Final Farewell to Sr Eileen Kean

Last week the president of the Mount Carmel and St Joseph’s Old Scholars’ Association, Gerardine Huber and myself were fortunate enough to be chosen to represent the College at the funeral of Sr Eileen Kean rsc at St John of God in Auburn NSW on Friday the 22nd July.

Sr Eileen was Principal of Mount Carmel College from 1974 – 1982. We felt privileged to have been given the opportunity to honour this great woman who had such an effect on our lives and on that of the College.

We were warmly welcomed by family and fellow Sisters of Charity. It should be noted that Eileen lived to the remarkable age of 94 and died peacefully in what was her family home.

The funeral was so befitting the lady we remember to be our College Principal. She was a tremendously strong woman who lived her life in Christ – abiding her chosen Motto – “Jesus with me”

Yet alongside her strength she harboured much compassion for the needy. The presiding priest remarked at how simple her faith actually was.

‘God is ...” was enough for Eileen to spiritualise about. ‘The Serenity Prayer’ is one that she lived by and some Old Scholars may remember reciting this at school assemblies:

God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the Courage to change the things I can and the Wisdom to know the difference.

May this prayer continue to be a source of wisdom and strength for us as Sr Eileen Kean’s presence was for us in our lives.

May she rest in peace.

Mrs Maureen Fasnacht
Sr Eileen Keane rsc 1980

We are very grateful to His Grace Archbishop Adrian Doyle for celebrating a beautiful Mass of Thanksgiving on the 20th July in the drama room at Mount Carmel College for Sr Eileen Kean rsc. His Grace was the Parish Priest during the time of Sister Eileen’s Principalship (1974-1982).

Past students, parents, teachers and parishioners that gathered to remember and give thanks to ‘a great educator and friend’, and pray for the repose of her soul.

Many past students may remember Sister Eileen ending many school assemblies with the following prayer of acceptance and love:

Teach us to see things as you see them
To feel about things as you feel about them
And to be what you want us to be.

AGM and Mass –August 15th 2010

We thank Father Tate who celebrated our Annual Mass on the Feast of the Assumption at the Holy Spirit Church in Sandy Bay. Members of the Old Scholars Association participated in the Mass, and the Mount Carmel Chamber choir delighted the Congregation with their beautiful singing. We offer our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Jodie Williams and the Choir for their time and dedication. Afterwards, we held a morning tea in the Art and Technology building at Mount Carmel College, followed by the AGM. This was a very successful gathering and I would like to thank Mrs Lyndal Tewes and her year 9/10 Food Studies class for the delicious sandwiches, and attentive service.

Moya Belcher, Eve Prendegast and Virginia Jacobs
Puddle Duck Vineyard

On Sunday the 14th November 2010 the Mount Carmel and St Joseph’s Old Scholars and Friends enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at Puddle Duck Vineyard in Richmond, where we enjoyed tasting delicious wines and canapés, whilst catching up with old friends in the beautiful surrounds.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Jackie Foster grew up on the eastern shore, in Tranmere and commenced at Mt Carmel College in 1970 and her prep teacher was Mrs Yates. Jackie left Mt Carmel in 1980 on completion of Year 10. She then attended Rosny College for Year 11 and 12.

In January 1983 Jackie commenced her general nurse training at the Royal Hobart Hospital completing in June 1986. Jackie undertook her first year out as a Registered Nurse at the Royal Hobart Hospital rotating through several clinical surgical units.

In 1989 Jackie decided to leave Hobart to travel extensively through Europe, eventually living in London for a year. She gained her British licence to practice and commenced employment with many large London public hospitals including Middlesex Hospital.

Jackie returned to Hobart in 1990 and worked as a Registered Nurse at St John’s Hospital in South Hobart. It was not long before the travel bug took over and in 1991 Jackie again left Hobart for New York.

Whilst working at the New York University Hospital as a urology nurse, Jackie obtained a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Nursing. Jackie met her husband, Larry Gates, whilst working in New York in 1993 and they married in 1996. In August 2001 Jackie and Larry moved to Bridgehampton, not far from New York.

They now live in Florida with their two beautiful daughters, Ella 9 and Taylor 7. Jackie now works as a school nurse. Jackie, Larry and the girls have just enjoyed an extended holiday back in Australia spending time in both Hobart and Sydney.

BERNADETTE CONNOR OAM

Bernadette (Patterson) Connor commenced her schooling at St Bridget’s New Norfolk in 1937 at the age of 6. St Bridget’s was run by the Sisters of Charity. Bernadette and her family moved to Hobart during World War II as her father was serving in the Australian Army. It was at this time that Bernadette then enrolled in St Joseph’s.

Bernadette says she still has very clear and fond memories when she commenced her schooling at St Joseph’s. She says she remembers Noreen Ratcliffe, Monica McDevitt and Muriel Griggs and Muriel’s sister from those very early days.

When Bernadette left school she became an apprentice hairdresser. During her apprenticeship she became quite ill and did not complete her training. She eventually worked at Homecrafts in Hobart and worked with a fellow who introduced her to his brother – Maurice Connor. Bernadette and Maurice
married in 1953 and they have four children, Mary-Kate, Alicia and Patrick.

Bernadette opened her home up as an art gallery in 1979. This was a very successful business right up until Bernadette retired in 1999. In 2000 Bernadette was awarded the very prestigious Order of Australia OAM for her promotion and service to the arts in Tasmania and also in the same year was invited to join the Blake Society for religious art. Bernadette still remains as very valued member. Bernadette is proudly the founder of the Australian Society of Miniature Art Tasmania (1992), the Function Manager for The Order of Australia Tasmania and on the Committee for the Friends of the Theatre Royal.

Bernadette regularly attends our old scholar functions and keeps us all on our toes! The Mt Carmel & St Joseph’s Old Scholars take this opportunity to belatedly congratulate Bernadette on her OAM.

Committee Members

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Gerardine Huber

Vice President:
Therese Chaperon

Secretary:
Yvonne Chaperon

Treasurer:
Libby Piesse

Committee:
Liz Jordan
Nicola Barwick
Therese McDevitt
Kate Driscoll
Lois Nimmo
Isabella Attwood
Laurie Wolfe
Anne Haward

The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members would all like to thank our Mount Carmel Principal, Laurie Wolfe for her generous support of the Old Scholars’ Association, her commitment to the College, and her at attendance at all of our functions.

Ms Catherine Langdon-Cruse is organising a 20 year reunion next year for the class of 1992. If you are from that graduating year, or you know of someone that is could you please email Catherine at catherine_cruse@imprimus.com.au

Please email any relevant news or photos that you would like included in our newsletter to gerardine.huber@mountcarmel.tas.edu.au

Bernadette Connor OAM
Subscriptions

If you would like to join (or re-join) our Old Scholars' Association, and receive newsletters, please complete this section and forward it, with $10.00, to: The Treasurer, Mount Carmel & St Joseph's Old Scholars Association, c/- 246 Main Road, Austin's Ferry 7011.

(Mrs/Miss/Ms) First Name Surname

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