

**Presentation by the Head of College, Professor Don Markwell AM,
at the launch of the Centenary logo and flag**

St Mark's College, 6 September 2024

A very warm welcome to today's launch of the logo and the flag that over the next 16 months will mark our celebration of the centenary – the 100th birthday! - of St Mark's College.

In welcoming you today, let me begin by acknowledging that we are meeting on the traditional Country of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plain. We pay respect to Elders past and present.

We recognise and respect the Kurna people's cultural heritage, beliefs, and relationship with the land, and we acknowledge that these are of continuing importance to the Kurna people living today.

It is such a thrill to have so many members and friends of the College here at this launch. Everyone here has a special place in the life of this College in some way – past, present, and future - and I am delighted and grateful that you are here – and delighted and grateful that you will join in celebrating our Centenary and helping to guide our College into its second century.

Over coming months, we will mark the 100th anniversary of various steps towards the official opening of the College on 15 March 1925. In doing this, we have been greatly helped by the work of our Centenary historians, Dr Carolyn Collins and Associate Professor Paul Sendziuk, whom it is a pleasure to welcome here today with Roy and Katrina.

On 31 October this year, we will mark the 100th anniversary of the affiliation by the University Council of St Mark's College to the University of Adelaide. In his annual report at the end of 1924, the Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, Sir George Murray, who was personally one of the largest donors to the founding of St Mark's, described that affiliation as – I quote – “an event of outstanding importance”. He said that, having experienced residential university life, which like some of our other founders he did at Trinity College, Cambridge, he had no hesitation in saying that residential university life was more valuable than non-residential life. And that, of course, is precisely why St Mark's was founded and why it remains important today.

On 17 December this year, we will mark the 100th anniversary of the appointment of Mr Archibald Grenfell Price as the inaugural Master of St Mark's. Archie was then a teacher, or master, at St Peter's College, and had been, along with a number of his Hayward in-laws, one of the several active members of the committees that since 1920 had worked to create a university college here in Adelaide.

SLIDE OF PRICE FAMILY

This picture shows Archie and Babs and their three children in 1924 – Kenneth, Pauline or Babs, Betty (later, of course, Betty Lewis), Charles, and Archie.

It is a pleasure to welcome members of the Price and Hayward clan – Diana Todd (previously Diana Lewis!) and John Todd, James Price and Jacki Smith, Sue Brennan and Richard Hayward - here today.

Several years after his appointment as Master, Dr Price - as he became before he became Sir Archibald Grenfell Price – Dr Price recorded that, on his appointment as inaugural Master of St Mark's, “some expressed surprise that

[he] would give up ‘an excellent position and prospects’ at St Peter’s College ‘to take on an enterprise that would certainly fail’”.

Well, here we are, nearly 100 years later in this Learning Commons above the Grenfell Price Dining Hall, to start celebrating the success of an enterprise that most certainly did not fail!

Instead, for very nearly 100 years, this College has, through good times and bad, grown into what I believe is one of the gems – one of the jewels in the crown - of Australian higher education, offering its students one of the finest all-round university educational experiences available in this country, a community in which to live, learn, and thrive.

Of course, on the path to the opening of the College in 1925 there were many other crucial steps. One of these was the decision in March 1923 to buy Downer House and adjacent land. The main problem was that the committee didn’t have the money to do this! Offering to buy a house when you don’t have the money is not normally a good idea – but thank goodness they did. The funds then needed to be raised urgently to enable the purchase of these first college properties – and miraculously it was. Miracles do happen!

The pattern was set – that St Mark’s was created by and depended on the great generosity of people who understood how important a collegiate opportunity was and is for students. This was true in the 1920s and it is true today. Every building the college has ever bought or built has depended on philanthropy, including most recently the Deanery, fully funded by a very generous donor, Dr Pamela Wall OAM. And almost all of our life-changing scholarships since the 1920s and today depend on generous donors, including a number here today, to whom we are very grateful.

But the founders had another challenge – what to call this college they were creating? Initially it was going to be called Christ’s College. Some suggested King’s. Someone suggested All Saints. None of these ideas had general enthusiasm – as they clearly don’t here this evening! And then Canon Hewgill had a brainwave. The founders of the College were all living in the shadow of World War I. Many of them had fought in it, some were wounded and some were decorated in it, and all of them, men and women alike, were profoundly affected by it. The Anzac landings at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 had taken place on St Mark’s Day. So why not mark that hallowed day – Anzac Day – and also show the religious foundation of the college by calling it St Mark’s College?

