

WHITEFRIAR



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Belong. Believe. Become.



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Board Report

It is with pleasure that I introduce the 2020 Whitefriars College Ltd Board.



Margaret McKenna



Members of the College Board

As newly appointed Chair, I recognise that our work will build on the significant and sustained contributions of previous Board members and, in particular, the wisdom and generosity of long-serving Board Chair, Mr Peter Duffy. It is my privilege to follow his enduring commitment to the Carmelites and Whitefriars College.

The Board, appointed by Fr Paul Cahill, O. Carm, Carmelite Provincial, is called to the Carmelite spirituality, which emphasises the contemplative, prophetic, community and Marian aspects of our Christian story.

As the Board we have governance and stewardship responsibilities for Whitefriars College. These include its mission, current and future development, management and monitoring of risk as well as oversight of all College finances. In essence, it is about due diligence as we consider 'big picture' perspectives and plan for the present and future. Such an endeavor is best achieved in partnership with the College Principal and his team. In welcoming Mark Murphy to the role of Principal, we will continue to build on the heritage and gifts in this community for the educational provision and benefits of all students.

I welcome returning and new Board members and provide a snapshot of their experience for your interest and information:

- **Fr Hugh Brown, O. Carm**
Former Principal of Whitefriars College, Parish Priest of Middle Park /Port Melbourne
- **Fr David Hofman, O. Carm**
Provincial Delegate for Communications and Formator in the Middle Park Carmelite Community, former Parish Priest Middle Park /Port Melbourne
- **Margaret McKenna (Chair)**
Former Principal of Catholic Ladies' College, Educational Consultant

- **Mark Walters (Deputy Chair)**
Business Leadership World Challenge, Whitefriars Old Collegian
- **James Thompson**
Journalist, Whitefriars Old Collegian
- **Nicholas Soraghan**
Small business owner, Whitefriars Old Collegian
- **Karlene Treyvaud (Chair Finance Committee)**
Accountant, former Whitefriars parent
- **Damien Cairns**
Accountant, Carmelite Province Business Manager
- **Norman Elliott (Chair Risk Committee)**
Legal and accounting advisor, Whitefriars Old Collegian
- **Gaynor Robson-Garth (Chair Mission and Development Committee)**
Former Principal of Siena College, Educational Consultant
- **Leonie Kearney**
Former Principal Presentation College Windsor, former Executive Director of Good Samaritan Education, Educational Consultant
- **David Alcock**
Former Business Manager Catholic Ladies' College, former Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries', not for profit Board membership, former Whitefriars parent.

As we begin this year and new decade, I wish all in the Whitefriars Community a grace-filled 2020.

Mrs Margaret McKenna
Board Chair

Principal's Report

It is wonderful to be able to write to you as the new Principal of Whitefriars College. I feel both blessed and humbled to have been given the opportunity to serve this great Catholic school in the Carmelite Tradition.



I think that being a Principal is the best job in the world, as every day I have the privilege of walking with our young men on their journey to becoming what we describe here as fine 'gentle men'. It is my hope and prayer that I will be able to bring some value and support to the Whitefriars College community in the years ahead.

As an Old Collegian and past parent of three Whitefriars boys, many people have asked me what I think has changed since I was here. I tell them that obviously there have been changes with regards to the facilities of our College – the development of new state-of-the-art buildings and the reimagining of old ones. The building of new carparks, walkways, gardens, manicured ovals, the incredible variety of opportunities for our young men both in and outside the classroom... the list goes on.

There are some very important things that have not changed. First among these is the feeling I get when I walk down the driveway each day. There is something special and unique about the walk I take as I make my way down the hill. The distinctive smell of the Australian bush, the sounds of a myriad of birds waking to a new day, the sun peaking over the hills to the east. More than these observations of the physical environment, I feel a sense of calm and peace. A feeling that is present even when 1,150 boys descend on this place every school day.

The other constant at Whitefriars is our Carmelite tradition. I feel this not purely through my interactions with the living examples of the Carmelite Order, but through all members of this community. Every interaction, decision, program and policy is imbued with that same spirit, a spirit of contemplation, community and service. A community in which we are challenged to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and where we seek to reach out in solidarity with those most in need in our community. Our Carmelite tradition is lived here by those magnificent Carmelite men whose consistent presence has influenced all actions and interactions since the day Fr Frank Shortis, O.Carm, and his fellow Carmelites opened the gates of this school to 37 wide eyed Year 7 students in February 1961. I see it continue to be lived by the staff of our College, whose professionalism and deep sense of care presents as the perfect Carmelite balance when working with young men.

