From the Principal

Having spent nearly one year at Blackfriars, I can reflect positively on our achievements to date. We have achieved a number of excellent outcomes across many areas in the school with academic achievement, such as NAPLAN and subject competitions and in co-curricular activities. The school has held a successful art exhibition, along with a number of highly successful music concerts - such as our Annual Music Concert at Woodville Town Hall and participation in the Catholic Music Festival at the Festival Theatre.

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, feedback from staff, students and parents is regularly sought and during the year we have asked all groups to report back on their satisfaction with the school. This feedback has been closely monitored and acted on and is now also being used to help inform the next phase of our Strategic Plan. I am pleased to note some of the highlights during the last term, upgrades to our facilities and plans for the future.

Intercol and Co-Curricular

Thank you to all staff and students for their participation and support of the 2015 Intercol. Our players competed with great spirit against Christian Brothers College across six areas: Chess, Debating, Soccer, Table Tennis, Basketball and Football. The final results saw Christian Brothers College winning three of the events (Basketball, Football-AFL, and Table Tennis); two were tied (Chess and Soccer) and one event (Debating) was won by Blackfriars. The standard of competition increases each year and strong crowds attended many of the events.

Our ongoing success across so many areas in the school is indicative of the hard work from both our students and staff. In other sports, we have enjoyed considerable success in Soccer, Badminton and Lacrosse. Our Music Program is a great strength of the school and in Debating our boys performed exceptionally well at State and Dominican Cup levels. In recognising our coaches, players, parents and Team Managers, I would also like to thank Mr Panzarino and Mr Vo for the wonderful commitment they show in organising our co-curricular program.

Improvements in NAPLAN Results for 2015

Our academic results improved across many areas of the NAPLAN testing this year. In comparison with 2014, the School made improvements in its mean scores in 13 of the 20 areas. There were also many good news stories in terms of student growth. Generally, Band Levels have improved or remained consistent. NAPLAN tests five areas: Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy.

In Year 3, one area of improvement (Grammar and Punctuation) was noted. Ongoing strategies are in place in the Early Years targeting Reading, Writing and Spelling.

In Year 5, all areas (Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy) showed improvement.

In Year 7, improvements have been made in four out of five areas (Reading,
With this process, Dr Paul Kilvert, as we engage the services of a consultant to assist us next three years. We have engaged the phase of strategic planning for the school year, we enter a new exciting year.

As we enter the conclusion of the year, we look at growth results and trending data throughout the school. It is important to ensure ongoing improvements continue to learn and grow into being life-long students, parents, staff, old scholars and Foundation Board members about a range of matters.

Like many other schools, Blackfriars Priory School is underpinned by its successful educational program; however, it currently faces significant challenges as outlined by Dr Kilvert:

- the imperative to continue strengthening the educational achievements of its students.
- the decline in the number of school-age students in the South Australian cohort during the coming decades.
- the increasing competition between schools for student numbers in the inner Adelaide area.
- the imperative for the school to manage its educational program within available resources.
- the challenge to strengthen its learning programs to prepare students for life and work in a world that is constantly and continually transforming through advances in technology and globalisation, whilst maintaining the core commitment to the four Pillars of Dominican Life.

As a school we are well placed to meet these challenges. We have a culture and tradition of success which provides the foundation to address the future in a constructive and positive manner, rather than a reactive and negative one.

The development of the new Strategic Plan provides the Blackfriars community with the opportunity to:

- affirm the centrality of the Dominican ethos in the lives of boys and girls in the Early Learning Centre and young boys/men from Reception to Year 12.
- consolidate and celebrate the school’s current successes.
- identify specific areas for student development to assist students in embracing the challenges of the future.
- address areas necessary for the improvement of organisational performance.
- build a forward-looking commitment and culture.

A number of key themes in our next Strategic Plan will involve a commitment to:

1. Educating all our students in the Dominican ethos, with the four pillars underpinning everything we do and strive to achieve.
2. Focusing on achieving high quality outcomes in Literacy and Numeracy for all students.
3. Developing a contemporary pedagogical framework for boys’ education – ensuring that critical thinking, ethnic and intercultural understanding, personal and social skills, problem solving and collaboration are central themes in this approach.
4. Developing ongoing and appropriate strategies to incorporate the effective uses of learning technologies into the everyday lives of students.
5. Developing an evidence based and research driven Wellbeing Framework and contemporary Pastoral Care Program, drawing on our Dominican ethos, linked to areas such as Restorative Justice and Positive Psychology.
6. Ensuring that our learning and teaching spaces are designed to meet the 21st century learning needs of all students.

We look forward to concluding this work by December of this year and implementing our new plan for 2016. I thank the School Board for their work to date and all teaching and non-teaching staff for their ongoing commitment to ensuring high quality outcomes for all students.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity of wishing all students and families a very holy, happy Christmas and new year!

Dr Sean Mangan
Principal

Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy - Writing was close to 2014 results.

In Year 9, improvements have been made in four out of five areas (Reading, Writing, Spelling, Numeracy) – Grammar and Punctuation was similar to 2014.

We were very pleased when we viewed these results and acknowledge the hard work of our staff. We recognise the importance of obtaining strong results in Literacy and Numeracy and specific programs (Literacy Project and Reading2Learn) are now in place to ensure ongoing improvements continue throughout the school. It is important to look at growth results and trend data over time to provide a balanced picture. Pleasingly, many of the trend graphs indicate positive improvement and growth of students’ progress through the school with positive results from each stage of NAPLAN testing.

Upgrade to areas in our Primary Setting

Students and staff have been engaged in a process of re-designing our primary years precinct and play area. The plans are now in place for a more engaging space that will allow for indoor/outdoor learning areas along with improved play space areas incorporating gardens, harvest produce areas, and a range of different features to engage students in learning and recreation. I thank Mrs Mirasgentis, Executive Deputy Principal, for her work in chairing and leading the Primary Precinct Committee and the Foundation who have fundraised for the area.

We also have plans to upgrade three Junior Primary classroom areas, ensuring that they are developed into more contemporary learning spaces with more flexible learning areas for boys to learn and grow into being life-long learners. Our school architect, David Romaldi, has worked on or contributed to both projects and we look forward to this work being ready for the 2016 school year.

Our next Strategic Plan (2016-2018)

As we enter the conclusion of the school year, we enter a new exciting phase of strategic planning for the next three years. We have engaged the services of a consultant to assist us with this process, Dr Paul Kilvert, as we wanted to take a fresh look at how we are currently performing and how we best progress into the future. By now, Dr Kilvert will have sought views from students, parents, staff, old scholars and Foundation Board members about a range of matters.

From the Principal
**STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) - Mr Duro Dobrijevic, Science Curriculum Leader**

At Blackfriars Priory School, STEM is more than just another educational acronym. With studies showing that 75% of future jobs in Australia will be STEM related, many schools are beginning to focus on these subjects to help their students gain the skills needed for the future job market. Students will need to be innovative, creative, solution driven, good communicators, team players and confident in taking risks. The goal of a STEM education is to boost student engagement in STEM subjects from a very young age and increase participation in STEM courses and career pathways, equipping them along the way with the knowledge, skills and capabilities they will need.

Blackfriars is introducing STEM into its curriculum as hands-on, project-based learning experiences with real world relevance. Projects typically begin with a brief that allows children to follow their natural curiosities in finding their own solution. They keep journals, record their observations and sketch their designs for engineering challenges. Science literacy is crucial to a successful STEM program as students will need to be proficient in a range of scientific writing genres such as technical reports, proposals and articles.

