



ST CATHERINE'S
COLLEGE

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THE

BANKSIA

MAGAZINE FOR OUR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



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with impact



Bridie

Thank you for a wonderful 2018

On behalf of all the residents, staff, pets and alumni of St Catherine's College, we want to say thank you for your support, your advice, the generous sharing of your knowledge, your financial contributions and for ensuring that St Cat's is always the best it can be.

We hope this Festive Season is peaceful and joyous and we look forward to catching up again in 2019.

Fiona and Bridie

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.

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FEATURE

Helen Wildy



Name:
Professor Helen Wildy
(nee Walker)

Studied:
Doctor of Philosophy

Years @ St Catherine's:
1964-1966

**Location before
St Catherine's:**
Mt Walker,
Western Australia

Helen's impressive career as an educator spans 50 years. Raised on a farm at Mt Walker in the eastern wheat-belt of Western Australia (WA), Helen was the second eldest of four siblings. Her mother had been a teacher and her father, though not highly educated, had a scholarly bent. Reading was strongly encouraged in her family. Coming home from Mt Walker School each day, she 'played teacher' with her siblings on the back veranda. "This was the start of being a teacher, and also the feeling of making things happen. These experiences helped me develop leadership skills."



Owen Walker, Helen Walker and Elizabeth Walker, 1952



Mt Walker Primary School, 1955



Valedictory Dinner at St Catherine's College, 1966



Helen Walker and Steve Errington (Guild President) at the Miss University Ball, 1966

Schooling was always a positive experience for Helen. As a student at the one-teacher school, she marvels, even now, at the headmaster's capacity to organise the learning program for his 35 charges, some of whom were unwilling participants, aged from five to fifteen years, all day, every day, with occasional visits from a visiting clergyman and the bus driver's wife who taught sewing. "He was a great influencer for me". Later as a boarder at Perth College, then a school run by the Anglican Sisters, she successfully studied Latin, French, Physics and Mathematics and went on to be a secondary Mathematics teacher. Not so successfully, she studied Art but the memories of those lessons are filled with joyful images of their teacher, the then very young Robert Juniper.

As a student at St Catherine's College, Helen was her year's Fresher Representative, then Social President, then Senior Student in 1966. She was elected to Guild Council the following year, during which, among other things, Helen and her colleague and future President of Guild, Sue Boyd, ran the Miss University Quest.

Although focused on teaching and learning, Helen's career has been varied. She taught Mathematics at Mt Lawley Senior High School followed by St Hilda's School of Girls. After having her children, Dan and Anna, she joined a small group of women to set up what became the Tresillian Community Centre in Nedlands. To meet the needs of all ages in the community, they initiated artist-in-residence programs, classes in the arts, cooking, fitness, all taught by volunteers; a coffee shop and child care centre, book clubs, a wine club, and even a babysitting club. The Tresillian Art Award she initiated continues to this day.

Helen and her family spent four years in Melbourne in the 1980s and, on their return, Helen completed a Masters of Education at The University of Western Australia (UWA) and took some teaching roles in the Faculty of Education. She spent five years as an Educational Consultant providing a range of leadership development programs for teachers and principals across the educational sectors. She was awarded her PhD at UWA in 1999.

She worked as a researcher to develop leadership standards and was employed at Edith Cowan University to establish the Institute for the Service Professions. In 2002, Helen was appointed Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at Murdoch University, her first full academic Teaching and Research position. Currently, Helen is the Dean of UWA's Graduate School of Education, within the new Faculty of Arts, Business, Law and Education.

As a researcher during the past 30 years, Helen's focus has been school leadership. She developed leadership standards for Western Australia's Department of Education and applied them to the selection of principals. A particular interest has been leadership of small rural schools, drawing on her own early experience in the country.

For more than 20 years she has run the Performance Indicators for Primary Schools (PIPS) baseline assessment of literacy and numeracy in schools and systems across Australia.

Other projects with school sectors in Western Australia involved large scale assessment such as NAPLAN where she developed ways of representing data to make them accessible to principals and teachers. Student data could then be reviewed over time, at individual, class, group and subject levels. "This helps teachers to fine tune their programs to meet the needs of their students". Helen's experience as a Mathematics teacher, her understanding of school leadership and recognising the importance of being data literate all contributed to the impact of this research. "I was able to bring together my two passions: developing leadership skills and teaching Maths."

Teaching has been at the centre of Helen's career. "There is no more joy than realising a student has grasped what you are teaching."

Helen describes her teaching as a journey, characterised by a shift from teaching Mathematics, the subject, to teaching the people. In the five decades since her first teaching appointment, Helen claims never to have stopped learning to be a teacher. Most recently when preparing her classes, she thinks as much about what her students are doing as what she is saying. "I can call myself a Dean and a researcher. However, in my heart I am always a teacher and I am proud to be known as a teacher."

Helen reflects on her experiences. "It has been a privilege to spend the last 10 years of my career as UWA's Dean of Education. I have especially liked helping people to develop. I encourage staff to apply for promotion. It is good for them, and good for the organisation."

Helen has a clear understanding of leadership. She tells her staff: "Each person is significant, no matter who they are. Every interaction makes a difference. This is how we build a positive culture".

Helen explains what she means by leadership. "Leadership is not the same as management. Leadership involves inspiring, motivating, working with hearts and minds, commitment to generate change, growth and development. Management involves systems and processes, rules and regulations focusing on compliance which leads to stability, order and predictability. Both are necessary but they require different skills. Sometimes we see too much management and not enough leadership, which of course leads to stagnation and disillusionment. Focusing on people, through leadership, brings about a more vibrant, challenging and productive workplace".

Helen's advice for young people is to be open to opportunities. "Be courageous. Avoid being linear in your thinking because this can cause you to miss unexpected opportunities along the way. Remember, life is a journey, with challenges, surprises, and countless paths to choose. As you travel, make sure the footprint you leave is one of which you are proud".



Helen at Melbourne Cup, 1984

"I can call myself a Dean and a researcher. However, in my heart I am always a teacher and I am proud to be known as a teacher."