So by the end of 1924, the new college had a great vision, a house and some land to get started, a name, and an inaugural Master. There remained the mere detail of getting some students, and Archie Price set about with his characteristic vigour, persuasiveness, and effectiveness to do this.

And so, with nine students recruited, on the 15th of March 1925, St Mark’s College was officially opened by the Governor of South Australia, Lieutenant General Sir Tom Bridges.

SLIDE OF GOVERNOR OPENING COLLEGE

It was a hot Sunday afternoon, and the distinguished guests not in the shade of the Downer House veranda

SLIDE OF GUESTS

used parasols, hats and mortar boards, and copies of the Opening Ceremony program to give themselves a little protection from the sun.

You may be relieved to know that, exactly 100 years to the day from that ceremony, when on the night of Saturday 15 March 2025 we mark the 100th

anniversary of the opening of the College, it will be in the air-conditioned comfort of the Adelaide Convention Centre!

If you look briefly at the program for Opening Ceremony in 1925,

FIRST SLIDE OF OPENING CEREMONY PROGRAM

a few things stand out.

The benediction at the Opening Ceremony was given by the Bishop of Adelaide, the Rt Revd Arthur Nutter Thomas, our founding Bishop. He was President of the founding committee and Council, Mrs Nutter Thomas was a member of the General Committee, and both Bishop and Mrs Nutter Thomas were listed among the donors to the College.

It is so fitting to have descendants of Bishop and Mrs Nutter Thomas here today.

SECOND SLIDE OF OPENING CEREMONY PROGRAM

If you look on the right-hand page, it is interesting that around half the names listed as members of the General Committee are women. Many women as well as men were active in establishing this college for men. It was always envisaged that St Mark's would be the first of a number of colleges, and it was not much more than a decade later that many St Mark's women and men were active in the founding of what became St Ann's College.

At the bottom of that page, you will see that in listing the "Officers and Members" of the College, the Oxford and Cambridge colleges of the inaugural Master and the Chaplain are given. This reflects how important those great collegiate universities were in inspiring the vision of collegiate education at St Mark's. Many other of our founders had studied there as well, and were passionate about giving students here the opportunities they had there.

The College's links with Oxford and Cambridge continue, of course, and this evening's event is the final event that our wonderful Old Collegian and staff member Kathy Radoslovich will attend before she goes next week to Cambridge to do a Masters degree in medieval history as a Ramsay and Ivan Shearer Scholar. Congratulations, Kathy, and bon voyage!

Also next week, our 30th Rhodes Scholar, Oliver Douglas, will be heading to Oxford, also to do postgraduate study in history, and he is very sorry that he cannot be with us here this evening. We wish him well as he too embarks on an exciting new chapter.

You will also see that at the very bottom of the right-hand page of this 1925 Official Opening program, the names of the very first St Mark's students are listed.

We are keen that the students of 100 years later be actively involved in celebrating our Centenary, and it is great to have a number of our student leaders here this evening.

The back page of the Opening Ceremony program

SLIDE OF BACK PAGE OF OPENING CEREMONY PROGRAM

lists the many generous donors without whom the College would not have come into being. It is wonderful that descendants of several of them are here today, and we are in touch with more.

We are keen to involve descendants of our founders in marking our Centenary. Karin Dunsford, our outstanding Director of Centenary Engagement, has been locating and connecting with some, and if you have details of others, she and I would be very grateful to hear!

The founders whose descendants we are having greatest trouble finding are the two donors right at the top – the two Anonymous donors – and the second last, strangely listed as “X.Y.Z.” If anyone knows their whereabouts, please let us know.

As you know, to mark the Centenary next year, we are having a number of events, and I hope that you will come to everything you can.

SLIDE LISTING THE EVENTS

The Centenary Gala Weekend begins with Welcome Drinks at the Queen’s Head on the Friday night, there are tours of the College on the Saturday, the Centenary Gala Dinner on the Friday night – simply not to be missed! – and then to catch up with more friends a relaxing long Sunday brunch here at St Mark’s on the Sunday.

On Sunday May 4th, we have our Founders’ Day afternoon tea with the traditional toast, and a Centenary Evensong in the Cathedral with the Archbishop and the Cathedral Choir.

On Thursday 5 June, we have our Centenary Giving Day, in which all of us will be able to contribute to the Centenary Scholarships Fund to create life-changing opportunities for St Mark’s students in our second century.

And later in the year, the launch of the Centenary history, the J C Bannon Oration given by our Centenary historians – it is always a delight to welcome Angela Bannon back to St Mark’s - and in December our Centenary Thank you Drinks.