The project-based STEM program is complemented by a broader move in the Science department to adopt an inquiry approach to science lessons which emphasises hands-on learning and drawing conclusions from evidence and data.

The idea of STEM is to simulate the work of scientists and engineers in the real world who invariably work in teams, document their work and operate within the constraints of a budget and time frame. This year, students have engaged in automotive projects, designing drone systems to detect faulty powerline cables and insulators, optimising solar water pumping systems and competitive robotics. In its first year, the Blackfriars robotics team, Blackbots, won second place in the soccer category of the SA Robocup Junior 2015.

The projects trialled this year have generated an enthusiastic response from both students and staff. This is an exciting time for the school as the program begins to broaden from its trial phase to eventually reach all students enrolled at Blackfriars from ELC to Year 12. Thank you to Mr Duro Dobrijevic, Science Curriculum Leader, who is leading this dynamic team.

**Concept to Creation Expo**

Congratulations to Year 8 students Matthew Borg, Philip Clark, Francesco Freda, Alexander Giannopoulos and Tony Ho for winning the Cruze Build Challenge at the C2C (Concept to Creation) Expo at the Golden Grove Arts Centre recently.

The C2C Program was developed by NAMIG (Northern Advanced Manufacturing Industry Group) Inc to provide a way for schools and industry in Northern Adelaide to work together to provide students with industry experience and assistance as they create their own C2C projects. Recently the program has expanded, making the C2C model available to schools outside the northern suburbs of Adelaide.

Through a suite of programs and activities, C2C introduces a product life cycle approach to science, maths and technology education helping schools and students to develop the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of advanced manufacturing processes and possibilities through a problem-based learning approach.

At the expo, teams were scored on their technical reports, visual display and challenge performance. Judges consisted of professional staff from GM Holden and C2C. Special thanks to mentors Ms Charlotte Berrill and Mr Michael Parrella.

**Journalism Team**

The creation of the enterprise program reflects the school’s commitment to teaching students essential knowledge, skills and values to underpin their life journey and enable them to make a successful transition from school to further education, training and employment. The Journalism Program is an entrepreneurial project which allows young people to be innovative and enterprising individuals who are able to communicate and work effectively with their local and national community.

Changing patterns of work require young people to be enterprising and innovative and to have a set of qualities and competencies to shape their futures, create their own work and continue learning throughout their lives.

Blackfriars Priory School has created a learning culture that enables students to identify, create, initiate and successfully manage personal, business, work and community opportunities.

Eight Year 11 students have led the Journalism Enterprise Program. The students originally aimed to create a magazine for teenage boys, as their research revealed there were limited magazines available for this age group. In week one the students identified their target market; males aged from 13-18. The students deliberated on the most appropriate name and developed a survey to gain a deeper understanding of their target market.

Initially they identified with the name ‘Young Gentlemen’s Magazine’. Through the collation of survey results they gained quality feedback from their target audience that had them rethinking the title. The surveys raised further questions and the students were eager to explore these through the development of focus groups. These focus groups consisted of students from Year 7 to Year 12 who were asked a series of questions in order to gain an understanding of this age group’s interests, priorities and lifestyle. The name, style, logo and content of the magazine were an outcomes of these focus groups.

The nature of this program provides students with the opportunity to be entrepreneurial and links the curriculum to the world of work; enabling students to network with people from business and the community to develop their capabilities and enterprising skills which promote learning that is life long and life wide. The shared pedagogy empowers students to make decisions and my role as a facilitator of learning ensures the development of student confidence, self-esteem and a rounded sense of purpose and fulfilment.

**Mrs Anna Mirasgentis**

Executive Deputy Principal, Learning & Teaching
'The Wingman' became the name for our magazine which, as the title signifies, is designed to be a valuable source of solidarity, support and understanding. The wingman in our magazine can be the voice of reason, a listener, social support or an expert on a topic. The Wingman magazine is a friend that will lead you through life's challenges and open up opportunities that can be explored further. You will be entertained, informed, persuaded and supported. People tend to just forget about teenagers and assume that we will be fine by ourselves. But sometimes we just need a bit more than that; we need somebody, or more importantly, something that we can relate to. That's the aim. That's the goal. Teenage life will never be easy, but we want to help make it easier for you as you journey through school and beyond. Boys need love, compassion and support just as much as girls do.

We have had some help on our own journey. Putting together this magazine has been a massive project which couldn’t have been done without assistance from a number of people who have believed in this initiative since the very beginning.

Firstly we would like to thank Daniel Balacco, Improvement Coordinator at DECD, who was a great help as we struggled to work our way through the seedy world of statistics and data. With Daniel’s expertise we were able to figure out just what boys aged 13-18 wanted in the magazine, making sure that the product could be enjoyed and accessible to all.

Adam Troyn, who is a young entrepreneur, also shared his educational journey at Blackfriars and highlighted the skills required for success. He is the owner of three successful businesses; one of which is Kampus a website that links industry with local students.

Matthew Emerick, a journalist for the Catholic Leader, and Tom Zed a freelance journalist and media adviser assisted us by critiquing our work, outlining the values and ethical behaviour that underpins the work of a journalist and demonstrated how we could produce a more polished and professional product. They demonstrated the work of an editor and discussed at length the importance of layout and visuals. They also outlined their educational and career pathway in journalism.

We would like to thank all our mentors:
- Daniel Balacco – School Improvement Coordinator - DECD
- Matthew Emerick – Editor of the Catholic Leader Magazine in Brisbane
- Adam Troyn – Entrepreneur
- Tom Zed – Journalist and Media Adviser
- Rebecca DiGirolamo – Journalist of the Southern Cross
- Peter Fear – Creative Arts and Technology Teacher
- Peter Syndicas – Promotion and Marketing Officer
- Lucy Cousins – Editor of Dolly

Our mentors are as much a part of ‘The Wingman’ as we are. The first issue of ‘The Wingman’ magazine will be available later this term.

Thank you

Thomas Glancy, Thomas O’Donnell, Charlie Dubois, Jebin Thomas, Ben Santos, Nathaniel Preece, David Calleja and Kabir Handa

Mrs Anna Mirasgentis
Executive Deputy Principal, Learning & Teaching
Indigenous Immersion

As part of Reconciliation Week Blackfriars held its first Indigenous Immersion. Together with Mr Farrugia and Mr Fleming, I accompanied a group of Year 10 boys to Nepabunna Aboriginal Community located within the first Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) in Australia in the Northern Flinders Ranges. There we were immersed in experiences of faith, culture, nature, spirituality, stories, friendship and family. The experience destroyed stereotypes for our boys and built bridges of true reconciliation. We left Nepabunna richer and with a desire to live a slower life with greater simplicity and a deeper faith. The following students attended the immersion: Toby Hellewell, Harry Hite, Daniel Jarmyn, Daniel Dalzell, Patrick Stewart, James Renney, Harry Mears, James Neate, Luis Lawrie-Lattanzio and Lachlan Blow. The following are reflections from Harry Mears and James Renney.

Mr David Ruggiero
Assistant Principal
Religious Identity and Mission

Student Reflections

We stayed with the Aboriginal people for a week and during this time we gained a better understanding of their culture, history and way of life. We were immersed within a group of Aboriginal elders of the Adnyamathanha people of the Northern Flinders Ranges. These elders took us to some amazing dream time story sites and explained how their spirituality is connected to the land. At night time the local children joined us and we shared meals together, sang songs and got to know each other on a personal level. I didn’t know what to expect from the immersion but I am so glad that I volunteered to attend as I have matured immensely. The experience opened my eyes to what it means to be Aboriginal and how much we can learn from the Aboriginal people. I will always remember Kelvin and the people of Nepabunna. I hope that I can do my bit in promoting Aboriginal culture and bring about positive change for the Aboriginal people in whatever I do in life.