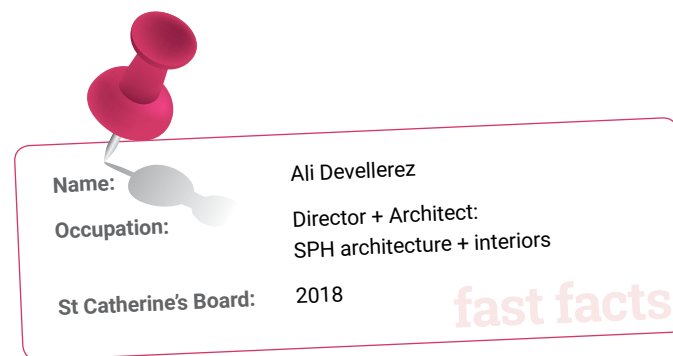
Helen has served on the Board of St Catherine's College since 2015. As she approaches retirement, Helen is looking to a broader future, working to improve the literacy levels of young people in Bhutan. "I am honoured to have the opportunity to work with schools, especially a school for hearing impaired young people. My aim is to open the doors to their life choices".



Helen and Ian Wildy, Graduation at UWA, 1967

Ali Devellerez

Ali Devellerez joined the St Catherine's Board in 2018 and contributes a highly developed skillset in architecture, project management, sustainability and interior design.



Name:	Ali Devellerez
Occupation:	Director + Architect: SPH architecture + interiors
St Catherine's Board:	2018

fast facts

You are a Director at SPH architecture + interiors. What does your role involve?

I am involved in setting the business strategy, keeping the team engaged on our projects and, importantly, making sure they understand where we are trying to steer our business. I tend to work on the front end of projects, such as marketing and meeting with clients. This allows me to understand the clients' requirements and help to define the project. When meeting with clients, I like to show we are more than one individual and at SPH architecture + interiors we work as a team, so I always include other team members. It is important for a business to have a good spectrum of experience and, as a Director, I am always learning from the other Directors and from my team including the graduates. It is the combination of wisdom and new knowledge which makes the business work.

I have specialised in health projects and I have been involved in a few mental health projects including the Step Up Step Down Project, which is short stay accommodation for people living with a mental health condition. The one we are currently working on is in Bunbury and is expected to open in 2019. Through architecture we can create social change because it is about creating a positive impact for individuals, groups and the community through quality in the built environment.

At SPH architecture + interiors we specialise in architecture and interior design, which in turn allows us to create a holistic environment right down to the smallest detail.

What project have you most enjoyed working on during your career thus far?

It has to be the Perth Children's Hospital. I am a mum of three children under 11 years of age which is busy but fulfilling. I understand the importance of a state-of-the-art facility for parents and their children and I worked on the design of the hospital for three and a half years. This project was about the people and our consumer was the everyday family that needed to access health services and in turn the physical environment we created.

A building and its architecture can trigger emotion for an individual and in a hospital setting positive distraction is important. Architecture combined with landscape can lead to feelings of ease and relaxation. It may be as simple as where you place a window which in turn allows the individual to connect with nature. Great design and landscapes can lead to a positive impact on wellbeing.

This project will make a huge difference to children's lives throughout Western Australia, and when I look back on my career, it was amazing to be a part of this project.

How important is an innovative mindset to your work and the company?

It is absolutely critical. When I am hiring I look for energy and ideas as you need to take a fresh approach in this field. Innovation is what our clients want us to address and it is raised at almost every client meeting. This includes technology, sustainability and productivity.

We have recently been a part of the Richardson Hotel redevelopment which has now been transformed into Perth's first vertical aged care development. The use of technology in aged care buildings is growing and includes, for example, installing sensors into floor finishes which helps staff detect when a patient falls.

What would you say are the opportunities and challenges facing architecture as a career?

An opportunity facing architecture is that there is a big emphasis on ideas being the new currency. Industries are now moving towards Artificial Intelligence, augmented reality, robotics and automation. However, fundamentally, you make an appointment to see an architect to solve your design problems. Solving the problem and the creative process that goes with this is something a robot or machine will never be able to do. The whole sector needs a big reminder that we are in the business of ideas and that is what we are trading. This is unique to us and it needs to be celebrated.

A challenge is that there have been occupations developed over the years that have taken over a part of the architect's role. These people complete tasks architects used to do, such as checking on the compliance of a building or making sure all criteria is met. As an industry we need to be mindful of and make sure we hold onto the tasks we do really well. We should not let go of the aspects of our profession that are our strengths such as the creative process, contract management, compliance and audits. The best person for the job needs to perform the service.

There are definitely excellent compliance consultants and project managers, however, architects need to maintain a leadership role on projects. Clients come to us because they want us to lead a project and we need to make sure we fulfil that in entirety.

"The whole sector needs a big reminder that we are in the business of ideas and that is what we are trading. This is unique to us and it needs to be celebrated."



What skills have served you best in your architecture career?

My people skills have been fundamental. People come before projects. If we do not take care of our staff and our clients it does not matter how great the architecture is, you will not end up with a successful outcome. Leaders have to remember that their staff are more than just their job. It is all about making someone's job work for them as they are giving us their time, creativity and commitment. We need to create an environment that gets the best out of people. So, every day when I come into the office, I try to spend the first hour of my day going around and checking in on my team. I ask them how they are going, what their priorities are, and how they are coping with their work load. The industry needs to shift towards more flexible working arrangements. As a society, we have created a business world which is predominantly based on full-time work and I believe this needs to be reshaped. Flexible and part-time working hours help lead to greater happiness and improved productivity.

The second skill that has served me well is leadership. There is no such thing as a natural born leader. Anyone can learn the skills to become a great leader. In the project industry, clients look to us to lead their projects and we must feel comfortable to take on that role and the whole raft of skills that go with it.

Dr Ruth Shean

Dr Shean joined the St Catherine's Board in 2018. She brings a wealth of experience in education, governance and not-for-profit organisations.

