

The Eagle

Caboolture

Albion Heights

Edition 10 – October 2015

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SCPSA ANNUAL EVENTS

College Anzac Day Liturgy

College Open Day

Charity Golf Day

Soaring Eagles Reunion

Vintage Past Student's Luncheon

Welcome to the latest edition of the Eagle

President's Welcome

Gogra

Welcome to the first edition of the Eagle for 2015. Firstly, may I apologise that it has taken until now to get this out to you however for a myriad of reasons this was unavoidable. By way of introduction, my name is Patrick (Paddy) Evans ('82) and I have taken over from Eugene Waugh as President of the St Columban's Past Students Association (SCPSA). Eugene and his Committee of Laurie O'Brien, Rando Nicholosi, Michael McMahon, Ron Thompson, Stephen Nielsen and Bruce Kent have worked tirelessly to ensure that Past Students have had a vehicle to maintain their friendships and an ability to maintain their links with the College. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly and sincerely thank Eugene for his commitment and stewardship over the past seven years and the support the Committee has provided to the Association and the College.

All the Past Students of this College have one thing in common - we were brought up to live Christian values in the Edmund Rice tradition. Over the years, these values have not only be instilled in the past and present students, but they continued to be instilled in our children and in some cases, our children's children. It therefore stands that the SCPSA is based on a collective of likeminded individuals with likeminded values. To this end I believe that the Association has three key objectives:

- To provide a vehicle by which cohorts of students can maintain the life long friendships they established while they were students at St Columban's.
- To foster a spirit of good fellowship between past and present students of the school with the reputation and progress of the school a common ideal.
- To be an empathetic Association that is forward leaning in identifying those amongst our past students who are doing it a bit tough and implement a practical assistance plan where it is appropriate to do so.

Put simply this means that we, as an Association, are here to look out for the current students and look after each other. I also think there is an opportunity to make this a more enabled Association by more efficiently leveraging off our collective talent (the Past Students) to assist in delivering on the uncomplicated objectives I have mentioned above.

... continue reading over

Your invitation to the ANNUAL SOARING EAGLES REUNION

Come along and bring five friends

RSVP & TICKETS: www.stccommunity.com/PSA
for catering purposes

HOTEL ORIENT
EST. 1875

560 Queen St, Brisbane | 07 3839 4625

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2015
6.00PM - 9.00PM

\$25.00 per head, includes select beverages and finger food



1928



1947



1985



1998

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As our major event for the year is fast approaching (the Annual Reunion at the Orient Hotel, Friday 23 October commencing at 6pm) there are a number of things that have been happening in the background that I would like to bring you up to date on.

Committee and Constitution: The Association will not be a viable entity without a committee steering the agenda. Currently we are keen to identify a Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer (Accounting background would be ideal), an Events/ Social Member and up to four additional committee members to cover off on a number of other portfolios including, but not limited to IT, Historian, Military, Archives, Fundraising et al. It is intended that we revisit the Constitution and once drafted, put it out for comment. The Constitution will reflect that the Association is a not for profit organisation and will be based on relevance and inclusiveness

Communication Plan: We are attempting to revise how the Association can more efficiently communicate with you and you with us. To this end, we will become increasing reliant on our use of technology with the key platforms being Facebook www.facebook.com/stcolumbanspaststudents and the STC Community website www.stccommunity.com. Both are currently up and running. We will also be asking each graduation year to provide us a point of contact for the purposes of collating their years' (or a collection of graduating years) contact list (email address etc) so that we can improve the current data base. We already have some volunteers for '63 and '76, but with close to 87 years to cover off on, much more help is required. To stay up to date, I would recommend that you save www.stccommunity.com as a favourite on your device today!

Database: Maintaining and expanding the extant data base will be critical to a successful Communications Plan. Aside from the normal information you would expect to be asked for, we will also be asking you to volunteer your current occupation and whether you would be willing to provide work experience and/ or work placement (apprenticeships, employment opportunities etc) for current or Past Students, including their children. We would also ask you to indicate whether you would be willing to assist a Past Student in your local area in a practical way should they be in need of assistance. This could include something as simple as infrequently mowing a lawn for an elderly past student who has limited means or something similar. Once the www.stccommunity.com/psa page is fully enabled, there will be a simple and secure way for you to update and maintain your details.