Harry Mears, Year 10

James Renney, Year 10

The main focus of the trip was to gain a better understanding of the Indigenous culture and to break the stereotypical views of Aboriginal people held by some within our society. We met the elders of the Adnyamathanha people living in Nepabunna and our relationship deepened throughout the trip. Although we visited some breathtakingly beautiful places and awesome Sacred Sites, I feel the best part of the trip was getting to know the Aboriginal people and their stories. Nepabunna has a small population and having the opportunity to share meals, learn about aboriginal culture and listen to dreaming stories changed me quite dramatically. It was an amazing experience and one I will share for the rest of my life so as to give others a true understanding of reconciliation and Aboriginal people.

James Renney, Year 10

800 Year Celebrations

2015 is our warm up year for the biggest celebration in our Dominican History as the Order of Preachers celebrates 800 years in 2016. Next year there will be a numerous celebrations to mark this auspicious occasion with many opportunities for old scholars to be involved, including the 800 Year Dinner on Friday 19 August 2016 at Donato Reception Centre.

However, the most significant celebration will be the pilgrimage In the Footsteps of St Dominic and World Youth Day. The pilgrimage, organised by our Chaplain Fr Karl Emerick OP, will be available for anyone interested in walking through the history of St Dominic in Europe and experiencing World Youth Day in Poland. If you would like to be involved in assisting in the organisation of our 800 Years, please email me at druggiero@bps.sa.edu.au

Mr David Ruggiero
Assistant Principal
Religious Identity and Mission
National Student Constitutional Convention, Canberra 2016

Year 11 student Josef Szegedi (pictured) has been chosen to represent South Australia at the National Student Constitutional Convention in Canberra next March. Earlier this year Josef took part in the South Australian Convention at Parliament House where the participating students debated whether ‘Australia should become a Republic?’ Josef confidently articulated his point of view and was able to effectively rebut the arguments of other students. Teachers from the participating schools watching the debate were asked to rate student’s ability and the feedback was most favourable for Josef. However, this was only the first step in being selected for the Canberra Convention. Josef then needed to write a short essay discussing the same topic. The quality of Josef’s essay combined with his debating skills, have led to his selection for the National Convention to be held from Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 March 2016 at Parliament House, Canberra. From all at Blackfriars, congratulations Josef and all the best in Canberra.

Ms Kathleen Johnson

SASI Water Polo Scholarship Winner

Year 11 student Caelan Grooby was recently awarded a scholarship as part of the SASI - South Australian Sports Institute, Water Polo Program. Caelan is one of seven people in the state (four males and three females) to receive this prestigious offer on the back of his outstanding performances in the recent 16 & Under National titles in Hobart. This is an exceptional opportunity for Caelan and well deserved. He is to be congratulated for his efforts thus far, particularly in the light of the severe injuries he suffered to his wrist and arm in a career threatening accident just over two years ago.

Subsequent to receiving the SASI Scholarship Caelan has recently been selected to represent the Adelaide Jets mens team against West Sydney in the first round of the Australian National Water Polo League in Sydney.

Well done and good luck Caelan.

Mr Jon Harmer
Community Relations Officer/Foundation
We celebrated St Dominic’s Feast Day on Monday 3 August. The festivities began with Mass, celebrated by Fr Karl Emerick, with the homily delivered by Fr John Neill. It was great to welcome back Fr John Neill, Blackfriars longest serving Headmaster. Each year we also strive to provide an interesting speaker who, as an old scholar, can inspire us to achieve our absolute best; whether it is academically, spiritually, emotionally or physically. This year we selected Dr Simon Jenkins. Dr Jenkins attended Blackfriars Priory School from 1983 to 1987, where he vividly recalls studying Latin, Mathematics and Science. Brother Brendan and Mr Chris Packer were among his favourite teachers. Dr Jenkins recalls spending many of his lunch hours playing chess or cards. He also played a lot of basketball, happily remembering a Whitefriars interstate trip.

Dr Sean Mangan
Principal

Blackfriars Best in Mathematics

Blackfriars once again hosted the annual Mathematics Quiz night with three talented junior teams (Years 7 to 10) and seven equally talented senior teams (Years 11 and 12). Our junior teams enjoyed the evening and tried their best but were not victorious on the night; they will come back next year charged with enthusiasm. Our senior teams fought hard and we are very proud to announce that our Year 12 team consisting of Kevin Ly, Tommy Nguyen, Gabriel Rus and Anthony Damiani won the prestigious best Mathematics category while another of our teams combining the talents of Year 11 and 12 students Sachin Saxena, Jebin Thomas, Tharun Kathiravan and Matthew Ferragamo won the Best General Knowledge category. Our competition on the night came from Pembroke, St Peters Boys, St Aloysius and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College. Mr Jak Francis was our emcee and Mr Dom Catalano headed up our marking team while Mr Phil Alderson, Mr Dan Winter, Mr Blair Wimshurst and last but never least Mr Chris Packer made up the staff team. It was a very entertaining night with fierce competition and lots of fun and our congratulations go not only to the winning teams but to all the other boys who took part and had fun.

Junior team members:
Silas Koo, Kelvin Tang, Daniel Dang, Sea Koohakeaw

Senior team members:
Daniel Harker, Peter Le, Kevin Phan, Danny Nguyen, Huy Do, Nhan Tran, Hao Ngo, Danny Nguyen, Zachary Rodrigues, William Thomas, Adam Lawler, Aaron Thomas (3rd overall) Jimmy Vo, Triet Le, Bill Duong, Thien Truong, Tony Nguyen, Tommy Huynh, David Condon-Thomas, Kenny Cao, Mathew Manchappillil, Nam Pham, Hy Nguyen, Phi Trinh, Johnson Le, Lap Hoang

Mrs Valerie Frost
St Dominic’s Feast Day
On Thursday 10 September students from Years 2 to 12 participated in the annual Blackfriars concert at the Woodville Town Hall. After a day of busy rehearsals and set up, it was warming to see a record breaking crowd supporting the talents of our Blackfriars students. The concert opened with a special ‘Blacks Boys’ rendition of Uptown Funk with all students involved in the performance participating on the stage. The Year 2’s played ‘Toffee Apple’ on the recorders, the 3/4/5 choir sky rocketed with ‘Geronimo’, the 6/7 choir got their ‘Old Time Rock and Roll’ on and the Stage Band got the audience moving with the Latin song ‘Mambone’. It was also a special evening with the inaugural performance of Stage Band 2, who were accompanied by Mr Charli Holoubek.

All three concert bands provided a large sound which filled the hall, while the Senior Vocal Group got their groove on with their renditions of ‘My Girl’ and ‘Goodnight Sweetheart’. The guitar, flute, saxophone and percussion ensembles also demonstrated the high energy and commitment demonstrated by the instrumental teachers and their groups. The concert concluded with a song describing the importance of coming together ‘Hey Brother’ which allowed the evening to finish in high spirits and gusto.

A large event like this does not go without many thanks and much gratitude to all involved. A big thank you to all administration, maintenance and teaching staff. To our father/son duo Luke and Andrew Brickhill for compering and multitude of jokes. Thank you to all parents for supporting the event and assistance with the pack up and set up. To all instrumental staff who helped prepare the students for the performance. To Charli, Libby and Marie for the constant dedication and work with the boys. Finally thank you to all students who were involved, they absolutely exemplified VERITAS.

