

The WEST PERTH BELLE

2024 REFLECTIONS



Remembering the 21 Hearts

The St Mary's community had the rare privilege of Theatre 180's original production of *21 Hearts* being staged in the Lady Wardle Performing Arts Centre in August. Written by Jenny Davis OAM, it is a dramatisation of the story of Sister Vivian Bullwinkel and the World War II Army nurses involved in the sinking of the *SS Vyner Brooke*, the massacre on Banka Island and later becoming prisoners of war (POWs). St Mary's Old Girl, Peggy Farmaner ('30) was one of the nurses who perished on Banka Island. Members of Peggy's family, her nephew,



Dexter Warne and his wife, Shirley Warne (Frost '58) and granddaughter, who had recently made a generous donation of Peggy's school prize books to the St Mary's Archives Collection, attended the production. Even after such

a passing of time and healing of wounds, the story of the fate of the nurses and their response to their predicament still resonates and teaches today's audience, young and old.

Lest We Forget.

TOP LEFT '21 Hearts' production cast as prisoners of war. TOP RIGHT Peggy Farmaner ('30). BOTTOM Dexter and Shirley Warne (Frost '58) and granddaughter.



The Fleur de Lis Club



Morning Tea

We were thrilled to host such a memorable Fleur de Lis Club Morning Tea, where we had the honour of welcoming back Old Girls who graduated from St Mary's 50 or more years ago!

This year's event was extra special, as it marked the first time the Morning Tea was held in the Creative Arts and Design Centre. The beautiful new venue provided the perfect place for a performance by the Year 6 Nightingales Choir and the talented Chamber Strings ensemble.

It was also a joyous occasion for the Class of 1964, who gathered to celebrate their 60-year reunion together.

We look forward to continuing this tradition and are excited to welcome the Class of 1975 to next year's Fleur de Lis Club Morning Tea.



Bishop Riley Dinner

Members of the Bishop Riley Bequest Society were treated to an exclusive viewing of the artistic talent on offer in the Senior School as they dined amongst their exhibited work and heard a touching speech from Year 12 Art Captain, Marylou McBain. The dinner provided an opportunity for the School to recognise and thank those members of our community who have left a gift to St Mary's in their will.

This year also marked the launch of the Helen Judge Principal's Award, made possible by a bequest from Ray Hyslop in honour of his wife, Helen Hyslop (Judge '50, Head Girl). The award recognises an exceptional piece of art created by a Year 12 Visual Arts student. We would like to congratulate the 2024 recipient, Yan Yee (Amy) Lin, for her stunning wearable art piece and accompanying painting.



TOP Guests enjoying the Fleur de Lis, 2024. BOTTOM LEFT Lisa Clarko ('80), Dana Trtica ('63) and Jane Gillon (Fisher '70). BOTTOM Marlene Carter ('63) and Principal, Mrs Judith Tudball. BOTTOM RIGHT 2024 Helen Judge Principal's Award recipient, Yan Yee (Amy) Lin and her wearable art piece.

Rev Polson

'The life God calls us to live' – The Reverend Joyce Polson OAM

As one of the first women in Australia to be ordained as an Anglican Priest, long remembered for her wit and down-to-earth manner, Rev Joyce Polson OAM will always remain in the hearts of countless Old Girls and members of the St Mary's community. A Deaconess to many and Chaplain

then Chaplain Emeritus to others, she was approachable, had insight into the problems of the day, gave spiritual and practical advice, and easily stepped in and out to assist when she was required to. With her deep faith inspiring her, and her care for others energising her, Rev Joyce served St Mary's for over 60 years.

Rev Joyce had a soul that helped carry the burdens of her community, even if they were not aware of it or of her faith. She approached life with the

same head-on drive that she bowled in cricket, her second love after God. With her passing this year, she left a bequest to the School, allowing future generations of St Mary's girls to benefit from her generosity, and with that, learn from and hopefully reflect upon her uplifting final words: 'God loves me, God forgives me, God is with me. Say it every day—teach it to everyone. Think about it, for from those words will come the life God calls us to live.'



