FROM THE PRESIDENT

The lyrics to the old Shaker song “Simple Gifts” (made popular by Aaron Copland) were going through my mind as I began to write this, and I couldn’t work out why. Then as I hummed the bit about “…by turning, turning we come round right” I realised that was how I felt about the development of our Association over the past ten years.

This year, St Margaret’s Day will be celebrated with a full-school Chapel Service. We will be back to how things should be, with everyone in the School community celebrating the Patron Saint of the chapel. It won’t be a service of sad memories of the way things used to be, but a cheerful reminder of how love, strength and determination can build a strong school and community - the true values of St Margaret.

Now that the Association has come full circle and has an assured future, it is time for me to resign as President. I have had a great time meeting many interesting, funny, fascinating old scholars and I have made some valuable friendships - a huge reward for the ten years of running meetings and finding ways to get people together!

Thank you to all who have supported me by your kind words and cheerful encouragement.

Ciao. - Emilie Knight (Kaethner’72)

DIARY DATES 2014

Class of 1994 20-Year Reunion: Saturday 26 April, 7.30-12.00pm at The Holdfast Hotel, Brighton Road, Glenelg.
Business Breakfast: Thursday 22 May, 7.00-8.30am at the Wine Underground, 121 Pirie Street, Adelaide.
Barossa Valley lunch: Friday 30 May, 12.30pm at Pindarrie Winery, corner Rosedale & Gomersal Roads, Tanunda.
St. Margaret’s Day & AGM: Thursday 12 June, 8.30am at St Peter’s Woodlands Grammar School.
WA Annual Reunion: Sunday 15 June, 2pm for High Tea at The Duxton Hotel, Perth.
Canberra Region Lunch: Saturday 6 September, 12.30pm at the Southern Cross Yacht Club, Yarralumla.
Brisbane Region Lunch: Sunday 14 September, 12.30pm at Dorothy Williams’ home, St. Lucia.
Fleurieu Lunch: Friday 19 September, at Victor Harbor. Venue and cost to be advised.
Old Scholars’ Golf Day: Monday 20 October, 8.00am at Royal Adelaide Golf Club, Seaton.
Annual Dinner: Friday 24 October, 6.30 for 7.00pm at St Peter’s Woodlands.
Class of 1984 30-Year Reunion: Saturday 25 October. Venue and cost to be advised.
Back to SPW BBQ: Friday 31 October, 5.30 - 7.00pm at SPW. A get-together for former students of St Peter’s Woodlands.
Class of 1974 40-Year Reunion: Saturday 15 November. Venue and cost to be advised. School tour available Sunday 16 November.
South East Reunion: Sunday 16 November in the Penola/Coonawarra area. Venue to be advised.

For details of these events please refer to notices within this newsletter.

YOUNG OLD SCHOLARS – WE NEED YOU!
NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS REQUIRED
No previous experience necessary
Positive attitude and NEW IDEAS welcome

POSITION VACANT – PRESIDENT
Chair six meetings a year and make the occasional gracious appearance at functions
Liking for wine and travel not necessary but may be an advantage

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS
Please note that our email address has changed to
oldscholars@spw.sa.edu.au
ANNUAL DINNER 2013

Once again the numbers were small, but everyone who attended had a great time. This was evident by the loud chatter and at times raucous laughter that emitted from certain areas! It is such a great opportunity to catch up with old school friends, to reminisce about similar experiences and to be reminded of long forgotten stories from your school days. This year the committee has decided to hold the Annual Dinner back at school, in the old boarders’ dining room. For boarders that will really bring back a whole lot of memories, but the food will surely be better than boarding house food! Day bugs – now the dining room is not out of bounds! You will either roar with laughter at the memories, or perhaps feel a bit sentimental. But whatever you think you may feel, we look forward to you coming back to school for this really special occasion.

The dinner this year will be on Friday 24 October, 6.30 for 7pm at St Peter’s Woodlands. More information and the booking form will be in the Spring newsletter. Please put it in your diary so that you don’t forget and start organising your tables now! Round tables take 8-10 people so why not round up your school friends for a fun night out! It’s a chance to have a good gossip!

1957 table at the 2013 Annual Dinner.