### Catholic School’s Music Festival

From Monday 21 September to Thursday 24 September Blackfriars had a strong student representation at the Catholic School’s Music Festival. Throughout the week a group of senior students formed the Combined Baritone group with students from CBC, Cabra, St Michael’s and Sacred Heart Middle School. On Monday 21 September the Sound Benders, Harmonics and Senior Vocal Groups entertained people in the piano bar section of the foyer as a pre-performance on the opening night of the Festival. On Tuesday evening, the 6/7 Choir, who have been working extremely hard from the beginning of the year, captivated the audience as part of the Festival Choir with their vocal abilities and energetic actions. A big thank you to Mrs Libby Hunter who devotes many hours to preparing the choir for this wonderful performance opportunity. On Tuesday evening Blackfriars also showcased a support act, with the Big Band Theory performing ‘It’s a Beautiful Day’. On Wednesday evening the Glen Miller medley especially written by Mr Charli Holoubek for the Festival was performed by the Stage Band and the Baritone Group had their final of four performances in a big closing night on Thursday. The Catholic School’s Music Festival is a week of sharing the common interest in music, forming friendships and working together as a whole towards a common goal. It truly encapsulates the spirit within the Catholic schools community.

Thank you to all parents who support the Music education and involvement of their son’s and for giving them the opportunity to exemplify MUSIC, COMMUNITY, SPIRIT.

I would like to personally thank all of the boys who have supported us in our recent events and in the times of busily organising and preparing, they always seem to make us laugh and smile.

In the words of Khalil Gibran “Music is the language of the Spirit. It opens the secret of life, bringing peace abolishing strife”.

**Miss Jessica Repucci**  
Music Curriculum Leader
Joshua Wightman, Minh Tran, Nathaniel Preece in the Stage Band.

Concert Band 3 featuring Harry Boyd-Turner’s solo.

Year 3/4/5 choir performing ‘Say Geronimo’.

Cameron Brown, Joshua Wightman and Patrick Ryan.

Gabriel Ngeno giving his Music Vice - Captain speech.

Attaullah Qasimy performing a solo as part of the Senior Vocal Group performance.

Emilio Lacar singing ‘It’s a Beautiful Day’ as part of The Big Band Theory.

Alex Hunter and Cooper Webber performing as part of the Concert Band 2.
To enhance their learning and understanding of Ancient China, Year 7 students took part in a three hour clay workshop to create their own terracotta warriors. A number of Middle School staff from English, History and Creative Arts departments worked together to develop this integrated unit. Staff took part in a PD session with the Visual Arts teacher to make their own warrior prior to the workshop.

As a part of their English and History studies students read the novel The Year of the Tiger by Alison Lloyd, and researched the history of the Qin and Han Dynasties. To further their understanding and to synthesise their knowledge creatively the students designed and produced their own warrior from earthenware clay. Students’ learning was enriched by their ability to draw on the skills, knowledge and understanding across all three curriculum areas. Their clay warriors were highly successful due to the depth of research they had undertaken in their key classes. They were extremely excited, creative and focussed in their application on the day, and every student was able to produce a successful finished product. Every warrior is highly individual and unique, just like the original Chinese Warriors, and our amazing cohort of boys. They thoroughly enjoyed the activity and found it to be a highlight of their studies this semester.

“I was inspired by the terracotta warriors because it was very interesting that there were 8,000 of them protecting only Emperor Qin. I was most interested in this topic; anything about history inspires me to find out as much as I can.” Ben T

“Some of the strengths of my warrior is that I am glad with my feet because that was my hardest bit and I think I did it really well. I am also happy with my shield and armour because I made it unique by adding patterns. I really enjoyed this activity and I would love to do it again.” Cooper O’Leary

Mrs Robyn Carmody
Art Teacher

Terracotta Warriors come to life in the Middle School
The Year 12 Formal was held at the Ellington on Hackney Road on Friday 19 June. Year 12 boys invited partners from a range of other schools and were absolute gentlemen on the night.
The last few months have been abuzz in the Primary School with a multitude of learning experiences, excursions, music and sporting competitions taking place. I wish to acknowledge all the boys in the Primary School for their contributions to the life of the school. I also thank the staff for their efforts, presence and guidance along the way.

**Celebration of the Sacraments: Confirmation and First Communion**

On the evenings of 11 and 16 of September, nine students celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation at Rosary Church. Father Philip Marshall, the Vicar General of the Adelaide Archdiocese, confirmed each of the boys who were supported by family, friends and staff.

The boys then celebrated their First Communion with Fr Alex Vickers and the Rosary Parish community at a number of weekly parish masses.

We congratulate the following students: Sebastian Zajaczkowski, Mattaus Piep-Regan, Alexander Zeuner, Stefan Zienkiewicz, Dominic Nguyen, Nathaniel Forby, Sebastian dos Santos, Jack Hobby, Declan Dunne and Ethan Blazejak (First Communion).

**Primary Literacy Project**

Throughout this year a focus for the staff in the Primary School has been to look at how we continue to improve literacy outcomes for the students.

The key aspects of this improvement plan include:

- Developing a whole of Primary School approach to literacy improvement
- Developing a consistent language that is used to teach literacy R-6
- Teachers planning in teams and in collaboration with Blackfriars literacy staff and literacy consultants from Catholic Education SA
- Accountability - teachers are released and expected to share results with the wider staff on an ongoing basis
- Developing an integrated approach to literacy learning through writing rather than as a separate curriculum areas.

The project is expected to be a long term project spanning the next three years. It has also been complemented this year by the schools participation in an oral language project facilitated by Catholic Education SA. This has enabled two Junior Primary teachers and their classes to work side by side with a speech pathologist to implement strategies to develop oral language skills, which are critical skills in the formation of literacy success. The project has been running all year and during Term 4 will extend to the Early Learning Centre.

**Reception Start Date**

Recently, there has been a review of the Same First Day Start Policy for Reception students. As a result of this review, Catholic schools can provide two intakes (Term 1 and Term 3) for Reception students. From 2016 Blackfriars Priory School will provide this option in line with the new policy of Catholic Education South Australia.

The new policy operates within the following parameters:

- Children starting in Reception in Term 3 will have a minimum of six terms in Reception
- The criteria for starting Reception on the first day of school in Term 1 continues to be that the child will attain the age of five on or before 30 April in that year.
- The criteria for starting Reception on the first day of school in Term 3 is that the child will have attained the age of five on or before 31 October in that year.
- Children whose birthday falls between 1 November and 31 December are not eligible to commence school before the following year.

If you have any questions regarding this new policy or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at ttaforgia@bps.sa.edu.au.

**Environments for Learning**

Throughout this year the staff within the Primary School have also been investigating the environments we provide for learning. We recognise the environment as an integral part of the learning process, both inside and out.

There have been several initiatives introduced to the outdoor space to foster play and provide the boys with more options during break times. Now, apart from playing on the oval and in the quadrangle or going to the library, our boys can choose from options like playing imaginatively in the new construction space, drawing on blackboards or playing chess or giant Connect-4. Soon a water play space will be established where the boys can connect funnels, pipes and tubing together. We will also introduce natural materials like tree stumps and rocks where again, the boys can learn and play together.