At the heart of all this is the boys themselves. Their exuberance, energy, enthusiasm and passion for life seems to know no bounds in this place of learning, life and laughter. There are so many examples of their positive and engaging approach to their involvement in the life of Whitefriars, it would be impossible to record them all in this space. I would like to name a couple.

At the commencement of each year our Year 7 students are officially inducted into their House at a House Gathering Mass. These masses provide an opportunity to officially induct and commission the new Year 7 students as official members of their House. These evenings, like most other events at Whitefriars are led by our students. It was inspiring to hear our House Captains and Vice Captains speak with such enthusiasm and passion for their House and such knowledge and awareness of their House Patron. It was encouraging also to see a number of other students who generously gave of their time to provide hospitality to our House families following the masses. More than just handing out food, these students chatted with new families, making them feel at home and at ease in our College.

Recently, our College participated in the annual ACC Swimming championships at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC). This is a significant occasion on the Whitefriars sporting calendar and is highly anticipated by many in the Whitefriars community.

This year, a large number of family, friends and students made their way to MSAC to support our hard working and dedicated swimmers. I was impressed on the night by the skills and talents of our students on display in the pool. I was equally impressed with the support our students provided each other – particularly with regards to the way our senior leaders walked with our junior boys, helping to feel that little bit less anxious as they waited for their event. I would like to single out one young man for special mention. One of our swimming captains Jack Gurrie, the other being James Key, led our boys with distinction on the night. Jack has been a dedicated member of the Whitefriars swimming team for 6 years. Jack also swims for the Nunawading Swimming Club and has competed at regional and state level. The week before the ACC event, Jack was involved in a freak training accident which put him out of the ACC competition. Rather than stumble on through his own disappointment, Jack focussed all his energy on supporting his teammates on the night, encouraging them and inspiring them to give their best.



On the second of March, we held our annual Open Day, welcoming prospective families to Whitefriars to discern the next stage of their sons academic lives. Again, our students stepped up and gave freely of their time, in coming to school on a Sunday and leading families around our College. As I wandered through these tour groups, I heard our young men speak with confidence, knowledge, humour and a genuine love for their school. I spoke with many families afterwards who were in awe of the maturity and competence of our students. I received a great deal of feedback both written and spoken about our incredible young men. The sentiment expressed in these comments can be best summed up by an email I received from a parent the morning after our Open Day.



"I wanted to send a personal message of thanks and appreciation to our guides on today's Open Day, Luke and Joseph. They were truly gentle men and you should be exceptionally proud of them. Our son is Year 4 and left there today excited about his potential future at Whitefriars. Thanks for making us feel as though we belong already."

Now it could be said that these events are places where one would expect to see students presenting at their best. But what about the day to day? I can tell you in my short time here I have seen acts of kindness and care among our student body on a daily basis. I have witnessed senior students supporting their *little brothers* in Pastoral Care group. I have observed politeness and deference displayed by our students to the parents on canteen. I have seen our boys on mass showing reverence and respect at our Ash Wednesday service. Equally I have viewed the maturity and purposefulness of our students as they calmly participate in our evacuation drills.

All the while they are still boys who charge around at lunch time playing downball or basketball (or anything with a ball)! They laugh with each other, their teachers and other staff, and occasionally they are a little clumsy. But they are all good hearted, generous hearted and warm-hearted young men who are all growing in their own way to become fine *gentle men* of Whitefriars.

Almae In Fide Parentis

Mr Mark Murphy

Principal

Br Sean Keefe, O.Carm



Br Sean Keefe O.Carm.

Where were you born/raised?

I was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1946. Dad died in November 1950, when I was four. I have two younger brothers, Bob, born in June 1948, and Steve, born in January 1950. So most of my time in Louisville was living with my mum and two brothers. I left Louisville to join the Carmelite seminary in Niagara Falls, Canada the week before my eighteenth birthday.

When and why did you decide to join the Carmelites?

I attended a high school in Louisville, which was staffed by the Carmelites. I was impressed with what I learned about these men. In Year 11, the Carmelites took a few of us up to Niagara Falls and we stayed with students studying to be Carmelites. After Year 12, I returned to Niagara as a student.

