

# Virtute



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ST RITA'S COLLEGE ALUMNAE

## THE PRIX D'HONNEUR: A PRIZE OF HONOUR FOR WOMEN OF INTEGRITY

*The Prix d'honneur is amongst the most prestigious awards presented at St Rita's College and is awarded to the student who has shown herself to be a woman of integrity.*



Recipients of the Prix d'honneur award are young women who are not on their own glory trail; one who is honest in her dealings with her peers; who, if chosen as a confidante will respect that person's confidence and someone who upholds the good name of the College. Should there be an issue in the College, the Prix d'honneur awardee will not throw her weight behind the most popular stand, but will take the one that she believes is the correct way to act. In other words, she is indeed a woman of integrity in the truest sense of the word. The recipient of this prestigious award is voted for by her peers and staff of the College.

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### Reconnect with Rita's

*Ensure you stay up to date with Alumnae news and events by contacting us with your updated contact details.*

*Do you have the details of an old classmate who may enjoy receiving a subscription of Virtute?*

**Contact email**  
[alumnae@stritas.qld.edu.au](mailto:alumnae@stritas.qld.edu.au)  
**or phone (07) 3862 1615.**

# A word from our Patron



Sr Elvera Sesta, Patron  
St Rita's College Alumnae

The other day I received a phone call out of the blue. A woman rang to tell me that she lived in the same block of units as my brother. She assured me that there was no need to worry and that he was well. As it turns out, at their recent Body Corporate meeting – they live in a block of about seven units – the residents had decided that since they all lived alone and

were getting on in years that they should set up some sort of contact for each of them.

My brother had given my name and contact details. She had phoned me to tell me this and that should there be an emergency, she would notify me. I congratulated her on their community mindedness. I was certainly impressed that, in our secular world, where privacy is juxtaposed with community the latter had come out on top. I thought of the several times that the media had reported people dying alone in their dwellings and no one knew, sometimes until months later.

Today, for many of us, life is lived on the run. We are often consumed with our own affairs and certainly are “not our brother’s keeper” (*Genesis 4:9*). We live in urbanised cities, not in the little villages of previous ages. Talking has given way to texting.

It is so important to keep in touch. After school, we form our own circle of friends and colleagues. Family is vital. It is certainly impressive to see that we also keep in touch with our class mates. It seems to be the custom with us that each year, we celebrate our ‘decade’ since we were at school at St Rita’s.

For some, school friends are still close; for others, they have lost touch over the years. Some very noble souls take it upon themselves to see how many of their cohort they are able to contact and then organise a function. Sometimes, the girls come from all over Australia and even from Overseas.

I am often asked to do a tour – a hopeless task! All the girls want to do is what they have always excelled in, and that was talking. Sometimes, they have so many years to catch up on. I do not mind if they talk when I am presenting as I thoroughly understand.

There is sometimes a very poignant moment when they remember those of their group who are deceased. I remember Sharon Hole who, one year, came straight from hospital where she was receiving treatment for a very aggressive cancer to a reunion luncheon. She is now with the Lord.

In between the chatting, they walk down memory lane as they visit the places where they sat in class or performed for some event. Usually, the memories are happy ones; although I have heard of some sad experiences.

I look at their faces. Some have not changed at all; others I would not recognise. For many, the traits they had as young girls, have mellowed as they have grown in wisdom; for others, their traits are simply more pronounced.

I love to share in their stories, to see how life has treated them and how they have responded. As a general rule, they have met life head on and taken in their stride the ups and downs. I am amazed at what some of them have achieved.

I wonder what they think of me. Do they recognise in my face, the face of yesteryear? Do they recall the good times we had together? I hope there are not too many bad memories. There are sure to be some, but I hope in their goodness they can be forgiven.

Community is so important. Let us do our best to keep the friendships going.

*Sr Elvera Sesta  
Patron*



# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Mrs Dale Morrow  
Principal

*“Let us not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this, have entertained angels without realizing it.” (Hebrews 13:2)*

**D**ear Alumnae,  
The College theme for the year is “People of Welcoming Heart” and the quote from Hebrews acts as an inspiration for us to be hospitable people. As you would know, hospitality is one of the

Presentation pillars from which we draw our focus each year. Having a theme helps focus our thoughts on the important aspects of what it means to be Presentation People. 2015 is a momentous year with Year 7 students becoming part of our College community. It is very apt, therefore, that our theme of hospitality should occur this year as we have so many new staff and new students to make welcome. I am pleased to report that all our new students seem to have settled very quickly into the College and already consider themselves to be proud St Rita’s girls.

