



Caboolture

St Columban's College - Past Students Newsletter

# The Eagle

Albion Heights

Edition 1 - May 2008

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**View The Eagle Online**

This edition (as well as future editions) of The Eagle is available for you to view on the St Columban's College website; go to the About Us menu, then select Past Students.

**Visit our website:**  
[www.stc.qld.edu.au](http://www.stc.qld.edu.au)

## A message from the Principal

Enjoy reading this first edition, of what will become a regular newsletter for all past students who share in our common connection through St Columban's College. As a College community, it is of particular significance that we continue to foster and maintain links with our former students and staff members.

The heading banner across the top of this newsletter attempts to capture some significant threads of our rich history. A careful look shows the following elements – starting at the left with the latest re-incarnation of our beloved eagle mascot, renamed Albi (in honour of the Albion site); in the centre section we see students entering Highlands building at the Caboolture campus and moving to the right, students are passing through the famous wrought iron gates that framed the College entrance to the previous location at Albion Heights.

This year we celebrate 80 years of the spirit, tradition and community that is St Columban's College. At this time the College is engaging in preparations for the next steps of its visioning and planning, with the reality that it is being called to serve a larger proportion of the community than originally planned for, both in terms of size and outreach to its extended community.

It is hoped this newsletter, together with a soon to be updated interactive website will provide a vehicle for past students to interact together more effectively, advertising functions and maintaining the extended sense of StC community in whatever ways that people wish to connect to one another.



*Principal Alain Sauvage with College Captains Jay-Lee Hutchison and Benjamin Doveston*

We are still in the process of updating database records of our former students, so please check with any fellow past students you may be in contact with as to whether they have received their copy of The Eagle. I would encourage all those who are not on our mailing list to contact our editor via email or phone call to the College office.

*Alain Sauvage*

**Alain Sauvage**  
**Principal**



1998



1985



1947



1928

# St Columban's College Archives

The St Columban's College archive continues to grow and at last has some semblance of order within a small room in our College Library!

## College Register

We are fortunate to have the full College Register intact, and we are in the process of entering names and contact details into a database for the expedient identification of past students.

## College Yearbooks

Our collection of Yearbooks has been catalogued, commencing with the 1933 edition. There are some gaps during the 1930s to 1960s, and we would be pleased to fill these, if any past students or teachers can either donate or lend the archive, issues from those years.

## Historic Photos

We have endeavoured to identify past student and historic photos, and some are now stored on CD Rom for presentation purposes. However, a great number also remain unidentified and are simply preserved and collated into years.

## Newspaper Clippings

Large collections of newspaper clippings, commencing in 1928, are secured in bound volumes for easy access.

## Trophies and Realia

A number of trophies, realia and plaques have found their way into the Archive over the past two years, and are now displayed within a display case in the Archive Room. Last year we were visited by past student Brian Ford, who was delighted to find a couple of his old rugby trophies there!

## Donations and Visits to the Archive

For past students interested in donating photos, annuals or realia, we would be pleased to assess them and include them



in the St Columban's College Archive.

## Can you help?

Maintaining the College Archive is an ongoing task, particularly now that we are actively engaging with our past students.

Our immediate need is to record data from the original College registers into a database that can be easily accessed and preserved. Having this facility in place will enable past students, their children, and other family members ease of access to details and information.

If you can assist, or would simply like to visit, please contact me via the College office or email [cbward@stc.qld.edu.au](mailto:cbward@stc.qld.edu.au)

**Christine Ward**  
*St Columban's College Archive*

## High Tea at Albion

*"It was wonderful to see where our College originated from..."*

During May of last year, seven students, together with staff, and parent representatives of our College community, attended an invitational High Tea at the old St Columban's site, located in the Brisbane suburb of Albion.

This magnificent property, now managed by AVEO, is a retirement development. AVEO have recently completed renovations to the heritage listed Wytecliffe House, which is the building after which our Art Department building here at Caboolture was named.