Which communities of Carmelites have you belonged to?

In my formation years of studying to be a Carmelite, I lived in Niagara, Akron, Ohio and a small town in Pennsylvania called New Baltimore. This is where I made my novitiate and took simple vows.

From New Baltimore, I studied in Washington, D.C. until September 1968. From D.C. I returned to Akron until September 1970. In 1970, I went back to school for a degree in education at Niagara University. I lived in Canada and went to school in Niagara Falls, New York. In January 1974, I went back to our school in Louisville that I had attended to begin my teaching career. From August 1979 until June 1990, I taught at Carmel High School in Mundelein, Illinois. From June 1990 until December 1990, I was on a sabbatical in Washington, D.C. I was studying theology courses. In January 1991, I moved to Whitefriars College in Donvale and remained there until Christmas Day 1992

when I returned to the United States. From January 1993 until June 2000, I worked at Joliet Catholic Academy in Joliet, Illinois. From Joliet, I moved back to our school in Louisville and remained there until October 2001. From Louisville, I returned to Whitefriars College and have remained here ever since.

What was your role at the College during that time?

In 1991, when I first came to Whitefriars, I was working with Fr Bruce Clark as Chaplain. I started teaching more classes and became a full-time teacher until I returned to the States in late 1992.

When and why did you come back to Whitefriars?

In 1999, I was at a meeting with my Provincial in the States and he asked if I was interested in returning to Australia to work. He wanted to send me because we had more members in my Province than the Aussies and since I had been to Australia already, he felt I could be useful there. I agreed to return, but my mother got sick. I transferred to Louisville to be with her as she died. After she died, I returned to Australia.

What has been your role(s) at Whitefriars since then?

I have taught English, Social Studies, RE, worked with a Year 12 Faith Development course, been involved with the Kairos Retreat program, been on various camps, worked as a counsellor and been Chaplain. In addition, I was House Coordinator for Mantua for a year. I served as Coordinator of the SRC for three years. Throughout my time at Whitefriars, starting in 2003, I have been actively involved with projects and fundraising for Timor-Leste.

What has been your involvement with Manningham?

Over the years, I have been involved with various committees in the local community. I have been involved with a service club called Kiwanis Club of Manningham, since April 2003. One of the major programs Kiwanis has been involved with, in collaboration with Manningham Council, is the Monster Raffle. Council provides \$15,000 to provide the prizes, printing of tickets and all other costs to run the raffle. Kiwanis administer the raffle. The money generated by the raffle usually returns about \$30,000 to schools, sporting clubs and other not for profit groups. In addition, another \$10,000 supports the works of the Manningham Charitable Foundation.

What has been your involvement with Timor-Leste?

In 2001, the Australian Province took on Timor-Leste as part of the Province. I came up with the idea of a walkathon and we held our first one in 2003. In 2004, I made my first trip to Timor-Leste and found

a country of poverty but filled with promise. Over the years, I have been involved with various ways to fundraise for the Timorese including concerts and the selling of Timorese made goods. Over the years, I have visited Timor-Leste 15 times. I have made close friends and have seen how Whitefriars has made a difference in the country.

Since 2013, I have been involved with bringing staff and Year 11 students to Timor-Leste. This program has become the Year 11 Immersion Experience. It has given many staff and students the advantage of learning firsthand about the people and culture of Timor-Leste.

What sorts of projects have you been involved with in Timor-Leste?

On my first trip to Zumalai, I became aware that there were no teachers in the classrooms and all kinds of students running around. When I investigated, I learned that the teachers only had a Year 10 education themselves. That was the highest level of education at the time in Zumalai. The teachers were volunteers. The week I was there, the teachers were out in the rice fields getting food for their families. When I returned to Whitefriars, we took up a donation among the Whitefriars' teachers and other friends, and raised enough money to hire four teachers. We paid them if they stayed in the classroom. This way they were earning an income and the students had teachers. The next couple of years, we were able to send these four teachers to teachers' college during the summer. They all completed the necessary courses and started receiving a government salary.

Other projects included purchasing two trucks, financing and installing solar electricity in Zumalai, providing money for scholarships for people who could not afford an education. We developed the immersion programs to enable Whitefriars' students and staff to work directly in Timor-Leste with the people.

What does being a Carmelite mean to you?