Much of this research and inspiration has been formed by teachers in the Primary School and Early Learning Centre, who have been working with Catholic Education SA on a project which explores the idea of re-imagining childhood and in particular the Reggio Emilia approach to education.

**Looking Forward - Learning Spaces!**

Over the approaching summer holidays further work will be carried out on the Primary learning spaces. Classrooms will again be refurbished and include an indoor/outdoor learning space, new furnishings and wet areas. Redevelopment of the primary quadrangle is also in the planning stage. Each of these spaces are great places for learning and teaching and continue the commitment of the school in providing environments conducive to how children learn best in the Primary years.

**Mr Todd La Forgia**
Deputy Principal- Head of Primary School
Grandfriends Day

*Hoa Phan and Sebastian Ferencuk*

*Jackson Talbot from the Early Learning Centre with his Nanny*

*Thomas Riley with his Grandmother*

*Sienna Fedojuk from the Early Learning Centre with her Grandma*

*Aedan Ryan with his Grandparents*

*Jack Brown and his Grandmother*

*Fletcher Wright with his Grandparents*

*Angus Kemp*
The winter months at the Early Learning Centre don’t stop the outside area offering a huge variety of learning options. The garden looks, smells and feels completely different with the rain falling. Children are encouraged to bring gumboots, umbrellas and rain coats; and they love it. This is the time when you can stomp in puddles, catch the rain on your tongue and run faster than the drops fall.

We learn that rain doesn’t hurt if it’s not too hard and that thunder can be loud or soft; near or far but lightning can be dangerous and to stay inside. Digging in the garden is harder with wet soil and that sand sticks together better when wet (although we know that from using the watercourse in the sandpit as well).

Our Term 2 Topic: Children, Engagement and the Environment

Our focus for the term’s inquiry began with: How do we as co-learners support children’s engagement in learning?

The answer: Educators will
• foster active investigations
• encourage collaboration
• provide choice
• build upon prior knowledge
• listen to what children are talking about and build experiences from this
• nurture independent thinking

The Early Years Learning Framework Learning Outcome 4 runs parallel to this focus.

“Children are confident and involved learners”

Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, co-operation, creativity, purposefulness, persistence and enthusiasm.

Children will express wonder and interest in their environment.

Children will use play to investigate, imagine and explore ideas.

Children will follow and extend their own interests with enthusiasm, energy and concentration.

Children will participate in a variety of rich and meaningful inquiry-based experiences.

What does this mean for us as educators?
It means we listen intently to children, build relationships, encourage exploration and curiosity through questioning, extend praise for effort and commitment and offer learning environments that are not only inviting and flexible but are also responsive to the abilities and interests of each child.

Our Term 3 Topic: Learning as a Process of Group Construction

This term’s inquiry began with the question: How do we as educators facilitate group collaboration?

The answer: Educators will
• extend play periods
• encourage collaboration
• facilitate group discussions
• build upon prior knowledge
• listen to what children are talking about and build experiences from this
• nurture children’s respect for the ideas of others
• scaffold role play
• support self directed learning

The Early Years Learning Framework Learning Outcome 5
“Children are Effective Communicators”

Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes.

Children convey and construct messages with purpose and confidence.

Children contribute their ideas and experiences in play, small and large group discussions.

Children express ideas and feelings and understand and respect the perspective of others.

“Co-operation is learned”

When children have many opportunities to experiment with these skills of collaboration and negotiation, they arrive at them naturally in ways that are increasingly highly evolved and gratifying.

(Vecchi 2004)

Mrs Karen McEntee
Director Early Learning Centre
How do we hear children’s voice? How do children lead their own learning?

At the Early Learning Centre we listen rather than talk and we support rather than make decisions for children. All children have the opportunity to decide for themselves in which direction their learning/play will take them. The structure and the routine of the Centre enable children to choose curriculum areas of play: maths/science, language/literacy, the arts and all the outdoor environment has to offer. Intertwined with this is the opportunity to develop curiosity, exploration, discovery, investigation and that all important love of learning.

All children have a journal into which they record their plan for the day. Weekly, children take part in discussions listing activities they would like to have access to for the following week. The role of staff is to encourage all to have that voice, to support their choices, to ensure they have the necessary resources for their play to move forward and to ensure that all learning opportunities extend children’s skills and abilities.

An example: A group of the children listed ‘a fairy garden’ as a play activity they desired. Plans were made for an area next to the sandpit to be utilised. The children assisted with the digging, sweeping and layout of the area. Staff supported with the acquisition of pretend turf (they wanted grass), plants, windmill, pebbles and teaset. The children then placed and re-placed until all was as they wished. The result is a bright, colourful, exciting place for fairies to visit. All are welcome to visit.

Mrs Karen McEntee
Director Early Learning Centre

Learning Through Play - Primary

Increased play options in the Primary School

Over the past few weeks we have been working with our boys to provide more options at playtime in order to promote having fun, the learning of new social skills and to build our sense of community. Some teachers have been working with the Catholic Education Office on a project which explores the idea of re-imagining childhood. We are using the principles of the Reggio Emilia Approach to guide our research. Using some of our research findings about environments that allow for learning through play, we have surveyed the boys to find out what kinds of options they are interested in. As a result, we are introducing the boys to a variety of new play options over the next term and beyond. Now, apart from playing on the oval and in the quadrangle or going to the library, our boys can choose from options like playing imaginatively in our new construction playzone or practising their artistic skills on blackboards or playing giant chess or giant Connect Four. Soon, we will set up a water playzone where the boys can connect funnels, pipes and tubing together to make all sorts of plumbing contraptions. Using natural materials like tree stumps and rocks will be getting the boys to design a sit down and stepping stone area where they can sit and talk or just play around.

In time, we will set up an outdoor stage for budding performers and puppeteers. If you happen to have any gear you would be prepared to donate that you think we might be able to use, please contact me. Sturdy crates, PVC pipes, flexible tubing, funnels and the like are what we need at the moment. It would be great if someone had an old canoe or rowing boat they no longer wanted. The boys loved the idea of setting up a jungle adventure playzone.

As we roll out these fun playzones, another committee of which I am a member, is looking into redevelopment of the area outside the classrooms which at the moment is a little hard on the eye and in need of some upgrading. We would like to introduce more organic features and have places which allow for more outdoor learning as well as comfortable places to sit and eat or talk. Once again, Reggio Emilia principles will play an important role in guiding our work. A localised Primary version of the Sacred Garden is being investigated. Stay tuned for more information about this project at a later date.

Mr John Niedzwiecki
Assistant to the Head of Primary
Primary Wellbeing Committee
The Intercol Competition between Blackfriars and CBC, held in Week 5 of Term 3, marked the end of the school’s winter co-curricular program. The contest runs over a school week with sporting and intellectual activities testing students from both schools.

The week began on Monday night with Open and Middle school Debating and Open Chess. The competition on display was fantastic. The Blackfriars Middle team unfortunately was unable to retain the trophy, losing their debate 3-0. The Open Debating contest was well fought with Blackfriars claiming back the Open A Debating trophy. The Chess came down to the last game with Blackfriars and CBC locked at 2 all. The last match was a thriller with Anthony Vu being able to hold on, force the stalemate and draw the Chess competition. The night was very well supported with many parents and fellow students coming out to support and view the high level of skills on display.

On Wednesday the First XI Soccer team played CBC at Blackfriars. Again, a large and enthusiastic crowd made for a great soccer match atmosphere. The Blackfriars march was an awesome display of school spirit. Blackfriars scored the first goal going into the break 1 up, CBC were able to draw the match with a quality goal later in the game. This had the game finish in a draw.

