



ST CATHERINE'S
COLLEGE

Edition 1 | May 2018

THE

BANKSIA

MAGAZINE FOR OUR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



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returns to College in a
mentoring and teaching role

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the life of
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lasting impact of
Scholarships

Chair of the Board

Hon Dr Elizabeth Constable

The day you take your first step in College, the freedom feels intensely personal. You may be aware, on some level, that other people are doing the same thing but that first taste of independence, is empowering and exhilarating.

The Board and staff of St Catherine's College are constantly focussed on providing exceptional development opportunities and harnessing the power that allows residents to excel. This not only includes enriching day-to-day programs but also scholarship support to come to St Catherine's in the first place and to live and work in state-of-the-art facilities.

There are exciting developments at the College at the moment. Many of the older common areas in the College were renovated and refreshed in time for the arrival of students in February and the 'new look' has been very well received by residents.

The biggest development this year is the commencement of the new Indigenous-inspired building on the western boundary of the College.

This new development will significantly improve facilities and will include 54 new rooms, new communal areas, an extensive tutoring centre and an outdoor co-learning space. The project is underway and with an estimated completion date of April 2019, progress is rapid.

The impact of tougher economic times is felt most acutely by those in need. The College has an extensive Scholarship program to assist as many students as possible to access the wonderful

opportunities at St Catherine's. It is an ongoing program which works well into the future to ensure that once any scholarship has commenced, it is able to be sustained in forthcoming years. As Chair of the Board and as a regular donor myself, I would encourage you to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund. It allows the College to enrol bright young people who will shape the future and while they are at College, to feel fully empowered to achieve all that they wish to. (Please see page 6 for more on scholarships.)



Hon Dr Elizabeth Constable

Definitions

Alumna: A female former pupil or student of a particular school, college, or university.

Alumnus: A former pupil or student, especially a male one, of a particular school, college, or university.

How do I use these terms? When used in the singular, alumnus (which is a male form in Latin) generally refers to a male former student, with alumna being the corresponding female term, but the plural alumni can refer to pupils or students of either sex.

Editorial team: Brooke Peden, Mandy McFarland, Lauren Humfrey

Design: Kandina Terrar - Indelible Imprint

Photographic contributions: Ron D'Raine

Printing: Optima Press

Editorial contributions: Chloe Britton and Noël Stewart

Cover image: Sabrina Davies and Abbey Ford

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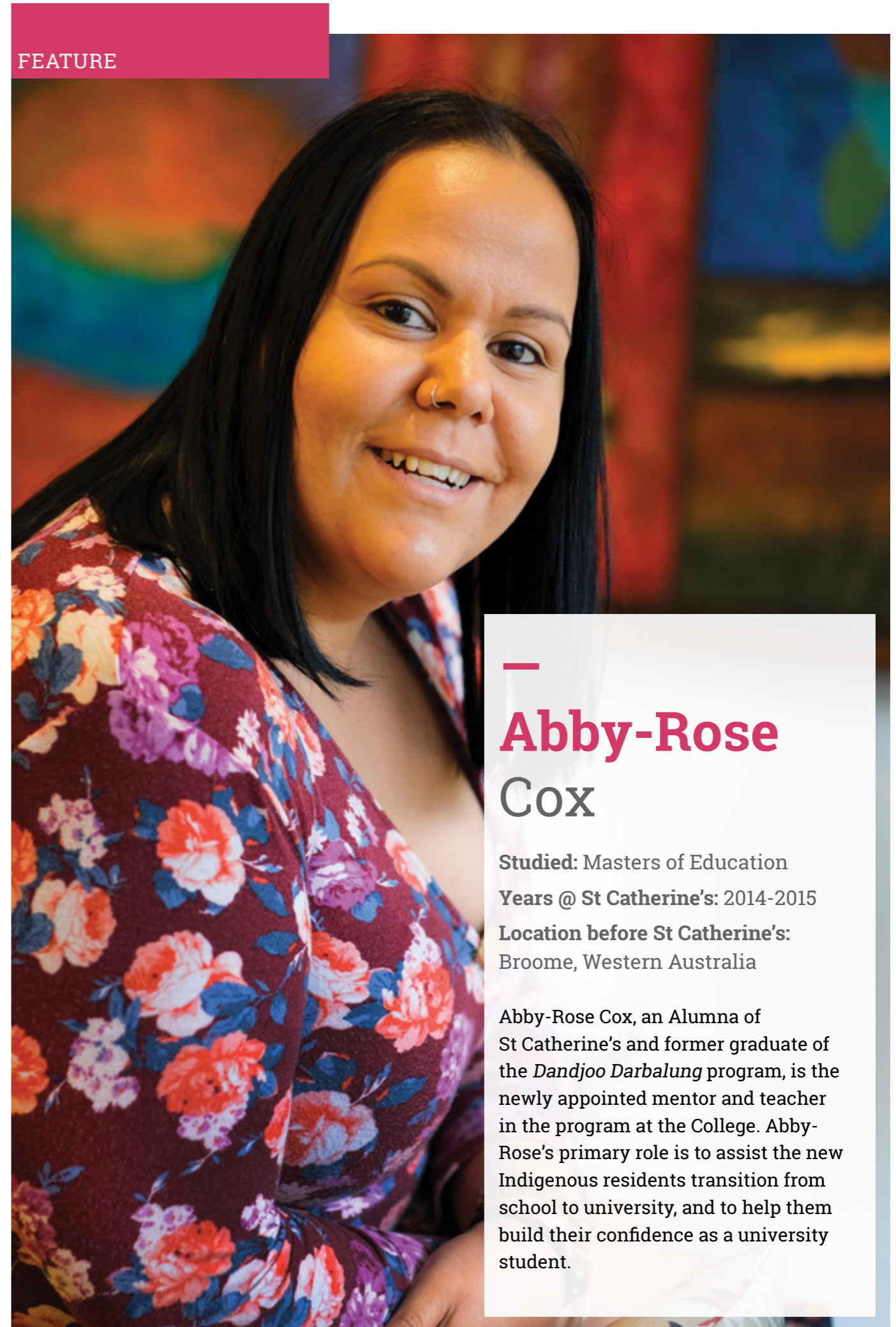
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Abby-Rose Cox