Jane McNeil (Copley’72) & Mary Trowbridge (’72)

MUSEUM NEWS

2014 has heralded some changes for our Museum. Last May we embarked on a review of its operations. This underscored our fear of losing so much that has been achieved as our ability to continue will naturally decline as years go by. With that in mind, a proposal was made to the School for it to provide assistance in ways which will ensure the long term viability of this valuable resource. The School is now seeking some expert professional advice to develop a policy for managing its archives, including the historical records of Woodlands, St Peter’s Glenelg and St Peter’s Woodlands. We hope that this will provide sound future directions for the Museum and Archives.

In the meantime, we are moving ahead with the physical amalgamation of the records of the three schools in the one space. New shelving has been provided to assist with this process and we are working through the logistics to create a manageable and pleasant working and display space. Needless to say, it is taking a lot of hard work and, like all change, is creating some difficulties but progress is being made and the changes will be beneficial. The support of the School, and in particular, of Development Officer Karen Schaumloffel, is very much appreciated.

- Vivienne Hand, Committee Museum Representative and SPW Archivist

The Museum is open every Monday from 10.00am until 2.30pm (closed public holidays, December and January). Please come and visit. Outside of those hours please contact: Karen Schaumloffel (Phillips’79) on 72216202, or email: kschau@spw.sa.edu.au

150th Celebrations and Book Launch

On Sunday 17 November Old Scholars from eras spanning the 1920s to 1980s came to SPW to help us celebrate the occasion of our 150th birthday. Our guests included past Principals, teachers, parents and students. They all enjoyed the displays of old photos, uniform and trophies, sharing memories and some guests donated memorabilia to our School Museum.

One highlight of the afternoon was the launch of a history book, An Enchanted Place. The book tells the story of the journey of a small parish day school in 1863 to the large thriving school that St Peter’s Woodlands Grammar School is today.

Another highlight was the presentation of a Celebration Quilt to the School. The quilt (pictured below) was designed and embroidered by Vivienne Hand and St Peter’s Woodlands Old Scholars’ President Emilie Knight and will be displayed at SPW.

What a wonderful day of celebrations. If you would like to purchase a copy of The Enchanted Place, they are available for $50.00 from the SPW Finance Office.

- Karen Schaumloffel, Development Officer

ELAINE BALFOUR-OGILVY SCHOLARSHIP

Julia Sibly, of Pulteney Grammar School was the successful applicant for the 2014 Scholarship. She also attended St Peter’s Woodlands! Julia is the granddaughter of Joan Sibly (nee Gibson’44). Julia’s aunts also came to Woodlands while her father, Richard, was a student at St Peters Glenelg. The whole family must be thrilled at Julia’s success. Well done!

Applications are now being called for this year’s scholarship. To be eligible, the applicant must be a daughter or granddaughter of a Woodlands Old Scholar and must be in Year 11 and attending an Anglican school. Daughters and granddaughters of interstate Old Scholars are also eligible to apply. This scholarship aims to assist the winner with school fees for year 12. Holders of full scholarships to their current school are therefore not eligible.

Please contact St Peter’s Woodlands Old Scholars’ Association Inc., PO Box 747, Glenelg 5045, for more information. Applications close 30 September 2014. Interviews will be in Term 4, at St Peter’s Woodlands Grammar School, in the Old Scholars’ Rooms.

Membership fees - Annual ($25) and Associate ($20) Membership fees should be paid by 30 April of each year. Life Membership for Old Scholars is available for a once only fee of $100. Send for an application form, or download one from our website. www.spw.sa.edu.au. Look at our page on the school website. Click the link ‘Community’ for the Old Scholars’ page where there are diary-dates for functions and links to other features.

On 30 April, the Enchanted Place launch was held in the old boarders’ dining room.
ST MARGARET’S DAY – 12 June 2014
Have you put this date in your diary?

