching the semi-final of the SAASL cup played at Hindmarsh Stadium, the As had to focus on the last game of the season against Sturt Marion that would determine first place for either club in 2013. BOSA SC proved the ability to perform under pressure and remained composed in defense with the midfield dictating momentum allowing the forwards to create chances on goal. BOSA SC ran out 3-1 winners to secure the league title. Played 18 Won 12 Drew 4 Lost 2 Goals For 60 Goals Against 15 Pts 36.

Premier B
Adam Manning (Premier Bs Coach) has been involved in many BOSA SC players development from the school’s First XI program and has implemented a consistent pathway that has produced Premier As players. The Premier Bs squad showed exceptional discipline throughout the season with a blend of youth and experience that successfully closed an 11 point gap on first place holders Sturt Marion to force a title decider on the last game of the season between the two clubs. Much like in the season, the squad showed composure and resilience to continue the winning momentum leading to a 2-0 win to secure the league title. Played 18 Won 11 Drew 3 Lost 4 Goals For 51 Goals Against 15 Pts 40.

Divison 6
Rob Sergi (Division 6 Coach) ensured the Division 6 squad showed an exceptional level of focus and commitment to continue their winning form as they secured back to back league titles. Boasting incredible statistics including 60 goals for and 9 goals against the Division 6 squad finished 11 points clear of second place on 50 points in an undefeated 18 game season. With a majority of the 2012 squad returning and an addition of quality Blackfriars Old Scholars, the Division 6 squad also won the league at Sturt Marion’s sport complex, with three games to go. Their resounding success created a buzz around the club and added motivation for all players to see the season out in winning form. Played 18 Won 16 Drew 2 Lost 0 Goals For 51 Goals Against 9 Pts 56.

BOSA SC’s success on the field reflects the strong support of our long-term sponsors who have provided the BOSA SC community with the resources to build a successful program resulting in 2013 league winner’s status for each three divisions. The BOSA SC community would like to thank and acknowledge major sponsors Get Wines Direct, RP Quality Flooring, Cucina Nuova – Henley Beach and The Archer Hotel for their inaugural support in 2013, in addition to long-term existing sponsors Star Safety, SJ Electrical and Essential Dental for continuing their support. It is very much appreciated.

The BOSA SC members would like to sincerely thank the committee: Carlos Barca (’07), Liam Moller (’07), Ross Hrisafinas (’08), Matthew Nowosilskij (’07), Brodie Newberry, Rob Sergi (’87), Marc Caperna, John DeCandia, Abdoullah Mehio, Daniel Keylock, Paul Grasso (’00) and Ralph Armiento (’88) led tirelessly by Bruno Giovannelli (’93) who committed their time to ensuring the off-field operations ran smoothly and provide the players and coaching staff the best opportunity to achieve BOSA SC on field goals. Your efforts and unwavering support for all three teams ensured league history success that the club community can be so proud of.

For more information on BOSA SC visit our Facebook page ‘BOSA Soccer Club’ or website www.bosasc.com.au. If you are interested in joining the BOSA SC please email info@bosasc.com.au for more details or requests to join our mailing list as we prepare for the 2014 season.

Bruno Giovannelli
President, BOSA Soccer Club
Matthew Haskett has won an internationally acclaimed engineering award.

The British Institution of Civil Engineers recently announced that Matt, along with four other co-authors, has been awarded the Telford Medal for 2013 for a paper published in an Institution journal in January 2012. The paper was a summary of Matt’s PhD thesis: it was also recognised as the top paper across all of the Institution’s various journals.

The Telford Medal was first awarded in 1835. Only a few Australians have previously won the Telford, generally regarded as the English speaking world’s pre-eminent Civil Engineering award. John Bradfield, the engineer who designed the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1934 and Professor S Sloan (who graduated at Monash University in 1975) were previous Australian recipients. The Telford Medal for 2013 will be presented in London in October.

Matt attended Blackfriars from 1989 to 1997. His three younger brothers also attended Blacks. He played 1st XVIII Football for three years, Water Polo for six years, including two years as captain of the Open A Water Polo team. He was a four time member of the state junior Water Polo team and represented the Australian Junior Men’s Water Polo team in 1998 and 1999.