In one word, "opportunity." I have been living in Carmelite communities since 1964. Like any love affair, sometimes the direction can be confusing and not go exactly the way one thought it was heading. The obstacles have forced me to re-evaluate and grow. The Carmelites have provided me with support, an identity, more opportunities than I ever expected and close friends who care enough to challenge me.

As I have matured, I am more aware of the freedom my life choice offers. If I compare my life with friends I grew up with, being a Carmelite has allowed me to explore many parts of the globe. My commitment to roles is less restricted because I do not have a responsibility to a partner or offspring. I have been free to invest and give of myself to many people in many parts of the United States and the world. I have the support of the Carmelites when I need it and the trust of the community to be an active part of a larger community.

What have been your greatest challenges to date?

Keeping things in perspective. One gift I received from both of my parents is a quirky sense of humour. When I find myself taking myself too seriously, I am able to remind myself of who am I trying to convince? I find I do my best when I am honest with myself and those I am working with. If I stray too far from this core, I find myself lost and frustrated. Another difficult challenge for me is to accept the kindness others share with me. I find it easier to reach out to others than to accept the goodness expressed towards me.

In the last year, my health issues have become more demanding. Receiving dialysis three times a week affects my energy levels. The structured treatments restrict my commitments. The positives are the support I receive from the people I work with and my other friends. Overall, I do feel better with the treatments. Having people stopping in to see how I am doing has become an important link for me as well.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement(s) to date?

I have a basic need to make the world better. I don't think I was aware of this need for much of my life. I got involved and did things because I saw a need and I liked the challenge. Over the years, I have become more aware of my ability to connect with networks and to share resources. Since I am interested in being part of the solution, I find it easy to give time and energy to things I find worthwhile. Because of the freedom I have in my life choice as a Carmelite, I am not tied to closer family ties and have the freedom to give of my time to other projects. I have been fortunate to work in institutions, which have allowed me the freedom to participate in a wider community.

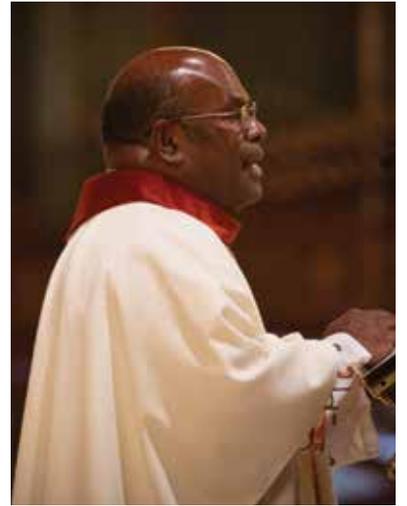
What things would you still like to achieve in your current roles?

I am currently more aware of my mortality. That has not been a negative thing for me. It has forced me to become aware of loose ends. I find myself becoming aware of what people, projects and causes are important to me. I am trying to let go of those people whose attitudes are negative and defeated. I am working more with those who share like ideas and philosophies. I am trying to ensure projects I have been involved with over the years will be able to survive if I am not as involved in the future.

I am more aware of the importance I hold for close friends. I appreciate those who allow me to journey with them as they encounter challenges in their lives. I enjoy them sharing their victories with me as well. I am aware of those people whom I have chosen to be my family. Because it is my family, I am not limited to a particular number, but I am selective. I share a bond of mutual care and support with these special people.

Br Sean was interviewed by Neal Crossan, Charism Liaison Leader

College Opening Mass



“What an honour to sit in that beautiful space, to watch the young men and to hear the inspiring words that make this school so unique. I am so proud of my son and excited to see who he becomes.”

Year 9 parent

"We are not a family that traditionally believes. But in that space, sitting shoulder to shoulder, you can't help but know there is something mysterious and wonderful at work. Maybe it is that as a community, we have all found each other and find refuge in our shared silences."

Year 12 parent



2019 High Achievers



Our 2019 Year 12 students were very successful in their studies in both the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).

The VCE is only one pathway option for our boys and this year we had an increased number study VCE VET or complete the VCAL program. Each student has since entered into further study, viable employment or an apprenticeship.

The academic results are just one aspect of a boy's learning experience at the College. We recognise the importance of holistic learning that is part of a Whitefriars education – leadership, social, emotional, sporting, debating, theatre, music, enrichment and the journey of our boys becoming 'gentle men'. A key outcome is that our boys know each other and that they belong to a community that will support them beyond Year 12 – they are always welcome.