You will have noticed that St Margaret’s Day is on a Thursday. This year for the first time since Woodlands closed, the annual St Margaret’s Day Service will be a whole school service. And why not? After all, St Margaret is Patron Saint of the St Peter’s Woodlands Chapel. How wonderful for Woodlands Old Scholars to share this Service with the school children and the St Peter’s Woodlands Community! The Service, conducted by School Chaplain Father Andrew Mintern, will commence at 8.30am on Thursday 12 June. On conclusion of the Service there will be morning tea in the dining room in Thomas building, followed by a brief AGM. Take the opportunity to come back and see the school in action. See your old classrooms and the changes that have been made. See the children at work and at play. You will be invigorated by the vitality of the current school and pleasantly surprised by the fantastic facilities available for the staff and children. This is a great school. Come back and see it.

CANTERBURY VISIT – March 2014
Old Scholars meet the new scholars

Each year the Year 7 students from St Peter’s Woodlands visit Canberra for a 4 day tour of the capital. A group of Old Scholars met the students and teachers for lunch in the Rose Gardens next to Old Parliament House. Despite a very overcast start to the day, by lunchtime the weather was glorious. The Old Scholars who attended were: Julia Pedler (Webster’74), Liane Deville (’74), Mary-Alice Pelham Thorman (Bowen’52), Suzanne Edgar (Godwin’57), Marian Clark (McFarling’56), Elaine Gifford (Bolton’58) and Alison Hancock (Golley’56), pictured below. Some brought mementos of our school days to show the students and lots of stories were told, including underpants inspections! The students listened eagerly and were also keen to talk about the school they know. Suzanne Edgar presented two of her poetry books to be given to the School Library. This was an opportunity not to be missed as these students will be our future Old Scholars. - Julia Pedler

A visit to the Australian War Memorial was included in the itinerary and the students visited the Vivian Bullwinkle exhibit where they were able to read all about Elaine Balfour-Ogilvy and her fellow nurses. Information was gathered from the Old Scholars’ Museum and shared with the students before they left.

OLD SCHOLARS’ GOLF DAY 2013

A bright and breezy day greeted the 16 stalwarts who played in the Woodlands Old Scholars’ Golf Day at Royal Adelaide Golf Club last year. Although numbers were down, the golf course was packed with Old Scholars and friends from other schools who added to the enjoyment of the day. One of the eventful moments was when a brown snake crawled into the sprinkler box on the seventh hole; to prevent too much excitement a green keeper shut the lid, presumably until all Old Scholars had passed the seventh. Juliet Hugo (Hay’67) was the overall winner on 39 points, with Jill Hodge (Rawson’76) runner up on 36 points. Woodlands also won the overall schools competition, beating Seymour, Wilderness, Girton and Annesley. Juliet is seen holding the trophy in the photo (left)

The next golf day will be at Royal Adelaide Golf Club, Seaton, Monday 20 October 2014 at 8am for an 8.30am shotgun start. Golf and lunch will cost around $50. Old Scholars who are interested in participating are welcome to email dianatallis@hotmail.com

“Let’s Go Clubbing”
The Royal Adelaide Golf Club has a “Let’s Go Clubbing” package for any interested golfers and non golfers. Be a part of a relaxed clinic in the gorgeous environs of the beautiful Royal Adelaide Golf Club. A resident teaching professional, Daniel, will guide you to reaching the perfect golf swing and a follow up “Fairways Package” will see you teeing off in no time. Phone Daniel on 08 8356 8505 for enquiries. Old Scholars who would like to join in on the Old Scholars’ Golf Day but don’t think they are good enough… here’s your chance to improve your game!

NEWSLETTER COSTS. Thank you for all donations. We try to raise funds to cover our costs and very much appreciate your support at functions we hold.

Please consider LANE PRINT and POST for all your printing needs.

We thank Peter Lane of Lane Print and Post for his generous assistance to us with this newsletter.