Studied: Masters of Education

Years @ St Catherine's: 2014-2015

Location before St Catherine's: Broome, Western Australia

Abby-Rose Cox, an Alumna of St Catherine's and former graduate of the *Dandjoo Darbalung* program, is the newly appointed mentor and teacher in the program at the College. Abby-Rose's primary role is to assist the new Indigenous residents transition from school to university, and to help them build their confidence as a university student.



"I am a huge advocate for education overcoming challenges. It provides a voice for your viewpoint and opinions and a platform to build leadership skills. From personal experience, education has been something that has been extremely important in my life," said Abby-Rose.

"In the *Dandjoo Darbalung* program, the staff fulfil many roles from academic tutors and teachers to mentors dealing with everything from basic student needs to supporting a student through final exams. We have 68 members of the program who come from all over Australia, and each one comes with their own personal story and dreams for their educational journey. Our job is to enable and support them in achieving those aspirations."

Abby-Rose and the team led a two-week induction program for the 35 new *Dandjoo Darbalung* residents before university began. As some of the residents in the *Dandjoo Darbalung* program come from remote communities, extra time to adjust is important. The residents are taught a range of skills necessary to successfully transition to university. These include the logistics of navigating life in Perth, creating a balanced university timetable and how to formulate an academic essay and reference accurately. It is a huge learning curve but is presented in a culturally appropriate way that allows time for getting to know each other and other residents in College but also being comfortable when classes commence.

Abby-Rose is a Kija woman from Broome and has enormous empathy for the residents in the program. "I remember what it felt like to be new in an unfamiliar environment, far from my family. It's daunting but I always knew that getting a good education was the key to my future and now that I am back at Dandjoo Darbalung, I can see the difference this program is making every day."

Abby-Rose's addition to the *Dandjoo Darbalung* team helps to expand the number of staff who are trained Indigenous professionals and role models for the residents. "The statistics around tertiary success for Indigenous people are still disappointingly low and, unfortunately, they aren't changing quickly enough. I want to ensure that I do my part in improving the outcomes."

The Dandjoo Darbalung program is changing these statistics year by year. The over 90% university retention rate through a program like this far exceeds the national average which is below 50%. So, this deeply immersive model really works along with a strengthening cultural program, a supportive College community and staff who really care."

For young Indigenous students who are uncertain about their career path, Abby-Rose gave some sound advice. "It's important not to be afraid to try new things, as you'll never know what you can achieve if you never try." Secondly, she reinforces that you don't have to know your future at the end of Year 12. "There's always time to come and try university courses, allowing you to figure out what you like and dislike. University is so different from high school as you get to learn things that you're passionate about and where you can make a difference in the future. Unlike school, university lecturers and tutors do not constantly guide you through your degree. You have the responsibility as a learner to be motivated to get the work done."



The staff tutoring the Dandjoo Darbalung residents

Abby-Rose joins Lynn Webber (Indigenous Program Coordinator) and Belinda Gibson (Indigenous Academic Support) and together they are a strong, multi-skilled team who successfully support 68 students from 30 different Indigenous communities.

"I remember what it felt like to be new in an unfamiliar environment, far from my family. It's daunting but I always knew that getting a good education was the key to my future..."

Lynn Webber and Abby-Rose Cox

Remembering the life of Rosemary Reynolds

Rosemary Reynolds, former Warden of St Catherine's College from 1974 – 1985 passed away on 8 March 2018 at the age of 75. This tribute was a kind contribution from her sister, Sylvia James.



On a surprise visit to Rosemary's parents home on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary, July 1979

Rosemary made minor history in 1961 as she was the first female student to be accepted by Professor R C Coates BSc (Eng) PhD, Nottingham University into his course. Rosemary's intended goal was Civil Engineering but sadly after she gained her degree it was a bit early for women to be accepted on a building site. So, she undertook a Teaching Diploma at Cambridge instead. On gaining this Diploma, Rosemary was appointed in September 1965 as an assistant maths teacher at the prestigious North London Collegiate School for Girls. Rosemary was a good teacher and when she left this position, the father of one of her students wrote to express his thanks that Rosemary was the first teacher to make maths understandable to his daughter.

