This is my last report for The OPtimist and it is hard to know what to say after being so involved in this community throughout the past seven years. Over the past few months, it has been interesting balancing everything and getting organised on a personal and professional level. After many conversations, it is worth mentioning again that the school our family is heading to in Victoria is in the area where my wife, Dee and I grew up, and where many of our family still live, so we are going home. This position may not have been available again for a number of years, so we had to make a very difficult decision; we had to seize the moment.

In recent weeks I have been asking Thomas, my son, who is in Year 5 at Blackfriars, why he is a “Blacks boy”? He, like his peers and countless old scholars immediately mentions the community and diversity. When I first arrived at Blackfriars, the diversity of our students moving from a predominantly coeducational Anglo school to a boys’ school which had in excess of 40 nationalities, was both exciting and confronting.

I remember regularly chatting with Mr John Lambert, the then Deputy Principal, who was also relatively new to the school, about the students and whether the boys were genuinely being polite and responsive, or were they setting me up. He had the same welcome and we realised the boys were genuine and only wanted to form a relationship and share our story. Any teacher who wants to enjoy their journey at Blackfriars must be prepared to share their story and take an interest and the boys will reciprocate.

What have I learnt? Blackfriars is a Dominican Friars school. When interviewed for the role of Principal I remember trying to encapsulate what being a Dominican school meant. My Marist, Mercy, Josephite, Brigidine and Augustinian experiences were not remotely close as analogies for understanding the charism. On reflection, thank you to the panel for being so understanding.

After seven years, my understanding has grown and in my opinion, Blackfriars is reflective of the charism and the Order, and this is why. In detailing how the school is unique, and why it is different, you have to take the effort to appreciate the history and context of the school, far beyond our little Dominican microcosm of 60 years in Prospect. What many don’t appreciate or realise is the scope and influence of the Order, and internationally, how that has infiltrated the nature of the school through the presence of students, past and present, whose families have been involved in the Dominican world for countless generations all around the world. The Dominicans are so humble that they don’t need to promote themselves and the Dominican Crest is a world-wide phenomenon.

Only through time, another great Dominican trait; interaction with the other Provinces, study and pilgrimage do you start to understand where the school’s character originates, its diversity resembles the Order’s diversity, both are global and acutely socially aware. The boys at Blackfriars understand the importance of social justice and the virtues. They appreciate difference, not just cultural and religious, but also economic and political difference. They do not discriminate and are slow to judge, they are proud, fiercely parochial and loyal to the school, but not in the traditional Old Scholar Philanthropic mentality of pretence and one upmanship that might dominate some of the other schools.

When chatting with old scholars, there is always an awareness and appreciation of the legacy of the Dominican Fathers. The Dominicans have been very generous in their praxis through the years, and this is still a feature of the school, providing an opportunity for families to seek a Dominican Catholic education. If there is a stigma associated with this caritas and stewardship, then those who suffer this piety will never appreciate our community, and it is their loss; they won’t be graced with the opportunity to be immersed in a community which is relevant and reflective of a global community. Blackfriars boys are far more resilient and independent in their thoughts and their ability to communicate across communities and cultures than most other graduates. Throughout the years, the most enjoyable occasions have been the informal times, sharing a conversation with students and hearing their opinions and banter with one another. Like most situations where there is a group of boys together, there is teasing and humour, predominantly these jibes are in the right spirit and once again reflective of the relationship of the Order.

I will miss the Dominican Fathers, in particular our Blackfriars icon, Br Brendan O’Hearn, Fr Mannes Telis, Fr John Neill, Fr Alex Vickers and Fr Anthony Walsh who have all educated me on what it is to be Dominican. I will always be in their debt for their mentorship, support, patience, wisdom and tolerance.

I want to thank and acknowledge all the past and present members of the Board for their support, discernment and patience as new ideas and challenges were presented. I would like to acknowledge the enormous time and energy that Mr Stan Astachnowicz, Mr Luke Holland and Mrs Monique Lawrence sacrificed in supporting the school and me, and in sharing their expertise and wisdom.

Recently, when reflecting on my early days at Blackfriars, the senior students still remember the occasional lecture that Mr Lambert and I “tag-teamed” on to balance the ship when necessary. Without question the school would not have achieved so much, in relation to development and transformation, if Mr
Lambert had not been here to support the Executive and the Board. He was an outstanding support and friend of my family; his help and willingness to participate and attend every school event is now being realised. He has left a void in the place.

Whilst reflecting on development across the school, I must thank Mr David Romaldi and Mr David O’Loughlin for their work on the Master Plan Committee. David Romaldi’s efforts during the construction of the Early Learning Centre were outstanding. Few expected the building to be completed in six months and to be such a success. In the past seven years projects have included the:

- Hallinan Library
- Cassidy Music Centre
- Maher Building, Upstairs
- Frassati Hall
- Primary School Classrooms
- Primary Playground and Verandah
- Paving of the area between O’Hearn and Art/Design Building
- Shade sails in the primary quadrangle
- Boys toilets upgrade
- Joan of Aza, Early Learning Centre
- Prospect Road front fence
- Carpark and lighting
- ICT – DER and Infrastructure

It would be dangerous to acknowledge every person who has contributed to Blackfriars since I have been here and in the past, and I do not want to offend anybody. I do have a special thank you and wish to acknowledge Mrs Aileen La Forgia, my Personal Assistant. Aileen has been a true professional and has been extraordinary in her patience, commitment and tolerance. I thank her for being a great listening post and for suffering my poor humour. Through times of change, Aileen has been exceptional in her loyalty and ability to absorb the pressures of the role. Fr Martin rightly claims that the appointment of Aileen was his greatest legacy.

On reflection, the greatest achievements are not the building developments as they are purely material, it is the successes for the students. On many occasions there would be concerns raised around a particular student year level, usually during the Middle School phase, and by the end of Year 12 the staff and parents would marvel at the results the cohort achieved and the how the boys matured into young men. Every year, at the rites of passage on the Year 12s final day, the Mass and final reflection encapsulated what the school is about. Achieving outstanding ATARs is always great for the school, but witnessing kids get their best result and seeing them bursting with pride is what it is all about.

We take for granted the compassion of our students and the respect they have for the school and the staff. We rarely experience physical bullying or the abuse that prevails at other schools; we never have vandalism or graffiti of any note around the school and the boys have an enormous respect and regard for the staff. They have an understanding and appreciation of the staff at Blackfriars who are tireless and so supportive of all students. I will never forget the relationships that students had with the various faculties and the pride the students had when they represented the school or performed well. I hope the school will always value the importance of the Co-curricular and Music programs, where we have always tried our best to provide the boys with options to enable them to perform and build their self-esteem.

When one considers the value-added results that are generated from various indexes and measures, there is no doubt Blackfriars students achieve far beyond what is expected. This is the result of dedicated teachers and sound pedagogy in an all boys’ setting. Blackfriars boys perform exceptionally well in comparison to other schools and have the added bonus of being global citizens who are sensitive to social etiquette and the Dominican virtues.

My proudest memory will be when the whole school stood as one at Santos Stadium to support one of our great characters, Paul Papanikolaou as he finished the 1500m race. The spontaneous reaction was so genuine and makes you realise how important community is, and how the boys at Blackfriars are better citizens and have so much to teach us as adults.

They have taught me much more than I could ever teach them.

Thanks you for the journey. I will miss all of you. Good luck.

Mr Brian Turner
Principal
Common Ground

As an educator, there are unique experiences in your journey that you will always treasure. Common Ground 2014 was one of these. In Australia, the Dominican Friars own and operate Blackfriars in the spirit of St Dominic. There are an additional seven schools in Australia who share in the Charism of St Dominic and are operated by the Dominican Sisters, from two congregations, in the spirit of St Dominic. Common Ground is an opportunity for all the schools to come together and share in what unites us as a Dominican Family.