I wonder what it is about our College that makes girls feel proud of belonging here? No doubt, as Alumnae members yourselves, you would each be able to list reasons why St Rita’s was an important part of your development as young women, and why it was a place for you to feel proud of. Even though times change, we like to think that as a staff, we continue to promote and maintain the standards and traditions which have always contributed to making girls feel proud of belonging to the St Rita’s community. The College works actively at establishing itself as an accepting community through a supportive pastoral program, as well as a community which looks outwardly, through its mission program, to provide girls with the opportunity to go out to others, and a community which challenges spurious cultural norms such as the sexualisation of girls and young women. As Presentation People we take seriously the challenge of trying to make a difference in the world, with our faith as the basis of our actions.

So far this year we have had groups of girls go on immersion trips to Cambodia and Murgon, and in the coming months a group will travel to Longreach on an immersion experience offered for the first time this year. This will give our students the opportunity to understand more about the bush and the hardship occurring in our own backyard. By way of giving St Rita’s students a greater sense of Presentation Mission and community, we continue to make links with other Presentation schools in Australia. As part of this program the College organised a Year 10 student

exchange with a Presentation School in Hobart while for staff, a conference on the issue of refugees was held in Melbourne in April.

Addressing the issue of preparing our Seniors for the world of work and further study we continue to offer a Work Experience program along with a Careers day. The Work Experience program involved the placement of eighty Year 12 students with various organisations - a mammoth task but one done competently by Sr. Elvera. We are most grateful to all the companies and businesses that made places available. Thanks must also go to the great many Alumnae who gave of their time and expertise at the Career’s Day – it speaks volumes for their commitment to the College and the values it aspires to.

There is no doubt that the College is blessed in many ways and one of those special ways is in its Alumnae. Please accept from me, on behalf of the College community, my sincere thanks not only for all that you do, but also for the inspiration and example you can be to our present student body.

To illustrate what I mean, I would like to end this report with a part of a speech recently given at a College assembly by Taylor Krause, one of our Year 12 students. It seems that her favourite speaker, as it turns out, is an Alumnae.

*“We all hear stories of gender inequality and minorities in the workplace. On the 3rd of June I attended the Women in Aviation/Aerospace Australia Summit. This summit gathered powerful people from the aviation industry to speak about gender inequality and how we, as a society, can ‘close the gap’. I believe this summit provided useful information for any woman going into the workplace, even if the career isn’t male dominated.*

*However my favourite speaker was a woman by the name Julieanne Alroe. Julieanne is the CEO of Brisbane Airport Corporation. In her session she stated that diversity in the workplace brings strength and resilience. However, Julieanne says you have to ask yourself ‘what am I prepared to trade off?’ Self-awareness is key, you must set a realistic time frame for your goal to be complete. But you must achieve your goal on your own accord.*

*So you might not want to be a pilot or engineer, you may want to be an editor in chief for Vogue. No matter what you want to be in life, you will have hurdles and you will need to jump them and keep running. But if you fall, remember it is not the fall that counts but how fast you get back to your feet and run. I encourage you to support your peers in their careers because it is doable. Thank you.* “

I think you will agree that we are still producing young women who will hold their place in this world.

God Bless.

**Dale Morrow**  
Principal

## 2016 ST RITA'S COLLEGE ALUMNAE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST

In 2016 Rita's College will celebrate 90 years of providing exceptional education and creating women of action. As women, we annually celebrate International Women's Day which provides a global opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of women past, present and future.

The St Rita's College Alumnae Committee is excited to announce that on Friday 4 March 2016 we will be hosting our inaugural International Women's Day breakfast at the Brisbane Marriott Hotel. The theme of this breakfast is "Connect to Inspire" and will provide a wonderful opportunity to network with hardworking women and celebrate the success of women from our college.

We are thrilled to announce that St Rita's past student and renowned journalist, Christine Jackman (Class of 1986) will be the speaker for this event. Ms Jackman has worked as a columnist for several leading newspapers and as a foreign correspondent based out of New York. Ms Jackman is also the author of "Inside Kevin07", an account of the 2007 Australian Federal election.

### **Save the date**

Further details for this event can be found on page 12. Be sure to mark Friday 4 March 2016 in your diaries.