The decision in 1923 to name the new college St Mark’s College gave us, not only a name, but a symbol. The symbol of St Mark – seen, for example, at St

Mark's Basilica in Venice – is the winged lion. So this naturally became the symbol of St Mark's College, as it is today. And when the College came to have a crest, or College Arms, like the Cambridge ones in the windows here -

SLIDE OF CREST

as you see on the screen, and on the front of this lectern, the winged Lion was of course its most prominent feature, along with the College motto – which translates from Horace's Latin literally as “true worth spurns the earth” or, as some classicists have more liberally interpreted it, “excellence reaches for the stars”. It is that translation that we use today – excellence reaches for the stars.

You will notice that the College motto appears in the crest in a beautiful academic scroll.

The College crest was designed by Professor Osborn, one of the founders of the college, and the Revd T T Reed, as he then was, one of our earliest resident tutors who was later Bishop of Adelaide.

Design skills clearly run in St Mark's clerical families – because when we came to designing a logo and a flag for the Centenary for 2025, we naturally turned to a professional designer of very high quality, Esther Johnson, who is – of course! - the great granddaughter by marriage of our founding Bishop, Bishop Nutter Thomas.

Esther has done a superb job, is a pleasure to work with, and is a joy to welcome here tonight, along with Matt, Mike and Anne Johnson.

Many of those who took part in the design consultations are also here today – members of our Centenary Events Planning Committee, our Board, led by Linda Matthews, and staff. In consultation with us, Esther has designed a simple but

striking logo which I think beautifully captures the key elements needed to mark our 100th birthday.

and ... **drum roll...**

here it is.

SLIDE OF CENTENARY LOGO

You will see this logo, or variations on it, on your invitation to the Centenary Gala Dinner. Other than for our brilliant staff and our fantastic students, who will receive their invitations over the next few weeks, we have your invitation here for you this evening, and we will give it to you as you leave – or if you can't wait, just say and we'll get yours for you immediately!

The invitation gives details of how to book your tickets, through the Humanitix website, and you will see our logo there, and on the Celebrating Our Centenary page of the website – and especially from January you will see it everywhere.

We are very keen that as many students as possible be able to be at the Centenary Gala Dinner. So when you go to get your tickets for the Centenary Gala Dinner, you may wish to contribute to helping enable current College students to attend.

And to enable all costs to be covered, or perhaps to promote a business, you may also wish to be a Centenary Gala Dinner sponsor. If so, or if you would like to be a table captain organising one or more tables, please let Karin know. She will be happy to help!

We are excited that around 70 people have already committed to being table captains for the dinner. The exciting news is that there's room for more.

The even more exciting news is that the MC for the Centenary Gala Dinner will be the incomparable Jane Doyle, here this evening with Ian Doyle. Jane and Ian are great friends of St Mark's, including through Ian's work with the CAS Hawker Scholarships. You may have noticed that Charles Hawker's name was among those on the 1925 program – as a founder and donor of the College, in fact the largest single donor at our founding.

But wait – there's more!

Not only do we have a logo for the Centenary, we also have a flag. It will be flown on one of the flagpoles at the front of the College, in place of our usual College flag, throughout the Centenary year.

Would you like to see it?

Well, here it is...

UNVEIL FLAG

Isn't that terrific?

But wait – there's still more!

As I've mentioned, we want to involve the students – for whom the College is here - as much as possible in the Centenary, so on Tuesday and Wednesday, we painted the logo on the centre of the Tennis Courts, and before the rain set in on Wednesday, the students who weren't at uni – you might be impressed with how many were at uni - and our staff gathered around it for this photo.

SLIDE OF STUDENTS AND STAFF AROUND THE LOGO ON TENNIS COURTS

We also thought that you'd enjoy a bird's eye – or, more accurately, a drone's eye - view of the Centenary logo on the tennis courts. So here it is too –

SLIDE OF DRONE VIEW OF LOGO ON TENNIS COURTS

But wait – there’s even more!

As well as inviting you to brave the weather by going out on the balcony to look at the rain-drenched logo in the fading light on the Tennis Courts, our student Filmmaker, Cam Dixon, has made a short video for you, and here it is -

VIDEO

LEAVE THE LOGO ON THE SCREEN FOR THE REST OF THE EVENT

As we say in show biz - that’s all, folks!

Thank you for coming, and please continue to enjoy the drinks and canapes – as, I hope, you admire the logo and the flag, and look ahead to our Centenary next year!