You have recently been appointed as a Board member at St Catherine's College. Tell us what attracted you to the role and what contribution you feel you can make?

This role has a historic significance for me. In the earlier days of the College my father, Max Shean, a UWA graduate himself, was on the Board. He spoke very highly about the intellect and strength of the women involved in the College. He was a senior public servant, and a stickler for good governance. I too have been in senior management roles where governance has been the focus and I believe that good governance is essential in the running of any entity. At St Catherine's, there is an extremely professional team running the College under the exceptional leadership of Fiona Crowe. St Catherine's College, therefore, needs a group of Board members who are not involved on a day to day basis but who understand the role of governance and have a commitment to the students and the College. Strong governance reassures stakeholders that the correct protocols and procedures are being followed. It helps to establish future directions. While being mindful of our vision, we Board members need to take governance into account along with the strategic goals and the learning environment. As I get to know the other Board members, it is evident that they are exceptional and committed individuals who are collaborative as a group but are also respectful of the College's identity and of each other. Boards need people with vision, commitment and a capacity to build trust. They need a broad capability base: this is very much in evidence at St Catherine's College.

You have been a non-executive director on numerous state and national Boards. What do you feel are the biggest challenges involved in these roles?

Some of the Boards I have been involved in have been associated with enquiries or reviews. In such circumstances, the most difficult element is starting out without knowing what the outcome is going to be. In the 1990s, I was Chair of the Government Ministerial Task Force on the Education of Students with Disabilities and Specific Learning Difficulties—The Shean Report. I realised early on that there were many elements of this domain that I had never thought of. There were many things I did not know. And most importantly, there were a lot of people to listen to. I had to put aside all my preconceptions and be open minded about the future. That can be very scary because



Name:	Dr Ruth Shean
Occupation:	Non-executive Director on State and National Boards
St Catherine's Board:	2018

fast facts

you know you have to deliver a major report for government, but you have to throw away much of your existing framework and build afresh. Boards of governance are different though. To my mind, the biggest challenge of a Board of governance is to work collaboratively without falling victim to 'group think'. You have to be prepared to build on other members' contributions, but equally you must be objective and have sound judgement. If you think something is significantly wrong, you need to make your point strongly and ensure that it has been heard. My own challenge is that sometimes I can be too outspoken, too forceful, so I work very hard at listening and saying nothing for much of the time. Sometimes while I may not agree, I need to let things go rather than to be a single voice of disagreement. Just because you do not agree does not mean you have to bring any particular initiative to a halt. It is a question of judgement as to what things matter and which ones need your special intervention. I occasionally don't say what I think because it could be a disruptive and unhelpful contribution. This can take a great deal of self-control! It helps me if I make notes as I go and at the end of a discussion, if I feel there is a fundamental point that has been missed and it is essential to moving forward, I will then make that point.

You are particularly interested in governance, human services and not-for-profit agencies. What draws you to these specific areas? Have you noticed any significant trends developing?

I like working with people and have done a lot of study in psychology over the years. I've also read up on and worked a great deal in building positive cultures. In particular, I like building environments in which people deliver their best. In governance, human services and not-for-profit agencies, you rely on people always doing their best, as the consequences of poor decision making can be disastrous. Recent trends in governance—an area with which both the corporate world, not-for-profits and government have been struggling—have focused on decisions that have been dishonest, exploitative or unwise. Every person with responsibility in governance has an obligation to protect their stakeholders; this is what draws me to this area. My commitment to integrity provides an umbrella of protection. For example, at St Catherine's, there are hundreds of students who depend on the integrity of the Board and its commitment to good decision-making. To have the opportunity to work for the good, and especially for the good of young students, is a great honour. Most of my work is in the not-for-profit world. I like the causes, I like the people I work with and the people for whom I work.

You have been in numerous managerial roles (that is, CEO/ Director General). What should young people be focussing on to develop leadership qualities that lead to roles such as these?

- 1 Choose to do things you want to do and choose to do things where you can learn.
- 2 Choose to work with people who inspire you and my thanks go to Fred Chaney, a long time St Catherine's supporter, for this particular wisdom.
- 3 Choose to work in an area where you can have an opportunity to reach the level which you desire. But keep in mind that you won't necessarily get there too quickly: for every step up the ladder there can be a few sideways ones as well!
- 4 Make a total commitment to your employer.
- 5 Know when it is time to move. And never get too comfortable.

You have completed a Master of Education and a Doctor of Philosophy. What advice would you give to students who are thinking of undertaking postgraduate study?

Postgraduate study can be a lonely path, but it is worth it. Postgraduate work provides every keen student with a very special experience. Make sure that you have a support network around you. Moral support and self-belief help you to keep going. My greatest source of moral support throughout my postgraduate study came from my lecturers—who included Dr Elizabeth Constable, the St Catherine's Chair—who were supportive and insightful. Further support comes from spending time with other colleagues: never dismiss a cup of coffee or dinner in the refectory as a waste of time. Collegiate discussion is essential! You need to remember the importance of tertiary education. Tertiary education leads to better employment, better pay, better job satisfaction and better job outcomes. St Catherine's College turns going to university or TAFE from a duty or a chore into a professional pleasure. What a gift it is to be in such a supportive educational and residential environment as St Catherine's College.



Julie Kordic

Tell us about your career journey.

I grew up in the south west of Western Australia and attended Manjimup Senior High School. I started a Bachelor of Human Movement in 1984 but then quickly decided it wasn't for me as although I was very involved in sport, I couldn't see that it would offer me the career that I was looking for. I moved to Perth and found the move quite overwhelming as the student population at the University of Western Australia (UWA) was larger than the country town I grew up in. I worked in Perth in hospitality and re-enrolled into a Bachelor of Economics in 1985. My parents suggested that I stay at St Catherine's College instead of living in a shared house and what great advice this turned out to be. The support of the College and proximity to UWA was invaluable and I made fantastic friends who remain close friends to this day. I graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree as business and finance had always held a fascination for me. My family had a number of small businesses in the town that I grew up in and the seeds were sown early.