Rosemary married John Reynolds and they decided to move to Australia as John had been offered a position in Perth. Rosemary's qualifications were picked up from her visa application which was instrumental in her being offered the position of tutor at St Catherine's. Rosie, in fact, travelled by sea before John, arriving in Perth on her own.



House Committee and Warden, 1980. L to R. Kaye Bunter, Sheralee Edwards, Rosemary Reynolds, Jane Fenwick, Amanda Bowen and Jo Linck

She was a well-known tutor at St Catherine's College and was asked to take on the role as Warden in 1974. It was a great achievement as she was the youngest Warden to ever take on the position. Rosemary's first two years in the position saw no vacancies and even a short wait list. With Rosemary as Warden, a shift had occurred with more participation in St Catherine's events than ever before. Rosemary made decisions based on what was best for her residents, thus, she asked them for their opinion before making any decisions. She once said that "I will not initiate any changes to rules unless the students want them changed."

Rosemary was born at Eaton Hall Maternity Hospital in Nottinghamshire on 6 January 1943. Rosie, as my family called her, was adopted by my parents, Harold and Phyllis Davis, when she was 2 weeks old. I was very proud and excited to be an older sister, and my most treasured memory is that she came into our family.

From the beginning of her school days it was clear that Rosemary was going to have a bright future. At junior school she was awarded a scholarship to the Nottingham High School for Girls, where she was involved in a range of activities, including dramatics and took part in several stage productions. Rosemary was also very interested in literature and poetry, but mathematics was her forte.



Rosemary Reynolds and Noël Stewart

One of the changes initiated through a student vote was the removal of having to wear academic gowns at all evening meals, except for special occasions. It was an exciting time as the students believed that their voice was being heard, and as women they felt empowered.

It was in 1976 that Rosemary came across the biggest challenge of her term as Warden. The College was victim to three successive arson attempts. These fires took place in one kitchenette and the Whitfield and Prescott wings. The fires were contained and through Rosemary's leadership and sheer determination, everyone was able to exit the buildings safely and interim accommodation was found. However, the effect of the fire was profound, and took a heavy toll on Rosemary. She took a leave of absence which also included the separation from her husband John. She bounced back and continued her position as Warden until 1985 when she retired, re-settling in Broome, Western Australia.

"Rosemary was a wonderful woman, intelligent and fun. Sadly, the love of her life in Broome died soon after they married but she had an amazing life pushing the boundaries for women in mathematics and as a coastguard and commercial pilot as well as with her studies at Cambridge, UK. Her resilience through the difficult time of the fires at St Cat's was incredible."

Gail Falconer, Alumna of St Catherine's College

"On one of my visits to Perth, we were set to celebrate Christmas Day with lunch in King's Park. For a Pom in Australia, of course, this had great novelty value. Unfortunately, I managed to lock the lunch inside Rosemary's car - a Triumph Stag, I believe. I don't know what she was muttering under her breath about her guest's stupidity, but whatever it was she did a great job of maintaining her good humour!"

Paul James, Nephew of Rosemary



Rosemary, 1962

Once in Broome, Rosemary flew with Coast Watch as an Observer, a job she enjoyed for some years. There she met with and married Tom, a very extroverted Maori man who made her very happy. They spent eight years together, until he passed away in 1992.

Rosemary has always been a trooper. She fought cancer twice and overcame a stroke and is now at peace after a very busy, fulfilling life, well lived.

ANNUAL GIVING 2018

St Catherine's never stands still and renews annually as students join the community. Innovative programs, new needs and growing aspirations to make the College the best it can be places greater and greater demand on the budget.

Your College is a special place and with your help we can progress, experiment and be the innovative environment you want for residents at St Catherine's.

Our Annual Giving program is a lifeline for the College to achieve all that it can and our sincere thanks go to those alumni and friends who continue to support a range of initiatives from buildings, Indigenous support or scholarships.

ST CATHERINE'S ANNUAL GIVING FUND 2018

Your gift means so much to the College! Please visit <https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/community/giving-and-philanthropy> to donate online to any of the following projects:

Scholarship Fund – target \$20 000 for four scholarships

A gift to this fund will ensure that St Catherine's can offer opportunities to students, many of whom could not otherwise be able to have a residential college experience. It's a life-changing gift!

Women of the 1960s	\$5 000
Women of the 1970s	\$5 000
Women of the 1980s	\$5 000
General	\$5 000

<https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/community/giving-and-philanthropy>

Indigenous Support Fund – target \$10 000

Support Indigenous education at St Catherine's College. The program is growing and we need increased resources to maintain the level of support required.

10 x \$1 000 scholarships

Building Fund Projects

Every gift to the Building Fund is important for our students so they can live and learn in a state-of-the-art environment and we can continue to maintain our beautiful heritage.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The granting of scholarships has been a long tradition at St Catherine's and over the years has enabled scores of young women (and now young men) to live at College and benefit from all that a vibrant residential community of scholars can offer their university experience.