We were taken on a tour to see the refurbished buildings and learnt of the day-to-day activities available to the residents. We were lucky enough to have Mr Jones, our HPE Coordinator, join us for the tour and he pointed out a number of things of interest from his days spent teaching at Albion.

The afternoon was an informative experience and was enjoyed by all who attended. It was wonderful to see where our College originated from and walk through places we have



only heard stories of. We thank AVEO for extending this invitation to us.

**Sara Andrew**  
*English House Captain 2007*

# Past Student Reunion at the Irish Club



*October 2007*



**A great night was had by all!**



1998



1985



1947



1928

## Brian Ford - Former Wallaby and Past Student

*At just 18 years of age, Brian was selected to join the Wallabies, and to this day he retains the 50-year record for the youngest ever player chosen for this team.*

My secondary school year memories are dominated by sport. I was Captain for Under 14 Cricket, as well as participating in swimming and running, and I also played rugby for St Columban's. I joined South's Rugby Union club and as a 15 year old was playing in C Division with a number of other school boys. I used to play for school on Saturday morning and South's on Saturday afternoons.

I was pretty good at athletics, especially on short distances – the 100 yards and 220 yards, but I wasn't much good over longer distances. It has only recently come to light that I must have been on the verge of asthma all my life but no one ever picked it up. The highlight of my running career was winning the All Schools Open 100 yards, which I won in 10.3 seconds. It equaled the record of Graham McLaughlin and stood for quite a few years. I also ran 4th in the Queensland Titles, after Barnett, Donald (later playing Union for Australia) and Holz. We used to train down at Windsor Park three times a week under Br Rutter and by the time I walked it was often dark.

I remember Dad buying me my first set of spikes and someone made me a set of starting blocks. I used to Broad Jump, now called Long Jump, and High Jump also but eventually I had to give them away.

St Columban's had traditionally played Rugby League and at one stage our Principal at the time, Br Mooney, didn't like Rugby Union and thought our team was too small (in weight, not numbers) so pulled us out of the school competition.

As a school boy at St Columban's I played in the 5 stone 7 team for three years, then suddenly went into the 7 stone 7s one year and the 10 stone the next – a definite growth spurt!

A tradition in schoolboy football at the time was that the Premiers of the year previous would play a game against a team made up of all the other schools in Brisbane. Whilst playing schoolboy football in a Saint James vs The Rest of Brisbane game which was the curtain raiser for the Rugby grand final, I ran the length of the field to score. Monty, my father, and Glad, my step-mother, (my mother died when I was fourteen), were in the audience when someone remarked 'that boy will play for Australia'. I played Rugby for school, however my major milestones started when playing for South's.

At fifteen I played C Grade Rugby for South's, because both John, my brother, and my dad, were involved in the club. I was very young to play for C Grade. In those days the football season wasn't as long as it is today. The season never started until after ANZAC Day and ended in September.



*Assistant Principal, Steve deLaurence enjoys the rugby with Brian Ford*

South's playing fields were at the Normanby, at the site of the current grammar ovals, and major games were held at the Brisbane Exhibition Grounds, as Ballymore wasn't opened until the 1960s.

At sixteen I was selected to play for the Queensland Schoolboys in the Secondary School Association competition, where we played the curtain raiser for the Fiji vs Australia game at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

I was then selected for the Queensland Colts team to play the game against Canada. The Canadians were used to wearing flat leather tags on their boots in Canada, but these were not suitable for the hard surface of the Brisbane field, and many of the Canadians did not have enough players to field a team, and in the true spirit of the game, were invited to choose four Queensland players to join their numbers in order to field a team. Tom Vievers (the cricketer), Dick Roberts, myself and one other player were selected, and hence we played for Canada.

**Brian Ford**  
**Class of 1955**

## Steve Nielsen *"I can't believe it is 22 years since I left St Columban's!"*

My name is Steve Nielsen and my last year at what was called 'the school on the hill' was 1986. So much has happened since that year and yet it only seems like yesterday. Where do I start in summarising these past years.....probably best to start with the present and work back!