Common Ground 2014 was hosted by Blackfriars at Victor Harbor. Sixty like-minded students from Dominican Schools around Australia united in the Charism of St Dominic and shared their experiences of what being Dominican meant to them. Lasting friendships were forged, faith expressed and future possibilities explored. Students explored the Dominican story through a variety of inspirational guest speakers who shared how St Dominic is lived through their life.

Listening to our Australian young people express their passion for social justice, love of learning, deep faith and commitment to building community was a privilege. We can rest assured in the knowledge that our future is in very capable hands.

A special thanks to Mr Oreste Farrugia (REC and class of ’92) and Mr Robert Napoli (APRIM from St Mary’s College) for their dedication and assistance in making Common Ground 2014 a resounding success. We look forward to the continued Common Ground initiatives which have arisen from our conference.

Congratulations to the following boys who were exceptional ambassadors for Blackfriars and true gentlemen.
- Andre Acuna
- Harrison Brickhill
- Emilio Lacar
- Adam Lawler
- Tommy Nguyen
- Jordan Pappas
- Son Pham
- James Phillips
- Sachin Saxena
- CJ Villanueva

Vocations Vigil

Congratulations to our boys Andre Acuna, Michael Tran and Andrew Tran, who were exceptional ambassadors for Blackfriars at the Archbishop’s Mass for Vocations and Prayer Vigil.

The boys led the entire Prayer Vigil for Vocations at the Cathedral on Friday 8 August. The Cathedral large congregation and presence of other Catholic school students did not faze our boys and they led the Prayer Vigil in a very prayerful and dignified manner. The boys were exceptional ambassadors for Blackfriars.

Fr Karl Emerick OP concelebrated the Mass for Vocations and St Mary MacKillop, which preceded the Prayer Vigil and Benediction.

Special thanks also to Mr Oreste Farrugia and Fr Karl Emerick OP for helping to prepare and support the boys last night.

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary and Blessing of the Statue of St Dominic

In the Catholic Liturgical Calendar 15 August is held in honour a truly remarkable woman who is the ultimate human example of living one’s vocation to the full. A woman of great faith who said yes to God’s call despite the challenges it would entail. We have many titles for her, but her simplest title is testimony to her greatness, that of Mary. 15 August is the Feast of the Assumption. This day celebrates that Mary the Mother of God, by humbly living her call as the Mother of Jesus, became so close to God that when she died she entered eternal life in a truly unique manner—that of body and soul. We use this image as an example in our own lives that we must be true to our calling and never lose sight of the importance of God in our lives. We also focus on the joy of our own future resurrection in the knowledge we will live in eternal life with Jesus.

Fittingly, Friday 15 August 2014 will be etched into our Blackfriars history as the day we officially blessed and dedicated the new marble statue of St Dominic; made by our community in Vietnam. The statue is a permanent link to our Vietnam Pilgrimage and extensive Vietnamese Community. St Dominic had a deep and mystical devotion to Mary who he prayed to constantly. In Dominic’s example, may we be inspired by Mary to become open and honest in our prayer life. Brother Brendan OP unveiled the new statue and Fr Karl Emerick OP blessed it. It has been touching to see the number of boys who venerate the statue regularly.

Mr David Ruggiero
Assistant Principal, Religious Identity & Mission
Fr Karl Emerick OP

Congratulations to Fr Karl Emerick OP who was ordained a Priest in Brisbane’s St Stephan’s Cathedral. Mr Vince Fleming and I attended the deeply moving ceremony on Friday 4 July at the Brisbane Cathedral. We are very fortunate to have Fr Karl Emerick OP as an integral member of our school community. It is a luxury to have a full time Priest in a Catholic School today. The faith, wisdom, example, and presence of having both a Priest and Brother on staff is a blessing for our community and we thank the Dominicans for investing into the Religious Identity and Mission of Blackfriars. We ask that you please keep Fr Karl in your prayers as he begins his Priestly Ministry.

Mr David Ruggiero
Assistant Principal, Religious Identity & Mission

Archbishop’s Awards for Excellence

Congratulations to Andrew Tran and Nicky Nguyen who both received the Archbishop’s Award for Excellence. The boys were presented their awards by the Most Reverend Archbishop Philip Wilson DD JCL at the Cathedral on Sunday 14 September 2014.

“Over the years at school I have enjoyed the welcoming and cohesive community. Everyone in the community looks after each other like family.
My hope for the future is to be able to share my knowledge and experience with the next generation and be strongly involved in an active community.”

Nicky Nguyen

“Over the years at school I have enjoyed the many opportunities to question and strengthen my faith. Such experiences as the Vietnam pilgrimage and school retreats have assisted me to reflect on my relationships with family, friends and God.
My hope for the future is to be a positive role model for the next generation and guide them to do what is good.”

Andrew Tran
Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

Dear Community Members,

As this is my first OPtimist article, I thought I would take the opportunity of introducing myself to the extended Blackfriars community. I’m extremely excited to have joined Blackfriars as Deputy Principal, Student Wellbeing and Administration. I am an old scholar (1990) and have maintained an ongoing connection with the old scholars community and Old Scholars Football Club at various times since leaving school. I’m proud to be a ‘Blacks boy’. Since joining Blackfriars at the beginning of Term 2, there have been a significant number of activities and events which have occurred within the school.

**Camps and Retreats**

During Term 2 and 3 we have had both Year 7 and 9 camps as well as our annual Year 12 Retreat.

These off-campus experiences are often those the boys remember well after they leave school. They provide them with an opportunity to learn new skills, reflect and also develop relationships with each other and their teachers in a different environment.

Our Year 7 and 9 camps both have an outdoor education focus and are run in conjunction with Wilderness Escape who specialise in this area. Boys had the opportunity to cook on Trangia’s, ride mountain bikes, complete team building activities and participate in an overnight camping expedition. While this can be challenging for some, the sense of achievement gained by all the boys is clear once they have completed each activity.

During Week 3 of Term 2, our Year 12s travelled to Victor Harbor for their annual three day retreat. The retreat provided the cohort with valuable time to get away from the stressful factors of studying Year 12, and to relax while reflecting on their relationships with peers and with God. “It was an experience that was enjoyed by many and will be considered as a highlight of the year for all Year 12s. Students enjoyed the time to socialise with their peers and teachers without worrying about the chaotic lives we are living during our final year of schooling.”

(Cam)

**Year 12 Formal**

The Year 12s celebrated their Formal at the Ellington Centre on Hackney Road on Friday 20 June. This is a night the boys always look forward to and is a special night in the Year 12 calendar to celebrate with their friends and partners. The boys and their partners looked great and enjoyed the night together with a large number of staff.

**Music**

The music programs at Blackfriars are excellent. The formal curriculum offerings, individual tuition and co-curricular bands and ensembles provide the boys with a wide variety of ways to demonstrate their creative talents. There have been a number of events that our boys have participated in since the beginning of Term 2.

On 9-11 May our boys were involved in the Generations in Jazz Festival. The Stage Band and Senior Vocal Group competed against a range of schools. The boys performed very well and reported the experience was something that will help them improve their skills even further.

On Monday 19 May the first ‘Soiree’ of the year was held in Frassati Hall. As a new member of staff I was very impressed by the quality of the musical performances by the many solo, duo and ensemble items. More important was the obvious enjoyment of the boys in showing off their skills that they have worked so hard to master.