*continued from page 1*

The original Prix d'honneur award was presented to the College by the Hon Frank McDonnell (1863-1928). A draper and politician, Frank was born at Ennis, Clare, Ireland; his father died when he was seven years old. At the age of thirteen Frank began working in a factory, then returned to school to the Christian Brothers at Ennis. He was later apprenticed as a draper, a fellow employee being T. C. Beirne. Accompanied by his only sister, Frank arrived in Brisbane in 1886. On 31 December 1890 he married Mary Heffernan at St Stephen's Cathedral and was the parent of seven children – three girls and four boys.

After many positions in retail, with Finney Isles and Co and Edward & Lamb in Brisbane, Frank established the firm of McDonnell and East. Frank McDonnell, was a Labor campaigner for early closing and better conditions for workers. He was the Secretary of the Queensland Parliamentary Labor Party, MLA for Fortitude Valley 1896 – 1907 and Member of the Legislative Council from 1907-1922.

McDonnell was a strong advocate for the improvement of conditions for members of the police force and teachers. In 1899 he secured the extension of the grammar school scholarship system to other approved schools; taking effect from 1901, this measure was of particular benefit to Catholic schools and firmed the Catholic-Labor bond.

Frank took a strong interest in the education of girls. His daughters, Mary, Veronica and Josephine, later attended the infant school of St Rita's. He donated the original Prix d'honneur prize which was a gold chain and cross. This prize continued for many years until the early 21st century where it became a perpetual trophy with each recipient having their name inscribed on both the Honour Board and trophy.

From this year, it is with great pleasure and pride that the Alumnae will now sponsor the Prix d'honneur Award, announced at the College's Annual Thanksgiving Celebration, as well as donate \$500 to the recipient's preferred St Rita's ministry and charity of choice. The recipient will also be invited to join the Alumnae Committee as a Consulting Committee Member. Her role will be supported to generate initiatives to encourage and engage our newest members of the alumnae to remain connected with the College as they continue their lives as women of integrity.

We congratulate the 2015 Prix d'honneur, Nicole O'Keeffe, and look forward to sharing more information on her service to the College in the next edition of *Virtute*.



# A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Patrice Simpson - SRC  
Alumnae President

We are fast approaching the end of 2015, and if you are like me, you are already looking back on the year thinking 'what did I achieve?' – personally, professionally, spiritually. The Alumnae is no different and when I look back on 2015, there is an array of achievements to be celebrated; and a number of initiatives that, without the unwavering support

of many, would simply not be happening.

The 2nd annual Alumnae High Tea on Sunday 13 September once again exceeded our expectations for not only attendance, but also funds raised, tours of Stanley Hall, and laughs in the room. Our ever supportive sponsors – Vanilla Pod, Gusto di Gianni, Terry White Chemists, Dendy Portside and Eagle Street Pharmacy – once again dug deep to provide prizes; from which the monies raised, are now directly supporting the Alumnae Bursary Fund. Thank you to all who attended and we look forward to the 2016 Alumnae High Tea.

In other event news, we are marrying the aspirations we have for driving Alumnae mentoring initiatives and networking opportunities by hosting a new event. The first Alumnae International Women's Day breakfast - Connect to Inspire - will be held on Friday 4th March 2016 at the Brisbane Marriott. Our special guest speaker is the highly talented, very spirited and utterly engaging Christine Jackman, past pupil (1986) and national journalist. Her inspiring story is definitely one to hear first-hand.

Finally, as you read in our feature article, the Alumnae is now sponsoring the coveted annual Prix d'honneur award which is announced at the Annual Thanksgiving Celebration. This is a substantial step forward in linking the past pupil community with the current College community and I thank Mrs Dale Morrow for being instrumental in making it happen. We look forward to welcoming future award winners to the Alumnae Committee as Consulting Members; the objective of which is to drive ideas for greater integration between the Alumnae and its newest members.

I believe we have made significant steps towards

achieving the key objectives of the Alumnae this year. It goes without saying that the work we do is a direct reflection of the hard working individuals involved. I would like to wholeheartedly thank our committee members – Natalie Claut, Angela Custance, Brianna Bright, Anna Martini, Rosemarie Parisi, Madonna Terry, Brooke Dwyer, Denise Pickering and Linda Quain; the knowledge and guidance of our Patron, Sr Elvera Sesta; and, College Principal, Mrs Dale Morrow, whose support and belief in the strategic importance in the Alumnae has been pivotal in the development of many of our initiatives this year. 2016 is already looking quite exciting for the SRC Alumnae, so get involved, stay connected and reap the rewards of Reconnecting with Rita's.