Honour Board lettering is done by BRIAN SMITH SIGNS of 4 TRUMARA RD, MARINO 5049 tel: 08 8296 3880
The HUB at SPW

What is the HUB? The HUB is a vibrant and revived area at SPW where children are supported with their learning as well as their social and emotional development. Children of all ages are benefitting from the activities offered at lunchtimes in the HUB. Games clubs happens twice a week, on Mondays and Fridays – the buzz from children interacting with each other and developing their friendship skills is a joy. On Tuesdays you can hear the clicking of knitting needles as boys and girls work towards an artistic display of ‘yarn bombing’. Also on Tuesdays, boys from Year 3-7 participate in Yoga, with the focus being on balance, flexibility and relaxation. Wednesday Chess Club is very popular – especially the giant outdoor chess work towards an artistic display of ‘yarn bombing’. Another challenge in our pursuits is the offer of Middle Schooling for Years 7, 8 and 9 here on the St Peter's Woodlands Campus. This proposed Middle School model has been some four years in the making: the dream is that we will start with Year 8s in a new purpose built two-storey facility in January 2016, followed by Year 9s in 2017. Of course, a continuation of this project is contingent on enrolment targets being met.

Whilst revisiting our theme, I am reminded of the wonderful saying by the great nineteenth-century theologian, William Shedd, “A ship in a harbour is safe, but that is not what ships are built for.” Here at St Peter's Woodlands we spend a great deal of our time encouraging children to learn and appreciate the past histories of their school and to use them in order to help shape the future. It is in this context that I am able to identify some significant additional changes that will be impacting and improving the lot of Old Scholars here at St Peter's Woodlands:

- The establishment of one merged Museum with all of the artefacts and memories from Woodlands, St Peter’s Glenelg and St Peter’s Woodlands has been completed. My thanks go to the museum Group of Old Scholars who tirelessly worked through this process with the support from former St Peter’s Woodlands Deputy Principal, Vivienne Hand.
- The Woodlands Trust Board has agreed to fund a position which will identify the essential requirements of an Archives Policy that will meet all of the needs prior to 1999 when St Peter’s Woodlands was formed. Much work obviously has been done in the area of archives, however with heightened awareness of our need to manage all school records appropriately, it is necessary to develop an Archives Policy and then implement this to ensure that all of the appropriate work in this area has been undertaken. In addition, an Archives Policy to cover the period post-1999 will also be developed in order to manage the current SPW records.
- 2014 will also see a variation on the annual St Margaret’s Day celebration, with Old Scholars being invited to join students and staff for a St Margaret’s Day Service in our own St Margaret’s Chapel, during the children’s school day.
- 2014 will also see us in ‘visionary mode’ looking at the next 5 years of St Peter’s Woodlands development to help shape our next Strategic Plan 2014-2019. This work will be facilitated by Dr Liz Patterson, an eminent strategic planner from Perth, Western Australia. If you would like to participate in this process, please contact Helen Lindquist, at hlindquist@spw.sa.edu.au.
- The closing date for the survey is 23 May 2014.

Finally, I would like to pass on the great sense of anticipation I have as Judi and I are heading to the United Kingdom midyear and have scheduled a visit to St Margaret’s Chapel in Edinburgh and a visit to Iona, Scotland, for a special reflection time. I am looking forward to this extraordinary opportunity to visit the origins of our own St Margaret’s Chapel and will appreciate the chance to share stories with you on our return.

Yours sincerely,
Christopher Prance, PRINCIPAL
REUNIONS and OTHER EVENTS

BAROSSA VALLEY Lunch 30 May 2014
Clare, Barossa and Adelaide Old Scholars – feel like a nice day out? Meet at 12.30pm, Pindarie Winery, corner Rosedale and Gomersal Roads, Tanunda, for a fantastic lunch with a great view of the Barossa Valley. Don’t worry about the weather. If it’s cold, there’ll be a roaring fire going which will warm everyone up. Pindarie recently won a National tourism award so come and experience this lovely venue yourself.
Cost: Approximately $20-25 plus drinks.
For more information please contact Penny Holmes (Hooper’66) on 8563 2059 (Tanunda), Margaret Steenvoorde on 8443 9749 (Adelaide) or email oldscholars@spw.sa.edu.au
Bookings must be made by Friday 23 May (one week prior).

UK REUNION in LONDON 2013
A small group gathered at Queens College, Harley Street, London. (L-R) Rear: Eleanor Relle (Canning’61), Jenny Eastick (’76), Emilie Knight (Kaethner’72). Front: Sasja Steenvoorde (’97), Heather Cawthorne (Crawford’58), Rosalind Thoday (Hughes’59) and Diana Watson.