Thursday night saw the 8/9 Basketball sides hit the court at CBC. CBC was dominant in all three matches, claiming all three wins.

Friday night had Blackfriars Table Tennis teams in action with lots of quality Table Tennis on Show. The Opens were outplayed in the doubles but fought back in the singles. Unfortunately they left their winning run too late, losing the contest 8-12.

This left the Intercol Championship tally at 1-1 with two draws in Soccer and Chess. The Open A Basketball and First XVIII Football were the last two Championship games to be played on the Saturday.

Saturday morning saw all the Junior Football, Junior and Senior Soccer and Senior Basketball teams take to the fields/courts. Many of the soccer matches were cliffhangers with penalty shootouts deciding the outcome. The Saturday Open Soccer lost their match in a penalty shootout conceding the trophy for the first time, as Mr Penna stated we could not buy a goal!

The Open Basketball teams struggled, with the Open A Basketball team unable to compete with CBC’s accurate shooting and court play.

The 8/9 Football team was easily beaten by a much better CBC team.

The afternoon saw a large crowd came out to cheer on both Senior Football teams. The Second XVIII Football team were able to register a one goal win in a thriller. The First XVIII Football team took to the field but were quickly on the back foot as CBC ran away with the game and won back the trophy.

The final tally of the Open Trophy Championship was 1-3 in CBC’s favour. The week was a fantastic showcase of school spirit and participation between the two schools. Many students followed the weeks contests and hung on every result.

The Intercol is a fantastic way for Blackfriars to round off its 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 show such school pride take part in this special event over the week.
Intercol Open Medal Winners
First XI Soccer – Thomas Mitchell
Open A Basketball – Josh Santillana
First XVIII Football – Boyd Woodcock

Over the Intercol week many people came together to help make this a successful event, from the Blackfriars staff, team coaches, old scholars, the Maintenance Department and parents. Thank you to everyone who came together to help make this event a successful one.
I hope to see you out at more events over the year.

Twilight Soccer League
Blackfriars won the Twilight Grand Final, defeating St Michaels 5 – 0.
It was a fantastic performance from this side, and their first half performance was one of the best I have seen this year.
Aladin Irabona was awarded Best on Ground for his individual performance.

Mr Leo Panzarino
Cocurricular Coordinator

The victorious Open A Debating team with the cup after winning 3-0.

The Blackfriars Second XVIII Football team celebrate with Mr Leo Panzarino after winning their Intercol game against CBC.
The Blackfriars Foundation has continued to support the school in a number of key projects and initiatives in 2015.

In accordance with the recommendation of the School Board, the Foundation is supporting the redevelopment of the Primary School quadrangle as the focus of the 2015/16 Annual Appeal. The creation of a functional recreation and education space for the students in the Primary School follows on from the development of the Early Learning Centre in recent years. If you have not had a chance to see the plans for the area, please contact the project team at the school, headed by Executive Deputy Principal, Mrs Anna Mirasgentis, for details. There is also information in the first issue of The Optimist for 2015.

It’s not too late to add your support to this project as part of the Annual Appeal. Your gift will go directly to support the development of this space, identified as a priority by the school leadership team. Contact the Development Office to make your donation or please use the flyer that was distributed earlier this year. Copies are still available from the school.

Projects such as these chart a timeline that mirrors a student’s progression through our great school. It is anticipated that in future years, projects supported by the Foundation will continue along this trajectory into key Middle and Senior School developments.

Alongside support for capital projects, the Foundation continues to fund scholarships on behalf of the school community. Importantly this includes the maintenance of scholarship gifts originally established by the Blackfriars Old Scholars Association. The Foundation acts as the formal transactional vehicle between BOSA and the school for the purposes of supporting scholarships, ensuring that the aims of BOSA in this area are properly maintained.

If you are a Blackfriars old scholar and in particular, are or were a member of BOSA, we’d love you to make contact with the Foundation via Mr Jon Harmer. We are actively seeking more input from you to grow and enhance our network throughout all stakeholders of the Blackfriars Community.

In order to provide project and scholarship funds, a number of Foundation events have been conducted over the past few months. The Wine and Cheese Soiree was an excellent event and extraordinarily well supported by families and friends of Blackfriars, both in their attendance as guests and their provision of fantastic food and wine. If you missed this year’s event, I would strongly encourage you to keep an eye on the date for the 2016 edition. It is well worth the minimal entry donation and the rewards by way of some superb wines being showcased for tasting, as well as the opportunity to bag a bargain, are not to be missed.

Mr Patrick Kelly
President

Wine & Cheese Soiree

A big thank you to all who assisted and or attended the Blackfriars Foundation Wine and Cheese Soiree. An amount of just under $6,000 was raised. These funds will go directly into future capital projects undertaken by Blackfriars.

It was very pleasing to see many old scholars, past staff and past parents in attendance. Many thanks to Foundation Board members David O’Loughlin, Dharmesh Raman, Patrick Kelly and Tom Zed for their tireless efforts leading up to and on the night. Particular thanks to Parents and Friends members Corinna and Malcolm Renney for their tireless efforts throughout the night. It was greatly appreciated.

The many sponsors of the Wine & Cheese Soiree are listed to the right. All food and beverages were provided free of charge by these very generous supporters. Particular thanks to past parent Joe Schinella from Adelaide Fresh Fruitlers who once again provided Major Sponsorship of the night. Joe continues to provide unquestioned support of Blackfriars.

In closing, please support these supporters of Blackfriars. Their generosity made the night the success it was!

Mr Jon Harmer
Community Relations Officer/Foundation
Major Sponsors
• Adelaide Fresh Fruiterers - Joe Schinella
• Lucias (Central Market) - Simon Bugeja

Other Sponsors
• O’Connell St Bakery - North Adelaide - Tony Greven
• Foodland (North Adelaide) – Anthony Romeo
• Abbots and Kinney – Jonny Pisanelli
• Dreamy Donuts (Adelaide Airport) – Jan Manoel-Harmer

Beer Sponsors
• Lion Nathan Breweries – Matthew Windsor

Wine Sponsors
• Adelaide Festival Centre - Peter Morelli
• Australian Domain Wines - Ben and Mario Barletta
• Bent Creek Wines - David Garrick and Sam Rugari
• Beresord - Peter Morelli
• Festival City Wines - Joe Rugari
• Glenn Beale
• Hardys Wines - Martin Agius
• Haselgrove - Joe Rugari
• Kangarilla Hill - Boyd-Turner Family
• Patrick of Coonawarra - Tocaciu Family
• Primo Estates - Joe Grilli
• Serafino Wines - Russell Gallagher
• Sons of Eden - Corey Ryan
• St. Hallet - Matthew Windsor
• TCB Joe - Danny Caiazza
• Thorn - Clarke - Cheryl and David Clarke
• Totino Estate - Joe Rugari
• Uleybury Wines - Tore Pipicella
• Withers Hills - Matthew Windsor

Prize Sponsors
• Adelaide Aquatic Centre - Gareth Dunne / Anne Kurzel
• Peter Shearer – Dharmesh Rhaman
• Bridgewater Inn - Pat Hodby
• Tyres and More – Corey Bayliss
• Foodland (Prospect) – Andy Ruggiero
• Caledonian Hotel – Fiona Nairn
• Wellington Hotel – James Brock
• Unley Hotel – Tony Grooby
• Drummond Golf – Shane Hodby
• Blackfriars Old Scholars Football Club
• St Laurences Priory Wines (signed by Br Brendan)
• Primo Estate – Joe Grilli
• Muratti Cakes & Gateaux - Robert Ziolek and Jimmy Paris
• Hindmarsh Fencing

Caroline and Peter Wiebrecht enjoy a glass of wine with Nora Harker.