I was recruited by a large accounting firm whilst in my final year at UWA. This wasn't something I was particularly chasing but firms came out to campus and conducted interviews so my friends and I thought we would sign up for the interviews and see what happened. This was a crucial stepping stone for my transition from university to the workforce and whilst it wasn't necessarily what I wanted to do for the long term, the unemployment rate was very high at that time and jobs were hard to come by, so I thought it was the best way to enter the workforce.

Whilst at this firm, I completed my professional year and became a Chartered Accountant. I don't know that I saw myself as being an Accountant in the long term, but it seemed a good idea to obtain this qualification which was highly regarded both in Australia and internationally. I thought it would give me options for where I wanted to work in the future and a point of differentiation from other Commerce graduates at that time. Again, I saw this as a valuable stepping stone for my future career, whatever that was going to be!

After five years at the accounting firm, I started to become a bit restless as some of my friends were starting to move to Sydney or London to further their careers. An interesting piece of advice given to me at the time was; if you can't decide whether to stay in the job you are in, observe people further up the ladder and if you don't see yourself doing their jobs in the future, you should consider moving on.

Quite the opposite of where my friends and colleagues were heading, I decided to 'drop out' of corporate life and take a breather by moving back down south to venture into a winery business with my family. Along with being a business partner in the vineyard, I worked in local government as an Accountant. After a year or so, I was promoted to Manager of Finance and Community Services and managed a team of around 30 staff

Name:	Julie Kordic
Studied:	Bachelor of Commerce (1987)
Years @ St Catherine's:	1985
Location before St Catherine's:	Manjimup, Western Australia

fast facts

across many areas. Boy! this was a steep learning curve. I worked hard during these years and learnt so much about people management, finance and budgeting, stakeholder relationship management, as well as running a small business. I also married and started a family, so much for taking a breather! Over the next eight years I took up various roles, including a bookkeeping business, a few accounting roles and eventually completed a Graduate Diploma in Corporate Governance. Furthermore, I set up a contracting business to provide CFO and Company Secretarial services to the resource exploration sector.

You are the Director Corporate Services at the Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME) of Western Australia. What does this role involve?

CME is the leading advocate for the resource sector in Western Australia. CME leads policy development on issues impacting the sector and promotes the value of the sector to the community. Our members are typically companies in the mining, oil and gas, contracting, energy generation and service sectors in Western Australia.

I lead a team that are responsible for finance, human resources, IT, business development, events, media and communications, CME police clearance service and the Western Australia Police Gold Stealing Detection Unit in the Goldfields region.

My typical day is very varied, and my experience and skills gained over the years are all in play in this role which includes liaising with very influential people such as state and federal politicians and senior executives in the resource sector. I've also had to learn new skills around social media and communications to advance the impact of technology, automation and big data in business today.

It's important to recognise that we all need to be flexible about what our jobs will look like in the future as they will certainly be different to what they look like today!

I am now pursuing opportunities to give back and am keen to use the skills I've learnt in corporate life to do this. I was a member on a Board for an organisation that provides domestic violence shelters, housing and support. I was invited onto the Board as they needed my skills and experience in business to

help the organisation transition and prosper moving forward. Volunteering my time was extremely satisfying and I'm sure there will be more of these opportunities in the future.

On reflection, I cannot say that my career was carefully planned. I think that life has a way of messing with carefully laid plans anyway! But I can say that I have had a satisfying career so far and I am interested to see where it will head in the future.

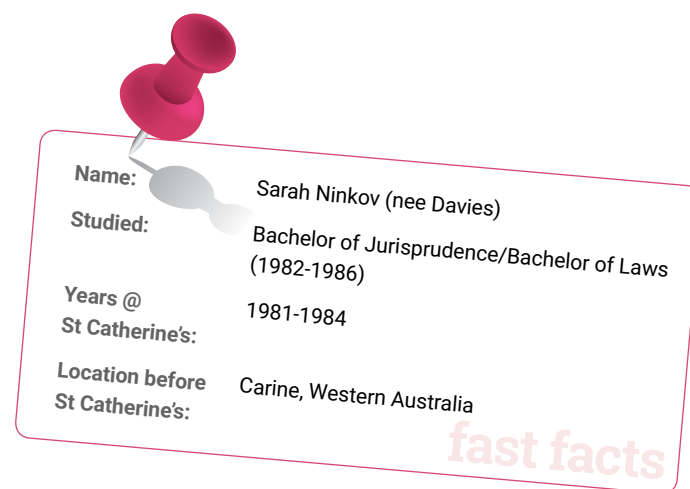
What is your approach to success?

My approach has always been to work hard, keep learning and recognise opportunities. Sometimes the opportunities will work for you and sometimes they won't. That choice should always be up to you and what works best for you at the time (which may include your family too). One thing that has remained constant throughout my career has been that I have ensured my career choices worked for me and that I was not a slave to a career trajectory.

Reflecting on my decisions whilst at College, university and early in my career, I'm so glad I took the stepping stones and opportunities that I did as they have all been a great background for where I am today.



Sarah Ninkov



Name: Sarah Ninkov (nee Davies)
Studied: Bachelor of Jurisprudence/Bachelor of Laws (1982-1986)
Years @ St Catherine's: 1981-1984
Location before St Catherine's: Carine, Western Australia

fast facts

Tell us about your role at IRDI Legal?

I am a Senior Precedents Lawyer at IRDI Legal and my role involves supporting the firm's lawyers by capturing and delivering knowledge resources and drafting and maintaining precedents. I also monitor changes to the law relevant to the firm's practice areas to ensure the lawyers are aware of any key legislative changes and case law developments, and where necessary I review and amend the firm's precedents to ensure legal compliance.

I have performed similar roles in major global law firms over many years and witnessed the significant evolution of legal technology in the delivery of knowledge resources to lawyers. Following my 'retirement' from big law in 2015, an opportunity arose for me to experience life as a precedents lawyer with a smaller, local firm and I started at IRDI Legal in 2016—so much for retirement!