*Patrice Simpson*  
SRC Alumnae President

A St Rita's College Alumnae Event

International Women's Day Breakfast

Friday 4 March 2016

St Rita's College Alumnae cordially invite Past Pupils and Friends to the International Women's Day Breakfast 2016 Connect to Inspire

<b>When</b>	Friday 4 March 2016	<b>Close of Booking Date</b>	Friday 26 February 2016
<b>Where</b>	Brisbane Marriott Hotel	<b>Contact</b>	Rosemarie Parisi e: jrpparisi@bigpond.com
<b>Time</b>	7.00am for 7.30am		Full details are contained on the booking website <a href="http://www.trybooking.com/169710">http://www.trybooking.com/169710</a>
<b>Cost</b>	\$65 per person	<b>Ticketing Conditions</b>	All bookings are to be made online through <a href="http://www.trybooking.com">trybooking.com</a> . There are two booking options available: a table of 10 or a single seat. Full payment for all 10 guests will be required to complete a booking and secure a table. Refunds cannot be given to anyone who does not attend or for a change of mind.

**Guest Speaker**  
Christine Jackman, ('86) Journalist, Writer, Author of *Inside Kevin O7: The People. The Plan. The Prize.*, now Director - Communications with Crosby|Textor

**Lucky Door & Raffle Prizes**  
Win one night's accommodation in a Brisbane Marriott river view room, including buffet breakfast for two people in Motion Bar and Grill & valet parking.



# Prix d'honneurs through the decades

The Prix d'honneur legacy has continued through generations of St Rita's students. In this edition of Virtute, we have compiled reflections from recipients of this prestigious award through the ages.

HONOUR BOARD				HONOUR BOARD			
YEAR	SCHOOL CAPTAIN	PRIX D'HONNEUR	DUX	YEAR	SCHOOL CAPTAIN	PRIX D'HONNEUR	DUX
1947		A. Ring		1977	P. C. Whitman	J. Phelan	J. Conway
1948		C. Mulcahy	A. Ring				L. Arnold
1949		M. R. MacGinley	M. R. MacGinley	1978	J. Haigh	T. Hamilton	M. Bartlett
1950		M. MacGinley	M. MacGinley				W. Keillor
1951		J. Uhr	J. Uhr	1979	D. Bath	P. Fitzgerald	C. Krause
1952		N. Fitzpatrick	A. Bukowski	1980	L. Kneebone	N. Kelly	E. Williams
1953		B. Culhane	B. Benton	1981	T. Benedetti	C. Strickland	T. Sullivan
1954		M. Hinde	J. Weir	1982	S. Berney	M. Archer	K. Murphy
1955		E. Sesta	E. Sesta	1983	T. Balaam	S. Brown	S. Fitzgerald
1956		D. Sullivan	P. Vizzard	1984	E. Stafford	J. McGrory	M. McCarthy
1957	B. Fleming	B. Fleming	B. Fleming	1985	M. Gardiner	C. Gore	N. McDonald
1958	L. McDonald	K. Cleary	M. Haley				K. Maher
1959	M. O'Neill	M. O'Neill	J. Brereton	1986	J. O'Hagan	E. Gibbs	J. Aboud
1960	M. Maughan	M. Scott	P. Daly	1987	E. Sheahan	N. Carroll	A. Bartley
1961	E. Tinney	K. Hayes	A. Shears	1988	C. Scott	L. Andriolo	S. Twomey K. Edwards
1962	B. McDonald	M. Draper	K. Tynan	1989	M. Forrester	E. Darwin	C. Dawson
1963	N. Ehrich	L. McAndrew	J. Clarke	1990	J. Rafferty	E. Colebourne	K. Galvin
1964	L. Hedley	K. Creagh	J. Cushing	1991	M. Tyrrell	L. Colebourne	K. Lourigan
			K. Rossberg	1992	K. Cooke	C. Lanza-Volpe	S. Kanowski N. Kosiek
1965	F. Devlin	E. Cheverton	F. Devlin	1993	J. Wilson	M. Gillespie	E. McMahon
1966	N. Kelly	C. Haley	B. Nicholls			J. Ryan	S. Prior
1967	L. T. Jones	M. Black	L. E. Jones	1994	M. Fabiani	C. Feeney	A. Constantinidis
1968	S. Graham	S. Graham	S. Graham	1995	S. Buchanan	E. Feeney	M. Spanevello
1969	I. Groeneveld	I. Groeneveld	B. Cushing	1996	B. Mulhall	B. Mulhall	K. Karino K. Smith
1970	J. Williams	J. Williams	M. Hall	1997	K. Donovan	A. Schiavo	A. Macedo
1971	M. Chappel	R. Hickey	J. Hansen	1998	R. Nugent	R. Clair	K. Isoardi
			M. Smith	1999	P. Taylor	S. Hose	K. Misawa
1972	L. Gardiner	R. Sheahan	M. Zavattaro	2000	M. O'Shea	S. Eluvathingal	J. Murdoch C. Bergs
			L. Armstrong	2001	S. Brady	L. Donaldson	S. Griffin
			M. Kennedy	2002	A. Cottrell	S. Singh	A. Keenan M. Atherton
1973	H. Orchard	H. Orchard	B. McGahan	2003	C. Bergs	C. Roff	J. Miller
			M. Power	2004	K. Cantrell	A. Maguire	E. Knauth
			K. Grundy	2005	L. Bechtel	C. Parker	R. Effeney
1974	A. Sherlock	M. Riethmuller	J. Donoghue	2006	K. O'Connor	A. Duggan	P. Khoo
			J. Searle	2007	H. Dickinson	M. Halaufia	M. Custance
			L. Griffiths	2008	S. Hows	K. Dwyer	S. Ryan
1975	T. Proberts	P. McKennarley	B. Hamilton	2009	C. White	K. Mellifont	R. Yong Gee
			F. Joyner	2010	A. Watts	J. Chatfield	N. Malawaraarachchi
			C. Brett	2011	M. Collins	F. Bliss	A. Kollosche
1976	K. McDade	E. Palmer	M. Burke	2012	M. O'Seighin	H. Hickey	M. Kowitz
			J. O'Byrne	2013	M. Di Sipio	E. Hickey	E. Beckinsale
			P. A. Whitman	2014	K. Tuite	B. Banerjee	B. Banerjee
			T. Sim				