More recently, our boys competed in the ABODA Music Festival and once again performed outstandingly well. The Stage Band was the overall winner of the Intermediate Section which included many highly credentialed schools. Concert Band One received a Silver Award and Concert Band 3 received a Bronze.

**Intercol**

During Week 5 of this term, the many co-curricular teams competed against CBC during the annual Intercol week. This is something of a new tradition (not something that happened when I was at school in the late 80s) that the boys look forward to each year. While the competition is healthy, I was most impressed by the conduct of our boys both as competitors during the game as well as when supporting their peers as spectators. Although the results of the senior teams didn’t quite go as well as we would have liked, the boys did the school proud (and we did win the First XVIII !).

As you can tell there are a large number of events and activities which the boys have an opportunity to participate in. Invariably, these events require the support of staff to ensure they are well organised and supervised. I would like to extend a word of thanks to all our staff for their input into the many programs and activities on offer. From our winter co-curricular coaches and supervisors to staff who have attended the many camps and retreats which have occurred, we have a very generous staff who give up time with their families to provide our boys with so many wonderful opportunities.

Mr Lee Swiderski
Deputy Principal, Student Wellbeing and Administration

During an U/14 football match in 1987
Learning and Teaching

Excellence is defined in terms of every student achieving their personal best and we continually strive as a school to improve the quality of our learning environment. Staff and students are encouraged to reflect, engage in professional learning and drive continuous improvement. Professional Learning will be a focus in 2014 and 2015 as we develop our Learner Management System, implement the Australian Curriculum, review our Curriculum Offerings, develop a BYOT (Bring your Own Technology) Policy and improve our communication to families.

Curriculum Leaders and their teams are currently supporting me to review and innovate our current curriculum (Reception – Year 12) as we live in a world where knowledge itself is constantly growing and evolving. Students need to develop a set of knowledge, skills, and behaviours that apply across curriculum areas to equip them to be lifelong learners and be able to operate with confidence in a complex, information-rich, globalised world. Below is an insight into some of the innovations for 2014.

ICT

Mr Ryan Fleetwood and Mr Jak Francis have embarked on a new innovative Digital Technologies program in the middle years. Recent studies have shown many students do not have the ability to program or code even though it provides such valuable skills as logical thinking, creativity, problem solving and computational thinking. Coding teaches students how to tackle larger problems by breaking them down into smaller ones; it involves creating models of the real world with a certain level of abstraction. In 2014, each of the Year 7 classes commenced having one lesson a week with Mr Jak Francis, learning how to write computer programs using ‘Scratch’. Engagement levels have been outstanding, especially once we started playing self-designed Scratch computer games using a Makey Makey as a controller.

The ICT Committee is recommending that Blackfriars Priory School should be implementing a BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) policy at the commencement of the 2015 school year. In 2008, the Australian Federal Government introduced the DER (Digital Education Revolution), a funded education reform program which helped provide laptop devices to high school students across the country. This funding has now ceased and consequently we want to introduce a BYOT program so students can continue working and learning with 1:1 technology. BYOT will change the nature of schooling, learning and teaching and is designed to give students and families the freedom to make technology choices which suit them and their circumstances.

Blackfriars Priory School recognises that digital technologies provide great educational benefits to students. Digital devices have the potential to encourage student critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration and research skills and prepare students for a digital world beyond school. There are options available to assist families in the process and it is vital we consider the equity of all students.

Science

The Science department have acquired a class set of Lego Mindstorms EV3 robotics kits allowing students to build and program robots. Each combines sensors with an intelligent brick or ‘brain’. The EV3 software has been installed into the computers in classroom M51U which has become our Robotics laboratory. The student designs a program on a computer which is then downloaded via a USB cable into the robot’s brick. The program controls the robot’s movements and sensors. Complex behaviours can be programmed to allow the robot to react to different environments using the in-built sensors. The data-logging capabilities can be used to conduct science investigations which match with the strands, content descriptions and elaborations of the National Curriculum for Science. As well as using the EV3 robots within the Science Curriculum a Robotics Club will be formed to compete in competitions such as the Junior RoboCup, First Lego League and the Computer Programming and Robotics section of the Oliphant Science Awards.

Mathematics

The acceleration of students through Mathematical Studies which starts in Year 8 and has been running for four years now, has for the first time this year allowed students studying at Year 12 to participate in the Headstart Program with Adelaide University. This acceleration allows these students the opportunity to complete Stage 2 Mathematical Studies in Year 11 and then in Year 12 they are able to start their University Studies.

The University of Adelaide’s Headstart Scholarship Program gives high achieving students the opportunity to study at university while still in Year 12, and have these university studies count towards their SACE and ATAR.

While studying at the University part-time, Headstart students not only have the opportunity to find out what university life is like before they even finish school, but also contribute to, and benefit from, the diverse cultural and intellectual life of the University of Adelaide.

Headstart students can choose to replace or supplement their Year 12 subjects with university courses (subjects). Their University grades are recorded, and students are able to credit these grades towards their SACE Stage 2 level studies and ATAR. Headstart students may also receive credit towards their degree studies if they enrol in a University of Adelaide program after high school, enabling them to complete their program of study early or study a wider range of courses than usual. Riley Snoswell and Matthew Astachnowicz in 2014 have both excelled in their recent university results.

Socio Cultural – Humanities

To meet Australian Curriculum achievement standards for History and Geography, all Middle School and Year 10 classes are completing a guided inquiry as an assessment task. These tasks develop students’ ability to devise inquiry questions, analyse and evaluate sources of information, and will allow students to develop the confidence to independently manage research. All excellent preparation before they complete the compulsory Stage 2 Research Project in Year 11.

Year 11 students participated in the annual Student Constitutional Convention held at Parliament House. Only four boys could attend and they did Blackfriars proud, enthusiastically and confidently participating in discussions and debates. Congratulations to Owen Nicholson, Jordan Pappas, William Thomas, and Sachin Saxena.

Mrs Anna Mirasgentis
Acting Principal
St Dominic’s Day was a joyful celebration, which captured the Four Pillars of Dominican Life at Blackfriars: Prayer, Study, Community and Ministry. We began the day with Mass and gave thanks to God for the great work of the Dominicans over the past 61 years and the gift of St Dominic over 800 years ago. Mr Patrick Kelly, President of the Blackfriars Foundation, spoke about the positive influence the Dominicans have had on his life. Mr Kelly challenged us to be people of humility and integrity as we continue to live the example of St Dominic.

Students then worked in House groups, within different academic faculties, challenging their intellectual abilities. Lunch time was a celebration of community, as we enjoyed multicultural food, games and physical challenges. All of the money raised from St Dominic’s Day will be used to support the work of the Dominicans overseas. A special thank you to our community for their generosity, as we raised almost $3500, which will provide much needed food and resources to those in most need.

St Dominic is not Jesus. In fact, no saint would ever want to cast a shadow over Jesus. Instead, saints point us to Jesus. They give us a mechanism and example to see things anew and place our journey back on track. St Dominic had a passion for redirecting people towards the truth of Jesus Christ. Through the power of preaching, teaching and the spiritually inspired intellect, St Dominic expanded the narrow mindedness of people, to see the world and Jesus Christ from a fresh, life-giving perspective. Ignorance and misinformation was the adversary of St Dominic, and his passion for truth (veritas) meant he risked ridicule when he publicly and privately argued for his beliefs and those of the Church.

We pray that the example of St Dominic may inspire our boys (and girls in the ELC) to risk ridicule, as they stubbornly stand for Christ-centred truth and live life with a spiritual abundance.

Special thanks to Fr Karl Emerick OP, who celebrated his first whole school Mass. The boys were very appreciative of the doughnuts they received as part of the celebration for Fr Karl. Thanks needs to be extended to Mr Farrugia and all the staff and students for their assistance in making the day so meaningful.