For the first 8 years of my career I was a practicing commercial lawyer in a large law firm and then with ASIC, however following the birth of my first son in 1992 (followed by two more sons in 1994 and 1997), I looked for an alternative legal career path that would enable me to work part-time whilst maintaining my legal credentials, so becoming a Precedent Lawyer turned out to be a very successful transitional role for me.

Precedent Lawyers are usually senior practitioners with significant legal expertise across a range of practice areas and are generally highly regarded. It is important to have several years in commercial practice to gain the technical legal and drafting skills required to be successful in a knowledge management role and create a legitimate career path. This ensures you have credibility and can add value to the business as in big law you generally work within a particular practice group

Did you always want to be a lawyer?

No! I did not always want to be a lawyer. My preference at school was to become a physiotherapist, but I missed out by a mark. So there's a lesson! My brother was in law school at the time and I thought I might give it a go too. So, no I did not have a burning passion to be a lawyer. However, 34 years later I am still in the law profession and it has proven to be an excellent career enabling me to balance my desire to be at home with the boys whilst maintaining and developing legal and technological skills in an era of unprecedented change in the way law firms operate.

What employment advice would you give to young graduates entering the law profession?

I don't need to tell any recent graduates that competition for positions across all types of law firms is very high, so if it is proving difficult, look for alternative graduate roles in government departments or corporations as they are always looking for diversity of skill sets in their graduate intake. If you strongly want to practice law, then persevere, work hard and get some runs on the board early. If you can secure a position in a large law firm, it is a significant achievement and will stand you in good stead.

Building a diversified CV is important, so take the opportunity to participate in mock trials, and legal work experience. Volunteering and community engagement are also highly regarded, but stay on top of content, as marks do count! It is all about continuously building your CV to have a competitive edge in a tough market.

What are the challenges facing the law profession?

- 1** A major challenge facing the law profession is the ability to challenge the model of service delivery, such as billing and timesheets. The profession is well known for billing by six minute units. That's one thing that hasn't changed in 34 years! However, a major firm has now ditched time sheets and the focus on billable hours to reduce the pressure on lawyers...so watch this space!
- 2** Staff retention is also a challenge. Previously there was a direct career pathway to partnership; if you worked hard, were a lifelong learner, and had the motivation, you would generally have a shot at partnership within seven years. This is not the case anymore, and the partnership carrot is not what it was because it is such a distant goal.
- 3** The hours remain long in many firms with remote access technology extending work hours. Indeed, global firms market themselves on 24/7 availability and they expect their lawyers to be available as well. Some small to medium firms are challenging this model in an endeavour to genuinely change the legal workplace and mindfulness and wellness are slowly creeping into the vernacular of the law firm.



Law is notorious for long hours and no work-life balance. How do you find that balance?

As a young lawyer, the hours were long and there was no real 'work-life' balance (that concept was well into the future). It was 12 hour days, and a focus on billable hours—it was a slog. However, I made a conscious decision in the 90s to look for an alternative legal career to enable me to be with the boys. So, I found my balance by transitioning into what, at the time, was a new and evolving role as a knowledge lawyer—I was fortunate it coincided with the explosion in document management systems and the delivery of knowledge resources through the internet. I guess the takeaway from my work experience is that if you seek the elusive work life balance then be prepared to change roles or firms. There are firms like the one I currently work for, that offer work-life balance and flexibility without abandoning the bottom line.

Dr Kate O'Shaughnessy



Name: Dr Kate O'Shaughnessy
Studied: Bachelor of Arts (Hons; 1994-1997)
Doctor of Philosophy in History (2003-2006)
Location before St Catherine's: Kalgoorlie, Western Australia

fast facts

You are currently working as the State Deputy Director at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Western Australia. Tell us more about your role.

It's really varied! The majority of DFAT's employees are either in Canberra (several thousand) or overseas at our embassies, high commissions and consulates. We also have some staff (like me) 'posted' out to each of the state capitals. The main purpose of these state offices is three-fold:

- to help connect the Australian community (including business) to our overseas network and opportunities
- to help showcase Western Australia to visiting foreign delegations (journalists, ministers and others); and
- to make sure Canberra-based and overseas colleagues are kept up to date with developments in Western Australia. Our embassies overseas represent the whole of Australia, and Western Australia is a really important part of that picture—it's Australia's largest exporting state.

So a typical day could involve meeting with an Australian business who is entering an overseas market and wants support from the Australian embassy in that country, talking to Western Australian government counterparts about their overseas engagement strategies, attending a New Colombo Plan promotion event (the Australian government's overseas study scheme, for which I would encourage St Cat's students to apply!), or accompanying a visiting ambassador on a series of meetings to help them understand Western Australia's economic priorities. It's always different and always interesting.

Within DFAT, employees are transferred across Australia and around the world. What are the biggest challenges with constantly moving for work?

It's never easy leaving my family here in Perth—my parents are getting older now, and my sister has two beautiful children whom I am loving spending time with now I have a stint back in Western Australia. But to be honest, even before I joined DFAT I always had an immense curiosity about the world, and travelled as much as I could. I lived in Indonesia for a couple of years, as well as basing myself in London and exploring Europe in the early 2000s. I usually find after two or three years back in Australia, that I am craving a new challenge and the opportunity to figure out how to adapt to a new place. It's challenging learning the etiquette of

a new place and how to get things done, but I find the personal reward of coming to grips with a different culture and place far outweigh any of the challenges. I've come to know myself very well through some of the really tough work I've had to do (working on my own out of a run-down hotel in Niger on a complex consular case for several months in 2017 being a case in point) and I value the resilience I've developed through these experiences. I never expected when I arrived at St Catherine's in 1994 that this was where a degree in history and Indonesian would lead me.

Having recently been back to College for your reunion, what did you notice was different from your experience?

It's twice the size, and it's no longer women only! But I felt that the principles that underpinned the all-women's College of my time—commitment to inclusive education and celebration of diversity—very much remains part of the ethos of St Catherine's in 2018.