*Elvera Sesta 1955*

I received the gold cross and chain way back in 1955. I remember feeling amazed that I would have been voted for this prestigious award. In some ways it seemed to lift the bar – if your peers and teachers thought that you were worthy of this honour, then you would have to ensure that you lived up to their expectations. It was something to be treasured.

Sixty years have passed since I received my gold cross and chain. I do not still have it but deep within, there is the determination to live up to that ideal.



*Kath Creagh 1964*

I was awarded the Prix d'honneur at an afternoon ceremony at what I think was an old cinema theatre at Clayfield. We walked there as a College cohort.

When I was called as recipient of the Prix d'honneur and called to receive my award I was numb. The award was of great importance and honour in the College. It was an award for sustained contribution to the College, for service and honourable behaviour and courtesy toward staff and students. This award was a reflection of the College motto of Action not Words. I heard the acknowledgement of my peers and the College community. I received this honour with the reverence it deserved. I thanked and acknowledged all. My mother was there to see her daughter receive the accolades of her College. Such an honour. So proud. So loved.

School days were over, my life was unfolding into the



unknown and yet I knew intrinsically that my life would always be measured by the Prix d'honneur and what it represented.



*Helen Hickey (nee Orchard) 1973*

I am very grateful for the wonderful opportunity I was given by my parents to be a student of St. Rita's College. What I most treasure are the life values that were instilled in us as members of the St. Rita's Community and it is those values that have shaped who I am and how I live life. At the end of Year 12 I was truly humbled and honoured to be awarded the Prix d'honneur. I remember vividly feeling completely overwhelmed. I'm sure I must have cried. Upon reflection over these years, I am truly thankful for the reminder that it's the matters of the heart (compassion, hospitality, simplicity, courage, justice and hope) that change our lives and the lives of others. In 2013 my daughter, Erin, was awarded the Prix d'honneur. I definitely did cry when Principal, Dale Morrow rang to share the amazing news! What an honour and privilege we both share.



*Joanne Curran (nee Mc Grory) 1984*

To receive the Prix d'honneur award at the end of my time at St Rita's, over 30 years ago, was certainly an emotional and exciting honour for me. I recall phoning my mother from the pay phone located in the area under the staff room and how proud my parents were of me!

From the moment I arrived at St Rita's, to begin Term 2 of Year 9, I certainly loved my St Rita's experience! I came from a country town in Victoria where I had attended a co-educational college and I had low expectations of being warmly welcomed and accepted by a large group of Year 9 girls. My expectations were clearly surpassed with St Rita's and all that it offered me. My Alma Mater will always hold a special place in my heart! Upon reflecting on what the Prix d'honneur award means to me, it reinforced and highlighted that integrity, honesty and trust were of great personal value and also valued by others.



