



# SURSUM CORDA

VOLUME No. 28 | Summer 2010



## From the Alumni Committee

It has been an eventful twelve months with the Alumni being represented at prominent Rosebank calendar events including the College Opening Mass, Open Day, St Benedict Day Mass/ Group Leaders Inauguration and the most recent Year 12 Farewell Mass and Assembly.

At the Assembly, we proudly welcomed over 100 more students into our Alumni. Although they have more pressing matters on their minds at present (their Year 12 Exams), over time they will come to cherish their memories of their days at Rosebank and hopefully retain strong links with the College and many of their classmates.

The College has a very enthusiastic Development Officer on board who has given the Alumni invaluable assistance in

growing our numbers and helping coordinate with some of the more recent reunions.

Any ex-student considering a reunion can contact Tina at [alumni@rosebank.nsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@rosebank.nsw.edu.au) or 02 9713 3100 for contact details of past students that may be available.

On behalf of the Alumni team I would like to thank Mr Tom Galea and his staff for the effort they have contributed to our group over recent years and encourage all our readers to “stay in touch”.

Wendy Wilmot  
President Rosebank College Alumni Association

## From the Principal

It is with great pleasure that I write to our Alumni in the week when Australia celebrates Teachers Day (Friday 29 October). It is said that to learn and never be filled, is wisdom; to teach and never be weary, is love. I hope that as you look back at your time at Rosebank you can relate to the wisdom you have gained and the love you have experienced from the staff.

Nikos Kazantzakis suggests that “Ideal teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross, then having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create bridges of their own.” I hope that your life has been filled with creating bridges of your own.

The College continues to grow and develop. As we approach the end of 2010, we are grateful for the many achievements both academically and in Co-Curricular pursuits. Recently we inducted a new group of 104 graduands into the College Alumni.

The initiatives for 2010 have included the student one-to-one laptop program (450 laptops in 2010), including hardware support, learning integration support and text books on line. The E-learning project which is planning for all curriculum in Years 7-10 to be E-learning ready, an Accelerated Apprenticeship program starting in Year 10 in preparation for the opening of the Trade Training Centre in 2011, an Accelerated Language program (Italian), a financial literacy program in stage 6, further development of the Yr 7 music instrumental program (instrument hire and tuition), further expansion of the Co-Curricular program including the employment of many Alumni, the CSIRO ‘Scientists in Schools’ program and the commencement of our extensive building program with stage one (library, hospitality kitchens, four technology labs, three art spaces, access way between blocks A,B and C and a lift for disabled access) expected to be completed in April 2011.

In 2011 we hope to further develop the College mentoring program. For this we will need our Alumni to provide excel-

lent role models and sharers of wisdom. If you would like to join in the program please contact Tina at our Development Office for more information.

May God continue to shed blessings upon you and your families,

Mr Tom Galea  
Principal

## Farewell Year 12 2010

Thirteen years of certainty, routine and familiarity are about to end for the 104 students currently sitting their HSC. Ahead is a future eager to be filled with new experiences and the realisation of dreams. Miranda Rhodes, Lisa Minchella, Jana Kiriazidis and Jodie Gad share this special milestone with the community.

*How do you feel about graduating?*

**Miranda:** Bitter-sweet. Despite the many moments of dreaming about being free of the bells, assemblies and classes, Rosebank did provide a tightly knit, secure and predictable haven.

**Lisa:** I have mixed emotions as I am reluctant to leave the security of Rosebank and I will miss being able to see my friends everyday. However, I am also eager to start something new in my life.

**Jana:** I'm very excited but also sad about the fact that I will be leaving Rosebank after being here for six years.

**Jodie:** I am a little upset about leaving Rosebank. It has been a school that has brought out the best in me and I have developed friendships I know will last a lifetime. I have also gained meaningful relationships with teachers that have offered nothing but support and guidance. At the same time I am excited knowing that I will forever be a part of this community.