I was thrilled to learn about the Indigenous student program in place now, as well as the development of an innovation hub that fosters creativity and entrepreneurialism. I felt really glad to learn that St Catherine's remains a supportive and welcoming place that encourages students to embrace and celebrate all the exciting difference there is to find in the world.

Foreign and trade policies are constantly changing. Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?

I might dispute the first part of this question! A great deal of Australian foreign and trade policy has bipartisan support and has been ticking along consistently for decades. The Australian government's commitment to free and open trade, and to the relationships in our immediate region (the Indo-Pacific) will still underpin our foreign and trade policy in ten years' time. Where I will be is probably less certain than that!

Obviously in the short term, I'll be in Western Australia for the next couple of years. My next move will likely be overseas, and Africa has been an obsession and a passion, especially West Africa (I had a posting to Ghana from 2009-2012 and have never recovered. The region has drawn me back very consistently ever since then).

The wonderful thing about my job is that it can also lead to the unexpected. I had a two-month stint at our embassy in Beirut in 2016 at very short notice, because a maternity-leave backfill fell through at the last minute, and they called me. So, I tend not to make very fixed plans. By 2028, I could be in Canberra, I could be in Nigeria, I could be in Indonesia, or I could be back in Perth—all possibilities are open and that's a very exciting prospect.



"I was thrilled to learn about the Indigenous student program in place now, as well as the development of an innovation hub that fosters creativity and entrepreneurialism."

What's happening around college?



1



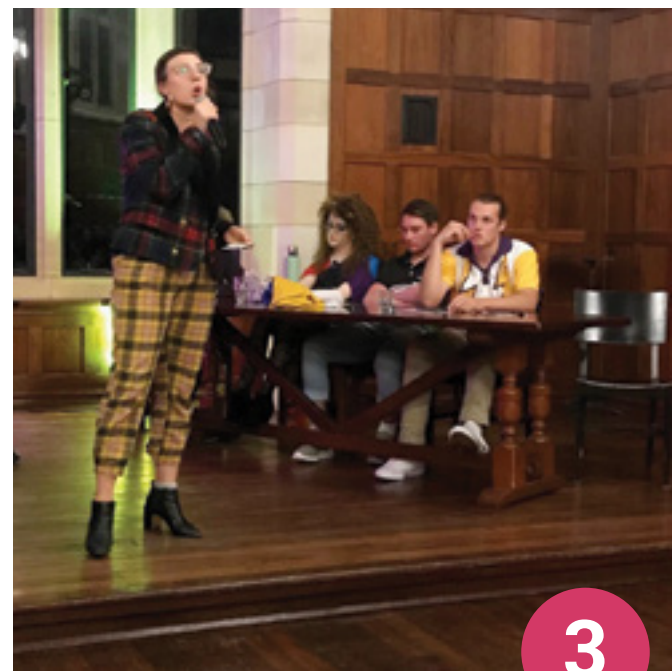
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4

O'WEEK SEMESTER 2

O'Week for Semester 2 saw 200 new and returning residents participate in 16 varied activities which kicked off with a Welcome Brunch where they were introduced to the Staff and the student leadership support teams. This was followed by a Welcome Dinner, which introduced residents to Indigenous culture through student dance performances and cuisine. Returning residents were introduced to new residents through the traditional and ever popular Wing Combat, which resulted in one team taking 20 of the 24 totems to dominate the game. A new addition to O'Week, *Catsino* was a fun night for residents to dress up and win some prizes. This event was a great way for new and returning residents to mix in a relaxed and fun environment. Towards the end of the week the OpShop Prom provided an opportunity to disco the night away in their 80s inspired costumes. A king, queen, princes and princesses were crowned for those residents that had the best costumes. The week concluded with a Cats Night In, which included sleepover style games such as Musical Chairs and Pass the Parcel.



3

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

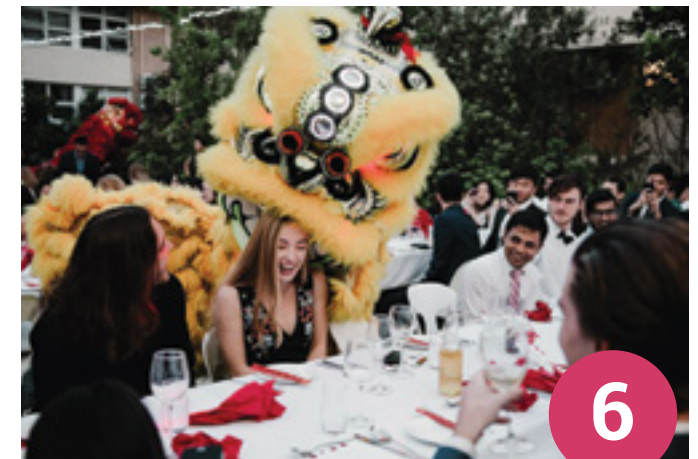
This year the St Catherine's band consisted of a diverse group of musicians in the annual Battle of the Bands. Guitarists, a saxophone player, drummer, keyboard player and fantastic singer rocked out to a strong St Catherine's crowd. As usual, the St Catherine's supporters were in full force with faces painted and cheering louder than all the other Colleges they watched. The band placed 4th overall.

DEBATING

Held at St George's College, St Catherine's put two of our most eloquent and strategic speakers up against residents from the other Colleges. Cohen Augustson and Ava Cadee (both 1st Year residents) proved that their wit and knowledge were superior with both making it to the final to face off against each other. Ava clinched the win, contributing to the College's 1st place win in the Culture Cup.



5



6

BLOOM RUNS SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHPAD

In 2018, the University of Western Australia (UWA) ran a 13 week Launchpad Unit through Bloom (the College's Innovation program) and saw 12 young founders successfully complete the course. 8 of the 12 founders were women and half were St Catherine's residents. The start-ups ranged from social impact ventures, to agriculture youth endeavours, to environmentally friendly coffee pods for camping, and brought a buzz of innovation and creativity to College each week.

If you are keen to know more about Bloom or early stage start-ups please contact Brady Flockart at 9442 0581. This is not just for university students but for any young people with an idea for starting their own business.