Matt obtained a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil; 1st Class Honours) in 2004, a Bachelor of Commerce in 2003 and his PhD in Engineering in 2011, all from the University of Adelaide.

Until 2012 Matt was employed by the University of Adelaide. In May last year Matt joined Maritime Constructions at Osborne as a Construction Engineer. Matt was the Project Manager for Maritime for the foundation phase of the Adelaide Oval footbridge over the Torrens, oversaw the installation of 34 navigation beacons on Eyre Peninsula and is currently managing a 310m long submerged retaining wall at Outer Harbour.

Matt said that receiving the award reflected well on Mathematics as taught by Mr Chris Packer at Blackfriars and then his faculty lecturers at the school of Civil, Environmental and Mining Engineering at the University of Adelaide, particularly Professor Deric Oehlers.

Matt has much to be proud of in terms of his achievements in the world of Engineering thus far. We at Blackfriars are certainly very proud of him and convey the best wishes of our community on receipt of this globally celebrated award in London in October.

Mr Jon Harmer
Old Scholars Liaison Officer
Old Scholars

OSOS (Old Scholars Overseas)

Mark Lebedew
Blackfriars old scholar Mark Lebedew has come a long way since playing school and club volleyball in Adelaide in the early 1980s. Having earned the distinction of BPS Sportsman of the Year in his graduating year of 1984, the Australian Junior and Senior representative left Australian shores in 2002, playing club Volleyball in Germany before embarking on a coaching career in the highly competitive European leagues.

Mark and his Polish wife Anita now reside in the suburb of Steglitz in Berlin, Germany. Mark is currently Head Coach of the Berlin Recycling Volleys professional Volleyball team in the German Bundesliga. The Volleys are the reigning German Champions having won the league for the past two seasons. To quote Google "The atmosphere at home matches in the modern Max-Schmeling-Halle is unique. In season 2012/13 the club set a new spectator record for the Volleyball Bundesliga with 8,553 spectators in their match against the VfB Friedrichshafen".

Mark says he is enjoying life in Europe, as it provides him the opportunity to be employed as a professional coach, an opportunity he unfortunately would not have in Australia. When he does get a chance to return home he catches up with younger brother Alexis (BOS 1986) who has kept Volleyball in the family via his role as South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) Volleyball coach and Australian Junior Beach Volleyball coach.

Mr Jon Harmer
Old Scholars Liaison Officer

Chris Harford
A long way from home but still a Blacks boy! 23 years have passed since Chris Harford was Head Prefect at Blackfriars in 1980. His studies and employment have taken him far and wide.

Chris’s family have had a long history with the school. His uncle, Mostyn Button, was one of the original scholars in 1953, his three brothers and a number of nephews are also old scholars, and his mother Colleen was the school librarian for many years. Chris himself graduated from ‘Blacks’ in 1980, and was school Athletics Captain that year. He continued his love of running while studying law at the University of Adelaide, during which time he was Captain, and later President, of the University of Adelaide Athletics Club, and ran for South Australia.

Following graduation, he travelled for a year, and later headed east to Melbourne to work in a large Melbourne law firm, before returning to Adelaide to work at the local law firm, Finlaysons. In 1997 Chris moved to Sydney to take up an in-house legal role with the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, and in 2003 he moved with his wife Amanda and two small children to Hong Kong where he is General Counsel for PricewaterhouseCoopers in China, Hong Kong and Macau. He has been in that role now for 10 years, and tells us that it has been interesting, exciting and a little daunting to be up close to the extraordinary growth of China during that period.

Along the way, Chris and Amanda have had a third child and have travelled extensively around Asia. Also outside of work, Chris has regular golf trips into China and was a founding member of the Vikings, a team of aging Australian Rules Footballers in Hong Kong who train regularly and play occasionally, including a recent masters rules game against a team from Melbourne. Love of football runs in the family, with his son Jeremy participating in the Hong Kong Auskick programme and playing in the Hong Kong Junior Football League, and his brother Tony is the fitness coach for the Blackfriars old scholars. Chris gets out to old scholars games when he is back in Adelaide during the winter (when he can also be found watching his beloved North Adelaide play). With education being a particular passion, Chris has also developed a close involvement with a charity in Cambodia which runs two schools that provide education to children who previously survived by scavenging from the Phnom Penh city rubbish dump.