*What is your favourite Rosebank memory?*

**Miranda:** Over the past six years there have been many. What really sticks out in my mind are all the lunches and classes spent with friends. Jazz Band also offered many memories, being a place of fun away from constant study.

**Lisa:** It's hard to decide on one particular memory, so I'll say being able to spend everyday with my friends.

**Jana:** I can't decide on just one, but my two most favourites would have to include the Ski Trip and Senior Retreat.

**Jodie:** My favourite memory comes in two parts. I and three peers were presented with the challenge of devising a group performance for drama that would make up a large portion of the HSC mark. After working on our piece for what seemed like forever, we showcased our play for the first time in front of an audience of many parents and some teachers. The response was absolutely overwhelming and I couldn't get the smile off my face for the next few days. Similarly, when we performed in front of the school, the response again was a cathartic experience for me as it was the pinnacle point in my eyes of what a great community Rosebank truly is.

*What do you plan to do next year?*

**Miranda:** I would like to go to university and perhaps do a double degree of fine arts at COFA and an arts course on the History and Philosophy of Science at UNSW. I would also like

to travel.

**Lisa:** I plan to go to university and travel.

**Jana:** Go to Macquarie University and travel.

**Jodie:** I am in the process of shrinking my 22 university preferences down to just nine.

*What are your career aspirations?*

**Miranda:** I would like to do something with Visual Arts – an animator or conceptual artists for films and games. However, I am also interested in Science.

**Lisa:** I am not completely settled on anything at the moment. I am keeping my mind and options open to different possibilities.

**Jana:** I would love to do something in the legal field and ideally become a lawyer.

**Jodie:** I realise I have an aptitude for creative things so I will see where that can take me. Rosebank has provided me with much comfort in knowing that there is room for individuality and eccentricity in the wider scope of things.

*Words of advice to current Year 11 Students*

**Miranda:** Don't freak out. The HSC is not the be all and end all. Don't forget to have some fun while doing it. That said, school becomes a lot easier if you remain committed and apply yourself. Don't waste time regretting decisions

or complaining – just do it!

**Lisa:** Try your best and continue to challenge yourself to achieve more. It is also equally important to enjoy the moment.

**Jana:** Enjoy the last year of school because although it will be one of the most challenging, it will also be one of the most memorable.

**Jodie:** EXPERIMENT! Year 11 is the time to test new things in exams and take new approaches with assessment tasks without encroaching on the HSC. Push the boundaries in an attempt to find your own personal flair whether it be art, music, essay-writing or anything else. Hone in on your strengths and figure out your weaknesses.

In the departing words of outgoing College Captains Emily Tresidder and Lucas Habib:

“Class of 2010, may we treasure every moment of our schooling at Rosebank and forever remember warmly our time here. Never forget the laughter, the tears, the trials and tribulations, the fun and the happiness that have shaped our time here... May we now move into the future with open hearts and minds and endeavour to embrace challenge and conquer the un-



Rosebank College Facebook Page

Search for “Rosebank Five Dock” and become a friend to keep in touch with the alumni and to hear the latest College news.

# Ex-Student Lives out Benedictine Values

Ex-Student Louisa Bavaro writes to Mr Galea about her experiences in East Timor.

“Dear Mr Galea,  
My name is Louisa Bavaro and I’m an ex-student at Rosebank. I graduated in 2007, my two sisters are currently in Yrs 8 and 10, and I still have the privilege of coming back to Rosebank every Thursday to work in the Co-Curricular program.

I just wanted to write to you briefly to tell you of an experience of which I feel I have to thank Rosebank for.

I am currently studying at the Australian Catholic University in my 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Exercise Science. I am yet to decide which path to follow next year, (either teaching or clinical exercise physiology). Early in March this year, an announcement came up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Yr page offering a placement on a Sports Program in East Timor coaching and working closely with the youth of Baccau.

**Through my high school years at Rosebank, I became very aware of Social Justice Issues and the importance of Community Engagement. My individual faith, I believe, was nurtured during this time and I took an interest in community engagement and Outreach programs.**

I was part of the Outreach group who spent a week in Goodooga in 2006 on the Aboriginal Immersion Program. It was probably one of the best things I have done. The

I was applying, I just put my name down straight away.