Rene Schinkel, Br Brendan O’Hearn and Lynn Martin reminisce about the old days.

Above: Primary School Parents Robyn Carmody, Sally Bagnato and Katie Byron; Foundation Board members Patrick Kelly and David O’Loughlin auctioning wine.

Above: Principal Dr Sean Mangan presents one of the many prizes to staff member Mr Brent Farquhar, Michael and Anne-Marie den-Dekker.
Hungry for further success in a higher level after earning promotion to SAAFL Division 5 with a whopping 79-point Grand Final victory over Rosewater in 2014, BOSFC began 2015 in great style. The Hounds A Grade team won their first five games of 2015 by an average margin of 52 points, which saw them rise to the ladder from rounds three to five. However, a 42-point loss at home to Rosewater in Round 6 provided a reality check. Bouncing back with a 47-point win over Pulteney in the following round, the Hounds claimed the minor premiership for the second year in a row and made it nine finals campaigns in 10 seasons – a remarkable achievement.

On ANZAC Day, Matt Brincat became the first player to play 150 games for the club and was joined not long after by Shaun Curtis.

Returning players including Luke Bortolotti, Matt Rivett, Kane Fechner and Andrew Constantinou reminded everyone why they had been anticipating their returns.

New players shone in both grades, with Aron Fechner taking out the John Belton Medal for A Grade Best and Fairest, Locke Bayly winning the Rising Star award, and many more including Matthew Milne, Anthony Strangio and others showing they’ll be ones to watch in 2016.

Head coach Aleks Bojanic was named Footy Budget SAAFL D5 Coach of the Year and was joined in the team of the year by Aron Fechner, Luke Bortolotti and Daniel Mattiazzo. Hounds Co-Captain Matt Brincat was named Vice Captain of the SA Amateur Footballer Magazine Team of the Year and was joined in the team by Dan McKenna, Sam Murphy and Aron Fecher.

The Reserves, under former A Grade dual Premiership coach John Belton, improved dramatically throughout the season. Improved fitness, honed skills, sharp strategy and confident ball movement were evident as the group continued to work together. Their sustained commitment to improving themselves saw them double their average scores in the second half of the season. With another season of experience under their belts, the young Reserves will no doubt earn greater success in 2016.

Off the field, 2015 was a year of great growth for BOSFC with a number of new volunteers, staff and sponsors. As always, the club is extremely grateful to everyone who contributed during the season.
BOSFC would like to acknowledge the great generosity of our club partners, who support us as we seek to build on the strong club environment we’ve created in our first 10 years. The majority of our key partners are old scholars or parents of old scholars, which is great testament to the strong Blackfriars community spirit. Many thanks to The Wellington Hotel, Lucia’s Fine Foods, Prospect Village Meats Signclass, Allfresh Fruit and Veg, JS Sports, Dulux AcraTex, BodyFit Physiotherapy, Dellamalva Dental, Terry Howe Printing, Moonta Royal Hotel, AGL Smart Living and Sports Locker.

In closing, BOSFC are proud to announce the appointment of old scholar Mark Demasi (’96) as Stoppage Coach and Opposition Analyst. On the recruiting front well credentialed former players Michael Iuliano and Alex Dellamalva return to the BOSFC fold after a year off and talented recent old scholars Luke Valente (’10) and Bradley Kosch (’11) have announced their intention to join the Hounds in 2016.

If you would like to support the Hounds in 2016, please email us at blackfriarsos@footymail.com.au

BOSFC 2015 Award Winners

A Grade:
Best & Fairest (John Belton Medal): Aron Fechner
Runner-Up: Matt Brincat
Leading Goal Kicker: Trav Hillman (48 goals)
Best Team Man: Luke Bortolotti and Dan McKenna
Coach’s Award: Sam Murphy and Matt Brincat
Reserves:
Best & Fairest (Lee Swiderski Medal): Shaun Curtis
Runner-Up: Darren Hill
Leading Goal Kicker: Ben Hutton
Best Team Man: Ben Hutton
Coach’s Award: Nick Worthley
Club-wide:
Rising Star: Locke Bayly

Nick Kurzel (2001)

I am currently living in the always vibrant but sometimes gloomy city of London, where I’ve been for the last 5 ½ years. In 2010 I decided I needed a change of lifestyle from the slower paced streets of Adelaide and decided to follow in the footsteps of some old Blackfriars school friends who had already established themselves here in London.

I was fortunate enough to find a job with a company called Aspect Capital Limited which is a UK-based investment management firm in the Finance sector. I was sure during my first interview that all those hours laughing at Chris Packer’s ridiculous jokes during maths class were about to catch up with me, but I must have learned something as I got the job.

Aspect has quite a unique investment strategy whereby we apply a quantitative approach using algorithmic trading models to create trading signals which determine our investment positions. Sounds complicated, but essentially we let the computers do all the work! Currently there is a team here of over 120 international professionals from all corners of the world who I work with daily. In my role as Treasury Manager I am responsible for investing the excess cash that is not required for our trading strategy. My team also manages our funds counterparty risk and foreign exchange exposure.

I was lucky enough to travel to London in 2000 with the Blackfriars Water Polo team on a world tour and I think it was that experience that has eventually lead me back here. The benefits from living abroad in the UK seem endless when I think about them now. Europe is scattered with stunning holiday locations in the summer and is only a short flight from the Alps for some winter snowboarding. The unique seasonality that comes with living in the UK in most cases offers a pleasant change from back home and if you’re lucky it can even snow at Christmas.

Most importantly though, it presents an opportunity for you to broaden your friendship networks from both working and socialising with like-minded people from all over the world. I’ve definitely made some lifelong friends from my time here.
Old Scholars Reunions

2015 marks the third successive year in which Blackfriars has made a concerted effort to connect, and in some cases reconnect, with former students of the school via an extensive program of school reunions. The 6 reunion format means that gatherings of old scholars are facilitated by Blackfriars for students who have graduated the year before (1 Year) and 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years prior. Thus in 2015 all groups have had that opportunity and pictures and information pertaining to those get-togethers are included on the following pages. The Blackfriars Development Office is available to assist with the promotion and organisation for your year group, if you so wish.

The opportunity always exists for given year groups to have a reunion outside of the above format. The school is more than happy to assist, as with the 25 year reunion held recently. Information relating to next year’s 2016 reunions is available on the back page and key contacts have made themselves available.

Blackfriars is very proud of the sense of community it engenders in its students and maintains with old scholars and the catch cry from graduating students over recent decades “Once a Blacks boy - always a Blacks boy” is never more apparent than in the enthusiasm old scholars bring with them to the reunions!

So, please spread the word! We even have a Christmas Eve reunion for those that haven’t caught up during the year and in particular for the many old scholars living interstate and overseas. Speaking of OSOS (Old Scholars Overseas) we are always keen to highlight old scholars who are living and working overseas, so please make contact if you know of any old scholars who fit the bill!

In closing if you know of an old scholar who isn’t receiving the OPermitist it means we have lost touch with them. Simply ask them make contact with the school and we will get back in touch to add them to our database. The OPermitist goes to over 3000 old scholars including those living interstate and overseas, and we are keen to increase that number.