I'm married to Louise and have three terrific kids- my eldest son Connor is nearly 11, Max is almost 6 and our little girl Ella is nearly 3. We're happily living at Holland Park West on the southside. Marrying a teacher has certainly given me a better understanding of what we put our poor teachers through and the stress levels they live with (it seems that nothing changes!).

Columban's prepared me well for my career. I've been in the financial services industry for the whole 21 years I've been out of school, most recently working as a business coach for financial planning practices across QLD. The one great thing about Columban's was the breadth of the demographics of the school community. On one hand we had kids from quite wealthy families, on the other we also had the battlers, the schoolyard was the great 'leveller'. This provided great lessons in life; get along and you'll get along. Life in the world of work is the same.

So as my class of 1986 prepares for our reunion in early May, the questions come flooding in to my mind - where are



*Steve & Louise with Ella, Max and Connor*

they now, what are they doing.....? All I know is that we'll be able to all look back with very fond memories of our time at the School on Hill!

**Steve Nielsen**  
**Class of 1986**

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## Sarah Patch *The very first past student of St Columban's College to be wed in our Chapel*

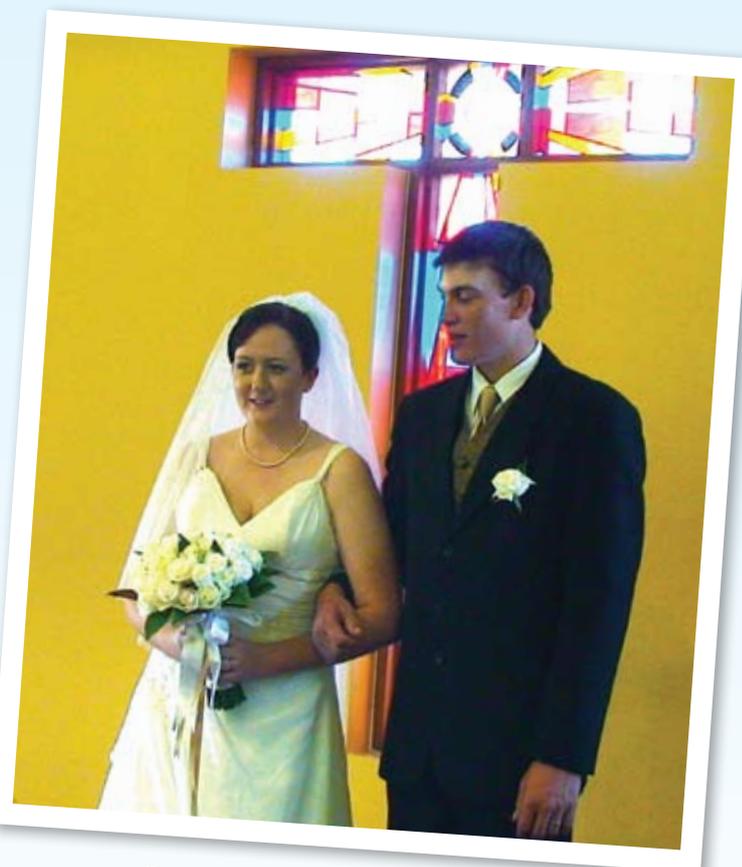
Until very recently Sarah's last name was Loveday, that is until she had the honour on Saturday 12 April 2008, of being the very first past student of St Columban's College to be wed in St Columban's College Community Chapel.

It was a beautiful service that was officiated over by Father Wrex Woolnough, our local Parish Priest. Approximately 150 family and friends attended the Nuptial Mass for Sarah and new husband Ben Patch. Sarah is quoted as saying, 'I always thought I'd be married in the Chapel'.

During her five years at the College, a big highlight for Sarah was the close relationship she developed with her Pastoral Care class teacher, Mrs Anne Forzatti.

Sarah really enjoyed campus life, and has fond memories of being a member of the U15B Netball team when they won the Premiership. That same year, both the U15A & B teams won the Premierships.