FLEURIEU PENINSULA LUNCH
Do you fancy a Fleurieu Lunch? Our inaugural lunch down on the south coast will be on Friday 19 September at Victor Harbor, venue to be advised. South Coast and other Fleurieu Peninsula Old Scholars, watch out for more information on this.
Given so much notice, we hope that many of you will make note of this date in your diaries and turn up in your droves! We know you are down there! So please make the effort to come along.
For more information please contact Emilie Knight at emilie@knight.net.au or oldscholars@spw.sa.edu.au

BRISBANE Lunch 2014
Sunday 14 September is the date chosen for the annual Queensland lunch, this time to be held in Brisbane. Please meet at 12.30pm at the home of Dorothy Williams (Proudman’46), 27 Eleventh Street, St. Lucia. Brisbane old scholars, please make the effort to attend!
Contact Karen Boynton (King’56) on 07 5525 3169 or email: karenboynton@optusnet.com.au for further information. Any Old Scholars in the area are very welcome.

WEST AUSTRALIAN Old Scholars meet again in June
High Tea at The Duxton Hotel. Libby has booked again for a 2pm start on Sunday 15 June. The high tea is scrumptious so why not come and enjoy it! Please put the date in your diary now. Invitations will be sent out closer to the day. Any Old Scholar who hasn’t been before and would like to attend, please email Julia at Julia.Pedler@treasury.gov.au or ring her on 0416 170 012.

BUSINESS BREAKFAST – March 2014
In the glimmer of pre-dawn in the city, a group of Old Scholars gathered on 20 March for the inaugural Business Breakfast. Good, strong, and swiftly delivered tea and coffee, and an excellent breakfast spread assisted in fuelling connections and conversations between the not yet familiar faces. Ranging from class of 1970 to 2000, the group shared their stories of business and industry across the table, forging new acquaintanceships that could not have been formed but for the mutual school bond. Building on the success of the first meeting, we hope to see many of you at the next breakfast on 22 May at Wine Underground, 121 Pirie Street, Adelaide. The cost is $25: you can pay on the day.
-Amy Smedley (Adamson’98)
If you missed out on the inaugural Business Breakfast and would like to be emailed about the next one on 22 May, please contact Karen Schaumloffel at St Peter’s Woodlands: kschaumloffel@spw.sa.edu.au

CANBERRA Region Lunch 2014
This year the Canberra Lunch will be begin at 12.30pm on Saturday 6 September at Southern Cross Yacht Club, Yarralumla. Julia Pedler (Webster’74) will be contacting Old Scholars individually. If you are not on her list and are interested in attending, please email Julia at Julia.Pedler@treasury.gov.au or ring her on 0416 170 012.

A SOUTH EAST GATHERING
A SOUTH EAST reunion is being planned for Sunday 16 November, for lunch at a restaurant in the Penola/Coonawarra area. Sandy Coulson (Heaver’70) will be in touch with South East Old Scholars in the next few weeks. If you have recently moved to the South East or have not heard from Sandy about previous events please contact her at hyside@bigpond.net.au Old Scholars passing through the area on the weekend of the reunion are very welcome to come along. Look for more information in the next newsletter.

20 YEAR REUNION – Class of 1994
Where: The Holdfast Hotel,
83 Brighton Road, Glenelg.
When: Saturday 26 April 7.30-1200pm
Cost: $20 per person – includes finger food.
Drinks can be purchased over the bar.
RSVP by Monday 14 April. Invitations have been sent out. Post reply slips to Karen Schaumloffel, St Peter’s Woodlands, 39 Partridge Street, Glenelg 5045

40 YEAR REUNION FOR THE CLASS OF 1984
DATE – SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER
We will start with a school tour followed by a get together locally, cost and times to be advised.
Please let one of the following people know if you are able to come:
Helen Buttery (Ford): helen@meghansenphotography.com.au
Rebecca Kuss: Rebecca.Kuss@sa.gov.au
Jo Gray (Messenger): jgray@spw.sa.edu.au
Invitations will be sent out later. Please make sure that you have updated your address and email details with the Old Scholars’ Secretary, otherwise you may miss out!!
Email: oldscholars@spw.sa.edu.au