Mr Jon Harmer
Old Scholars Liaison Officer
Vale Howard Twelftree

Rick Springfield and The Zoot were playing the Mount Barker High School social. As a responsible prefect, I was on the door, keeping my co-students in and the bad people out. The only candidate fitting the latter category was a stranger hovering awkward and forlorn at the other side of the entrance. He wore a crumpled tweed coat, knitted tie, baggy chinos and ancient brogues. In counterpoint was the perfectly ironed shirt, crisp enough to cut a finger. He looked at me and said: “Feel like a beer?”

On the way to the pub, which was next door, I became infatuated by his unique gait. It was more of a sway than a walk. He told me he was the husband of Mrs Twelftree, an English teacher, who was back in the hall in a miniskirt, groovin’ to Rick’s powerpop rewrite of Eleanor Rigby.

We talked about Frank Zappa and sank Coopers’ Stout by the pint. While he was obviously no sprinter in perambulatory matters, it quickly became clear such could never be said of his attitude to a glass. We were friends immediately, and ever after.

Howard’s friends included Maire Mannik, television critic and pioneering computer programmer in the days of punch cards. Chris and Gus Howard, filmmakers, were around one corner, and Flinders film graduate Scott Hicks, his partner Kenny Heyzen, and her son Scott Heyzen, Howard’s beloved Godson, were around another. The Binns Brothers, then publicans at The Crafers, lived at the bottom of Laurel, offering a distinct atmospheric counterpoint to the white timber bungalow with its elegant casements that always breathed Joni Mitchell’s latest a little further up that ivy-twined street. I felt like I was in Vermont.

For a while I crashed at Wayside Cottage, a tiny four-room stone job with a lean-to kitchen. It was the home of Helen Becze, who taught my little sister art at Mount Barker, and her husband Tony, who studied anthropology but as a conscript during the Vietnam War was in charge of colouring the mashed potato at the Woodside barracks. Different ranks had different coloured mashed potato. Howard loved that fool notion. A rock band also seethed in those four rooms, which were famous for exuding more noise than had ever been heard in Stirling. I slept with Gus Howard’s vintage Rogers’ drum kit, various guitars, and a bright orange Marshall stack.

The joint rattled like a percussion section in six Richter whenever a big train went by. And unless there was intrusive consumption underway, it seemed always neat and tidy, with more books than windows. It smelt of Player’s cigarettes, Harris Tweed and curry. In that world of Chiko Rolls and egg combos, Howard always ground his own spices.

He kept an old swaybacked trotting horse called Scruples in a meadow now smothered in Tupperware Tuscany, and shared a pony called Hockey with Little Scott, the Godson he adored. Beyond that, his lifelong interest in the nags concentrated on more risky investments. He certainly never invested much in cars: he drove a battered Mini–Minor with no brakes. I drove him once when he was otherwise abled and at my first attempt at stopping there was nothing. No handbrake; nothing in the pedal; just crazy speed, Howard snoring beside me, and an urgent need to stop. To drive, he engineered a magical awareness of inclines, and always managed to bring that Mini to a halt by swerving at slopes or curbs whenever parking seemed appropriate. On the flat, it was all to do with crushing of gears and a great reserve of blind faith.

We drank and marvelled about music, film and literature. He loved the work of Anthony Burgess. Upon the release of that writer’s masterpiece, Earthly Powers, he would quote its opening sentence where the narrating cardinal recalled being in bed with his catamite when the archbishop called by.

We showed a keen interest in the pharmaceutical world. I recall one mescaline-greased evening being entrapped by the bats feeding on bugs that swarmed around the old round-topped Ampol petrol pumps at Miss Pimms’ Mount Lofty Post Office and General Store, then climbing under the bridge to watch the Melbourne Express roll past, very close focus. That bridge was the point at which the train achieved the apex of its steep climb up the ranges from Adelaide. We’d crouch there in the dark a metre from the wheels as the engines ground over so slowly with their mighty diesels roaring. After momentum and inertia pushed the whole long thousands of tonnes of business over the crest, it was downhill all the way to Victoria, so the diesels would turn off at that exact point and the carriages clanked by faster and very much faster until they were gone.