All VCE students achieved their VCE certificate. Collectively, our VCE students achieved the best cohort results since the Class of 2013 – a median study score of 31.23, an average ATAR of 72.31 and 9.6% of students achieving a study score over 40. Likewise, each of the 14 VCAL students entered into an apprenticeship or have entered into further study.

Congratulations to our 2019 College Dux, Ronan Oppy for achieving 99.25, including a perfect 50 in Religion and Society. Runner up Dux, Mitchell Guest achieving 98.95 and top performing international student Tony (Jing) Ru achieving 92.50. These students join an additional

14 students who achieved an ATAR over 90, highlighting that our boys can produce exceptional results by implementing key strategies and hard work to improve their learning. Whilst we celebrate the high achiever results, we also celebrate the wonderful stories of students across the cohort achieving above (even well above) their expected results.

The destination choices highlight that our boys have varied pathways, undertaking opportunities to learn, work or serve others in a variety of fields, with the majority of boys entering into university at Swinburne, Deakin, Melbourne, Monash or La Trobe.

Most popular fields of study were:

- Accounting, Business, Marketing, Banking and Finance
- Science, Biomedicine, Laboratory Sciences
- Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences
- Health and Exercise Science, Health Sciences, Nursing, Para medicine
- Engineering and Related Technologies
- Art and Design, Music, Performance, Film
- Psychology
- Architecture, Building Design and Construction
- Computer and Information Systems
- Sport and Recreation

Of the 147 students who applied for further study:

- 97% of applicants received a tertiary offer (143 students)
- 83% were offered a university place
- 14% were offered a TAFE or Private provider place (includes enrolment at institutions such as the Richmond Football Club Academy)

The following students received university scholarships:

Ronan Oppy

Monash University Scholarship - Commerce and Finance

Nicholas Beltrami

The University of Melbourne Arts Principal's Scholarship

Alexander Vander

La Trobe University Excellence Aspire Scholarship - Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics

Alexander Kyritsis

RMIT University Dean's Scholar Program (Honours) - Science (Applied Mathematics and Statistics)

The achievements of the Class of 2019 affirm our mission and values of providing an inclusive education for boys irrespective of their gifts and talents.

Mr Mark Ashmore

Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching

Our 95+ Achievers

Ronan Oppy	99.25	Alex Vander	97.70	Max Schoffelen	96.50
Mitchell Guest	98.95	Zane Teh	97.60	Liam Jones	95.50
Nicholas Beltrami	98.50	Patrick Daly	97.50	Liam Worner	95.25
Joel Duggan	98.25	Matthew Yao	97.45		

Our 90+ Achievers

Lachlan McAlary	94.75	Callum Tokell	92.60	Philip Phung	90.7
Matthew Tapley	94.35	Jing Ru	92.50	Dylan Wade	90.65
Timothy Abrahams	94.30	Dylan Macdonald	92.35	Cristiano Ranieri	90.55
Conor O'Farrell	94.30	Aaron Triffett	92.05	Mitchell Cumming	90.5
John Steward	94.05	Luke Vazquez	92.00	Joseph Sullivan	90.25
Ben Worner	93.95	Tom Schroder	91.60	Kyle Dodson	90.25
Tyler Kerwin	93.75	Ethan Kouris	91.5	Lachlan Santamaria	90.2
Thomas O'Brien	93.20	Noah Cuthbert	91.4		
Marco Signor	93.00	Jarred Collier	91.3		

Who is Mark Murphy?

We sat down with College Principal Mark Murphy to really get to know him. Since returning to the College, through addresses to the students and staff, welcome tours with prospective families and day-to-day chats, Mark has been clear about why and what he hopes to bring to Whitefriars.



Surfboard – I love a bit of salt water therapy!

What we did not know, were the other details. The parts of the story that make him the man he is. The surfing, his family's annual Christmas Tree ritual and why he decided teaching would be his path.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR SCHOOLING

What was your worst subject at school and why?

Mathematics. In Year 8, I got sick and missed three weeks of school. While I was away, the class was introduced to Algebra. Missing the fundamentals and without a system back in that day that supported 'catch-up learning', I never really caught up. I struggled through to Year 12 and really wish I had been a better maths student. This experience has helped me become a more thoughtful and inclusive teacher and 'leader of learning', making sure each student gets a chance to be their best.

How would you describe your experience of school?