Three students from Strathfield Campus and three from Melbourne Exercise Science were to be selected. After interviews and introductory sessions, we were selected. We were a group of eight; six Exercise Science students, a Theology student who has worked in Timor before and came up with the idea for this project (she also went to a Good Samaritan school), and one of our Professors. I was extremely excited and it was initially very hard at first to capture that excitement, because telling those closest to me of what I had achieved and planned, was very difficult to get across due to East Timor’s instability and past. The only friends I had who truly seemed to understand and were extremely supportive were my Rosebank school friends. We grew up together with many of us involved in similar activities, and a couple of us always having said there were a few special teachers at Rosebank who we really looked up to. The language barrier ended up being one of our biggest advantages. Although day after day we struggled to convey our drills, and our demonstrations were always interpreted differently, we were still able to run the sessions as smoothly as we could, with full participation and an amazing sense of fun, excitement and achievement among the kids. Having that language barrier meant that the coaches had to have an active role within their team. All of a sudden they had responsibility, and a commitment to their young team to guide them, train them and coach them through their daily sessions.

We soon came to realise that not only was this having an impact on the children, but on the coaches as well. It was occupying them as much as it was the children. For some it also meant a little money to bring home to their families that



experience was phenomenal and I learnt a lot not only about myself, but of people’s genuine charity, the gift of company and the amazing culture and background of the Aboriginal People.

I was involved in the Liturgy group and Social Justice, and I think I have many of the Rosebank staff to thank for instilling this sort of passion within me.

When the announcement came up for this East Timor project I knew it was something I had wanted to do. At school as you know, everything is organised and arranged for you. During my first two years at Uni I felt I had no outlet for that drive and nowhere to go to pursue my passion in helping others. So, when this project came up I did not think twice or tell anyone

month. Most importantly, by giving them a team to look after (generally made up of children within their area), they were given importance, confidence and purpose. We were bridging gaps between the towns and certain gangs that some of the coaches were members of; we were building positive healthy relationships among the youth, providing a chance of leadership and social networking in a hobby they loved. We weren’t just coaching soccer; we were coaching a sense of wellbeing and a way of life for all.

It truly was an amazing month. We tend to forget how lucky we are here. For example, the majority of the children will wake up and walk to school (which could be up to 5kms) on an empty stomach. When they finish school at 1pm, they have to walk back home and will then probably get their main meal

or only meal for the day; a bowl of rice. The children are very malnourished, their bodies so small, it was hard to correctly identify their ages. They are aspiring young adolescents, and they were an inspiration to be around.

Sometimes in the chaotic lives of civilisation as we know it, we tend to forget the simplicity of one another's company and the drive that can be accessed just by having hope. Hope in yourself and hope in those around you.

Again, I just wanted to share this story with you and thank Rosebank for instilling this drive within me. It was definitely a journey of personal development; one filled with gratitude.

The Outreach programs and activities revolved around Social Justice and works of the Good Samaritan Sisters are definitely worthwhile to maintain in the school community.

Kind Regards,  
Louisa Bavaro"

## Where Are They Now?

A message from the 1930s

Dear Friends at Rosebank,

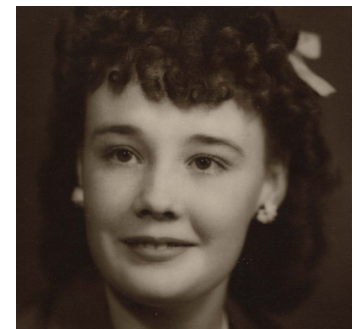
My name was Naida Dorothy Davidson. I lived at 29 Scott Street, Croydon.