By definition, residential scholarships are financial awards designed to help students live at College. Sometimes a scholarship is a one-time payment, other times it is renewable and provides support for the same student for multiple years, thus, forging a lasting relationship between donor and recipient. These awards differ in size and criteria but all have the desired purpose of supporting someone in their academic pursuits.

Besides the ongoing philanthropy of individuals who have left bequests to the College with the express purpose of establishing scholarships, government support schemes such as the Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme established in 1951 and now the Youth Allowance administered through Centrelink, have over the years helped a broad base of students, particularly those from regional areas, to live in College. These support programs by no means cover all the costs, and the economic reality for young people moving to Perth from the country or from an international destination is stark.

When the College was first established the foremost driver was to establish a women's college which enabled young women access to accommodation during their tertiary education. As costs increased and government support declined, the College also included financial support in the form of scholarships. The College is focused on ensuring that enrolments are at 100% every semester and that the residents it attracts are both academically capable and able to contribute to the wider community at St Catherine's. These two features form the foundation of the Scholarship Fund and are strongly reflected in specific scholarship criteria which continue to address areas of inequity such as Indigenous access. St Catherine's College aims to nurture global citizens and to support their academic and extracurricular activities as they make their mark on the world.

In 2018, 104 residents are receiving a scholarship with the total commitment valued at over \$500 000. Over the past years, the need for financial support has sharply increased with a noticeable 30% increase in scholarship applications this year alone.

What does the financial landscape look like for a young person coming to College?

Fees at St Catherine's College	\$930 per fortnight
Youth Allowance (on average)	\$445.80 per fortnight
Shortfall	\$484.20 per fortnight

The gap is filled with jobs (sometimes numerous jobs which detracts from study time), parental support and scholarships. This is ONLY for accommodation costs and doesn't include living expenses, travel to get home or unexpected issues like illness or injuries.

What could make the difference?

\$2 000	Covers upfront fees including the confirming fee for a place at St Catherine's
\$5 000	Covers one semester in combination with Youth Allowance
\$10 000	Covers one full academic year in combination with Youth Allowance

The value for students in having a scholarship is often immeasurable and the impact of the College experience on their future prospects is profound. Research shows that students living on campus have a higher university retention rate and perform better, and the leadership, mentoring and networking opportunities provided by the College offer significantly brighter employment prospects.

Personal Benefit

The obvious financial benefit diminishes expenses, makes the opportunity achievable and actually increases academic achievement. By reducing financial concerns, scholarships mean more time for studying and learning, which can also lead to an increase in post-graduate study.

A scholarship makes a big difference to the whole educational experience and invariably has a direct impact on the entire College community. Scholarship recipients are able to maximise the College experience through service-learning, volunteer opportunities and internships and usually whole-heartedly embrace leadership roles, co-curricular activities and peer support.

Career Benefit

Earning a prestigious or merit-based scholarship makes the student a more attractive job candidate. Employers who understand the competitive nature of scholarships will recognise it as an accomplishment and seek it out on resumes and in job searches.

The Scholarship Fund established by those early women pioneers still centres firmly around excellence, making a meaningful contribution to the wider world and aspiring to achieve great things. In 70 years the focus has not changed – only the demand has grown.

Ella Forkin and Kaylee Kirk



"I vividly remember how I felt when I heard I had received a scholarship to St Cat's. My hard work, and constant pursuit of being my best self was being noticed and encouraged. Every day now I have the opportunity to show thanks for this scholarship just by continuing to push myself and get involved in everything around me. Whether it's challenging myself in my classes, discovering new talents in my leadership role as a Residential Advisor, receiving invites to inspirational events, or just taking a moment to enjoy my friends, not a day goes by where these opportunities (both big and small) remind me of just how much I have to be thankful for. I can leave College knowing that I made the absolute most of my time here and have a beautifully full resume and great skills to show for it. I can honestly say, had I not received this scholarship I would not have been able to have these opportunities because I wouldn't have been able to attend St Cat's at all."

Ella Forkin, Second Year: Bachelor of Science, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia

Marissa Bechta



Name: Marissa Bechta
Occupation: Director of Cooper Partners
St Catherine's Board: 2006-2011, 2015-present

fast facts

Tell us about your involvement at St Catherine's College and how you came to this position?

I first started on the Board of St Catherine's College back in 2006 and this role came about through a staff member of mine at the time, Rebecca Swan (nee Parsons), a former resident and Deputy Head of St Catherine's College. The previous Treasurer of the College decided to step down and Rebecca asked if I would come on board as the new Treasurer. I served two terms, which ended in 2011. However, I came back in 2015 as I could not keep away. My return was after the new buildings were opened and I could not believe how much change St Catherine's had undergone in such a small amount of time. It had been a shame to not see St Catherine's evolve after I had left, so when Bob Laurenson, the Business Manager asked if I would like to come back as the Treasurer of the Board, it was an easy offer to accept. St Catherine's was the first Board I was associated with and I have definitely learnt a lot as the College is a very professional organisation with very high standards. These standards have led me to have very high expectations of the other Boards I am associated with.