I really enjoyed my school days. I was fortunate to go to two great schools, St Kevin's Primary School in Templestowe and of course Whitefriars College. As with most of us, the people who taught me and the friends I made I remember more than what I learnt in the classroom. The best teachers I had at school were the ones that were genuinely passionate about the subject they taught and who just loved being teachers. I particularly loved my time at Whitefriars as the atmosphere was always one of gentleness and care. Each of us was given many opportunities to shine, whether it be on the sporting field, the classroom or the stage. It was definitely a place that instilled me with attitudes and values about what it is to be a good man, lessons which I still draw on to this day.

Why did you go into teaching?

My love for music and sport led me to teaching. When I was ten, I started piano lessons with a wonderful piano teacher, Carmel Sheahan, from Templestowe. Above the piano in the music room Carmel taught from were pictures of all of the great composers. Every time we would learn a new piece, she would point to the musician above and tell me their story. This way of teaching did not just teach me the mechanics of music, it taught me to love music and to hear and understand it the way they did, and to really feel what I was playing and understand why it came about and what it meant. The music was so alive and I felt a call to serve in some way. The Parish Priest of St Kevin's was Fr Charlie McCann who was a very important figure to my family. When I told him, I was going to become a teacher, he said "I know and we have big plans for you." The day I became a Principal I remembered his words.



My Beautiful Family

My Mum was a teacher who taught me about service. Like her I needed a real sense of purpose and meaning in the work I did. I could not be a teacher anywhere, I felt called to be a teacher in a Catholic school. My first job was as a Music and Physical Education teacher at the then new Nazareth College in 1986. We had six portable classrooms, nine teachers, one Principal and one secretary. I started two days after my 21st birthday.

LOOKING BACK

If you could go back in time, what piece of advice would you give 'young' Mark?

I would tell young Mark to work a bit harder at school. Particularly in my junior years. I remember in Year 8, I should have given greater effort. However, it was through the gentle persistence and commitment of the Carmelites which turned me around and helped to set me on the right path.

I did however take full advantage of the co-curricular offerings of school, I was involved in music including the school musical and tried every sport there was. I loved being part of teams which gave me great sense of belonging. It was experiences of music and sport at school which helped lead me to this profession as my first job as a teacher in Music and PE.

NOWADAYS

Can you speak another language?

No but I wish I could. I studied Indonesian at Whitefriars up until Year 10. One day I hope to learn Spanish.

Can you play any instrument or do you have any musical talent?

Music is a really important part of my life. I play piano, guitar and I sing. I have been in choirs and actually met my wife, Caroline in a choir at Teachers College. Our daughter Hannah is a singer and we now sing together at our Easter Mass each year. Our house is filled with genres of music from the classical to the contemporary, from the live to the recorded.

What is the most interesting thing you have read or seen recently?

Over the summer I read "Any Ordinary Day" by Leigh Sales, the ABC journalist. The book is about trauma, resilience, faith, grief and how people deal with unexpected loss. I found it to be a moving and sensitive account of the irreversible shifts in our inner life when tragedy occurs and found two key themes. That in the subjects' response to tragedy there was always a sense of faith (whatever faith that may be) and an individual or couple of individuals who supported them through. I think as a community, these are two great things to carry with us during 2020 – our faith and the people who support us.



The Christmas Tree Farm – An Annual Family Tradition



I am very blessed to be married to Caroline

Which four individuals, living or dead, would you have dinner with?

I would dine with St Paul. He was a very enigmatic character, one of the most significant figures of the Church. I would love to learn more about his "Damascus experience", what he was thinking, what it took for him to make this significant change in his life.

Similarly, Óscar Romero the heroic Archbishop of San Salvador. He spoke out against poverty, social injustice, assassinations and torture amid a growing war between left-wing and right-wing forces after the Church put him in, thinking he would not cause any trouble. He had leadership thrust upon him and he had to respond.

An area of interest for me are leaders who had not planned to be leaders. I find if we ask those who did not plan for it – we can learn a lot more from the answer.

Mother Theresa would take the third seat at my table. Here is a woman who came from an affluent background and decided to go and work with the poor in Calcutta. I would love to ask her what sustained her and how she went from a life of abundance to a life of service. As leaders, we are always looking for things that will sustain us – knowing that it is a marathon, not a sprint.