After completion of Year 12, Sarah took on an electrical apprenticeship. These days she is mum to nine month old William and works on a dairy farm in Nanango alongside Ben. Sarah loves her lifestyle and says that a perk of working on the farm is that she doesn't have to leave her baby whilst on the job.



*Sarah and Ben wed in the College Chapel*

**Via phone interview with Sarah Patch (nee Loveday),  
Class of 2005**

# Tony McGraw “*My history with St Columbans!*”

I had a long history with the College, before even attending my first day of Grade 8. My uncles and cousins had been students before me, and so the tradition continued. I arrived at the Albion site in 1994, fresh faced and still getting used to my long socks, the age of the College buildings, and the history associated with 68 years at the one site. Little did I know it was going to be the most amazing five years.

My fondest memories will always involve sport, as this was St Columban’s well known reputation, taking on the larger schools and winning. The swimming carnivals were just magic, and the blue, gold, blue could be heard from everywhere. The days at Banyo playing fields will also be remembered.....the First XV Rugby team running through a banner of flags.

The school moved to Caboolture for a new chapter, and we welcomed girls into the College. One word will describe this..... interesting!!! We soon clicked, and all became really close. In 1998, 53 of us graduated as the 70<sup>th</sup> senior group and the first co-educational senior group in the history of St Columban’s College.

It is now 10 years on and many of my school mates are still in contact, with the help of the St Columban’s Facebook site. This too has brought many of the former Albion students and current Caboolture students together for the first time. The stories that are shared are a credit to the days of the mighty BLUE, GOLD, BLUE!!!



**Tony McGraw**  
**Class of 1998**

## *Community Noticeboard*

### Event Date Claimers

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <i>Saturday 24 May</i>    | <b>St Columban’s College Community Open Day 9am-12pm</b> , St Columban’s College, Caboolture  |
| <i>Friday 20 June</i>     | <b>St Columban’s College Charity Golf Day at Pacific Harbour Golf Course &amp; Country Club, Bribie Island</b> (see advert on page 8)   |
| <i>Saturday 16 August</i> | <b>Reunion for graduates of 1983.</b> Tour of College to be followed by lunch at St Columban’s College. Reunion will then continue at Breakfast Creek Hotel (check the College website or phone the College for upcoming details, June or July) |
| <i>Friday 24 October</i>  | <b>‘Old Boys’ Reunion for Albion graduates</b> to be held in the Tara Room at the Irish Club. \$15 per person, tickets and further details available from the College from 1 August   |
| <i>To be advised</i>      | <b>Reunion for graduates of 1998</b> at St Columban’s College (check the College website or phone the College for upcoming details)   |

### Deaths

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <i>10 April 2008</i> | Hieronim (Harry) Alexander LESZCZYNSKI, 1963 graduate   |
| <i>16 Nov 2007</i>   | Luke Garrett MAYNES, 1992 graduate, 1st XV Rugby player |

### Marriages

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <i>12 April 2008</i> | Sarah Patch (nee LOVEDAY), 2005 Graduate |
|----------------------|--|

### Births

Please let us know if you’re a past student who has added to your family

To include an event or details in a future *Community Noticeboard* please contact the Editor, Lea Rubio, at the College or email [lrubio@stc.qld.edu.au](mailto:lrubio@stc.qld.edu.au)

## Rugby Rules at StC

What a year! 2007 was an outstanding year in so far that St Columban's College emerged from the burly scrum that is TAS school rugby as the premier school. This was made that much more special by the fact that this was the second year in a row that StC has achieved this.

Over the last few years there has been a dramatic culture shift at St Columban's. Once upon a time (not that long ago) our rugby players were more likely to criticise than commend; they were more often than not, prepared to give in rather than put their shoulder to the wheel and get on with it. Not any more however. Our students have respect for themselves and others and this has been borne out of excellent coaching and a careful nurturing of a positive attitude towards Rugby at StC. It is with pride I observe this newfound awareness in our students.