My role as Treasurer does not involve getting into the day-to-day operational running of the College, but to act as an external advisor. I monitor financial reporting and obligations, test the proposed budget with the finance committee, and provide guidance and feedback to the finance team and Head of College. I also report and provide comfort to the Board regarding the financial position of the College. The St Catherine's board is very much actively engaged and I believe this is very important. I have to give credit to Bob Laurenson and the finance team, who do such an amazing job at keeping the College financially sound and provide comprehensive reporting. I have learnt so much through this experience for myself and for my business, so I am very thankful.

You are currently the Director of Cooper Partners. Tell us about your journey.

We started Cooper Partners on the 4 July 2005. Myself and two other founding directors had started at Arthur Andersen and then moved to Ernst and Young following a merger. After three years at Ernst and Young, we thought we could make it in the taxation and accounting world on our own. Cooper Partners clients are mostly high net worth clients and large privately owned businesses, together with some listed companies. It is a very niche market but quite significant in Perth. Six months into the commencement of Cooper Partners, one of our high profile co-founding directors was approached with an opportunity to move to another large firm.

This was a big cross road for me and the other remaining Cooper Partners director, as we had to decide whether we believed in what we set out to do and stay; or to give up on what we had just created and join the large firm. We decided to stay and continue operating, and it was the best decision.

We are now a team of 27 staff including three directors and we are continuously growing. Cooper Partners focuses on three main areas – taxation, superannuation and business advisory.

The most rewarding aspect of my job is developing a trusting relationship with my clients. We get to see our clients grow on their journey, along with our staff, and it's exciting that we're able to grow with them.

What advice would you give young alumni wanting to enter the taxation and accounting field?

- 1** If you are up for a challenge and always want to learn, the taxation and accounting field is for you. The tax law is constantly changing, such as the introduction of GST in 2000, which wasn't around when I first started work, company tax consolidation, or changes to superannuation – many times!
- 2** You need an appetite to learn as learning never stops, but also be prepared to put in your own time.
- 3** There are many different fields of work such as corporate and private taxation, so don't pigeon-hole yourself into one area – get exposure in as many fields as possible. If you are not enjoying one area, try another and make sure you find your niche.
- 4** For students going into their second year of study, remember vacation work is important. Get out there and try different fields such as taxation, auditing or advisory. Remember recruiting for graduate positions can come from vacation work, so work hard and make a good impression. Great academic results are not the only thing that will put you in with a great chance to win a graduate position. We are always looking for someone that is well-rounded, who may work part time, has great leadership skills, works well in teams, is engaged in the interview process, or someone that has good communication skills and takes initiative.



How do you balance life and work?

I believe a balance is very important. When I leave the office I try to leave work at the door so I can make time to complete activities for my wellbeing. These activities include pilates, yoga and paddle board yoga. During this time I try to be present and not get distracted. This allows me to distinguish work time from me time.

I work hard during the week which may involve long hours in managing the business, but I try to manage my workloads so I don't work on the weekends.

Weekend activities might involve finding time for watching an AFL, ice hockey or basketball game, seeing family, travelling on mini-breaks or catching up with friends. Just remember that self-care is important. If you don't give yourself some time for self-care, you can get worn out.

Abbey Ford

What are you currently studying?

What has driven you to choose this field?

I am currently studying a Bachelor of Philosophy majoring in Neuroscience and Italian studies. My passion for neuroscience started back in high-school. In Year 10, my class participated in a science competition which encourages young people to change the way they think about neuroscience. Our team ended up competing in the State finals, however, to my surprise; I was entered into the individual category and competed at Nationals. I was also given the opportunity to complete a research placement in the Neuroscience lab at UWA, allowing me to expand my knowledge about the field. So when it came to choosing my degree, I knew exactly what I wanted to do. My drive to study neuroscience also came about because of my Pop's battle with Parkinson's disease. I wanted to make a change and investigate what could be done to stop this debilitating illness.

My second major is Italian. You might ask how neuroscience and Italian mix. I am not sure if they do, however, I am determined to make it work. I have an Italian background and have always wanted to study the language. Yet, I never had the opportunity to do so until coming to university.

After completing my degree I want to move to Italy and completely immerse myself in the culture. The reality of research is not as glamorous as it seems, so I am not sure if I am interested in pursuing a career as a researcher in neuroscience. For now though, I will finish my degree and see where life takes me. I know one thing for sure; my heart lies in learning Italian!

You have recently spent six months on exchange in Italy. Tell us about your experience.

I left Australia at the end of July 2017 and arrived in Rome. I was lucky to have five weeks of travelling before starting university in Milan. While on my travels I met up with my Italian cousins and travelled with them. This was the first time I met them face to face, however, it felt like we had been together for years.

Italy was not what I thought it was going to be. I thought it was this magical and perfect place, however, I discovered that there is a huge economic crisis and a shortage of work, especially in the south of Italy. They seem to survive from tourism. It was sad to see poverty surrounded by the beautiful landscapes and ancient architecture.