Old Scholars

1962 Howard Twelftree, John Neylon and John Lyons - the last three original Blackfriars boys

Gone to the same whining, keening silence I now abide. Receding. Damn.

Beginning in The Adelaide Preview, and then in The Adelaide Review, Howard went on to write better food criticism and appreciation and encouragement than anyone else in this country.

He became the best at picking the next biggest, the next nicest, the next most exquisite, be it restaurants, men’s shirts, weird pubs, corrupt pharmacists, Polish vodka, great books, women’s shoes when worn by beautiful women, tailored men’s shirts, perfectly made and presented food, really good shirts and serious drinks. Did I mention the shirts?

Howard was the best at reporting with withering accuracy the nature of meals he’d just had, and the nature of the people he shared them with. He would research every aspect; every ingredient. I will never forget the way in which he observed the table setting. He would simply sit in silence, absorbing every detail of each new dish. Inhaling it. Then he would eat. Forensically.

Much more will be said about his writing career – I look forward to a bound volume. But I have to say it is with some trepidation that I anticipate life without Howard John Twelftree’s confounding, constant thirst and hunger and the exquisite manner with which he recalled his servicing of those desires, and others.

There were many others.

Night, dear brother, and thanks for the ride. You were a beauty.

Mr Philip White
Reunions

Blackfriars old scholars reunions abound – be ready for 2014!

As part of a concerted effort by the BPS Development Office to reconnect with old scholars no less than five reunions have been held so far in 2013. Reunions have been held for the classes of 2012 (1 year), 2003 (10 year), 1993 (20 years), 1983 (30 years) and most recently, 1973 (40 years). Whilst the uptake from the different years has varied the common thread from all is that those who have attended have thoroughly enjoyed revisiting the school and catching up with their ‘old’ classmates afterwards for a meal. A special thanks to Brother Brendan for his role as tour guide extraordinaire but also to Christian Martino [03], Andrew Klecko [93], Mark Valente [83] and Terry Lewis, Michael Leibelt and Michael Delaney [73] for their collective efforts in “finding” old classmates and spreading the news about the reunions for their year levels.

Arrangements are underway for the 2014 reunions so if you are an 04, 94, 84 or 74 graduate and you are able to assist with organising your year, please contact the Development Office, as we are looking to make them even bigger and better than 2013.

Mr Jon Harmer
Old Scholars Liaison Officer

Class of 2003


Right: 2003 Dux Liam Harnett, Tim Hann (Head Prefect) and Michael Weldon (Deputy Head Prefect)

Christian Martino, Lloyd Townsend, Quy Nguyen, Robert Valente, Brendan Robinson, Martin Rocca with his daughter

Liam Harnett, Christian Martino, Jonathon McRostie, Matthew Turner, Jeff Glue, Luca Prisciandaro, Tim Hann, Brendan Robinson enjoying a meal at the Wellington Hotel
Old Scholars

Class of 1993  
Above left: Group photo at the Wine Underground  
Above right: Michael Booth, Luan Nguyen, quá Do enjoying their meal

Class of 1983  
Above left: Old scholars in St Catharine’s  
Above right: Michael Ross, Mark Valente, Angelo Saierno, Dan O’Mahoney, Mark Swan, David Camerotte at the Wellington Hotel.

Class of 1973  
Above left: Members of the class of 1973 gather for a photo opportunity with St Albert  
Above right: Br Brendan O’Hearn OP reunites with former First XVIII footballers he coached Ken Lewis, Terry Lewis and Michael Delaney at the Wellington Hotel.
Ms Calleja Marries Mr Ruggiero ('92)

On Saturday 12 October Blackfriars staff members Victoria Calleja and David Ruggiero were married at Our Lady of Rosary Church Prospect. The service was celebrated by Fr Pat Woods and concelebrated by Fr Mannes Tellis OP, Fr Mark Sexton and Fr Kym Spurling. David arrived at Rosary Church a little later than intended after experiencing a break down in the wedding Jag he was riding in. Ironically, David’s car broke down right outside Blackfriars! Photos followed at St Helen’s Park Prospect and in the grounds of Blackfriars Priory School.

