Old Scholar Margaret Taylor (‘49) provided a wonderful summary of the day:

“From the moment I opened and read the very elegant invitation to our reunion I knew it would be special! Absolutely loved the warm welcome as soon as we drove through the gates, teachers and waving children, guides to parks, lovely warm staff – I for one felt so special as we arrived.

Then to meet your welcoming staff, and pupils. And on top of all that, once more to mingle with old, old friends. (in the true sense of the word too!!) A most wonderful day – you are to be congratulated as is your Principal with his caring staff and pupils. Not only was it a great pleasure to see friends again but to actually meet and speak with you all, especially the students, a real bonus and a memorable contribution to a most memorable occasion.

God bless you all and if you continue with the way you all treat us, the old pupils, it augurs well for the present students and even greater promise for dear old CABRA”.

Old Scholars Morning Tea

On 22 November 2012, over 150 Old Scholars from the 1920’s-60’s gathered in the new St Dominic’s Hall, many catching up for the first time in over fifty years. Guests were welcomed by Principal Brian Schumacher, then had the opportunity to view some old memorabilia from the archives, meet some current students and most importantly share morning tea and stories with friends from years ago.

On the day we asked guests to share their memories of Cabra with us and we were both touched and entertained by their recollections. Cheryl Jackson and Dot Toole (‘61) (who apparently is well remembered for all the wrong reasons!) reminisced of the year they were Captain and Vice-Captain of the winning house Aquinas. The pressure had been on as Aquinas hadn’t won for many years, the girls spent many hours practising on the ovals and praying in the Chapel for a win and win they did. Dot recalled they even won the marching, thankful to St Thomas that despite making a huge mistake judge Father Wilkinson wasn’t looking at that very moment!

We heard of the great education and sporting opportunities that allowed girls to end up representing the State in Netball, Squash and Tennis. Of the affection for the sisters and what wonderful music teachers they were, of walking through the cemetery and of vast spaces where the cows used to graze, now occupied by “building after building”.

There was also the “naughty” stories of stealing oranges from the old tree, midnight feasts of stale pasties and stale lollies, and of smoking ‘Craven A’ on the oval under the trees!

Overall the day was a great success and our Old Scholars particularly commented on the hospitality they received from our current Cabra students, who proved to be excellent ambassadors for our school.

(Photos on page 6)
From the Principal

Welcome to this edition of the Cabra Dominican College Old Scholars Newsletter. I hope that you enjoy reading about some of the events and happenings in the lives of our community in recent months.

In keeping with the best Dominican and Cabra traditions our 2012 graduates demonstrated a high level of commitment to their studies throughout their final year. Consequently, they were rewarded with many outstanding results in the South Australia Certificate of Education. It was especially pleasing to receive the news that twenty two students achieved an ATAR score of 90.00 or greater and eighty two per cent of our students achieved scores above 50.00. As you know Cabra offers students a diverse curriculum and we also educate a small number of students with an intellectual disability. Therefore, success for our graduates comes in many different ways and for most it is being able to make a smooth transition into further study and/or work that is important. With this in mind I am very pleased to report that our newest group of Cabra Old Scholars are making their way into life beyond the college.

With many things happening each week at Cabra it is hard to isolate highlights. Nevertheless, a few of our recent events deserve special mention. The Opening Mass for 2013 was simply beautiful; celebrated ‘in the round’ by Fr Charles Gauci earlier in the term. We were also blessed in recent weeks to have Archbishop Wilson launch Project Compassion here at Cabra. More recently Sports Day was once again a favourite for all students with Caleruega taking out the competition for champion house. While the students and staff have been doing a great job to promote house spirit and the emergence of some new traditions, I suspect that we have a long way to go if we are to emulate some of the magnificent carnivals of the past.

It is a pity that the days when children knew and were known by everyone in their street have all but disappeared. Nevertheless, young people still seem to thrive when they have a real sense of being connected to the community. It is in this context that Old Scholars remain vital to our work with young people at Cabra. I believe that our current students gain a great deal from knowing that they are part of a community with a long history and that they are members of a larger Cabra family. In any group of Cabra students there are those who proudly remind us that their parents, grandparents or even great grandparents came to Cabra. There are also those who are the first in their families to attend Cabra and they, like me, are often very interested in the experiences and stories of our predecessors.

Finally, thank you to all of our Old Scholars who contact us, attend various functions including morning teas, masses and reunions. Your presence and stories make the difference. As a Dominican college we strive to understand and value the contribution of each individual and because of this we are grateful for your involvement in the life of our community.