Name: Abbey Ford
Studied: Bachelor of Philosophy majoring in Neuroscience and Italian studies
Years @ St Catherine's: 2016-2018
Location before St Catherine's: Broome, Western Australia

fast facts

Even though Italy is in the midst of an economic crisis, the people are still full of joy and happiness. The Italians believe that food is to be shared and generosity is key.

I started university in September, and it was a shock at the start. I just came from a place where I was immersed in the Italian language to then being placed in an international student program where everyone spoke English. I felt like I was still living in Australia and was not achieving my goal to become fluent in Italian. So I changed houses and moved in with two Italian girls. They were so good to me and again, very generous. By living with them I reached my goal of conversing in Italian, eating Italian food and having a great time. This was what I wanted from my exchange. Language is so important and this was highlighted on my trip. You have a deeper connection with someone if you speak their language; you see their eyes light up.

You come from Broome. What advice could you give another young person who wants to study in Perth?

- 1 Think about scholarships.** I was lucky enough to be awarded the Shirley McLeod Foundation Scholarship to support me throughout my stay at St Catherine's. Without this scholarship I would not have had the opportunity to come to College which has helped me so much to achieve my long term goals.
- 2 Get involved** – Loneliness is the worst. Make sure you create a supportive network for yourself and for others.
- 3 Find a work and life balance.** Have fun but also study hard. You want to make sure your dreams come true.
- 4 Make the most of your opportunities and don't say 'no'.** St Catherine's has numerous programs that help you achieve your goals, such as networking events, mentoring and tutoring. I always learn something new.



2018 McLeod Scholarship recipients: Sabrina Davies, Jessica Lawler, Claire Curtin, Poppy Brooke and Abbey Ford

Sabrina Davies

You were recently awarded the Westpac Future Leader's scholarship. Tell us about the scholarship.

The scholarship is designed to help young researchers develop ways to make an impact on the future growth and prosperity of Australia. There are three main areas for scholars to be associated with – technology and innovation, Asia-Australia ties, and social impact. My research comes under the technology and innovation side. Through leadership training, funding and access to networks, the scholarship program has given me the opportunity to expand my research, gain overseas experience, meet incredible people who can help me get ideas off the ground and apply my research to solving problems in Australia; with the overall aim of creating impact. At the start of February, we had a week-long leadership conference in Sydney where I was able to meet other scholars and participate in leadership and communication training. They taught us that a leader does not always have to be the dominant person; it can be the person at the bottom holding everyone up. It was an untraditional perspective on leadership which I've never really taken into consideration, and it encompasses the idea of being a future leader rather than a leader of today. Overall, I'm excited and grateful about the opportunities this scholarship has given me and would love to have a chat to anyone who's thinking about applying in the future!

Your current research is quite unique. Can you explain it in Layman's terms?

Back in 2016 there was a massive bushfire in the southwest of Western Australia. A few weeks after the fires, the bush was recovering, and new plants were starting to grow. This is due to a compound in bushfire smoke called karrikin (from the Noongar 'karrik' meaning 'smoke') which triggers plant germination. While we know this phenomenon occurs, we don't understand the biochemical pathway controlling the process. If we can figure this out, it could have numerous applications in agriculture, conservation and restoration. For example, we could change the way plants 'work' to suit particular conditions, leading to

Name: Sabrina Davies
Studying: PhD in Biochemistry
Years @ St Catherine's: 2014-2018
Location before St Catherine's: Australind, Western Australia

fast facts

sustainable agricultural practices. The need for innovation in agriculture is prevalent not only in Australia but world-wide, therefore, I believe this project can make a positive impact. I started this project as an undergraduate participating in an Honours course and now have the opportunity to expand on my research through conducting a PhD which will take three plus years to complete.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

I would have hopefully finished my PhD which would give me a platform in which I could translate my research into real-world, tangible solutions. I would also like to try and find a way to help younger scientists find their passion and teach them the importance of communication through some sort of mentoring program. In the future I would also like to go overseas to get experience and bring that experience back home – this would give me a broader world view and help me become a more well-rounded scientist.

3 Top Tips for young researchers

- 1 Find a project you're passionate about because you can get burnt out.** Remember you are working on your research project for several hours a day and sometimes for several years.
- 2 Don't underestimate the importance of communication, particularly communicating with the general population.** It is about making scientific jargon easier to understand and allowing research to be more accessible to help decrease scepticism and the negativity behind science.
- 3 Get as much experience and learn from as many different people as you can!** Go find a research placement or email people in your industry and chat to them about what they're doing!

Luiz Rocha



Name: Luiz Rocha
Studied: Master of Urban Design
Years @ St Catherine's: 2013- 2015
Location before St Catherine's: Canberra and Brazil

fast facts

Why did you choose to become an urban designer?

After studying abroad and seeing different cities I wanted to bring the life of those cities back to Canberra, so studying Urban Design was the ideal choice. My studies have allowed me to change cities and make them more liveable for people, prioritising pedestrians over cars. I also have a passion for adapting our cities to climate change and my profession allows me to do that.

Tell us about your achievements.