Decorating the Tree – A Family Affair

Last, Nelson Mandela for his capacity to forgive and his ability to bring a divided country together, or Mary would be cool! I would love to ask her how she lived the life she did, how she was able to commit to the unconditional “yes” to God? What it took for that leap of faith? I have tried to model my life on Mary. When I accepted the role of Principal at Marcellin College it was a massive leap of faith – but I said yes, as Mary did. She was a woman of tremendous wisdom and courage. She knew when to say yes and when to ponder. When all the men ran away at the cross, she stayed at the foot of her son’s cross. I would love to ask how she had the strength to do that.

Anything left on your bucket list?

I have been very lucky in my life. I have travelled widely and said yes to many opportunities. I would say learning a language and perhaps a trip to my homeland of Ireland would be high on the list.

What is your favourite family tradition?

Since my children were little, each December – about three weeks before Christmas, we celebrate Mass at our parish in Wantirna and then we head down to a Christmas Tree Farm and choose the family Christmas tree. It was a ritual we began when my eldest was one and my children are now all adults, living their own lives. Last year, we bought five trees as some of my children have moved out. The usual discussion/argument about which one was the best, was as glorious as ever. Even the ritual of decoration has not changed. Historically, the youngest child gets to put the star on top. So Hannah, now 22, was in charge last year. I do the lights and sit back. This tradition has shown me the importance of family, moments and ritual. No matter where my kids are and how busy their lives are – they join us for this

day. Maybe someday, there will be a host of grandchildren that come along too and my kids will carry on the tradition long past my time. I think that would be quite special.

How would your family describe you?

I think that they would tell you I am a good dad, most of the time! And I am a man of faith. I think they would say that I am a person of integrity and I always put my family first.

What has been your greatest achievement?

Without a doubt, my family. I married my beautiful wife, Caroline 30 years ago and she is my rock and the most amazing person and incredible mother. My children have all grown to be people of integrity and service and I could talk about them for days. They are all in their 20s and all making their way in the world – I could not be prouder of them all.

College Captain's Report

It has been a privilege and joy to represent Whitefriars College as Captain so far.



Toby Brown, Alex Dunmill & Adrian De Saram

Alongside me I am grateful for the support of College Vice Captains, Adrian De Saram and Toby Brown, Middle Years Captain Landen Couper, and his Vice Captains, Amin Yekta and Joel Savy. Additionally, the constant work of House, Community, Sport and Academic Captains have not only made my job easier but also helped develop their respective areas and I thank them for that.

The first day at Whitefriars for the incoming Year 7s (Class of 2025) took place late January. They should be proud of their seamless transition into College life, undoubtable becoming part of the Whitefriars community and family. Connections and friendships made on that first day were only strengthened with their camp to Mt Eliza, as well as House welcoming dinners and masses. All of us fellow students have experienced these events and look back on the memories and friendships formed in those times. I wish them the best as they continue on their journey this year and in the years that will follow as they grow into 'Friars boys.

As always, the year formally commenced with the first gathering of all students, staff and community at our Opening School Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral. With all the College there, we looked toward to the year ahead, investing those in leadership positions and staff new to the College. Our ceremony also congratulated and recognised the students who graduated, the Class of 2019, in particular those who achieved outstanding results in their VCE studies. Their cohort received some of the best overall results in recent years and were acknowledged for all the work they put into their studies.

Our sporting calendar started with the House Athletics carnival held at Doncaster Athletics Track. The day was filled with outstanding performances and team efforts all aiming to push their House to victory. As always, the Year 12 cohort provided some entertainment with their costumes as we took part in our final carnival. Congratulations to Soreth House on their deserving performance as well as Andrea Sticca on winning the Fastest 'Friar sprint.

Additionally, our ACC sports have started off strong with Senior Division 1 Cricket finishing joint premiers, Senior Tennis finishing as undefeated premiers and Senior B Volleyball also achieving premiership success.

During this uncertain time, we are called to manage the changes in everyday life that each day brings. In the face of all this negativity, I hope there can be an opportunity for growth and personal development. Spending time with your family, checking in on friends and improving yourself can all be meaningful goals to achieve in this period. We thank all those doing their part to help stem this global challenge and we pray that we are all safe, healthy and motivated in these times.

I look forward to what 2020 will bring. Best wishes to all in their studies throughout the year.

Thank you to all those within the community that always offer their time to continue to make Whitefriars the unique place it is. Best of luck to everyone in all they do both inside and outside the College.