Mr David Ruggiero
Assistant Principal, Religious Identity & Mission
Early Learning Centre

Has it been a year? The Early Learning Centre held a joint celebration for its first year of operation with St Joan of Aza Feast Day on Monday 4 August. St Joan of Aza (or St Jane of Asa as she is also known) was the mother of St Dominic.

The official party joined children, staff and families as Fr Alex unveiled and blessed the portrait of St Jane of Asa, kindly drawn for us by Father Maurice Keating OP. Father Maurice has completed all of the other Dominican artworks around the school. This will proudly hang in the Early Learning Centre.

This was followed by a shared lunch and ‘Happy Birthday’ with a cake supplied by Fr Karl.

The Early Learning Centre has had a year of consolidation, evaluation and continuous improvement. Enrolment numbers have increased from the 25 families who joined us at the beginning to over 80 families, taking us to near capacity. We began with a staff of four which has now doubled to eight. We maintain a ratio of 1 adult to 10 children in a long day care facility which operates from 7.30am to 6.00pm. Within that time frame we offer a quality kindergarten program. The centre operates five days per week and offers a vacation care program; only closing for two weeks over the Christmas/New Year period.

Many programs have been developed and continue to be an important part of our curriculum.

Soccer with Ernie: Once a week Ernie takes a group of ELC children for a sports session. There is a rotating roster to ensure all get the opportunity to develop gross and fine motor skills in many different forms with Ernie.

Mass: Everyone in the Early Learning Centre takes part in whole school Mass. We cannot manage the whole service but are committed to being there for what we can.

Library: Library visits are organised most days of the week to ensure all children get the opportunity to take part. Each child is able to borrow and Mrs Wilson and ELC staff are working to make the visit not just about borrowing but the library to be seen as a place of learning, exploration and fun.

Nature Education: Fortnightly borrowing from the Nature Education Centre adds a completely different element to our science curriculum. Two families have supported us this year with the collection and return of the creatures. We have observed and recorded the behaviour of hopping mice, lizards, a scorpion, yabby and axolotl to name just a few.

School Tours: The Early Learning Centre is part of the regular monthly school tour.

Community workers: We have had visits from the Police and Ambulance; both enhancing our understanding of how these people help us.

The Early Learning Centre has also taken part in many one-off activities including Primary Sports Day, St Dominic’s Day celebrations and cheering on the boys at basketball and soccer for Intercol.

Fr Karl has taken groups of children and staff into the Chapel to allow us to look carefully at the stories depicted there. He ably explained what was happening in these stories and answered any questions the children had. Fr Karl and staff hope to continue with the Early Learning Centre spending more time in the Chapel.

Primary Sports Day was celebrated on Friday 4 April. The Early Learning Centre took on an active role this year with staff organising a series of stations involving different skills. Balancing bean bags, aiming for soccer goals and egg and spoon relay were activities which encouraged participation by all. We finished off with parachute games; inviting parents to join us.

Book Week was a busy one for the Early Learning Centre. Our children dressed up as their favourite book character and joined the Primary School for the parade. That afternoon we took part in two literacy activity stations again in the Primary area. The following day we were joined by four classes of boys at the ELC. Each selected a book they thought the children would enjoy. They were ‘buddied’ with our children to read and then explore our world. Our final Book Week activity was also our first excursion. Children (with their Teddy Bears), staff and volunteer parents walked to St Helen’s Park to play and have a Teddy Bears Picnic. We were then joined by the children from St Helens Park Kindergarten to be entertained by a story teller. We made it back to Blackfriars very weary.

At Blackfriars Early Learning Centre we continue to grow, explore and evaluate.

Mrs Karen McEntee
Early Learning Centre Director
Reception at Blackfriars

- Small class sizes
- Australian Curriculum
- Specialist teaching in Literacy, Numeracy, Music, Art, Physical Education, Learning Enrichment, Japanese, ICT and English as a Second Language

Limited Reception places are available in 2015 and 2016.

Please contact the Registrar for further information or to arrange a tour:

17 Prospect Rd, Prospect 5082
t: 08 8169 3900
e: registrar@bps.sa.edu.au
www.bps.sa.edu.au
Blackfriars is a Catholic Dominican school whereby life is expressed through the Four Pillars - Prayer, Community, Ministry and Study. There is equal emphasis on each pillar to ensure every member of the school embraces a balanced and holistic approach to life.

Prayer
Celebration of the Sacraments - Confirmation and First Eucharist
During Term 2, 14 students from across the school prepared for and celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist. Archbishop Philip Wilson confirmed the boys on Friday evening 13 June. The following night the boys celebrated their First Eucharist at the 6pm Mass at Rosary Church.

Congratulations are extended to the following boys:
- Henry Mendt
- Lachlan Blow
- Matthew Blow
- Nick Sciancalepore
- Andre Fratini
- Aidan Luther
- Denis Byers
- Luca Provenzano
- Jai Harte
- Jack Slaven
- Damon Spratt
- Joseph Kelly
- Anthony Truong
- James Truong

We pray that God continues to guide them in their spiritual journey.

Community
Since the Autumn edition of the OPtimist, we have welcomed to the Blackfriars school community a number of new students across the Primary School. The following students and their families have commenced their learning journey at Blackfriars since the beginning of the school year.
- Benjamin Glaister - Reception
- Oscar Howard - Year 2
- Mahdi Mohammadi - Year 2
- Sebastian Zajaczkowski - Year 3
- Ashton Glaister - Year 4H
- Ali Mohammadi - Year 6BR

Primary Arts Evening
The Primary Arts Evening was held on Tuesday evening 3 June and was a fantastic showcase of the musical and artistic abilities of our primary students. It was an opportunity for the boys to demonstrate to the school community their commitment to the arts and the skills they have been developing in this very important curriculum area. It is always amazing to observe how the students at such a young age perform so incredibly well in front of such a large audience.

Parent Night with Educational Consultant Bill Hansberry
Bill Hansberry, co-author of the book ‘Raising Beaut Kids: Recipes for Parents on when to say ‘yes’ and how to say ‘no’ ran his highly popular parent workshop at the school on Wednesday 11 June. There were approximately 100 people present to hear Bill share his practical tips on how to be the best resilience coach for our kids and also how to reinforce positive behaviour in children. There was a very positive response to the night from both the parents and staff present.

Parents and Friends Quiz Night
The annual Parents and Friends Quiz Night was held on Friday evening 15 August. The event was held in Frassati Hall with approximately 160 people in attendance. Old scholar and current staff member Mr David Ruggiero was MC for the evening and ensured everyone enjoyed the night.

Father’s Day Stall
The Parents and Friends once again ran the annual Father’s Day Stall which was held over two days, Thursday 4 and Friday 5 September. This was a great opportunity for the boys from Reception to Year 6 to find a special gift for dad. I sincerely hope all dads enjoyed their special day!

Grandfriend’s Morning
On Friday 12 September the Primary School celebrated Grandfriend’s Morning. All classes (Reception to Year 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 and friends who are understandably very proud of their grandsons.
Ministry

Feast of St Dominic
The school celebrated the Feast of St Dominic on Thursday 7 August. All students gathered in the Neill Gymnasium for a Eucharistic celebration which highlighted our Dominican heritage and values. Following Mass the students participated in a number of activities including orienteering, cooking and solving puzzles before joining the senior boys for lunch time games and feasting. The students and teachers were out and about in the fine weather and everyone enjoyed the celebration!