2007 saw the introduction of the Spirit of 66 award, presented to a player that should be rewarded and encouraged for their continuous effort throughout the season. George Minehan, a past student of the College, and First XV player, instigated the award in 1966. George was very keen to reconnect with his old College and donated the new perpetual trophy. We thank him for his kind donation, inspiring speech, and rugby tales told at the awards evening.



This year we look forward to a three peat – another step forward for St Columban's Rugby. Columban's - Blue Gold Blue!

**Dean Stevens**  
**TAS Sports Coordinator**

## Our Athletes Shine in 2007

At the TAS Athletics 2007 meet, StC was the school to beat. With two eager bus loads of athletes headed for University of Queensland running track, it was definitely going to be a competitive day ahead.

Weeks of training and preparation was put in by the athletes leading up to this day, and it was evident from the performances achieved that every bit paid off for a very successful end result. Blue pennants and red and green ribbons flooded in. It was great to see athletes, no matter what the circumstance, stepping in and making sure every event was filled and every last point secured. There were many great individual performances achieved on the day, too many to name, but every single athlete who competed put in 110% to do our College proud.

We were lucky to have a new addition to the athletics squad this year, our mascot Albi the Eagle, who strutted his stuff confidently around the track supporting our StC athletes, and throwing in a bit of intimidation towards the other schools along the way.

A great day was had by all, and we congratulate the team for coming in a close second overall, with the highest point score trophy going to the 14 and 15 boys, and the Open



girls. An outstanding result with the boys' team, winning the overall boys trophy back to back for the last two years. It is great to see the StC Athletics team improving each and every year.

**Christopher Chivers & Jessica Stout**  
**TAS Athletics Team Captains 2007**

# The Eagle has landed



After many years absence St Columban's unofficial symbol has taken flight again. Albi our new Eagle was unveiled at the gala Year 12 Formal in June of 2007. As a gift from the Year 12 students, Albi's creation was brought about with the unwavering energy and determination of Tahnee Brahim, one of the 2007 College Captains. Albi was named via a student competition, with the winner beautifully making the link between our new mascot and the rich College heritage created at the Albion site.

Albi spent an energetic hour doing the Eagle Rock on the dance floor at the Mercure with its new legion of fans. Also, Albi posed for many photos with students under the watchful eyes of the secret service style security, trying to ensure that the feathers stayed on the bird.

Albi has also appeared at sporting events; firstly at the Interhouse Athletics Carnival where it ran a number of 100 metre races with the Year 9s and 10s. The first appearance at the inter school level occurred at Ormiston College in the final round of the TAS rugby season. Albi lead out the mighty First XV and watched the match from the sideline, where it lead the small but enthusiastic band of supporters. Albi's presence at the rugby had immediate affect with the Firsts handing out a 32-11 score line over the hosts.



Albi will be in attendance at major functions and sporting events where the College is represented. This new ambassador for St Columban's will be the symbol from behind which the College Community unites. Under the banner of Albi's Crew, supporters of the College will be easily recognisable at events where St Columban's College participates.

## St Columban's College Charity Golf Day

Pacific Harbour Golf Club - 20 June 2008

Proceeds go to the St Columban's Mission Program

**Sponsorship \$1000 per hole**

**Players - \$100 per head with  
dinner included**

Hole in one Competition - win a Jet Ski

**Get your office together and challenge  
your business rivals to a game!**

*Trophies can be arranged*

Email: Linda Upton  
lhupton@stc.qld.edu.au  
or via the College office

## St Columban's College Community Open Day

*Celebrating our 80th anniversary in 2008  
Embracing past, present and future*

You are cordially invited to attend our Open Day  
on Saturday 24 May 2008 9am-12pm

Highlights of the day include:

TAS Sporting Events - Girls' Netball,  
Girls' Hockey, Boys' Rugby

Interactive curriculum displays, tours of our  
facilities, archive display

Refreshments available

More details on the College website  
[www.stc.qld.edu.au](http://www.stc.qld.edu.au)