Brian Schumacher, Principal

From the Development Office

In my year as Development Officer for Cabra I have been struck by the sense of supportiveness of the students and the wider Cabra community. Cabra has such a rich history that is evident not only as you walk around the grounds but in the day to day activities the students engage in. I have attended several events that have literally given me goose bumps – from watching the students cheer each other on in the St Dom’s Day Talent Quest (not to mention the amazing talent), to hearing the Year 6’s perform the Good the Beautiful and the True on Grandparents and Special Friends Day.

One of the things I have enjoyed most is meeting past students and hearing memories of their life at Cabra – watching the joy and anticipation of Reunion Organisers at the prospect of reconnecting with old friends, some of them for the first time in over 40 years.

I encourage all Old Scholars to make contact and share your stories. Nurturing these links with the past allows us to look back at where we have come from and gives a sense of pride in our school.

It is with sadness that I advise I am leaving Adelaide and returning to Melbourne for family reasons. I will truly value the short time I have spent at this wonderful school. I am however pleased to announce that I am leaving the role in the very capable hands of Helen Telford. Some of you will already know Helen, as the current Registrar here at Cabra for the past 2 years. Helen is also a parent of Harry, a current Year 10 student, and daughter Laura who finished Year 12 last year. Helen can be contacted on hteford@cabra.catholic.edu.au.

I am sure she is looking forward meeting many of you and would love to hear from you.

Best Wishes, Sue Baum, Development Officer
Hall Opening Creates New Opportunities For Learning

In August 2012 Cabra celebrated the official opening of St Dominic’s Hall, by the Honourable Don Farrell, Senator for South Australia. The opening of the Hall, which was part of the Federal Government’s Building Education Revolution (BER) initiative, gave us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our past, to give thanks, and also look to the future to imagine the possibilities.

We were very fortunate to have Senator Farrell officially open the building and enjoyed hearing of his connections with the Cabra community which run deep with many of the women in his family who attended Cabra in years gone by. The Senator drew a comparison between his mother’s experiences of the depression on the late 1920’s with the more recent GFC which triggered this extra spending on Australian schools.

The morning provided an opportunity for drama and music students to showcase their talents in the purpose built space. Invited guests were welcomed by the Cabra String Ensemble, treated to a beautifully moving dance piece, “The Deer’s Cry”, taken on a journey through the brief history of theatre by Year 11 students and Old Scholar Jo Green watched on as daughter Hannah Green led us in the National Anthem.

The opening was a culmination of many years of planning, the efforts of a skilled team, the vision of many and the patience of our students and staff, both future and present. Our new facility will be used to house large community gatherings and promote our student’s growth in various Arts and cultural experiences.

In future years we look forward to the developments in our buildings and facilities that will emerge from the College Master Plan completed in 2012.

New Cabra Dominican College Master Plan

Living and working at Cabra we all appreciate the spacious grounds, the graceful architecture of the original convent and the more modern facilities enjoyed by today’s students. More deeply we understand the important role that the environment plays in supporting our Dominican approach to education. Consequently, it is fitting that we commit the necessary time, resources and creative talents of many people to planning for the future development of the college grounds and facilities.

In the next few weeks we will take great pleasure in launching the new Cabra Dominican College Master Plan. As an Old Scholar you will be familiar with the very Dominican approach taken in preparing this latest plan for the college- ENQUIRE, CONTEMPLATE, ACT. After several months of talking, dreaming, planning and checking in with our community the architects at Hardy Milazzo have captured the spirit of the college and our collective hopes and dreams for Cabra’s future. Without turning a sod or laying a brick our new Master Plan provides a sure foundation and some guidelines for future developments at Cabra.

I look forward to sharing these plans with you in the months ahead and I hope that as a result of our collective efforts you will always feel at home when you visit Cabra and at the same time feel a sense of pride in the way your old college is responding to the needs of students in the Twenty First Century.
Reunions 2012

Last October and November, four “decade” reunions were held marking the 10, 20, 30 and 40 Year Anniversaries of departure from the College. For some it was the first opportunity to meet again since walking out the Cabra iron gates all those years ago.

Each group started by gathering in The Parlour at Cabra, a glass of bubbles in hand helping to calm nerves and get the conversations flowing. Next came a tour of the school - getting a group of more than sixty women (and men) who haven’t seen each other in perhaps forty years moving always proves to be a challenge in itself. However once the tour got going the memories came flowing back – of sitting music exams in the Parlour which was once the music room, the 1991 fire in Administration Area (now Aquinas), the old tuck shop and the hot buttered rolls, the Boarders’ Dorms and sisters being hoisted out the windows to clean them and the excitement of Centenary Cavalcade!