UK REUNION in LONDON 2013
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UK REUNION in LONDON 2013
UK REUNION in LONDON 2013
CANBERRA Old Scholars’ Lunch 2013

Prior to the 2013 reunion lunch some of the Old Scholars were treated to a ‘mini’ tour of the Australian War Memorial by Ian Foster (a Rotarian friend of Julia’s who is a tour guide at the memorial). (See photo, left.) Trying to see the Memorial in an hour is a feat in itself, but Ian guided the group around, picking out some significant displays including the Vivian Bullwinkle exhibit. The group thoroughly enjoyed the tour and all agreed that as locals we should take the time to visit this wonderful institution more often, as displays change and more stories of those that have served this country are included.

Lunch followed at The Terrace Café set in the grounds of the Memorial. The usual and some new faces attended this year and it was a picture perfect day in Canberra, with clear blue skies and the view down Anzac Parade and across the lake, with Old and New Parliament houses as the backdrop. As always the chatter never stops and everyone enjoys the opportunity to catch up on what has happened in the year since we last met.

- Julia Pedler (Webster’74)

HERE’S A SELECTION OF PHOTOS TAKEN AT VARIOUS FUNCTIONS

1973 40 year Reunion

Close to half our original cohort gathered in November 2013 to celebrate 40 years since we had left Woodlands. Many enjoyed a tour of SPW first, and there was much reminiscing, particularly in the old science labs and Law Smith, where boarders recalled where their dorms had been and day bugs marvelled at their first peek into boarding life. Thanks to Karen Schaumloffel for her patience in moving a group of excited women around the school in a short time! The tour was most interesting.

We continued to party at the ‘Holdy’, and there was much chatter, oohs and aahs as faces were recognised, and laughter at past shared adventures. Many travelled from interstate, one came from New Zealand and there were about 40 who still live in Adelaide. It seemed all appreciated that this was the most relaxed reunion we had attended – perhaps it is an age thing!

The 1973 cohort has decided to have an informal lunch annually, probably on the first Saturday in November and communication will be by email. Please email oldscholars@spw.sa.edu.au if you are not on the list and would like to attend.

1983 30-year Reunion – apparently a great night

This was held last year in October at the Franklin Hotel. Joanna Goldsworthy emailed The Association afterwards reporting what a brilliant night it was, and what a lovely 4 HOURS she had, reminiscing and catching up with old friends. “It was so great to see how impressive the ‘83 Old Girls had become”.

(We remind reunion organisers that a report and some photos are required by The Association after a reunion is held, as a contribution for the newsletter… Editor)
Gillian Rolton OAM (England’73) has received a key appointment for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2014, the world’s biggest equestrian event, which is held every four years in the middle of the Olympic cycle. The games will run from 23 August to 7 September in Normandy, France. Gillian will serve as President of the Ground Jury for Eventing. This appointment follows being awarded EA Official of the year 2012 after serving on the ground jury for the London Olympic Games. Congratulations Gillian!

Lynette Howard (Swift’65) after 43 years on Goonalga Station east of Wilcannia is retiring and passing on the family property to her youngest son, Chad. She has recently purchased a small motor home and plans to take many trips across Australia. She would love to hear from any classmates of 61-65 in the hope that she can update addresses and post in one day. Email Lynette at: lzhgoonalga@bigpond.com

Melanie Roberts (’83) writes that she lived in London from 1988 – 1993 and managed two salons there. She then returned to Adelaide and from 2000 – 2009 owned her own business. She has travelled to fifteen different countries and is now a member of ‘Zonta’ women’s charity organisation.

Susan Coles (’83) has just been announced as Australian High Commissioner to Mauritius and the Seychelles. She joins Robyn Mudie (’84) who is Australian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Woodlands really is very well represented in the Indian Ocean! Congratulations to both. You do us proud!

Natasha Brain (Genat’90) has a new son, Tor, a brother for Jed and Flynn. Natasha explains that Tor is a popular name in Scandinavian countries and stems from the Old Norsk Viking era – Sir Tor was one of the Knights of the Round Table. Natasha can see that all three boys plus husband Paul are going to create a very noisy, fun filled household in years to come!

