

# Lesley Cala

Lesley Cala, a former resident of St Catherine's College, is a leader in the field of Neuroradiology. Born in Cottesloe, she graduated from UWA with a Bachelor of Medicine as one of only four women in the class of 1964. Following her graduation, Lesley was a tutor of anatomy and physiology at St Catherine's College.

She continued her medical training in the United Kingdom, obtaining a Diploma and a Fellowship of the Faculty of Radiologists. She returned to Perth in 1970 and became a teaching fellow in Radiology at Royal Perth Hospital. Over the next few years, she worked as a consultant radiologist in several hospitals around Perth.


*In 1975 she provided the five Perth teaching hospitals with access to CT brain scans, having procured the first CT machine in the Southern Hemisphere for Perth.*

In later years, her work turned to the study of 30,000 cases to complete her thesis; Neuroradiological Diagnosis of Intracranial Tumours. Outside of clinical hours, she also completed Forensic radiology for the State Coroner from 1972 to 2000.

Alongside her impressive accomplishments in radiology, Lesley has been an active member of many organisations. She served on the UWA senate from 1994 to 1998, and again from 2000-2010. She has been a high-ranking member of several women's organisations such as the Australian Federation of University Women, National Council of Women and the UWA Centenary Trust for Women. She has been an honorary fellow of St Catherine's College since 2003.

**You have been at the forefront of some incredibly important developments in neuroradiology. What advice would you pass on to current St Catherine's College residents regarding pursuing their career goals?**

First, you must decide what your goal is to be. Often people drift for a couple of years trying to decide what they want to do with their degree. Instead, establish what your goal is and set up a 5-year plan and a 10-year plan to achieve it.



Name:	Lesley Cala
Studied:	Bachelor of Radiology
Years @ St Catherine's:	1960 - 1964
Location before St Catherine's:	Perth, Western Australia

**fast facts**

In the case of women, this usually includes allowing time out to marry and have children. Childcare facilities only take care of daylight hours. Men need to look at this aspect as well, because the presence of children with attendant paternal duties, can impact on the time that could otherwise be spent attending, for example, Board or Committee Meetings that often advance one professionally.

Next keep up to date in your field with visibility in the local, national and international forum. Keep a keen eye out to identify areas that are not currently in your geographical area and put yourself forward by promoting its acquisition of equipment at work, or as a leader of a team to develop a program within the professional and wider community.

**What were some daunting obstacles you had to face during your career?**

Being a woman in the male-dominated profession of Medicine during the '60s, '70s and '80s. By the '90s, women were being recognised as able to contribute equally, as a result of the perseverance of the early pioneers like myself.

My graduation class consisted of only 47 students and this included 4 women. Today the graduation class of 240 students would have equal numbers of men and women and sometimes there are more women than men.

**What are some of your fond memories from your time at St Catherine's College?**

As there were only 50 students in college at the time I was there, we all knew each other very well. Over the years, some have kept up annually with others.

*The friendly atmosphere was very evident at the coffee break scheduled, by us, at 9.00 pm for 30 minutes. We would sit on the landings and sip our drink and chat about teenage interests.*



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In these coffee breaks, girls often brought out some part of a dress they were sewing to attend a forthcoming Ball and much advice was exchanged to achieve and finish the final product!

During that period, it was understood we could make as much noise as we liked with conversation. Then at 9.30 pm sharp, it was back to our rooms to continue studying; no more noise in the corridors. If we failed our exams, it meant we lost our scholarships. The College did not encourage a failed student to come back again. It was setting the standards for academic excellence that exist so strongly today.

**You were recently nominated for the position of Warden in the Council of Convocation of UWA Graduates. Tell us a little about this role and the election process.**

I am currently Deputy Warden of the Council until March 2020. Nominations for 2020 have recently opened and I have accepted the nomination for the position of Warden. This is the 3rd highest position in UWA, the highest being the Chancellor and the second highest being the Vice-Chancellor.

This is recognised in all ceremonial occasions, like graduation ceremonies. Anyone who holds a UWA undergraduate or postgraduate degree is entitled to vote. For those who wish to cast their vote, ballot papers will be mailed out in mid-January of 2020 and must be returned by 10 March.

If you need to update your address with the Convocation office, please do so by 4 December to receive a ballot paper.