The School tours were followed by functions off site - from casual drinks at The Ed to a cocktail party at Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club and dinner at the Stamford Grand. Whilst each event was unique all groups have a shared history of life at Cabra and enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with old friends they may have lost contact with, to laugh at the fact that some things never change and being amazed at some of the things that have.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the 2012 Reunion Representatives for the many hours of work they put into planning, tracking down long lost friends and generally making each event the fun and memorable night that it was:

2002: Liz Nicholson and Naomi Blanch,
1992: Gemma Blake (Symonds),
1982: Bernard Shinnick and Donna Murphy,
1972: Trish Yeomanns (Button).

We really appreciate your hard work.

Class of 1972

Class of 1982
Save the Date – 2013 Reunions

All Reunions will begin with a tour of the College, followed by an event at an off-site venue. Further details and invitations to follow. To stay up to date, ensure to register your latest contact details online via the Cabra website at www.cabra.catholic.edu.au/old-scholars/online-registration

Class of 2003 - 10 Year Reunion
Sat 2 November 2013 - The Edinburgh
Reunion Representative: Kate Sowden

Class of 1993 - 20 Year Reunion
Sat 19 October 2013. Further details to follow.
Reunion Representative: Anne Lentakis (Heinjus)

Class of 1983 - 30 Year Reunion
Sat 19 October 2013. Further details to follow.
Reunion Representatives: Andrea Kerin (Hanusiak) and Karen Hughes (Wood)

Class of 1973 - 40 Year Reunion
Saturday 9 November 2013. Further details to follow.
Reunion Representatives: Marie Widera (Forde) and Gillian Harrison (Burnside)

Classes of 1962 – 1964 - 50 Year Reunion
Date to be confirmed

Stay in Touch
Do you need to update your record?
If you would like to update or confirm your Old Scholar record to ensure you receive all future correspondence please do so by visiting www.cabra.catholic.edu.au/old-scholars/online-registration and complete our simple online registration. We are currently trying to increase the number of email addresses we have for our Old Scholars so please make sure you add this when you register.

Share Your Story
To share your news or special announcements with your fellow Cabra Old Scholars, simply email your information to oldscholars@cabra.catholic.edu.au. We look forward to hearing from you.
Thank you to the Sisters:

“You will remain in my memory as a group of most devoted, dedicated, beautiful souls whom I had the privilege of knowing in my treasured years at Cabra! When my family arrived as Displaced Persons in 1949, Sr Carmel and Sr Benvenuta came to Woodside camp and taught us to sing Our Father in English, then took me and my sister Katerina in as Boarders free of charge. My father always called that a blessing from God that we could attend a school like Cabra when we had nothing but a trunk of clothes! We left Hungary after the war, lived in Germany and came to this wonderful country to begin a new life in the golden era of this country. God Bless you all, dear sisters, with a long and fruitful life; be sure that all your sacrifices in choosing your path has left ripples far and wide, and changed the lives you touched. I love you all and hold you in the highest regard still”.

Susanna Bujtas nee Bene (1950-1958) - the privileged one!
Where Are They Now?

Louka Parry

Congratulations to Louka Parry (’02) who was last year named as the Inspirational Secondary School Teacher of the Year in the SA Public Teaching Awards. Louka is based at the Mimili Anangu School, located in remote South Australia and populated exclusively by Anangu students. This year Louka has been promoted to Principal of the school.

Louka is passionate about equality, community engagement and two-way schooling which is evident in the way he has learned the language and cultural traditions of Asia and made lots of mistakes, but has learnt from every one of them. She encouraged students to love what they do, not to settle and to always think of the bigger picture and work towards their goals.

To conclude Davina spoke of the connections we make in life, and a particularly special connection she made whilst at Cabra: “We go through our lives trying to make connections with others. Constantly trying to find things in common and things that will draw us together. All of you will always be connected through Cabra, through the experiences you have had here, so hold onto that because you never know where those connections will lead you in life. Last year I married the man of my dreams who I met as a ten year old girl, in St Dominic’s Square in year 6. Enjoy your night!”

Davina Cimarosti

As the co-Captain of 2002, Davina Cimarosti also joined Louka Parry in addressing the Year 12 School Leavers last November. Davina is also now an educator, teaching at Mercedes College, attributing the experience of a Cabra Philippines trip, where she learned to be grateful for her education and her responsibility to creating a better world; to inspire her to empower others as her education inspired her. Although in Davina’s words “it was not as straightforward as that!” Davina explained to students that over the last ten years she has begun three degrees and completed two of them. She has worked in eight different jobs while she found her way. She backpacked through Europe, America and Asia and made lots of mistakes, but has learnt from every one of them. She encouraged students to love what they do, not to settle and to always think of the bigger picture and work towards their goals.