With Open Arms

Father Richard Pengelley was commissioned in 2019 and ended his tenure as Chaplain at St Mary's in 2024 with the Patronal Eucharist, the service that honours the patron saint of our School, Saint Mary.

His service to St Mary's has been inspirational and deeply spiritual, building on the universal messages of love and charity. Fr Richard brought a wealth of understanding and compassion to his role, guiding us through adjusted services in a world pandemic and the loss of some dearly loved members of our community. As the new Assistant Chaplain, Reverend Ruth Chapman said, 'I am forever indebted to him for his grace and support he has shown me...Fr Richard leaves St Mary's with our collective love and prayers.' Reverend Ruth comes to us from the United Kingdom, having served in a variety of pastoral roles for over a decade.



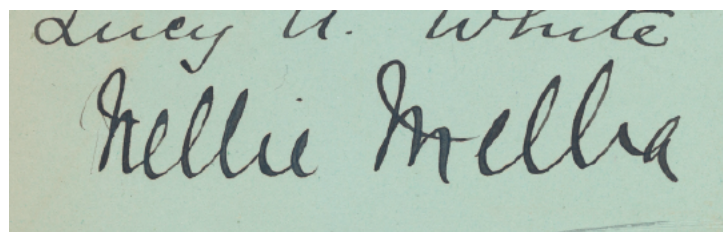
TOP LEFT Joyce becomes a Deaconess, St George's Cathedral 1955. **MIDDLE TOP** Beth Buchanan (Mickle '48, HG) far left, and Joyce at Deaconess School, Sydney 1953. **MIDDLE BOTTOM** Deaconess with students in the early days at Karrinyup. **TOP RIGHT** Barbara Seabrook (Sarell '33), Lady Sue Ryder CMG OBE and Joyce, 1991. **BOTTOM LEFT** Father Richard Pengelley at the 2024 Patronal Eucharist. **BOTTOM RIGHT** Reverend Ruth Chapman at the Class of 2024 Valedictory.

A Moment In Time

People have always wanted to capture a moment in time, mark an occasion, recall a loving face or meaningful lines spoken or written; however, long gone are the days when we would offer the little bound book, compiled of multicoloured pages finished in gold, with the question, 'can I please have your autograph?'

The art of memory and capturing it on an everyday level have changed with time – the personal autograph book, scrapbook, illustrated journal, letter compendium or plain air sketching book have now largely been replaced with a picture taken from a phone and instantly uploaded onto social media, or texted to a friend or loved one. These former long-lasting and tangible ways of capturing moments in time seem somewhat slow in this fast-paced digital age.

We recently had the pleasure of searching through the Archives to find some of these visual life journals from our Old Girls to display at an event. We have included some of the treasures we uncovered.



Leaders Brunch with the Principal



Past Head Girls, Senior Day Girls and Senior Boarders returned to St Mary's to enjoy Sunday Brunch with Principal, Mrs Judith Tudball. The morning was filled with reconnection and nostalgia, as Old Girls from a wide range of peer years joined us to reminisce. A highlight of the event was the presence of Beth Buchanan, Head Girl from 1948.



LEFT Girl in blue dress by Susette Anderson (Chase '31). TOP Pauline Riley's Postcard Album – Donated by Tim Riley. MIDDLE Dame Nellie Melba GBE, Opera Singer, 1908. BOTTOM LEFT Margaret Bell (Mooney, '67) Head Girl and Rosa McGillivray (Tilbrook, '67) Senior Boarder. BOTTOM RIGHT Beth Buchanan, Head Girl from 1948.

St Mary's Parish 125 Anniversary

St Mary's West Perth Anglican Parish Celebrated its 125th Anniversary!