Mr Jon Harmer
Community Relations Officer
jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au

Obituary

Vale Steve Popaduk

On 9 July, Blackfriars old scholar Mr Steve Popaduk passed away at the age of 68, in Perth WA. He had graduated from Blackfriars in his Leaving Honours year in 1964. Steve was born in 1947 to Ukrainian parents in a town north of Prague in what is now the Czech Republic. The family emigrated to Melbourne, via Italy, in 1949, in the first wave of European post-war emigration to Australia. They soon found themselves in North Adelaide, along with many other European families who settled in the inner suburbs of Adelaide, and whose boys went to Blackfriars. Their home in Barnard Street was a huge two storey semi-detached house, often visited by Steve’s classmates.

A quiet, thoughtful and intelligent student, Steve passed through the school years with solid grades. His enthusiasm for AFL, which he maintained all his life, did not at school translate into playing the game itself. Nevertheless, he developed an early gift for golf and it was usually a disheartening experience for his playing partners to accompany him around his beloved North Adelaide Golf Course. He once played the entire 18 holes with just his putter and beat the person he was playing with.

After a couple of years pursuing a Science degree at the University of Adelaide, Steve, along with this writer, took what is today known as a ‘gap year’. Following months of fruit picking, the pair headed for Perth in 1968 looking for adventure in the North-West. The attractions of Perth prevailed and the pair earned a solid, if edgy, living as wood machinists for two years. They soon noticed they were the only ones who could count to ten on their fingers.

While this writer headed to Europe, Steve remained in Perth, and earned an Economics degree at the University of WA. With this he soon found employment as an Industrial Officer at the Department of Industrial Relations. Along the way, he married Kate, and they had two children: Tanya and Anton.

There was a certain vibe however, experienced in part time work in the hospitality industry during his university days, which would return and deflect Steve from a career path as a public servant. Ever the gracious host, Steve found himself fulfilled in the role of drinks waiter. He enjoyed the atmosphere, the chaos and the characters he came across. His employment took him to some of Perth’s top restaurants, such as the Mediterranean, Valentino, Gavino and Prideau. At the Mediterranean he observed the social rituals of the then WA power elite, such as Alan Bond, Laurie Connell, and Brian Burke.

By now the grandfather of three boys, Steve spent the last two years of his life battling the disease which in the end claimed him. He was cared for during this time by daughter Tanya, who flew him on visits to her home in Auckland, and also regularly joined him in Perth. For the last four months, together with her three boys, she had moved in with Steve to look after him. This writer represented Steve’s Blackfriars class mates at his funeral.

Mr Paul Varsanyi (’64)
Members of the Class of 1990 assemble in the Blackfriars staff room for their 25th reunion. Reunion organisers Piero Caiazza and Patrick Kelly at lunch at the Caledonian Hotel post school tour.

Members of the Class of 1985 at the Wellington Hotel. 30 year reunion organisers Andrew Saint, Renato Sanzo and John Belton.

Members of the Class of 1975 at the Wellington Hotel. 40 year reunion organisers Paul Belton and Joe Bayer with Brother Brendan during their school tour.
Old Scholars

Class of 1963 and 1964, 50 Year Reunion

John Kenny, John Stockwell, Derek Poolier, Terry Pavey, John Bishop, Garry Moore, Mike Duigan, Peter Ryan, Barry Mouton, Eddie Wong, Paul Varsanyi, Peter Hogan, John Harper, Mike Lyons, John Thilthorpe, Max Jongebloed, Peter Sich, Robert Sheehy, Jens von Brasch

Peter Ryan and Barry Mouton
(First 18 Captains 1963, 1964)

Eddie Wong and event organiser Paul Varsanyi

John Moss, Michael Gillen, Robert Cross, Alan Griffiths, Ed Raman, Michael Venning, Peter Raven, Peter Alexander, Barry Jennings, George Hergott, Tony Rositano, Tom Wilson, Ronald List (absent from table - Leo Sexton)

Mike Duigan, Peter Ryan, Eddie Wong, Jens von Brasch
(all boarders)

Tom Wilson, Michael Venning, Peter Sich – three of the five members of band: Yorrick 5
Above: Garry Ruth (’07) married Catherine Pfeiffer at a beautiful ceremony at Serafino Winery in the McLaren Vale. Groomsman (L-R) were Garry’s Blackfriars classmates of 2007 Michael Hodby, Murray Jackson, Szymon Dutka and Heysen Dennis. Garry Ruth is the son of old scholar Bill Ruth (’66). Congratulations Garry and Catherine.

Left: Dominicans All!
Old scholar Michael Furmaniak (’01) and his wife Amelia Furmaniak (nee Lewis, St Dominics (’02)) celebrated the arrival of a son Chester on 4 November 2014. The extended Lewis and Furmaniak families include Amelia’s dad Terry (’74), brother Simon (’98) and Michael’s brother, Anthony (’03).

Right: Matthew DeGaris (’03) married Nat Marich on 6 December 2014 in beautiful surrounds at the Palm Beach Surf Club, NSW. Blackfriars classmate, Tom Kurzel (’03) was one of Matt’s groomsmen. The happy couple then honeymooned in Mexico for a month. Congratulations Matt and Nat.

Above and right: Matthew Heath (’98) married Gemma Roberts on 15 November 2014 at St John the Apostle Church, Goolwa followed by reception at Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club. Matthew’s Bestmen were Blackfriars classmates from 1998 Richard Shanahan and Daniel Roocke. Matthew is the son of old scholar Gerald Heath (’67). Congratulations Matthew and Gemma.
2016 Community Events

- **Open Day**
  Tuesday 8 March 2016, 5.30-7.30pm
  Visit bps.sa.edu.au or email registrar@bps.sa.edu.au for further details

- **Blackfriars Business Lunch**
  Friday 18 March 2016, 12.30-2.30pm
  Caledonian Hotel North Adelaide

- **Blackfriars Community Day**
  Sunday 10 April 2016
  All very welcome

- **Blackfriars Wine & Cheese Soiree**
  Saturday 2 July 2016, 7.30-11.00pm
  Blackfriars Frassati Hall

2016 Old Scholar Reunions

Blackfriars old scholar reunions are being organised for the following dates. Please contact Mr Jon Harmer on 8169 3936 or via email jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au for more information or to register.

- **Class of 2015** – 1 Year Reunion, Monday 14 March 2016, contact Jon Harmer via email: jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au
- **Class of 2006** – 10 Year Reunion, Friday 1 April 2016, contact Alex Dellamalva via email: alex.dellamalva@gmail.com or Daniel Booth on Daniel.Booth2@baesystems.com
- **Class of 1996** – 20 Year Reunion, Friday 24 June 2016, contact Luke Page via email: luke@peterpageholden.com.au or Van Nguyen on vanuskus@hotmail.com
- **Class of 1986** – 30 Year Reunion - Friday 12 August 2016, contact Shane Hodby via email: shane.hodby@drummondgolf.com
- **Class of 1976** – 40 Year Reunion - Friday 28 October 2016, contact Tony Harford via email: anthony.harford@onesteel.com or Paul Cooney on paulandmel@bigpond.com
- **Class of 1963/64** - Saturday 22 October 2016, contact Paul Varsanyi via email: varsanyi@aapt.net.au
- **Christmas Eve Reunion** – All very welcome, particularly those who have flown home from overseas or interstate for Christmas! Caledonian Hotel on Saturday 24 December 2016, contact Jon Harmer via email: jharmer@bps.sa.edu.au

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

Cover: First XI Soccer Captain Aladin Irabona and Nicholas Menechella with the Twilight Soccer League trophy.