Study
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 that 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

Mathematics
- Australian Mathematics Competition
- Start Smart Financial Literacy Sessions

Science
- Celebration of Science Week - Star Gazing Night

Arts
- Primary Arts Evening
- ABODA Music Festival
- Annual Blackfriars Music Concert
- Catholic School’s Music Festival
- Footsteps Dance

Physical Education
- Catholic Schools Athletics Carnival
- Catholic Schools Cross Country Carnival
- Knockout Soccer matches
- Maccas Cup Football

Health
- Road Safety Visit

Oral Language Program
This year the school has introduced an Oral Language Program aimed at assisting children in the development of their literacy skills. Oral language is viewed as the foundation for the development of literacy skills. In addition to regular classroom instruction, the selected Reception students attend oral language lessons for 20 minutes, three times a week.

The introduction of the Oral Language Program is a proactive measure determined to benefit the students and represents the schools’ commitment to ensuring every student achieves the necessary literacy skills to be able to fully participate confidently in the classroom.

SAPSASA Knockout Soccer
The Year 6/7 Soccer team has made it through to the final of the SAPSASA Knockout Competition. The boys worked hard for a 3-2 victory over arch rival Christian Brothers College (CBC) in the semi final. Their opponent in the final is Nazareth College. The final was played on Thursday 25 September at Paradise Primary School. The result was a 2-2 draw and both teams were declared the winner of the competition. Well done boys!

Mr Todd La Forgia
Deputy Principal, Head of Primary
Annual Music Concert
A very big thank you to all who were involved in our Annual Concert on Friday 5 September. The night was a great success, with our largest audience attendance to date and a truly dynamic and entertaining range of repertoire performed by each of the ensembles. The evening consisted of our talented Year 5 student Charlie Griffin, preparing the audience with his tapping feet, before a mixed large ensemble was displayed to the stage performing Pharell William’s “Happy”. Thank you to students in Mr Panzarino’s Year 10 Media class for providing our very own Blackfriars “Happy” film clip, featuring a range of staff and students.

The evening continued with a high sense of energy with items such as the 6/7 Choir’s version of “Counting Stars”, the 3/4/5 Choir rocking it out to AC/DC’s “It's a Long Way to the Top if You Want to Rock and Roll”, our Year 2 heart breakers performing “Achy Breaky Heart”, to Percussion Ensemble 2’s thrilling performance with their glowing, illuminated drum sticks and the Stage Band’s winning ABODA items, such as their well performed version of Chicago’s “Make Me Smile”. The evening was finely compered by staff member Miss Alison de Souza and Year 7 Music Student, Jordan Mareolas. The pair worked collaboratively to provide the audience with a wonderful dialogue and introduction to each item, with many jokes along the way. Our Music Captain, Patrick Mori, gave a wonderful welcome to our audience while thanks also goes to Thomas Lawler, Matthew Astachnowicz, Jonathan Trieu and Anthony Gosti for speaking on the night, providing an insight and their appreciation of the Music Program throughout their schooling at Blackfriars.

The evening concluded with a presentation to students involved in the winning ABODA Festival, as well as the 15 Year 12 students who are involved in the Music Program. A special rendition of INXS’ “Need You Tonight” was performed by the Year 12 students, followed by “Never Tear Us Apart” which featured all involved students on the stage and was our Grand Finale. It was a wonderful way to conclude the evening with such an involved, enthusiastic and memorable performance by all students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all administration, maintenance, leadership and teaching staff who offered their support. Thank you to our wonderful instrumental staff and ensemble leaders in preparing the students on the night. Thank you to all the parents for allowing and supporting their son’s role within the Music Faculty; we appreciate all the extra time and contributions you make to the school community. Lastly, thank you to Mr Charli Holoubek, Mrs Libby Hunter and Miss Marie Wohling who work tirelessly in preparation for this performance, giving their utmost dedication, passion and support.

We already have our thinking caps on for what may be in store for next year’s Annual Concert.

Stage Band ABC 891 Performance
It was with great delight that on Wednesday 10 September the Stage Band performed on ABC 891 Breakfast Radio. The band was invited by broadcasters David Bevan and Matthew Abraham to perform on the show as part of a competition winning segment. We later found out that by coincidence, the competition winner was Peter O’Dwyer, an old scholar and former Head Prefect of Blackfriars. The boys arrived very early at the ABC studios and performed in a professional manner, demonstrating their strong commitment and dedication to the Music Program and Blackfriars. The band worked seamlessly with the requests of the producers and were commended on their approach and enthusiasm to the performance. At the conclusion of the segment the students were given a tour by ABC Managing Director Drew Radford of the newsroom, Radio Studio and TV Studio, as well as a nice hot drink to warm us all up. A big thank you to all the parents who came to support the Stage Band as well as staff Mr David Ruggiero and Mrs Victoria Ruggiero, it was very much appreciated and these events are truly not possible without your efforts.

Catholic School’s Music Festival
Our music performances conclude this term with the Catholic School’s Music Festival. In Week 10, all students involved in the 6/7 Choir, Big Band Theory and Stage Band will perform throughout the week. We also have a Baritone group and brass players who have been rehearsing weekly with students from a variety of other Catholic School’s across Adelaide.

AMEB and Eisteddfod Results
Congratulations to Declan Poole who received Honours in his recent AMEB Grade 2 Theory Exam. Also, a very special mention to flute students Nathan Dang and Gabriel Ng’eno who recently competed in the Flute Eisteddfod. Nathan received first place in his Grade 4 competition and second place in the Under 12 Division, and Gabriel received second place in the Grade 4 section. Well done to their instrumental tutor Cassandra Boath for achieving such pleasing results with her students. If students are interested in participating in AMEB exams please do not hesitate to contact me.

A highly involved term with a strong sense of dedication has been demonstrated by everyone. A large expression of my gratitude to everyone and in Friedrich Nietzsche’s words:

“The Essence of All Beautiful Art, All Great Art, is Gratitude”.

Miss Jessica Reppucci
Music Coordinator
Annual Music Concert
Congratulations to Aladin Irabona on his selection and representation in the state Open School boys’ soccer team which was held in Sydney during Term 3.

Congratulations to William Thomas who won the State Medal as the best Debater, he has also been invited out to the State Debating Team. It is great to see him in action.

Congratulations to old scholar Jonathon Hayes who has won the 2014 McCallum Tomkins Medal as the best-and-fairest Under 18 SANFL player representing North Adelaide, tallying 19 votes playing in the midfield.

North Adelaide Football club had a very successful year also winning the reserves medal and the club champions title.

Congratulations to the Year 8/9 Indoor Soccer team who has won the State Championship for the second year running.

Well done to the Blackfriars Open Badminton team who finished 3rd in the Open State titles.

Well done to the Year 10 Squash team who finished runner up in the Year 10 State Competition. The boys had a very good season but just fell short to miss out on the title.

The Year 8/9 5-a-side soccer team finished 3rd in the state being knocked out in the semi-finals. The one that got away!

Winter Sports Highlights

• Congratulations to Aladin Irabona on his selection and representation in the state Open School boys’ soccer team which was held in Sydney during Term 3.
• Congratulations to William Thomas who won the State Medal as the best Debater, he has also been invited out to the State Debating Team. It is great to see him in action.
• Congratulations to old scholar Jonathon Hayes who has won the 2014 McCallum Tomkins Medal as the best-and-fairest Under 18 SANFL player representing North Adelaide, tallying 19 votes playing in the midfield.
• North Adelaide Football club had a very successful year also winning the reserves medal and the club champions title.
• Congratulations to the Year 8/9 Indoor Soccer team who has won the State Championship for the second year running.
• Well done to the Blackfriars Open Badminton team who finished 3rd in the Open State titles.
• Well done to the Year 10 Squash team who finished runner up in the Year 10 State Competition. The boys had a very good season but just fell short to miss out on the title.
• The Year 8/9 5-a-side soccer team finished 3rd in the state being knocked out in the semi-finals. The one that got away!