RELAY FOR LIFE

St Catherine's again participated in UWA's 2018 *Relay for Life* to help raise funds for people living with cancer and to support the Cancer Council. Events, such as bake sales were run throughout the semester to raise funds for the College teams. As a result of the high participation rate, the St Catherine's College group was split into 3 teams. In addition, on the night of event, supporters came out in full force to support the St Catherine's College runners and walkers. In total, all three teams raised \$6,700.

VALEDICTORY

This year's Valedictory was themed around 'Chinese New Year' with 300 residents enjoying a wonderful dinner, a lion dance performance, a self-service photobooth, a chocolate fountain, and slushies under themed red lanterns. The night concluded with a party providing music and a chance to dance the night away. Residents were also recognised for their fantastic contributions to the College with Collegian of the Year being awarded to Kate Rowe and Citizen of the Year being awarded to Jack Munns.

Mari Laukkanen

Name:	Mari Laukkanen
Studied:	Bachelor of Science, Master's in Business Adm. & Economics
Years @ St Catherine's:	2013-2015
Location before St Catherine's:	Helsinki, Finland

fast facts

You were a previous resident, international student and Postgraduate Program Director at St Catherine's College. Tell us about the importance of such a program and what you gained from a global perspective.

Graduate students already have a degree and they continue either taking it to the next level (Masters, PhD) or pursuing another degree. Hence, they also have different needs than undergrads; graduate students start thinking more seriously about their life after university and it is not just about having fun (although that matters too). I think the Postgraduate program was important in bringing graduate students from different fields and countries together to professional networking events like Graduate Dinners with various experienced academic/business speakers focusing on topics that matter for our private and/or professional lives. Additionally, the program organised professional development workshops to boost leadership, communication skills, and personal wellbeing to prepare graduates for the life after College and University.

A global perspective has been a natural part of life and work for me and I appreciate the diversity in thinking, way of doing things and the networks and friendships it provides. The world today is so connected that one cannot ignore the global dimension, although it is also a good skill to know how to localise and personalise things in different countries for different individuals.

You work as a Consulting Senior Manager, at the Talent and Organisation Business Practice of Accenture Nordics. What does your position involve?

My position involves developing the business practice and sales, which includes building client relationships, shaping value-adding solutions, preparing proposals and creating Thought Leadership. My work also includes coaching people and leading teams and client projects.

You drive the innovation agenda in your portfolio. Why is innovation important in the current job market?

Innovation capability is important for both organisations and individuals to adapt and succeed in a globalised, connected but also polarised world where technology like Artificial Intelligence (AI) is disrupting traditional business models, the way people interact with each other and what consumers need and want. Also, bigger global challenges like climate change and its impacts demand innovation.

The speed of change appears to be faster than before requiring all of us to be agile, innovative and able to work together with different kinds of people and within broader ecosystems. Innovation teams benefit from diverse sets of talent: some ask the right question, some create new ideas, some orchestrate teams to shape the selected ideas further, and some bring expertise on how to build commercial business out of the invention.

What advice would you give the current postgraduate students at St Catherine's College who are just about to step out into the job market?

Identify what you are known for—your natural strengths, skills, and experiences. Once identified, learn to share them confidently with your own style. Innovation is driven by diversity in people's thinking, talent and ways of doing things, so it is important that you can highlight and demonstrate who you are and what value you bring, and also collaborate with others.

Secondly, I would like to emphasise that in today's world, it is important to have willingness and an ability to learn and try new things. You can and should be bold in what you want to do. You know best what is meaningful for you. The jobs we do today may not exist tomorrow, at least not in the way we do them today.

Thirdly, patience is sometimes a virtue; the world has become more complex, so things may not always progress as fast and easily as one would expect. Hard work is also needed from time to time. I think one of my Neuroscience professors summarises all this very well: Be calm, confident and patient.

Do you see your career bringing you back to Australia?

Potentially and hopefully! Accenture is a global company and an international career is important to me. Australia does have a special place in my heart, so who knows?

"The speed of change appears to be faster than before requiring all of us to be agile, innovative and able to work together with different kinds of people and within broader ecosystems."



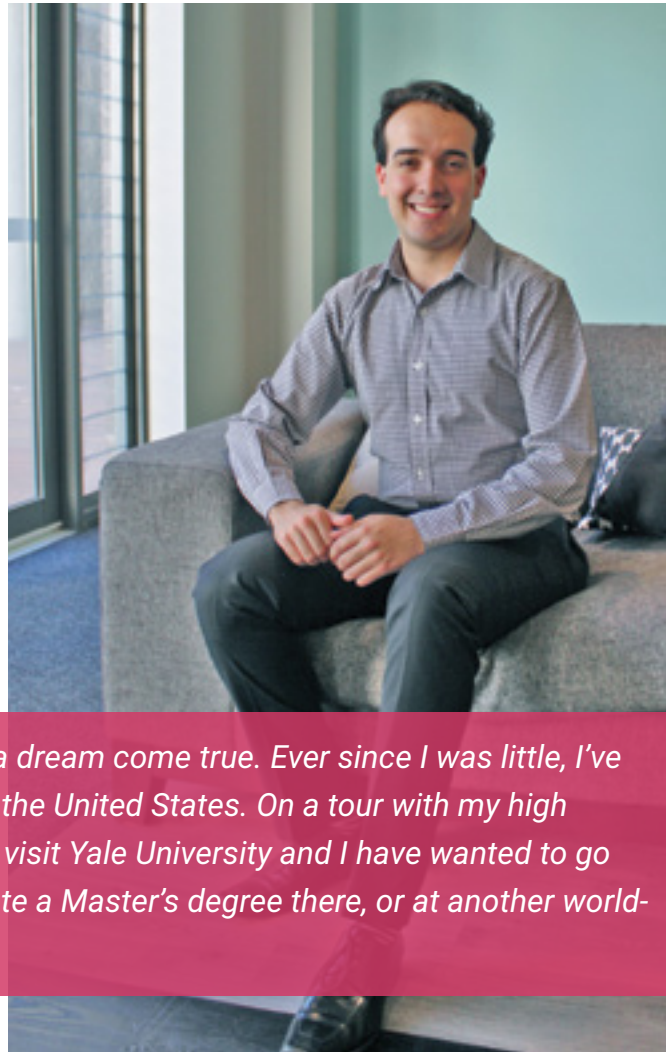
Joshua Dunne latest St Catherine's Fulbright Scholar

Joshua has recently concluded his fourth year at St Catherine's College and completed a Bachelor of Philosophy with Honours in Political Science and International Relations at the University of Western Australia (UWA).