*Maryanne Gillespie 1993*

The Prix d'honneur honour board displayed in Trinity Hall celebrated pride in being a member of the St Rita's family and the embrace of our unique school culture - a culture that valued, among other things, social justice,

diversity and endeavour, and one that encouraged the growth of personal qualities such as courage. Above all else, I think that the award encouraged all students to be inspired to lead active and outward lives, enriching our own lives in the process. I was by no means more outstanding than other students. I simply had a great desire to belong and participate and I felt, as I continue to feel, very honoured to hold such a special acknowledgement. I have at times reflected on the Prix d'honneur award and it has re-inspired me to be a person with substance, conviction and spirit - as it might any St Rita's girl.



*Clare Foss 1994 (nee Feeney)*

I loved my time at St Rita's. I was supported, nurtured and encouraged to try new things. I was surrounded with inspiring people who led by example. I was challenged to look at the wider world and help wherever possible. All these "I"s came from community. It was humbling

to receive an award from my peers and community in recognition of values that were instilled by them. I have carried this forward into my life. I try every day, as a mum, a wife, a doctor, a friend, to make the world a little better for my family and the people I meet.



*Eleanor Feeney 1995*

It is one thing to be taught about social issues affecting our society, it is another to take action to help address them. My strongest memory of my time at SRC is of teachers who not only helped educate us on the need for social justice and stewardship of the earth, but also provided us with

the agency to take a stand and make a difference in whatever way we can. The issues of then: anti-nuclear testing in the South Pacific, highlighting human rights abuses in post-Soviet states, spreading acceptance of Australian Native Title Law - have given way to new and ever-evolving challenges of today. What remains true though is "Virtute non Verbis" - I am proud that our words put into actions helped make a difference, but even more so that this legacy of action continues through the current generation of the young women of St Rita's.

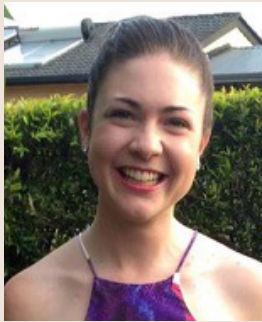




*Chloe Parker – 2005*

Receiving the Prix d'honneur was a true reflection of the values, integrity and professional qualities that St Rita's College successfully reinforced in my life. At its heart, the award recognises the influence of leaders who do not simply speak words, but are motivated to engage

in meaningful action. It is this motto 'action not words' that I continually draw upon throughout my professional career. In particular, it continually energises me to listen to people, understand their issues and most importantly, drive activities which generate valuable and lasting change. Only through this behaviour can we expect to gain the respect of peers, leaders, friends and ultimately ourselves.



*Erin Hickey 2013*

I was truly humbled knowing that many of my classmates thought I was deserving of the award. I vividly remember feeling completely overwhelmed walking out onto the stage to receive my award at our Annual Thanksgiving Celebration at QPAC. The Prix d'honneur

award is a reminder to me of our school motto, "Virtute non Verbis" – Action not words. This has remained with me since leaving St. Rita's and will continue to influence my life choices into the future.



*Bornika Banerjee 2014*

Over my five years at St Rita's I learnt a lot from the themes and values that the school community promoted and I hoped to learn and grow every year to emulate those ideals. However I never believed that I represented those values as a whole so I was truly honoured

to receive the Prix d'honneur and to know that my peers thought so highly of me. It proved to myself that no matter how many flaws you think you have, it's about having faith in yourself which reflects in your actions and makes you human.

# 2015 Alumnae High Tea

What an afternoon! Thank you to everyone who attended the 2015 Alumnae High Tea on 13 September 2015. A packed room, lots of laughs, some tricky SRC quiz questions and a wonderful tour of Stanley Hall made for a fantastic afternoon of festivities. Congratulations to our raffle prize winners and thank you to our generous sponsors - Vanilla Pod, Eagle Street Pharmacy, Gusto di Gianni, Dendy Portside and Terry White Chemists. All proceeds from the day have gone to supporting the Alumnae Bursary.