Mr Leo Panzarino
Sports Master & Director of Co-curricular Activities
The Year 8/9 Indoor Soccer team after winning the State Championship for the second year running.

The Third XI Soccer team beat Cabra in the Cabra Cup 3–1.

The Year 10 Football team following a good win in the mud, scoring 8.14 to St Peter’s 2.3.

First XI after defeating St Peter’s 2–1 for the Old Scholars Invitational Cup.

Patrick Stewart in action with the Year 8/9 A Basketball Team

The Second XVIII Football Team
The Senior B Debating Team had a memorable year, finishing it off with a stirring performance in the SADA Grand Final on Sunday 7 September, which they unfortunately lost to St Peter’s College by the narrowest of margins. The topic of a compulsory tax on junk food made for a humorous debate which St Peter’s College won in a split decision (two adjudicators awarded the debate to Saint Peters, and one adjudicator awarded it to Blackfriars).

Chief Justice Kourakis, the patron of the SA Debating Association, awarded the trophies as well as the Peter Batty medal for the best speaker which was won by our entertaining third speaker, William Thomas.

On Thursday 4 September, Blackfriars was involved in the annual Dominican Cup against St Dominic’s Priory College. The Senior Team consisting of Sachin Saxena, Gabriel Rus, William Thomas and Owen Nicholson won the Sr Jill Havey Trophy for the first time ever in the existence of the Dominican Cup. The complexities of illegal downloading were hotly debated between two outstanding debating teams. The middle team consisting of Connor Watson, Zachary Smith and Daniel Khuong Nguyen narrowly lost their engaging debate on the Australian Curriculum to St Dominic’s. The Fr John Neill trophy was awarded to the winning team.

The Caleruega Cup for junior debaters also went to St Dominic’s in a debate about the efficacy of Reality Television. Blackfriars fielded a team with two first time debaters because of unavailability of regular team members, and put together a very good effort. Regular debater, Bowen Sun worked well with novices, Tony Nguyen and Phi An Trinh.

The Dominican Cup was hosted by St Dominic’s and judging by the size of the audience, the event has grown into an important and entertaining event for both schools.

Mr Robert Becker
From the Archives

It’s Academic 1970’s

In 1972 the ‘It’s Academic’ team of Michael Vnuk, Michael Lutt, John Crozier and Stephen Foote, under the supervision and training of Mr Peter Eglinton, won the South Australian Title and went on to come second in the National Title, a very prestigious achievement. Each participant received a cheque for $1500, a gold pen and pencil set; the school received a set of Encyclopaedias and recording equipment. Further to that the team, with the coach, won a trip to Hong Kong, Singapore and Bangkok.

A few years later in 1973, a similar result was recorded when Michael’s brother, Joseph Vnuk, was the team leader. This year, the ‘It’s Academic Team’ won the title in the South Australian competition and came second in the National competition. Captained by Joseph Vnuk, brother of Michael Vnuk, The team mirrored the achievement of the 1972 team. Other members of this team were Stephen Guerin, Michael Howard, and Martin Hayward, coached as before by Mr Peter Eglinton.

However, this year there was no trip to Hong Kong as a prize.

Br Brendan O’Hearn OP
Archivist

Congratulations to Dr Andrew Wilson who recently completed his PhD. Andrew started his PhD in 2007 and submitted his thesis in September 2013, conferred 12 March 2014. The purpose of his research project was to investigate the impact of 10 minute active lesson breaks in primary schools.

“The ‘active lesson break’ was a 10 minute period in which the students were active outside the classroom, participating in minor games to increase their heart rate. The study was conducted entirely at Blackfriars, so only looked at the effect on boys education. To investigate any possible impact the active break might have, I measured students’ attention levels, on-task behaviour in the classroom and their daily physical activity. The short active breaks from the classroom did not alter students’ attention levels or on-task behaviour immediately upon returning to the classroom, or for the remainder of the lesson. The active lesson break however, increased daily vigorous physical activity, and therefore shows promise as a physical activity promotion strategy for school children, while minimising disruption to classroom learning.”

“Currently I am doing research (in conjunction with researchers from UniSA) into the sleep habits and stress levels in Year 11 and 12 students. This is a study that started back in 2007 in which Year 11 and 12 students from schools across Adelaide were surveyed including students from Blackfriars. Senior students were again surveyed in the same schools in 2010. Hopefully in 2014 the survey can again be conducted in schools across Adelaide to investigate whether there has been a change in the stress levels or sleep habits of students entering their last years of secondary schooling.”

Dr Andrew Wilson
Ahead of the upcoming Blackfriars Foundation Annual General Meeting, I have written to the School Board to outline the commitment the Foundation has to building upon the successful start to our work supporting the school. The letter included a number of strategic short and long term goals that I would like to share with you.

**Annual giving**
Following a successful start to Annual Giving in 2012-13 we were unable to continue the momentum so crucial to an effective Annual Giving program in 2013-14. This was due to the absence of a clear building program to align with the Annual Giving strategy. We are determined to address this by working with the School Board more closely to align our commitment to those identified projects that will be aided by this form of financial support. The need to have information relating to Annual Giving out to our community by early May every year is vital to the program’s success.

**Scholarship maintenance**
As was evidenced by the gifts received through the Annual Giving campaign in 2012-13 there exists a desire for segments of our community to support Blackfriars through providing assistance for scholarships. The Foundation wishes to facilitate this and has now taken the first step in developing its own charitable scholarship fund to support this aim.

**Capital fundraising campaign(s)**
As Blackfriars revises and develops it Master Plan, the Foundation wishes to position itself to support the school’s major building projects through capital fundraising campaigns. Contingent upon the success of such a campaign, when the time is appropriate, is the ongoing nature of the Alumni relations and an Annual Giving program for the purposes of donor prospect research. As is the case with scholarships, the Foundation has now taken its first step in developing a charitable building fund to support this aim.

**Bequest program**
A hallmark of successful philanthropy in education is the establishment of a formal program to facilitate the granting of bequests. The Foundation plans to embark upon this formalisation once our Alumni engagement has reached a sufficient level.

**Alumni engagement**
The Foundation seeks to engage with our broad community through the establishment of a small number of specific events (e.g. annual business lunch) as well as through participation in an appropriate manner at school events (e.g. fetes, graduations, etc). We also have a vision to be at the forefront of using digital technologies to engage with as many alumni as possible. This will assist in valuable donor research as well as broadening the base for smaller fundraising initiatives.

The Foundation Board is committed to working in close collaboration with the School Board and School Leadership to work towards the achievement of these stated goals. We look forward to the support of our entire Blackfriars community in this work.

**Mr Patrick Kelly**
President Blackfriars Priory School Foundation

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**Annual General Meeting Invitation**

By way of further articulating the goals the Foundation has in support for Blackfriars, I would like to extend an invitation to any interested members of our community to attend the Foundation’s AGM on Monday 27 October at 7.30pm in the Hallinan Library.

Following the formalities of the AGM, Greg Campitelli, a fundraising professional with significant experience in Catholic schools in Victoria will be speaking to us. Greg has an impressive track record in assisting schools and not-for-profit agencies in transforming the vision of a culture of philanthropy into reality through all aspects of community engagement. Greg is providing his time and expertise at no cost to the Foundation.

**Christmas Eve, End of Year Reunion**

The 2014 Blackfriars Christmas Eve reunion will hopefully be the first of many such reunions to be held at this time of year into the future.