With particular interests in Global Security Studies, Josh will commence further study in the United States of America (USA) next September, pursuing a Master's Degree in Global Affairs at either Yale, Columbia or Georgetown University.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship foreign exchange scholarship program of the USA, aimed at increasing binational research collaboration, cultural understanding, and the exchange of ideas. Since its inception in Australia in 1949, the Fulbright Commission has awarded over 5,000 scholarships, creating a vibrant, dynamic, and interconnected network of alumni.

Only 11 Postgraduate Fulbright Scholarships were allocated to Australian Postgraduate students this year, which highlights Joshua's tremendous achievement. The scholarship will cover his accommodation, travel, food and the majority of his tuition costs. Currently Joshua works as a Study Abroad Assistant in the UWA Global Learning Office, providing help and guidance to UWA's incoming and outgoing Exchange students.



"Being awarded a Fulbright scholarship is really a dream come true. Ever since I was little, I've hoped to study at one of the great institutions in the United States. On a tour with my high school Jazz band in Year 10, I had the chance to visit Yale University and I have wanted to go back ever since! To think I might actually complete a Master's degree there, or at another world-renowned university, is truly astonishing".



Wedding Bells for St Catherine's

Congratulations to St Catherine's alumni Zi Xiang (Tom) Lim (2014-2017) and Weijia (Jessica) Liu (2013-2016). The couple met at St Catherine's in 2014 and got married on the 24 September 2018.

Winners of the Impact 100 WA Grant

St Catherine's College is the proud recipient of the 2018 Impact 100 WA grant which was announced at an impressive event held at the State Reception Centre.

The proposal was to fund a University Starter Kit for Indigenous students joining the *Dandjoo Darbalung* program at College. The objective is to assist students who come from remote communities and who may not have all the basic requirements to transition from school to university. The program will run over two years but will have a lasting impact for those students it is aimed at.



Scholarships with impact

- the Nye Polson story

In July 2018, the family of a little boy called Nye who was desperately ill at the Perth Children's Hospital, came to stay in the College at *St Catherine's on Park*.

It was a very stressful time as they were unsure of how long they would need to stay or what the outcome would be for Nye who had become critically ill while on holiday in Broome.

His grandparents, Louise and George, spent a month at *St Catherine's on Park* to be near the hospital and during their stay, the kindness and support of the College staff and students made a terrible situation a little better. The family saw first-hand how living in a residential College community could help a young person living far from home. Louise, who is a lawyer from Melbourne, wanted to express her gratitude in a tangible way that would help many young people and established a scholarship in perpetuity in the name of her grandson to fund a student living at College during their tertiary education.

The purpose of the Scholarship is to provide financial support to residents who are pursuing a university education but face the challenges of distance, economic disadvantage, cultural difference, disability, health issues or the responsibility and care for another person.

Striving for personal excellence, making a difference to their community and being fully engaged in College life are all desired attributes for the recipients.

The College is incredibly grateful for this significant gift which will have an impact for generations to come. The best outcome, however, is that Nye has made a full recovery and is back in Melbourne with his family.



Your **help**

Scholarships remain a key ingredient of success for many students aspiring to come to university and live at College.

With ever-increasing costs for young people, the assistance of a scholarship can be the difference between coming to university or not. Please find a fly sheet attached to the magazine if you would like to make a contribution that will have huge significance in 2019.

If you currently work in an organisation which has a focus on supporting Indigenous youth or youth innovation please contact Mandy McFarland on 9442 0581 to find out more about *Dandjoo Darbalung* and Bloom.

Your help shapes the College

To all the donors and friends who supported St Catherine's in 2018, a BIG thank you!

Your assistance makes such a difference and without the time, expertise and financial contributions you have made, the College would not be doing as well as it is.

To quote an old Chinese proverb, "*The best time to fix the roof is when the sun is shining*" so your support now is ensuring that St Catherine's remains a leading residential College in Australia.

Thank you!

REUNIONS

SYDNEY REUNION

- : Wednesday 13 March 2019
- : Reunion Coordinators:
Luke Ribet and Taufiq Zainal
- : 6.30pm – 9.00pm
Hunter Gatherer, Greenwood Plaza,
36 Blue St, North Sydney, NSW 2060
- : Cost \$40
- : Website sign-up:
[https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/
community/alumni/reunions-and-events](https://stcatherines.uwa.edu.au/community/alumni/reunions-and-events)

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**



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

YOU can make a **positive impact!**

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

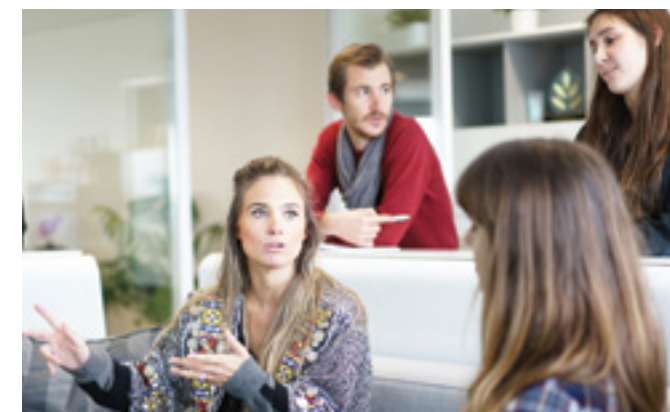


BECOME A **MENTOR**

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>



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