# Reunions

## Class of 1975 - 40 Year Reunion

On Saturday 29 August 2015, the past pupils from 1975 came together to celebrate 40 years since completing Year 12 at St Rita's College. The "word" went out via snail mail, email, landline, mobile and text message; as well as Facebook. At the time that we finished high school only two of these methods of communication existed!! With social media and networking capabilities nowadays we were able to connect with a significantly greater number of people than might have been previously possible. Approximately two thirds of our '75 Class were contacted and thirty-two people were able to attend. Many of those who had prior commitments sent well wishes via email and the Facebook page established for this event. We celebrated with a Champagne Afternoon Tea in the Ballygriffin Room, taking in the magnificent view and delighting in re-connecting with friends. Sr Elvera very kindly lead the group on a guided tour around our old Alma Mater prior to the festivities and everyone was impressed at the style of contemporary schooling. The Boarders loved touring through their old dormitories, reminiscing and story-telling! Some lovely ladies who started high school with us in 1971, but finished in Year 10, were also able to join with us. By all accounts everyone delighted in the afternoon, which was over all too quickly; and the resolve is to meet in another five years – a decade is too long to wait to toast to friendship again!



40 Year Reunion



20 Year Reunion

## Class of 1995 - 20 Year Reunion

On Saturday, 10th October 2015, 42 of the Seniors of 1995 met at the Stock Exchange Hotel for their twenty year reunion. It was wonderful to see so many of our class members and to hear what they have been doing since we left school. We heard stories of class mates who had moved interstate or overseas, forged successful careers for themselves in a variety of different fields and those who were busy raising their families. We reminisced about long ago but not forgotten memories and adventures as our Senior video played throughout the night. A big thank you to Nicole Doxey (Keane) and Sue-Anne Volker (Spedding) who organised a very successful reunion. We are looking forward to catching up more regularly as a year group and not waiting another twenty years to reconnect.

## Upcomming Reunions in 2016

- 10 year reunion - Class of 2006
- 20 Year reunion - Class of 1996
- 30 year reunion - Class of 1986
- 40 year reunion - Class of 1976
- 50 year reunion - Class of 1966

Members of these year groups, and any other year groups planning to host reunions and reconnect, are encourage to contact [alumnae@stritas.qld.edu.au](mailto:alumnae@stritas.qld.edu.au) or phone (07) 3262 1615 for assistance with promotion of your event.



# Where are they now?

From Brown and White to Blue, White, Red: Gemma and Lauren spread their wings in America.



Hockey - Lauren Tucker and Gemma Bautista

Two 2014 St Rita's College graduates, Gemma Bautista and Lauren Tucker, will further their education and sporting careers overseas after signing to play hockey at American colleges for the next four years.

Gemma Bautista is one of only two non-Americans in the 22-player squad at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, while Lauren Tucker has signed for the University of Vermont.

Gemma, who will study Economics, believes playing

hockey in America will enhance her physical and mental hockey game.

"I'm most looking forward to all the amazing opportunities that I'm going to get out of going on this journey," she said.

"I always wanted to do an exchange to America during my university studies, so when I found out that they offer many scholarships and placements to American colleges for field hockey, I thought it was perfect for me."

Lauren, who will study Business while playing for a team nicknamed the 'Catamounts', said playing US college hockey would be one of her sporting highlights.

"I decided to play hockey and study in the US because I thought it was a great opportunity to go overseas and play the sport that I love," she said. "I am most looking forward to meeting new people, playing hockey and travelling around America."

Both Gemma and Lauren, who graduated from St Rita's in 2014 and played in the Brisbane Division 1 competition for Northern Suburbs Hockey Club at Ashgrove, trained with their new college teammates for the first time in late August. We wish them every success in the United States.

## Cooking with the committee

In this edition of Cooking With The Committee Linda Quain (nee Adams, Class of 1993) shares a treasured recipe from her Home Economics days at St Rita's College – complete with messy cooking splashes

### Black Forest Cheesecake

#### Base:

250 g plain chocolate biscuits  
125 g butter or margarine

#### Filling:

250 g cream cheese  
¾ cup sugar  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1 tablespoon gelatine  
½ cup water  
300 mL thickened cream  
1 425 g can black cherries

#### Topping:

1 tablespoon sugar  
1 tablespoon cornflour  
¼ cup cherry syrup  
1 tablespoon rum

#### Base:

1. Crush biscuits finely, add melted butter and mix well.
2. Press onto the base and sides of a greased 20 cm spring form tin and refrigerate while preparing filling.