BIRTHS
Natasha Brain (Genat’90) a son, Tor Hunter
Megan Papadopoulos (Thorpe’93) a son, Zac

DEATHS
Joan Lawton (Goode’29) Foundation Scholar
Joan Cowling (Wells’43)
Marcia Hayward (Collins’44)
Barbara Constantine (Drew’57)
Mr Glenn Lewis, Member of the Woodlands School Council 1974-1996 and Chairman 1988-1996

EMAIL UPDATES
Old Scholars – please update your email address with the Old Scholars’ Secretary if you want to be kept informed of Old Scholar events. Do it today at: oldschoolors@spw.sa.edu.au

Old Scholars – this is YOUR page, but we need YOU to tell us about yourselves. Please advise us of interesting life events that affect you, so that we can put your news into the newsletter. Tell us what you have been doing, send us photos and pass on any news of achievements or awards you have received. Fill in the space on the back of the cover sheet, or email us!

Keep in touch on the “Woodlands Old Scholars’ Association - Facebook Chapter” which now has over 600 members. NSW Old Scholars also have a group on Facebook, so have a look at https://www.facebook.com/groups/15906607602627/

If you wish to join this group, request it and you will be added in.

Robyn Mudie (’84)

Robyn Mudie has just completed her second year as Australian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Robyn, with her husband Jon and sons Ambrose and Dylan, is living in Sri Lanka’s capital Colombo. Robyn writes that being High Commissioner is a huge responsibility, a constant challenge and a great privilege. Australia’s bilateral relationship with Sri Lanka is a deep and longstanding one, and covers a broad range of issues including managing the challenge of people smuggling, delivering our significant development assistance program to Sri Lanka, building the trade and investment relationship and maintaining a robust dialogue with the government on many issues including human rights. The High Commission in Colombo comprises a staff of around 70 (both Australian based and local staff) and is home to a number of Australian agencies including Immigration, AFP and Customs.

It’s a very rewarding job and Robyn says she thrives on diplomatic life, even with its constant demands and long nights away from home travelling or attending official functions. 2013 was a particularly demanding year as Sri Lanka hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in November. This meant, among other things, that Robyn had both the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister visiting at the same time! Robyn says that one of the biggest challenges has been balancing her role with family life, but she has a very understanding and supportive husband and is pleased that her sons have living proof that you can successfully juggle both a demanding professional career and motherhood. The family will continue to enjoy the experience for another two years, with their posting due to end in January 2016. Robyn says that Sri Lanka is a beautiful place in which to travel, and that visitors are always welcome.

Robyn’s appointment in 2012 saw her achieve a longstanding goal in a career which has already included three previous diplomatic postings (Hanoi 1993-95, New York 1999-2002 and Geneva 2005-07). She hopes that her experience will inspire other Old Scholars and current students at St Peter’s Woodlands to work hard and aim high. She credits a large part of her success to the grounding and education she received in her final years of school at Woodlands, and to the motivation and encouragement she received from inspiring teachers such as Miss Openshaw, Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Goodliffe, Mr Nicolai, Father Langshaw and Mrs Butler. “Our teachers encouraged us to pursue our dreams and to believe that, by sticking to our goals, we could achieve anything. I will always thank them for that, as these principles have certainly helped me keep moving forward in my chosen career.”

The photos below are published courtesy of UNICEF.

The Australian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Robyn Mudie, with students of a newly reconstructed school in Mullaitivu, in the north of Sri Lanka. Australia has funded the reconstruction of 23 schools which were damaged or destroyed during the 30 year civil conflict. Australia works in partnership with UNICEF in this important work.
A bridge between the early days of Japanese at Woodlands and our current Japanese language learning at SPW has been made. Woodlands CEGGS was the first school in SA to introduce Japanese as a subject. The photo (below left) shows the first class in 1965 learning Japanese in the Principal's office with Ms Baddams. Today's students were excited to see this photo as they too engage in learning the language and culture of Japan as part of SPW’s languages program. Two visiting old scholars, Stephanie Whyte (’68) and Penny Del Fante (Tonkin ’73) were interviewed by two SPW students, Ella F and Luke H about their Japanese learning experiences in the 1970s. Great comparisons were made; a fascination with the Japanese culture and a love of learning the language seemed a common link transcending the eras for all students at this school. Ella and Luke presented a speech about Japanese learning throughout the history of the school at our SPW Weekly Assembly in Term 4 last year. We are so grateful to the Old Scholars Museum for their research into the history behind Japanese at the school.