The reception was held at Donato’s Reception Centre with 300 friends and family - many of whom had links to Blackfriars.

The bridal party included four bridesmaids and groomsmen (two were old scholars and one ex-teacher of Blackfriars), two flower girls and two page boys. It was vintage themed; the bride, bridesmaids and flower girls all had their dresses designed and made specially for the occasion.

David and Victoria started dating in September 2009 and were engaged in April 2012. David proposed at Menglers Hill look out in Barossa Valley. The happy couple met through Oreste Farrugia ('92), David’s best man in the wedding and Blackfriars old scholar and current staff member.

On behalf of all members of the Blackfriars community we wish Victoria and David all the best for the future.

2014 Reunions

Is it your reunion year in 2014? Reunions are being planned for the class of 2013, 2004, 1994, 1984 and 1974. If you would like to assist with the organisation of the reunion for your graduating year please contact Jon Harmer on 82696333 or via email jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au.

- Class of 2013
  Monday 17 March 2014
- Class of 2004
  Friday 4 April 2014
- Class of 1994
  Friday 23 May 2014
- Class of 1984
  Friday 27 June 2014
- Class of 1974
  Friday 24 October 2014

Community Events

Mass of Remembrance
St Albert the Great Chapel, 7.30pm
Thursday 7 November

60 Year Diamond Jubilee Ball
Adelaide Convention Centre
Saturday 9 November 2013

Blackfriars 60 Year Mass and Community Birthday
Sunday 10 November 2013
Chapel of St Albert the Great, 11am
Opening of Early Learning Centre, 12noon
Blackfriars Front Oval, 12-5pm

End of Year Mass and Carols
Blackfriars Priory School, 6.30pm
Tuesday 26 November 2013

Open Day
Tuesday 4 March 2014, 5.30-7.30pm

Please visit the school website www.bps.sa.edu.au for the latest details on upcoming events.
Wedding Bells in the Windy City

It’s a long way from Blackfriars to our Dominican sister school; Fenwick High School, Oak Park, Chicago, Illinois, USA. However the tyranny of distance was no obstacle to old scholars from the two schools, Ariana Bresnahan and Simon Della Malva (’04) getting married in August this year.

Ariana and Simon first met in 2004 during the Blackfriars International Water Polo tour visit to Fenwick High School, where Ariana was a student. Good fortune came in two ways for the newlyweds. Firstly, some 10 years earlier Fenwick, which until that stage was the only Dominican boys school in the USA, just as Blackfriars is in Australia, went co-ed. Secondly, the Blackfriars boys have always made time to fit in a day in class with their Water Polo hosts whilst visiting their schools.

The rest, as they say, was history for Ariana and Simon!

Ariana and Simon were married by Fenwick priest, Fr Joe Ekpo who was actually teaching the class in which Ariana and Simon first met. The ceremony was held on August 3 2013 at St James Chapel in downtown Chicago, followed by the reception at The Union League Club of Chicago. Forty family and friends of Simon’s travelled from Australia to attend the wedding (the bridal party included a number of Blackfriars and Fenwick old scholars) and the newlyweds honeymooned for two weeks on the Hawaiian island of Kauai. Ariana moved to Adelaide in 2009 following time spent together both in Adelaide and Chicago and she is now a permanent resident of Australia. Since leaving Blackfriars, Simon graduated from the University of South Australia with a Bachelor of Podiatry in 2007. The couple plans to continue to live in Adelaide, where they work together in Simon’s podiatry practice.

Mr Jon Harmer
Old Scholars Liaison Officer

Old Scholars

Weddings at Blackfriars

The Chapel of St Albert the Great at Blackfriars Priory School is available for weddings. For further information please contact Jon Harmer 8269 6333 or email jhormer@bps.sa.edu.au.