With many ‘old boys’ only returning to Adelaide from interstate or overseas during the Christmas period, it seemed the obvious time (and place) to get together. So come and get “Pally at the Cali” on Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24 December at the Caledonian Hotel, North Adelaide (2-5pm) with happy hour drink prices and free nibbles.

To make this a success we need you there! All old scholars, staff, parents, friends, past and present are welcome.

Please RSVP to Jon Harmer via email jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au.
Wine and Cheese Night

The Blackfriars Foundation Wine and Cheese Night was held in the Neill Gymnasium on Friday 16 May.

A large crowd consisting of past and present members of the Blackfriars community were in attendance to support this first major fundraising event for the Blackfriars Foundation.

Thank you to major sponsors Adelaide Fresh Fruiterers, Say Cheese and O’Connell Street Bakery for generously providing supper on the night. Thanks also to the many wineries listed below, most of which have links with old scholars of Blackfriars, who generously donated wines to be tasted for the benefit of our guests on the night.

Thank you to our wine sponsors
- Tapestry
- Thorn-Clarke
- Sons of Eden
- Primo Estate
- Stoneleigh
- Orlando Wines
- Festival City
- Howard Vineyard
- Campo Viejo
- Jacob’s Creek
- Adelaide Festival Centre
- Hardy’s Tintara

In closing, a collective thank you to the parents, friends, students, staff and old scholars who assisted. We raised approximately $6,000 for the Foundation.

Mr Jon Harmer
Old Scholars Liaison
On Friday 27 June members of the Blackfriars Class of 1984 attended their 30 Year reunion. Particular thanks to David Meegan, Michael Den Dekker, John McGovern and Phil Alderson for their collective efforts in getting a sizeable group of ‘old boys’ and their partners along. Michael Boddington won the award for having travelled the greatest distance, making his way from Shanghai in China to come home to Adelaide for the weekend. Predictably enough Andrew Simpson provided some colourful anecdotes on the night, much to the amusement of the 40 or so old boys and their partners in attendance. Particular thanks to staff members Mrs Rita Purvis and Mr Chris Packer for attending and reuniting with some of their ex students from 20 + years ago. It certainly adds to the occasion with the boys reuniting with their past teachers. Once again the night ended as most do, with some old scholars admitting to being uncertain about coming to a school reunion but almost all, without exception, being very glad they did!

Mr Jon Harmer
Old Scholars Liaison
Class of 1994 - 20 Year Reunion

On Friday 23 May, members of the Blackfriars Class of 1994 gathered for their 20 Year Reunion. With Antonio De Palma very generously filling in at various stages of the night as guest Master of Ceremonies the ‘boys’ embraced the drinks, nibbles and tour of the school with many an old story and anecdote of days gone by! Thankfully Br Brendan was in attendance once again and helped sort out fact from fiction with the storytellers. The night continued with a meal at the Wellington Hotel and apparently continued for some time after that! Particular thanks to Grant Price who travelled all the way from Dubai to make the event. Grant, Luke Holland and Ben Holland worked exhaustively in the months leading up to the night to get as many of the Class of 94 along as possible. A good night was had by all!

Mr Jon Harmer
Old Scholar Liaison
“Blackfriars will be premiers, just you wait and see!”

Blackfriars Old Scholars Football Club is proudly flying the Premiership flag after defeating Rosewater by 79 points in the SAAFL Division 6 Grand Final at Mitcham Football Club on 13 September (23.10-148 to 9.15-69).

The Hounds, who secured the minor premiership with a 16-2 minor-round win/loss record and defeated West Croydon by 23 points in the second semi-final, broke the match open with a massive second quarter and finished the job in the final term.

Goal kickers: Mark Demasi 7, Trav Hillman 5, Sam Horsell 3, Matt Brincat, Phuoc Vo, Jack Sandercock, Michael Iuliano, Luke Murphy, Dylan Richardson, Andrew Demasi, Andrew Daziani.

Best players: Simon Grgic, Matt Brincat, Mark Demasi, Phuoc Vo, Sam Horsell, Michael Iuliano.

Tireless ruckman Matt Brincat set the tone for the Hounds’ midfield intensity and gave creative on-ballers Sam Horsell, Brad Hillman, Phuoc Vo, Michael Iuliano and Shaun Curtis first use of the ball. Forwards Mark Demasi and Trav Hillman made great use of the quick and accurate delivery to kick 12 goals between them, ably supported by Jack Sandercock and Andrew Demasi. Patrick Harmer and Alex Dellamalva led another outstanding performance by the back six, with James Faik and Simon Grgic providing run from defence.

Making the Grand Final secured promotion to SAAFL D5 and D5R in 2015. Winning the 2014 Premiership has been the perfect reward for all of the players, volunteers, supporters and staff who have been working so hard for the club. It was BOSFC’s third flag in just nine seasons, and having only missed the finals once in our history, the Hounds will again be striving for the ultimate success next year.

BOSFC would like to thank the Blackfriars Priory School and Old Scholars communities, for the generous support they’ve shown us this season and in previous years. We would also like to thank our major sponsors, The Wellington Hotel, Thomas Foods, North Adelaide Village, Dulux and Lucia’s Fine Foods, along with all of our other generous partners.

2014 Award Winners

A Grade:
- Best & Fairest (John Belton Medal) - Matt Brincat
- Runner-up – Phuoc Vo
- Leading Goal Kicker – Trav Hillman (67 goals)
- Best Team Man – Patrick Harmer & Ben Hutton
- Coach’s Award – Luke Murphy & Michael Iuliano
- Rising Star – Jack Sandercock

Reserves:
- Best and Fairest (Lee Swiderski Medal) – Matt Sandford
- Runner-up – Luca Prisciandaro
- Leading Goal Kicker – Jamie Histed (27 goals)
- Best Team Man – Michael Clarke
- Coach’s Award – Nick Wood
with Kara; I was teaching anatomy at the Dutch Caribbean island of Sint Maarten the PhD, then in late 2004 moved to the deep-set basketball rivalry! I finished more great people, despite an already that was a wonderful experience with offered a lectureship at Flinders Uni; About halfway through my PhD I was both made a long list of fabulous friends. and I met whilst playing there and we the club. Most importantly, my wife Kara and the Griffins my whole time at university, particularly sport; I played basketball for Uni was also great for other things, after the dissecting room. Adelaide of experience in teaching and looking to learn new things, and to gain LOTS some great people, lots of opportunity just opened a multimillion pound Clinical Anatomy Skills Centre]. It’s nice to know you’re doing well too; last year I was awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, a real honour that is not usually given to scientists! I also have the pleasure of doing lots of work with the Royal College, so even though it is a give-give relationship, I feel really privileged. In 2013 I also got to do a bit of TV work; I did a short piece for BBC1’s the Culture Show, and featured in both episodes of a two-part documentary series for BBC4, which aired in the UK early in 2014. They were lots of fun to make but it’s very odd to see yourself on TV. My favourite memories of Blackfriars are the ones that have really set me up for all of the stuff above. Most important with my work is probably the excellent science teaching I received, in particular from Alan Crierie; the little bit of human biology we covered really did something and clicked perfectly at school and again at uni. Another highlight was the music programme, and in particular, the 1993 band tour to Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Macau. Having staff like John Kelley not only inspired all of us to have a life-long love of a great variety of music, but also putting together such an amazing trip opened our eyes to the world in a way we could have never done on our own at that stage. I still play my sax quite a bit (and on stage with friends on the odd occasion) and really have a huge amount of thanks to give to John, Charli Holoubek and Don Whiffen – amazing teachers who put up with all of our antics and kick-started a pretty major and fun part of our lives that still hasn’t stopped. I have no plans to return to Australia as yet, but life in academia can change pretty quickly when opportunity comes knocking, so you never know. When next I’m back though, I might have to track some of these guys down for a well earned thank you drink or three!