Alex Dunmill
College Captain

Middle Years Captain's Report

As we embark on a new school year, a new journey and for some, a new chapter to their life, students and staff are once more welcomed by a sense of community and pride into Whitefriars College.



Toby Brown, Alex Dunmill & Adrian De Saram (Top row)
Amin Yehkta, Landen Couper & Joel Savy (Second row)

My name is Landen Couper and I am truly grateful to be selected to represent students from Years 7-9 as Middle Years Captain for 2020. Alongside Middle Years Vice Captains, Joel Savy and Amin Yehkta, College Captain, Alex Dunmill and College Vice Captains, Toby Brown and Adrian De Saram, we will collaborate in an attempt to better Whitefriars and the wider community in any way possible.

Throughout first term at the College, Year 7 students were introduced to the many traditions and welcoming activities on offer. A few highlights I'm sure the boys could agree on would have to be orientation camp and the inaugural House Athletics carnival. These events at the College strongly represent those qualities students aim to uphold inside and outside of the College grounds - compassion, mateship and pride.

The Year 7 Mount Eliza camp at the start of the school year, is a great opportunity for boys to bond together creating new friendships. Displaying that true sense of comradeship in completing a range of outdoor teamwork-based activities gives a glimpse into the College's future leaders. Highlights I can remember from that camp would have to include the giant swing, high ropes course and the canoeing adventure. This camp creates lifelong friendships that will carry on throughout the many years ahead at the College. I wish the Year 7 cohort good luck with the year ahead as they open themselves up to new opportunities and overcome new obstacles.

As yet another year begins at the College for those in Year 8 to 12, many are faced with their own personal challenges they must overcome, whether it be achieving a particular ATAR, making the football team or Enrichment Program. I extend my wishes and hopes that our College community see out a positive and successful 2020. For all students, I'd like to reiterate that the journey at Whitefriars College is one that allows you to belong, believe and become a true 'gentle man'. Take every opportunity and truly value this time.

Landen Couper

Middle Years Captain



WOCA President's Report

Life is never dull! The recent past at Donvale has certainly been full of interesting events and the College continues to move positively in multiple directions.



In 2020, we welcome our second Old Collegian to the position of Principal. Mark Murphy (Class of 1982) has enjoyed a distinguished teaching career with the last 10 years leading Marcellin College. Welcome back Mark, we look forward to many more years of positive development.

Mr Greg Stewart completed a stellar year in 2019 as Acting Principal and not only maintained a steady course through the year but moved the College forward in many directions. Your continuing contribution is acknowledged by all.

We also acknowledge the long and distinguished service provided to Whitefriars by Mr Peter Duffy in his role as Board Chair and wish him well in his retirement.

Old Collegians are always eager to assist the College in whatever way they can and 2020 should see many more opportunities. WOCA looks forward to continuing its assistance of the wider community.

The Old Whitefriars Cricketers have had another enjoyable season competing in the Melbourne Cricket Club's Club XI competition. While finals were not the reward this past season, more than 27 guys who played for the Club, achieved great enjoyment and satisfaction.

The Whitefriars Football Club will eventually commence a return to Division 1 of the VAFA competition (if it actually gets under way) after the stellar 2019 season and we wish them all the best. Reports from pre-season training are very encouraging and a couple of handy recruits, as well as the ongoing development of the Under 19s, should stand the Club in good stead.

The Women's team is again competing in Division 2 in the VAFA and both enthusiasm and participation levels are high.

We hope that all teams have a successful season and that many more future AFL recruits can emerge from Donvale.

WOCA is keen to assist with the establishment of additional cultural and sporting clubs – why not basketball, soccer, hockey, etc? If you have a team that needs supporting, please contact woca@whitefriars.vic.edu.au so that we can start the process.

Remember to register as an Old Collegian through whitefriarsconnect.com.au which helps you to stay informed about happenings at the College relevant to you. You can also visit the College website whitefriars.vic.edu.au/community/old-collegians to find details of upcoming events. Dates for the 2020 Reunions have been provisionally set for the second half of the year but are dependent on the status of the country's lockdown.

Mr Philip Thomson

WOCA President



WHITEFRIARS COLLEGE INC
156 Park Road, Donvale VIC 3111 AUSTRALIA
P (613) 9872 8200

ABN 35 808 045 134 | REG A0029974Y | CRICOS 01680G

For more information about Whitefriars College visit whitefriars.vic.edu.au



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