I began school at Rosebank as a five year old in 1932. I spent seven happy years up until 1938 at Rosebank, when my family left Sydney to travel to Charleville in Queensland for my father's position with the Department of Civil Aviation. I continued my schooling in Charleville until 1942, when I took various positions from office work to dental nursing. I married in 1948 and had five children. I brought the whole family back to Rosebank one day in the 1960's for a visit. This would indicate the special place that Rosebank has always maintained in my heart. I still remember Sister Peter, Sister Ann and my favourite, Sister Felix. Mother Therese was the head of the Convent. I am now 83 years old and have just seen the pictures of the proposed new buildings, as well as every page and photo on your website. It is so wonderful.

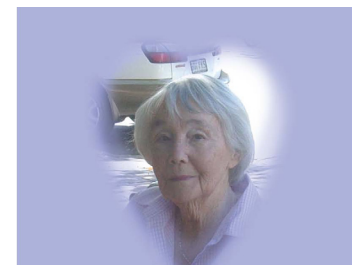
I sincerely look forward to hearing any news of any Alumni who may still be alive from my time at Rosebank. My address is:

Naida Floyd  
18 Aberfeldy Street  
Kenmore 4069, Brisbane Q'ld.

Warmest Regards,  
Naida Floyd



Naida Floyd aged 18  
(above) and 80 (below)



### The Sisters of the Good Samaritan are seeking DIRECTORS for their COLLEGE BOARDS

Rosebank College is one of ten Good Samaritan schools in Australia. There are seven Colleges in New South Wales, two Colleges in Melbourne and one in Brisbane. Each of the Colleges is incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee and is governed by a Board of Directors. The Good Samaritan Sisters are seeking people willing to contribute to the ongoing development of Catholic education in the Good Samaritan tradition by giving their time and skills as a Director on a College Board. The position of Director is not remunerated. Skills and experience in education, law, finance, risk management, human resources, project management, marketing and public relations, will be very highly regarded. Suitable applicants will have their names added to a register of potential directors. To obtain information on the governance of the Colleges and an Expression of Interest Form please contact:

**Kay Herse, Executive Officer, Good Samaritan Education Council**

**Email: [kfherse@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kfherse@optusnet.com.au)**

**Phone: (07) 3311 5412**

**Mobile: 0400 241 048**

## Swimming to Success

*Legendary Swim Coach, Silver Olympic Medallist and Rosebank College Ex-Student, Jan Cameron, reflects on her experiences.*

"I am presently (27 September 2010) in Abu Dhabi at a training camp for the New Zealand swim team as we wait to go into Delhi and the Commonwealth Games . We moved into the village on Thursday as planned and hope that the village will be safe and hygienic for the swimmers who have trained so hard for this opportunity. After 40 years of coaching in various countries, this time I will be doing the commentary for Sky TV and watching the event with the rest of the media people instead.

My life since leaving Rosebank College has been interesting and I will always fondly remember my time at this great school. I still have the gold school crest badge presented to me when I won a silver medal at the Olympics. The Rosebank badge has pride of place in my collection along with great memories and friendships made over the five years I was there.

I left Rosebank and after using a year to swim at the Olympics in Tokyo, I began a scholarship for teacher training at Wollongong Teachers College (now Wollongong University). During this time I took up coaching as a sideline and found I loved it. I combined teaching and coaching after graduation and haven't looked back. Coaching took me to a six and a half year stint in Canada at a place called Thunder Bay where I also studied at Lakehead University, received my Honours Degree in Physical Education and completed the work for my Masters in Coaching Sciences. It was a very enjoyable time and very hard work combining coaching and studying.

I married swim coach Don Talbot and we prepared swimmers for the Montreal Olympics. We then moved to Nashville Tennessee for a two year job to prepare the USA swimmers for the Olympics in Moscow, but of course the USA boycotted the event following the invasion of Afghanistan. This was a real let down for the athletes. Don and I returned to Canberra to begin the Australian Institute of Sport where he was its first Director. Our son Scott was born and I took three years out of coaching at this time. Following the successful start of the AIS, Don and I returned to Ottawa, Canada where Scott began school at the nearby Catholic bilingual school and I resumed coaching - in French and then English. Again this was a very enjoyable experience. Scott's first baby sitter was Alanis Morissette who began by entertaining us all with her music and now entertains the world.