Quentin Fogg (1995)

I finished at Blacks in 1995 and went straight to the University of Adelaide. There I did a BSc majoring in microbiology/immunology and anatomy, graduating in 1999. The anatomy stuff was my favourite by a long way, so I came back the following year to do an Honours degree in Anatomy. I got a first class grade at the end of that, and a bit of teaching experience that I really loved, so I stayed on to do a PhD in Anatomy. I started off wanting to solve all the anatomical/functional problems in the wrist, but ended up four years later with a 275 page book pretty much about one little bone! It was great fun though with some great people, lots of opportunity to learn new things, and to gain LOTS of experience in teaching and looking after the dissecting room. Adelaide Uni was also great for other things, particularly sport; I played basketball for the Griffins my whole time at university, and eventually was elected president of the club. Most importantly, my wife Kara and I met whilst playing there and we both made a long list of fabulous friends. About halfway through my PhD I was offered a lectureship at Flinders Uni; that was a wonderful experience with more great people, despite an already deep-set basketball rivalry! I finished the PhD, then in late 2004 moved to the Dutch Caribbean island of Sint Maarten with Kara; I was teaching anatomy at Clare Valley. We then moved to Glasgow where we still live. I’m now a Senior Lecturer and Facilities Manager of the Laboratory of Human Anatomy at the University of Glasgow. Kara is both the admin person for the Master of Fine Arts programme and a Study Abroad Officer at the Glasgow School of Art. We both enjoy working at really famous and historic institutions (mine was founded in 1451!!) and LOVE Glasgow; it’s a crazy place, rightly famed for its wonderfully friendly people, great live music every night and an internationally renowned arts scene. It’s not renowned for its weather, but I actually really like it, and it doesn’t rain as much as the locals say. I’m still very much involved in sport, especially basketball (although injury has prevented me staying competitive – I’m now coaching and officiating), as is Kara (she’s much fitter though, and plays for a great local team). We have no kids as yet, so are enjoying the many pubs, restaurants, gigs and galleries Glasgow has to offer as often as we can.

My job is great as I get to juggle lots of research (I mostly look at bones and joints from an orthopaedic surgery perspective, along with other areas of surgical anatomy), teaching (anatomy of the whole body to everyone from 1st year medics and a range of science students, to trainee and consultant surgeons) and admin (managing our anatomy facility, training staff, liaising with donors, etc). I love working in a place with so much history and with amazing facilities I we
Michael Boddington (1984)

After school I studied agriculture and graduated from Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1987 and joined PIC, a pig genetics company. I lived in Murray Bridge, Tamworth and Toowoomba and then moved to Manila in 1997. After a year in Manila I relocated to Shanghai in 1998, and then joined Alltech Biotechnology and moved to Beijing. In 2007, I founded Asian Agribusiness Consulting & Asian Agribusiness Recruitment, Training & Development – our business is to advise our clients on their China and Asian strategy and to identify and select their talent. We focus on agribusiness in Asia with offices in Beijing & Ho Chi Minh City.

Life has been interesting and I have been lucky to move to China at an exciting time enjoying life there before it was popular to live there and now, when everyone wants to be part of the China story. I have had a keen interest in China since studying Chinese History in Year 9. With Adelaide so close to China and so many Chinese keen to purchase clean, fresh and green Aussie food Blackfriars should do what it can to offer Chinese language and history classes to provide graduates an opportunity to access this market; it made a difference to my life.

I haven’t started a family yet and I will eventually return to Adelaide, it is such a great city with the bluest of skies and fresh clean air and also the odd good drop of wine at reasonable prices.

I have many fond memories of Blackfriars, playing basketball in the gym, the Blackfriars vs Whitefriars weekends and the mateship with my colleges. Last but not least, there has always been a special type of teacher that taught at Blackfriars and our teachers made learning interesting, rewarding and fun!

In Memory of Peter Michell

We were shocked and saddened by the news that old scholar Peter Michell (1987) passed away suddenly aged 43.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Peter is pictured performing in The Cinderella Story from the 1987 Blackfriars Year Book.

Jonathon Hayes (2013)

Above: Congratulations to old scholar Jonathon Hayes [2013] from North Adelaide Football Club who has been awarded the SANFL U18 McCallum Tomkins Medal as the best-and-fairest Under 18 SANFL player! Jonathon was Captain of the Blackfriars First XVIII last year and was also the Best and Fairest winner.

Announcements

Above: Christine and Oreste Farrugia (1992) were married on 22 April 2014. Bestman was David Ruggerio (1992) and his sister Mrs Olimpia Calleja was Matron of Honor.


Above: Congratulations to Matt Belton (1997) and Rebecca Piovesan on the birth of their son Angus James Belton on March 10 2014 weighing 3.3kgs.

Submissions

To make a submission to the next edition of the OPTimist contact Rachel Elgar in the Development Office via email to relgar@bps.sa.edu.au.

Old scholar enquiries please contact Jon Harmer jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au

Event Calendar

Please visit the school website bps.sa.edu.au for the latest details on all upcoming events.

- **Community Day**, Sunday 9 November 2014
- **End of Year Mass and Carols Evening**, Tuesday 25 November 2014
- **Christmas Eve / End of Year Reunion**, Wednesday 24 December - All old scholars, staff, parents, friends, past and present are welcome. Caledonian Hotel, North Adelaide (2-5pm) happy hour drink prices and free nibbles

2014 Reunions

- **Class of 1963 & 1964** - Saturday 25 October 2014
  10.30am tour of BPS (meet at front of St Catharine's) followed by lunch 1pm, Caledonian Hotel, North Adelaide - for more information please contact Mike Lyons mike.lyons@grapevine.com.au

2015 Reunions

Calling all graduates from the classes of 2014, 2005, 1995, 1985, 1975 & 1955! Reunions are being organised for the following dates. Please contact Jon Harmer on 8169 3936 or via email jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au for more information or to register.

- **Class of 2014** - Monday 16 March 2015
  Contact: Thomas Lawler and Cam Den Dekker

- **Class of 2005** - Friday 3 April 2015
  Contact: Sam Oosterholt email: samoosterholt@gmail.com

- **Class of 1995** - Friday 15 May 2015
  Contact: Marcello Caiazza email: marcello@caiazzo.com or Tom Zed tomzed78@gmail.com

- **Class of 1985** - Friday 14 August 2015
  Contact: John Belton email: john.belton@fyfe.com.au or Andrew Saint email: tax@asaint.com.au

- **Class of 1975** - Friday 23 October 2015
  Contact Paul Belton email: pbelton@rostrevor.sa.edu.au or Joe Bayer email: jj_bayer@outlook.com

- **Class of 1955 Plus** - Friday 20 November 2015
  Contact: John Balkwill email: thenook@chariot.net.au or Peter Meaney email: andrina.meaney@optusnet.com.au

Blackfriars Priory School Foundation
invites you to the inaugural

**President’s Business Luncheon**

Friday 21 November 2014
12.30pm – 2.30pm

Barton’s Restaurant - Caledonian Hotel, North Adelaide

Guest Speakers
Leon Bignell, Member for Mawson and BPS old scholar (1984)
Domenic Cassisi, Captain Port Adelaide Football Club 2009 - 2012

$75 per head including canapés followed by a four course meal, beer and wines

Door prizes, business card draw, network and promote your business, silent auction items

RSVP by Friday 7 November to Jon Harmer
Phone: 0417 812 544 or email: jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au

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