I had the opportunity to be involved in a few major projects across Wellington, Sydney and Canberra. I had the chance to be one of the designers for a major suburb development in Sydney as well the lead designer for the biggest suburb Canberra has seen to date (over 2500 dwellings). However, my biggest achievement to date has been my involvement in the development of the Urban Design Guideline in Canberra and I have been involved in the delivery of the Design Guideline since its inception. The Guideline seeks to assist developers and planning professionals to deliver better quality design outcomes for apartments and attached housing, ensuring they respond appropriately to the character of the landscape and the surroundings.



Melinda Mbanu, Shruthi Avadhani and Luiz Rocha at St Catherine's in 2015

How did St Catherine's play a role in your career?

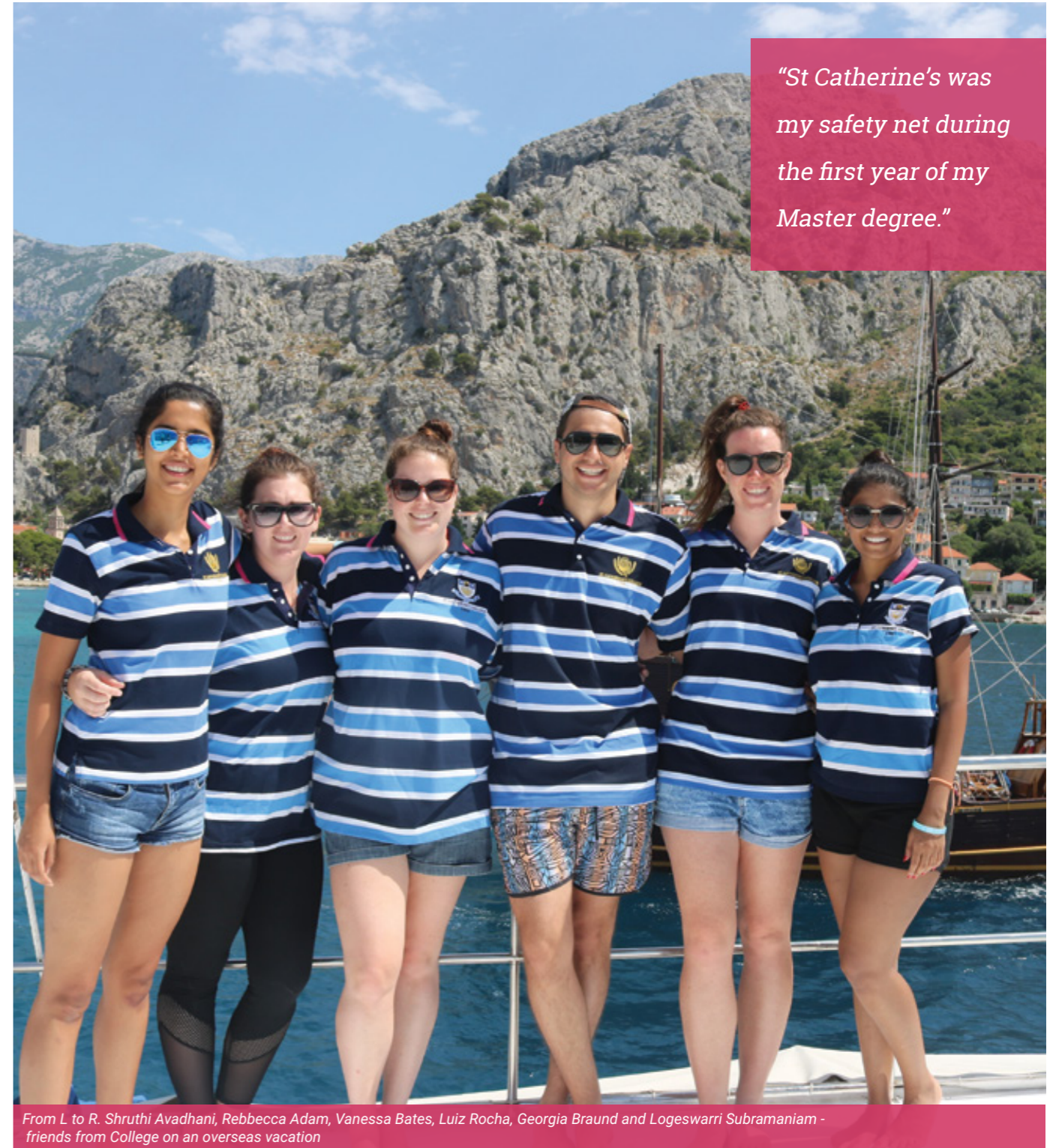
St Catherine's was my safety net during the first year of my Masters' degree. During that time, I was studying Urban Planning, but I wasn't convinced it was right for me as I missed the design aspect. I felt I should change my degree to Urban Design, and the College played a vital role in supporting my decision to do so. The staff discussed it with me, put me in touch with local professionals for more specific advice and encouraged me so I felt secure and supported whilst the change occurred. Safe to say, if it wasn't for the team at St Catherine's, I might not have turned into the proud professional I am today!

What are your fondest memories of St Catherine's?