The Tuesday October 2024 was the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the St Mary's West Perth Parish, as it was officially constituted on that day in 1899. The parish hall was designed by J. Talbot Hobbs and built before the church, that was designed by P. W. Harrison, completed in 1906 and consecrated by Archbishop Charles Owen Leaver Riley OBE. Constructed in the style of Gothic revival in the shape of a Christian cross, it had a central aisle (or nave) and altar, a vaulted timber ceiling, arches, stained-glass windows, and a west-facing rose window. Due to financial constraints, the church was never completed, which helped lead to its eventual demolition and rebuilding in 1981, catering for a changing demographic and needs of the parish in West Perth. Builders removed the popular rose stained-glass window in 1980, keeping the tracery to reconstruct it into the new church, at the same height, and with the same dimensions and footprint as the original. The famous organ was also removed and rebuilt into the



new church, albeit with a different orientation. With the growing needs of the blossoming parish community and regeneration of the West Perth area for residential living, a new parish hall was added and greater space for parish offices was created in 2002.

The 125th Anniversary celebratory service was overflowing with clergy, community, good will and energy. The strength of the parish and the commitment of its congregation were as strong as

the singing from the choir. Hymns were plentiful and powerful, and as Jeremy Buxton, the Warden of St Mary's said of the church, it is, '...a multicultural congregation reinforcing Anglican Christian commitment while building on a long, faithful local history; and a parish that is a constructive part of the Perth Diocese.' Even though its very foundations may have been reconstructed, in essence, it is still our St Mary's, with a wonderful future.

West Perth Morning Tea

Saturday 29 March 2025, 10.00am

To begin the centenary celebrations of the Old Girls' Association, we're going back to where it all began! We warmly invite you to join us for tea and cake at the St Mary's West Perth Parish, followed by a special tour led by our St Mary's Archivist, Stephanie Neille.



The 'St Mary's Girl' Rose

In celebration of the Old Girls' Association's 100th Anniversary, there will be a limited number of 'St Mary's Girl' roses available for purchase. To pre-order your \$45 rose, which will be available for collection in 2025, please email oga@stmarys.wa.edu.au or phone (08) 9341 9132.

You're Invited

Christmas Eve Service

5.00PM, SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER 2024

The Chapel of St Mary at School

Old Girls and their families are warmly invited to join the St Mary's community for the Blessing of the Crib and Holy Communion service. Everyone is welcome to attend this special Christmas service.

Call out for Pen Pals Program 2025!

We are launching a new Pen Pal Program in 2025 and are looking for Old Girls who might like to participate. If you would be happy to write a minimum of two letters a year to a Year 5 student then please contact Lucy at oga@stmarys.wa.edu.au or calling (08) 9341 9132.

OGA Centenary Celebrations – Save the Date!

SATURDAY 29 MARCH

WEST PERTH MORNING TEA

SUNDAY 18 MAY

MOTHER'S DAY EVENT

SATURDAY 26 JULY

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

FLEUR DE LIS CLUB MORNING TEA

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER

PAINT AND SIP

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 this year.

Rosemary Agar ('74)
Andrea Bok ('91)
Helen Campbell (Willis '54, Head Girl)
Margaret Field, Head of Junior School 1970-1993
Larissa Golden ('07)
Sandra Gray ('51)
Elaine Hudson (Hornsby '57)
Bettyanne Huntington (Hopkins '61)
Dr Marigold Sylvia Jones (Deutscher '64)
Jill Loveday (Sheedy '70)
Betty Marmion (Ramm '47)

Kym Morton (Benbow '98)
Melanie Pepper, Dance Teacher 2010-2022
The Reverend Joyce Polson OAM, Chaplain Emeritus 2015
Margaret Joyce (Joyce) Stowe (Nicolay)(Cole '65)
Elizabeth Stubbs (Hunt '51)
Sally Tills (Bigwood '77, Head Girl)
Loma Toohey (Buckenara '47)
Valerie Waldron (Corney '38)
Dr Marjorie Wallace-Le (Wallace '54)
Norah Williams (Clement '40)

ST MARY'S ANGLICAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

PO Box 105,
Karrinyup WA 6921
AUSTRALIA

T: (08) 9341 9132
E: oga@stmarys.wa.edu.au
W: www.stmarys.wa.edu.au/oga



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 that *The West Perth Belle* is of interest and benefit to you.