– Skye Baldacchino – Japanese Language Teacher SPW

“It was an honour and joy to meet with Ella, Luke and their teacher to answer their very thoughtful and varied questions and so reminisce about learning Japanese at Woodlands in the early 70s. As I stepped into their classroom, I felt I had entered Japan. The small tables, zabuton and the many resources, pictures and creative displays immersed one into the language and culture. Quite different to the 70s, when we had one textbook and no internet as a resource and learning Japanese was a rarity.”

- Penny Del Fante (nee Tonkin) 1969-1973

The Year 7 Pizza Lunch was hosted on 7 November 2013 by the Old Scholars’ Committee. BIG decisions were made, with such an array of pizzas to choose from! Students were informed about the Association and what this means for them in the future. They were encouraged to join at the end of the year and many have taken up this offer since.

In the latest issue of the St Margaret’s Chapel Guild Newsletter there was an article about our Chapel of St Margaret of Scotland. The article was sent to Edinburgh by Karen Schaumloffel, Development Officer at SPW in which she described the celebrations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the School Chapel as well as the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of St Peter’s Parish Day School.

We can help with addresses and notices in our newsletters if you wish to organise a reunion. The following people are willing to be contact points in their areas.

South East SA:  Sandy Coulson (Heaver) (08) 8723 0851, mob. 0429 116 910, or email: hyside@bigpond.net.au
Riverland: Lydia Weigall (Showell), (08) 8595 8140
Sydney:  Jane Rees, mob. 0403 931 398, email: jrees@hub24.com.au
Canberra/ACT: Julia Pedler (Webster), (02) 6294 1004( h), mob. 0416 170 012, email: Julia.Pedler@treasury.gov.au
Queensland: Bev Travers, (07) 5538 8404, email: beverlee_travers@hotmail.com
W. Australia: Libby Dadd (Pavy), (08) 9383 1722, email: libby@daddgroup.com.au
Western Victoria:  Annabel Hawkins (Vincent), (03) 5306 6225, email: hawkinsath@optusnet.com.au
Melbourne: Maxine Howard, (03) 9848 5978, mob 0438 984 850, email: woodiesos@aonet.com.au (main contact)
New Zealand (Nth.Island): Julie Bubb, Paeroa, (07) 8627188, email: bubbj@xtra.co.nz
New Zealand (Sth.Island): Anna Flowerday, PO Box 70, Renwick, Marlborough, email: anna_jason@xtra.co.nz
Canada: Jonquille Eyre, Toronto, Ontario. Phone: 416 762 3625, email: jreyre@sympatico.ca
United Kingdom:  Eleanor Relle (Canning), 0162 2679551, email: eleonorreille@gmail.com

Old Scholars can use the Chapel for baptisms, weddings and funerals. We also have the music for “St. Margaret of Scotland”. Any Old Scholar who wishes to visit the school for a tour of new developments, or who would like to hold a reunion at the school, or who needs other information please contact St Peter’s Woodlands Grammar School: Karen Schaumloffel (Phillips’79) (08) 72216202 or email: kschaumloffel@spw.sa.edu.au or Joanna Gray (Messenger’84) on (08) 7221 6217 or email: jgray@spw.sa.edu.au

The Year 7 Pizza Lunch was hosted on 7 November 2013 by the Old Scholars’ Committee. BIG decisions were made, with such an array of pizzas to choose from!

Students were informed about the Association and what this means for them in the future. They were encouraged to join at the end of the year and many have taken up this offer since.

In the latest issue of the St Margaret's Chapel Guild Newsletter there was an article about our Chapel of St Margaret of Scotland.

The article was sent to Edinburgh by Karen Schaumloffel, Development Officer at SPW in which she described the celebrations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the School Chapel as well as the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of St Peter's Parish Day School.

The following people are willing to be contact points in their areas.

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