

The WEST PERTH BELLE

2022 REFLECTION



St Mary's Treasures

The Marlene Carter Heritage Centre holds many treasures and relics, but you would never find our Reverend Joyce Polson OAM letting you call her either one! A very special morning tea was held for Reverend Joyce in the Heritage Centre in September last year. Some of Joyce's donated items, including her Medal of the Order of Australia were on display, along with her WA State Women's Cricket Team blazer and signed cricket bats.

Old and dear friends listened as Joyce recalled her days of joining the clergy, and retold tales of amusing goings-on at school assemblies! The twinkle in her eyes and wry sense of humour have not diminished, even

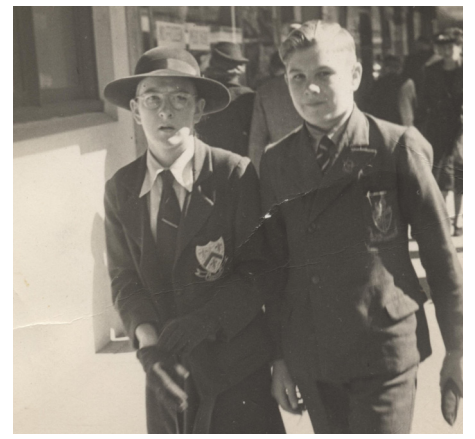
if her legendary spin bowling arm now needs the occasional help of a friend.

Reverend Joyce had been a Deaconess and assistant to Canon Lawrence William Riley, known as Bill, while he was at the Applecross Anglican Church, and later at St Mary's West Perth. She was great friends with his children, Tim and Geoff Riley AM, who both attended the Foundations' 35th Anniversary Dinner this year. The attendance of the grandsons of the School's founder, Bishop Charles Lawrence Riley CBE, at the event, brought great significance and meaning to the occasion. They also donated significant Riley family bibles, Bishop's seals, and memorabilia to the Archives Collection.



TOP Principal, Judith Tudball and St Mary's Honorary Life Member, Jane Gillon with Reverend Joyce Polson during her visit.

RIGHT Some of Reverend Joyce's items on display during her visit.



Captured by the Street Photographers of Perth

Do you recall strolling along the streets of Perth, and being 'captured' by the quick shutter of a Perth street photographer, being handed a numbered slip and photographer's card, and later purchasing the black and white snap? We have shared some of our memorable street photographer's snaps that are in the Archives Collection. These include Helen Hyslop (Judge '50, Head Girl) and her friend, Naomi Mitchell ('50) strolling along in their winter uniforms with school cases, gloves and berets, and Mrs Elizabeth Myles, Principal 1944 – 1956, and her daughter out shopping in London Court.

If you have any of photos like these that you would like conserved or copied, please contact St Mary's Archivist, Stephanie Neille, on (08) 9341 9113 or archives@stmarys.wa.edu.au



Traditions Old and New

As we begin St Mary's next Century of Discovery, we have not forgotten our heritage or traditions.

The School's Centenary Plaque was laid in the footpath of Colin Street in West Perth. The Year 3 girls, who visit St Mary's West Perth annually, now conduct rubbings of the plaque as part of the *Hands on our History* program.

Another new tradition stemming from the School's centenary is the White Chapel Service. The girls wear a white dress under their blazer, complete with white gloves and hat. They take part in a traditional chapel service, including readings from the King James version of the Bible. They later re-enact the Prefects' photo taken in 1965, when the girls first visited the Karrinyup site, in their formal white dresses and holding the School flag.

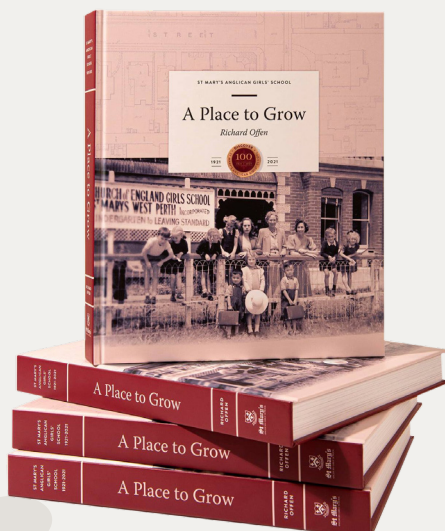
This year, the Old Girls' Association also introduced a special pin for current students whose mother, grandmother or great grandmother are Old Girls. New students will receive their pins at the start of every school year to proudly wear on their lapels.

One old tradition still going strong is the burying of time capsules. The Junior School Centenary Time Capsule and the Year 12 Centenary Time Capsule were both buried with precious mementos and treasures, ready for their unveiling in the future.