I divorced and returned to Australia when Scott was seven and resumed teaching. One and a half years later I found myself

remarried and living in New Zealand. Twenty years on I am married to Kevin who is a very lovely man, a great dad and now granddad.

**My coaching has taken me many places; The Olympics in Montreal, Sydney, Athens, Beijing and The Commonwealth Games in Manchester, Melbourne, and now India plus many world championships and other events means I have travelled the globe through swimming.** I have made many friends internationally and am presently the General Manager of Performance for Swimming New Zealand. My son Scott swam for New Zealand at two Olympics and I'm so proud of him. He is now the performance coach for swimming and has five swimmers at this Commonwealth Games. He attended Rosmini - a Catholic Boys College in Auckland and then Massey University where he was awarded his Degree in Psychology.

It's been so far a life filled with people. My best friend is a girl I met on the very first day I came to Rosebank College so many years ago, Glenys Gregory now Hendry.

Rosebank has produced great experiences and great and enduring friendships. I am very grateful for the time and experiences I had at school and hope every student there feels the same and takes away the ethos which I know is still there. I believe strongly that you get out what you put in. I particularly wish all the graduating students all the best for finals and beyond and am proud to have been a Rosebank girl!"

Mrs Jan Cameron (Murphy)  
Class of 1962



### **Rosebank College Alumni Reunion - Open Day Sunday 1 May 2011**

All Rosebank Ex-Students are warmly invited to attend the Open Day Alumni Reunion from 11.00am - 3.00pm at the College. Students from the graduating classes of 2006, 2001, 1996 and 1991 are especially encouraged to attend to celebrate their 5, 10, 15 and 20 year reunions!



## From Rosebank to Runway

The corridors and class rooms of Rosebank College may not ooze all the glitz and glamour of the modelling world, but for Alumni Daniella Rahme (Class of 2008), they unleashed a flood of fond memories when she visited the College and former teachers in Term 4.

Daniella was recently crowned Miss Lebanon Emigrant 2010 in Beirut, Lebanon, competing against girls of Lebanese origin from 19 countries. The reluctant beauty pageant queen was nominated to represent Australia after winning Miss Lebanon Australia in 2009 and is currently in China vying for the Miss International Crown.

“I have been involved with modelling and the entertainment industry since I was about 15. At first, I did not want to enter Miss Lebanon because I didn’t consider myself ‘beauty pageant’ material, so I was completely surprised to have won. Winning Miss Lebanon Emigrant was an even bigger shock and very overwhelming. My life changed overnight”, said Daniella.

Whisked into a whirlwind world of back-to-back media interviews, photo shoots, charity events and other responsibilities, Daniella thrived practising the Benedictine value of Service to Others.

“From a young age I always wanted to do charity work. When I won, I took advantage of having a strong organisation to support this dream. Whether it was delivering gifts to sick children in hospital, spending time with the elderly or feeding the homeless, I never ceased to be amazed by all the people I met, hearing their story and learning from them”.

Amongst all this, Daniella is also the face of Bankstown Centro shopping centre and is enrolled in a Bachelor of Media at Macquarie University.

“One of my personal challenges is exploring the variety of interests I have. I am passionate about acting and writing, and over the years I hope to capture every part of these interests and use them in the best way possible”.

Reflecting on her time at Rosebank, Daniella names Visual Arts, Drama and Ancient History as her favourite subjects. “In Year 12 I performed a piece at the Creative Arts night, about a bride whose husband died on the way to the wedding and she developed Multiple Personality Disorder.”

Despite all her success, Daniella credits her charity and volunteer work as the most satisfying. “I look at people like Angelina Jolie who has all the fame and fortune in the world, and is yet selfless and caring toward those in need. One day, I would like to be an ambassador or spokesperson for teenage girls who are victims of human trafficking. There comes a point where you have to trust yourself, trust your instincts and what is in your heart and see what you can offer the world rather than taking from it”.