To conclude Davina spoke of the connections we make in life, and a particularly special connection she made whilst at Cabra: “We go through our lives trying to make connections with others. Constantly trying to find things in common and things that will draw us together. All of you will always be connected through Cabra, through the experiences you have had here, so hold onto that because you never know where those connections will lead you in life. Last year I married the man of my dreams who I met as a ten year old girl, in St Dominic’s Square in year 6. Enjoy your night!”

Russell Brinkworth

In October, the science department was thrilled to welcome back Old Scholar Russell Brinkworth (’95), winner of the Tall Poppy Award for his work in Science and Science communication. Dr Brinkworth shared his passion for science with our Year 10 Science students. He talked about his current work at the University of SA where he is incorporating the fields of neuroscience and engineering to make biologically inspired cameras that work more like eyes. His cameras will be the forerunners of bionic eyes, smart cars and better surveillance cameras.

He also spoke to students about the pathways to his current work and the importance of always asking questions and trying to find out why something does what it does. Students found it very interesting to hear about the practical applications for his work.

Brodie Grundy

Congratulations to Brodie Grundy (’12) who was picked up by Collingwood Football Club in the AFL’s National draft. A standout during his junior career, Grundy is a graduate of the AIS-AFL Academy, and a dual All Australian, who made the SA state under-16 squad after playing just seven games.

We will watch his progression into the AFL with interest and wish him well for his football career.
Where Are They Now?

Deng Chuor
Many of you may remember Deng Chuor who arrived in Adelaide as a refugee in 2004 and was sponsored by Cabra Dominican College to complete Year 11 and 12. After fleeing Sudan with his family to Ethiopia, then Kenya, at the outbreak of war in 1989, Deng spent most of his childhood in the United Nations run Kakuma refugee camp in northern Kenya. Whilst attending Cabra College, Deng had an ‘idea’ to start a school on the land his father had given him in the village where he grew up. In 2006 Cabra Primary School was established. As well as Cabra Primary School, there are two new schools, Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School and Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School and these three schools now come under the heading of Cabra Missions. The schools rely heavily on donations from friends of Deng who share his vision of a better life for the young children in his country of birth. Unfortunately, these donations have not been enough to be able to even pay staff their salaries causing discussions at the end of last year of possible closure of one of the schools.

Now an Australian citizen studying in Melbourne to become a Catholic priest, Deng cherishes the memories of Cabra Dominican College and the support he received from the staff and students there. Cabra Primary School started out as a young boy’s dream to educate the children of his village. This dream has now grown and is in desperate need of support. If you would like to see photos of Deng’s recent visit to the schools in South Sudan, please visit www.cabraprimaryschool.org or become a friend of Cabra Missions on Facebook. If you would like to contribute in any way to this worthy cause please email Sharon McGowan at sharon.mcgowan@cesa.catholic.edu.au for further details of how to make an online donation.

Announcements

Marriages
We were thrilled to welcome back the following Old Scholars who married in St Dominic’s Chapel at Cabra over the past year.

Danielle Sammon ('03) to Paul Stojani on 22 January 2012
Cassandra King ('90) to Brendan Murphy ('97) on 11 February 2012
Kristie Gaillo ('93) to Scott Abbott on 7 July 2012
Katrina Persico ('98) to Christian van der Horst on 20 October 2012
Megan Bennett ('01) to Dion Di Vitorio ('01) on 17 November 2012
Antonio (Tony) Casella ('94) to Kristine Andrae on 25 November 2012
Daniel Boland ('91) to Danielle Jervis on 29 December 2012
Marissa Sorich ('02) to Arran Peterson ('02) on 5 January 2013
Naomi Blanch ('02) to Nathan Price on 2 February 2013
Rebecca Steele ('98) to Matthew Lokan on Saturday 2 March 2013

Engagements
Emily Hayford ('05) to James Bobridge on 20 November, 2012. Emily is the daughter of Julie Hayford nee Skiparis (also an old scholar of Cabra, Matriculation class of 1973, and former Cabra teacher in the 1980’s) and Neil Hayford - teacher at Cabra from 1979 to present day. Emily is a nurse working in the area of mental health at the Repatriation Hospital and James is a Graphic Designer. We wish Emily and James well for their October wedding.

Deaths
Our Cabra community is saddened by the passing of the following members of the Cabra community. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family and friends.

Sr Mary Alphonsus OP OAM
Sr M Christopher Slattery OP, MBE
Sr M Patricia Power OP
Sr M Andrina (Joan) Travers OPSr
Sr Karen Fitzgerald OP, OAM
Beilby, Mary nee Croft ('49)
Griffin, Tina nee Gervasi ('54)
McCarthy, Theresa nee Malone ('59)
Michaels, Carmel nee Day ('37)
Steele, Pam nee Rantanan ('50)

Births
Carla Sofia Siebert born to Jason Siebert ('02) and wife Anna on 20 October 2012