I had a great experience over my three years living at St Catherine's, but the best part was the opportunity to meet some amazing people. I had never expected to have a second family that accepted me for me! I am glad I was a part of a very close community; and through this experience I made some life-long friends with both students and staff members. My entire experience living in Prescott was great! These included having no sound proof walls – such a blast, having several photoshoots in the bathroom, my first TAV show and 'Fish and Chip Fridays'. It's the small things you remember!



Luke Ribet and Luiz Rocha



"St Catherine's was my safety net during the first year of my Master degree."

From L to R. Shruthi Avadhani, Rebecca Adam, Vanessa Bates, Luiz Rocha, Georgia Braund and Logeswarri Subramaniam - friends from College on an overseas vacation

What advice would you give to your younger self about entering the job market?

- 1 Start to network early! In most cases, it is not what you know but who you know which can scaffold a great job opportunity.
- 2 You should attend seminars, functions and conferences and put your name out there.
- 3 Look for work experience, as it is a great way to gain knowledge and jump start your career. The perfect job doesn't exist, but you need to try your best to make it happen, as your employer will remember those that don't give up and always have a can-do attitude.

What's happening around college?



SINGAPORE BREAKFAST

On 3 February 2018, a breakfast was held for new Singaporean residents. The future residents met alumni of the College over brunch to chat about St Catherine's and to ask any questions about College and university life before arriving in Perth.



ORIENTATION WEEK

This year's O'Week theme was "Faster, Higher, Stronger", and it saw all new residents start their College and university experience with passion! The week involved a secret garden party, fresher festival and multiple training sessions such as mental health, first aid and alcohol safety training.



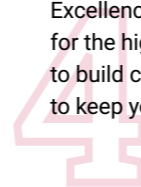
COLLEGE BALL

One of our favourite events of the year, the St Catherine's College Ball did not disappoint. The theme was Vintage Circus and the carousel at the Perth Zoo provided the perfect back drop for food stalls, entertainment and dancing under the stars.



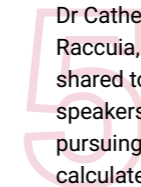
PRISM ALLIANCE. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER VISIT

PRISM Alliance and St Catherine's were delighted to host the British High Commissioner to Australia, Menna Rawlings, in early May this year. The event included spirited debates and discussions on some of the political and social issues of our time; Gender Inequality, Brexit, Syria, and a discussion, with questions to Her Excellency on the salience of the ideas. With encouraging words for the high-achieving crowd, Her Excellency emphasised the need to build confidence and resilience, alongside a supportive network to keep you grounded on your journey.



ARTS, BUSINESS, LAW AND DESIGN FACULTY DINNER

In May, St Catherine's College hosted the monthly Faculty Dinner for Arts, Business, Law and Design subjects. In attendance on the night were many exemplary career makers, including Lizzie Arthurs, Suné Crous, Professor Helen Wildy, Dr Tael Harper, Dr Catherine Noske, Dr Greg Brush, Dominique Hartfield, Cettina Raccuia, Denis McLeod, and Kirsten Rose with words of wisdom shared to a room of eagerly listening St Catherine's residents. The speakers alluded to parallel themes of career-making, including, pursuing passion, tempering set planning with spontaneity and calculated risk-taking.



Reunions

1990s REUNION

- : Friday 20 July 2018
- : Reunion Coordinator: Kate O'Shaughnessy
- : 6.30-9.00pm, St Catherine's College
- : Cocktail
- : Cost \$40
- : Website sign-up: <https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/events/2018/7/20/1990s-reunion>

SYDNEY REUNION

- : Friday 30 November 2018
- : Reunion Coordinators: Luke Ribet and Taufiq Zainal
- : Venue and time: To be confirmed

2000s REUNION

- : Date: To be confirmed
- : If you are keen to be the reunion coordinator for the 2000s, please contact Brooke on 9442 0591 or email alumni@stcatherines.uwa.edu.au



More opportunities to meet **old friends**

YOU can make a **positive impact!**

St Catherine's alumni have the opportunity to make a difference.



BECOME A MENTOR

Join our mentoring program to support future St Catherine's residents who are just about to enter the workforce and who would benefit from the shared wisdom of an experienced professional: <https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/current-residents/plan-my-future>

BECOME AN **AMBASSADOR** AND PROMOTE THE COLLEGE

Spread the word about your experience studying in Perth and living at St Catherine's. If you are interested in becoming an ambassador of the College, please email alumni@stcatherines.uwa.edu.au



EMPLOY GRADUATES FROM ST CATHERINE'S

Build on your pool of talent and start connecting with St Catherine's residents and graduates: <https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/current-residents/plan-my-future>

SHARE YOUR **FEEDBACK**

Let us know what we can do to make your alumni experience more beneficial. <https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/community/alumni/feedback>
 Help us find Lost Cat's <https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/community/alumni/lost-cats/>



ST CATHERINE'S
COLLEGE

2 Park Road
Crawley WA 6009

+61 8 9442 0400
enquiries@stcatherines.uwa.edu.au
stcatherines.uwa.edu.au



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