Displaying maturity and grace beyond her years, Daniella certainly is a “model” Rosebank College graduate.

Stay up to date with Daniella’s news on Facebook and join her fan page “Daniella Rahme”.



Daniella (centre), with Ms Booth and Mr Galea

## Citizen of the World

For over 30 years, Louise Robertson (Class of 1965) has been infected by the travel bug. This condition eventually led her to a career in the tourism industry which Louise describes as “the best job in the world!”

Louise’s travel ailment started in 1976 when she and her friend drove through Europe and England in a motor home for 12 months. Since then, Louise has travelled around Asia and more recently caught the cruising bug and has toured Canada, the USA, Panama, the Caribbean, the Amazon, Brazil, Argentina, Antarctica and Chile. “My most recent adventure was in the Arctic Circle and Baltic Sea,” said Louise. “In fact, I have been fortunate enough to have visited every continent on earth.”

Her current position as a Tourism Officer at the Armidale Visitor Information Centre has been an interesting journey.

## Former College Captain Votes for Rosebank

A career in politics is not something Maria Jasadipura (nee Garofolo) was actively seeking, but is glad she found it. The former College Captain (Class of 1995) is an electorate officer for the hon Angela D’Amore MP, Member of Parliament for the State seat of Drummoyne. With Legal and Business Studies as her favourite subjects at school, perhaps Maria’s career choice was not such a surprise.



“I went on maternity leave from being a branch manager for the Commonwealth Bank and fell into politics. I love my job and especially love working for Angela D’Amore as I admire all the great things she secures for our community,” said Maria.

Her time spent at Rosebank is filled with fond memories. “I was fortunate to have great teachers and fantastic friends. Sometimes I wish I was back at school as you do not truly appreciate the experience until you are much older.

Being a Rosebank student has shaped who I am today and I owe much of that to the staff because they genuinely cared for us,” said Maria.

With a passion for discovering new experiences, Maria has travelled extensively around Australia, the USA, Thailand, Fiji,

“After I finished school, I worked for Australia Post in an administrative role for 23 years. I was made redundant in 1989 and with a good friend purchased a property at Baan Baa, near Narrabri, where we farmed and raised cattle for 17 years. To keep my brain active, I enrolled at Armidale TAFE and completed a Certificate III in Retail Travel and Tourism. Four years ago, we sold the farm and relocated to Armidale. There was a position advertised in the Visitor Information Centre which I was lucky enough to get.”

**Rosebank College provided Louise the grounding to follow her dreams. “All the Sisters are a lasting influence in my life, especially Sr Monica (Dominic). I also loved being on the swimming team with future Olympian Jan Cameron (Murphy).”**

Jakarta and Bali and credits being a mother to her four year old son Adrian as the experience she cherishes above all others. “Adrian has completely changed my life and fulfilled me in ways I never thought possible.”

Maria is a fine example of the great things a Rosebank College student can achieve. “My advice to other students is don’t listen to anyone but yourself. Follow your dreams and desires and believe in yourself and be the best you can be. Always trust your instincts and don’t be too concerned with the journey as it will lead you to your chosen destination.”

## Rosebank College

An Independent, Catholic Co-Educational School for Students Years 7-12



### Scholarship Applications for Year 7 & Year 11 2012 are now open!

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) examination and an interview. The College uses the ACER Cooperative Scholarship Testing Program, an Australian wide annual program of academic ability tests, used by independent schools.

Applications close: Friday 8 April 2011  
Test date: Saturday 14 May 2011  
Test centre: Rosebank College 1A Harris Road Five Dock

Register online at [www.rosebank.nsw.edu.au](http://www.rosebank.nsw.edu.au)

Contact the College Registrar on 9713 3100 for further details.



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

If you would like to share your stories and feature on this page, please send your information including photographs to: [alumni@rosebank.nsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@rosebank.nsw.edu.au)