ABOVE RIGHT *Hands on our history*

MIDDLE L-R: *Prefects 1965 at Karrinyup Site. Year 3 White Chapel service. Judith Tudball buries the Junior School Centenary Time Capsule.*



Secure your piece of St Mary's history

Our centenary book, 'A Place to Grow', is the perfect gift or memento for a loved one and makes a wonderful conversation starter for the coffee table.

The book is a compelling and colourful narrative of St Mary's from its origins in 1921, through to the school we know and love today. Written by renowned historian and author, Richard Offen, for the anniversary celebrations, the book uses a range of archive material to tell the unique story of how we became one of Australia's leading schools for girls.

Drop in and purchase your copy from our Senior School reception. Alternatively, you can order a copy online at <https://www.trybooking.com/BPKGf>



Fleur de Lis Club

Sparked by the remarkable West Perth Reunion High Tea in 2010, the Fleur De Lis Club Morning Tea is a great opportunity for Old Girls who have left the School 50 or more years ago to reconnect. More than 40 guests of the Fleur De Lis Club joined us recently for a special high tea in the Polson Room, including Dorothy Harbisher (Van Dal '39), Honorary Life Member and past President of the OGA, who celebrated her 100th birthday earlier this year. After reminiscing with old friends and viewing the expanding Karrinyup campus, the Old Girls were entertained by our Kindergarten students who had everyone tapping their toes and bopping along.



New Creative Arts and Design Centre

Art has always been a popular and well-taught subject at St Mary's, from the School's early days of nature walks with Miss Tohill, or technical drawing and painting classes with Margaret Saunders.

Not always housed in a specific studio space when the School was at West Perth, art classes were initially held in random classrooms or under a tree at the Karrinyup campus, before moving into the Art, Music and Drama Centre. With increasing participation and changing curricula, Music and Drama soon outgrew their spaces and moved to the Lady Wardle Performing Arts Centre and the Lady Treutt Centre for Music and Dance.

With the Visual Arts, Textile Technologies and Media Studies departments continuing to grow and expand, work has commenced for the new Creative Arts and Design Centre which will see all these departments housed in one creative hub.

This contemporary, light-filled centre will offer spacious studios, multimedia rooms and galleries designed to ignite a strong culture of student innovation, creativity, collaboration, and experimentation.

We hope you can join us at one of the upcoming events to see the growth and development around campus. If you would like a tour of the School, please also reach out to us at oga@stmarys.wa.edu.au



The Gift of Education

Each year St Mary's runs a campaign appealing for donations to our Annual Giving Scholarship, which is offered to a student who would not be able to attend St Mary's without financial support. The worthy recipient of our 2022 Annual Giving Scholarship was Lacey Argent, who joined us this year from the small regional town of Cunderdin.

"I loved St Mary's from the first moment I saw the school. Being from the country, the open spaces and trees surrounding St Mary's made me feel right at home. Receiving a St Mary's scholarship means that I have so many more options available to me that I would not have had if I had stayed in my hometown of Cunderdin. To all the donors who have made this possible, thank you so much for believing in me. Without your support, I would not be able to attend St Mary's and have the opportunities that I now have available to me. I look forward to seeing what I can achieve in the next six years and I hope that I make you proud." - Lacey Argent, Year 7



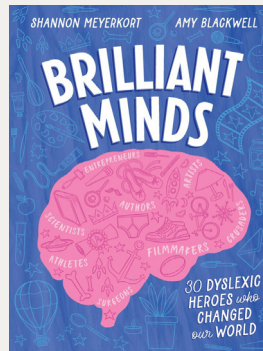
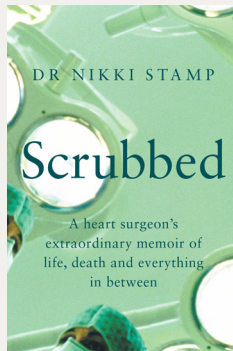
Save the Date



OLD GIRLS' DAY 2023

SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2023

We are currently planning this event but please reserve the date in your diary and we look forward to providing details early in the new year.



Old Girl Authors

Looking for your next compelling read?
Why not support our Old Girls who have recently published three outstanding books:

Mimi Kwa ('91), *House of Kwa*

Shannon Meyerkort ('94), *Brilliant Minds: 30 Dyslexic Heroes Who Changed the World*

Dr Nikki Stamp ('98), *Scrubbed*

Life's Duty Done

We express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the following members of our St Mary's community who passed away in 2022.

Cynthia Ritson (Leake '39)

Grace Truran (Dunwell '55)

Mary Smith (Ellis '59)

Gillian McKerracher (Allberry '61)

Dixie Harris ('65)

Susan (Sue) Cruthers ('75)

Madeline (Maddy) Toohey ('14)

Sally Hicks (2021, Head Girl)

Robin Ding (Bennett),
St Mary's Sports teacher from 1961-66

Peggy Gale, St Mary's Art teacher from 1976-88

Van Panotidis, past member of the Board of Governors, Parents' Society and numerous other voluntary positions

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