#### Filling:

1. Beat cream cheese, sugar and lemon juice until smooth.
2. Sprinkle gelatine over water then dissolve over hot water. Allow to cool.
3. Add gelatine to cream cheese mixture and beat well.
4. Whip cream and fold into the mixture.
5. Drain and pit cherries, reserve syrup.
6. Spoon one-third of the filling onto the crust and arrange half of the cherries over it. Spoon on another third of the filling and arrange the remainder of the cherries on top.
7. Top evenly with the remainder of the filling and refrigerate until firm.

#### Topping:

1. Place sugar and cornflour into a saucepan. Gradually stir in the syrup.
2. Stir over heat until boiling. Remove from heat and add rum. Stir for a few minutes to cool slightly.
3. Spread over cheese cake and swirl lightly into cheese mixture.
4. Refrigerate until set.
5. To decorate pipe cream round the edge.

NOTE: This recipe may be made as a slice using a 28 × 18 cm laming tin.

(Serves 8)



# Where are they now...?

*Sr Assumpta O'Flynn: Our biggest tennis fan*



The words 'Tennis' and 'Sr Assumpta' are almost synonymous at St Rita's. One of my very vivid memories of Sr Assumpta is seeing her well rugg'd up with coat and beanie making her way down to the School courts. Her memory is to be envied as she can call tennis players by name, enquire about the score and then ask about their family and themselves. She would applaud all good shots – whether made by us or the opposition. She exuded a warmth and a concern for others; it was no wonder that she is loved by all.

Most diminutive in size, Sr Assumpta has chalked up many years that are the envy of many. A local girl, Sheila O'Flynn, as she was then called was born in Moynihan Street, Ascot in 1920 and the eldest of four children. A past student of both St Rita's Primary and St Rita's Secondary, her claim to fame was as a member of the A Grade team which won the Championship for Catholic Secondary Girls' Schools competition. Her photo in the team is a prized possession of the archives in the College.

After school Sheila worked for three years in the Queensland National Bank before joining the Presentation Sisters, making her Novitiate in Longreach. As Sr Assumpta she taught in various schools such as St Ursula's at Yeppoon, Cannon Hill, Murgon, Wavell Heights, Buranda and then back to her Alma Mater at St Rita's. Her area was in the Commercial field as it was then called and later in

the Library where she was most at home amongst her cherished books. Sr Assumpta would quote whole stanzas of poems at every opportunity.

It was not long before Mother Gabriel Hogan spotted this accomplished typist who loved literature as much as she did and elected her as her secretary. A highlight for Sr Assumpta was accompanying Mother Gabriel to PNG in 1966 for a visitation of the convent there.

After retiring from active teaching, Sr Assumpta worked as a library assistant at St Rita's as well as caring for one of our more elderly Sisters. At the turn of the millennium, Sr Assumpta finally retired from the College but not from her beloved tennis. Her after school games continued with some present and past teachers for a few more years. It is no wonder that when the Nagle Centre was completed in 2010, the Pavilion was named "The Sr Assumpta O'Flynn Pavilion".

Sr Assumpta now lives in retirement with our other Sisters at Herston, but despite her years, she now lives "Life to The Full" attending congregation gatherings, going on shopping expeditions to Toombul and keeping in touch with her family and friends as well as inquiring about the tennis.

*Sr Elvera Sesta  
Patron*







St Rita's College

A St Rita's College  
Alumnae Event

# International Women's Day Breakfast

Friday 4 March 2016

St Rita's College Alumnae  
*cordially invite*

Past Pupils and Friends to the

## International Women's Day Breakfast 2016

*Connect to Inspire*

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**When** Friday 4 March 2016

**Where** Brisbane Marriott Hotel

**Time** 7.00am for 7.30am

**Cost** \$65 per person

### Guest Speaker

**Christine Jackman**, ('86) Journalist, Writer, Author of *Inside Kevin O'7: The People. The Plan. The Prize.*, now Director - Communications with Crosby|Textor

### Lucky Door & Raffle Prizes

Win one night's accommodation in a Brisbane Marriott river view room, including buffet breakfast for two people in Motion Bar and Grill & valet parking.

### Close of Booking Date

Friday 26 February 2016

### Contact

Rosemarie Parisi e: jrpparisi@bigpond.com  
Full details are contained on the booking website <http://www.trybooking.com/169710>

### Ticketing Conditions

All bookings are to be made online through **trybooking.com**. There are two booking options available: a table of 10 or a single seat. Full payment for all 10 guests will be required to complete a booking and secure a table. Refunds cannot be given to anyone who does not attend or for a change of mind.

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