Membership: In order to achieve and successfully execute the objectives of the Association, it is intended that the Association become a financial entity through a Life Membership program. Life membership will be set at \$40. I would ask you all to commit as financial members to the Association in order that we will be able set up a viable fund to support Past Students, present Year 12 students with a gift from the SCPSA on Graduation Night, continue to provide a highly subsidised annual Reunion Function, provide commemorative/ in-memorial funding, introduce an initially modest bursary for current students and in time, move on to more significant contributions and projects. I know that there are many worthwhile organisations out there but I would ask you to invest in the people you went to school with first.

Fundraising: As the Life Membership Program will only get us so far, the Association is already turning its mind to other opportunities to get the Past Students together. An Annual Dinner with key note speaker and auctioning donated prizes is one of many ideas that have been floated. We would welcome any and all ideas from those of you who wish to contribute to the conversation.

Vintage Past Students: Next year the Association is contemplating an additional reunion for what we would respectfully call our 'Vintage Past Students'. These are students who left the College 40+ years ago who may prefer to gather at a daytime event. Our thoughts are that it would be based on a luncheon, either at the College utilising the excellent facilities (may be with the involvement from the hospitality students) or conversely a lunch in Brisbane. There can be many variations on this theme and we would welcome the thoughts of our more distinguished Past Students. The inclusion of this luncheon would in no way exclude our Vintage Past Students from the Annual Reunion

'You Write': We would like to introduce a human interest angle into the Eagle. We are looking for Past Students to pen not more than 100 words on themselves or another Past Student, highlighting an achievement that might have otherwise gone unnoticed. The column also lends itself to a 'where are they now' style of article. We hope some of you will take this opportunity to embarrass a friend publically as many Past Students have modestly accomplished significant achievements professionally, on the sporting field and in the community. Give us the chance to celebrate their achievements.

Date Claimers: We would like to put two important dates on your radar. 2017, 20 years since the College moved to Caboolture and 2018, the College's 90th Anniversary. More to follow on both.

Finally.....no one has a monopoly on good ideas and we would welcome yours. Please do not hesitate to provide your thoughts and feedback on how we can do things better via email, Facebook or phone. As I said at the beginning, the Association is not only here to provide a vehicle to maintain school friendships, it is here to provide networks of assistance to both current and Past Students as well as looking out for and assisting those amongst us who might need a helping hand. I apologise that this has been such a long President's Message but I thought it important to get all the ideas out there before the Reunion.

I trust this finds you and yours in good form and I look forward to catching up with you at the Reunion (if not before).

Gogra

Patrick (Paddy) Evans ('82)

Reflections from the outgoing President

Welcome to Paddy Evans (1982) who is taking on the role of President of the Past Student's Association. Thank you to Ann Rebgetz and her incredible support of the Association. Without Ann, and her team, especially Linda Upton, we may not be in as good shape as we are today. Their support has been outstanding.

The one thing that we started and I hope keeps going, is the Open Day Rugby match reunion for the 10 year anniversary groups. For those who have not attended, it is a great day. The College has been very obliging by setting up a Past Student's tent with refreshments, right on half way as we watch the footy. Pat Greene and Mike Connolly do a great job. It is all topped off by an award given to the best and fairest. This year is shaping up as the best yet.

The Soaring Eagles event was instigated by former Principal Alain Sauvage and former Business Manager James O'Connor. Again, the school supports this event. The College has also set up a Tradition Committee that records our past. Terry Fogarty has worked with them with regards to the Anzac Day memorial. In a modest way, I believe we have achieved what we set out to do. We wanted to be an inclusive Association that fostered a sense of unity between all Past Students, regardless of whether they attended the College at Caboolture or Albion. I think a lot of the feedback to date indicates very positively the mutual respect and genuine interest all Past Students have in the St Columban's of yesterday and the St Columban's of today.

Thank you one and all for your support and fellowship over the past years. I think we can be proud of what we have achieved.

Eugene Waugh



Mission and Outreach at StC

Garma Festival

Students visited the Northern Territory as part of the Annual Immersion trip to the Northern Territory and Garma Festival. Prior to leaving, students and teachers met with representatives from the Redcliffe Dolphins who generously donated over 100 pairs of new football boots and footballs.

There's also been an enormous number of goods donated by St Columban's families and the wider community. We have gratefully received hundreds of boxes of toothbrushes and toothpaste and pre-loved sporting equipment.

They will be shared with students at the Milikapiti School on Melville Island and Yrrikala School at Nhulunbuy. Boots and footballs will also make their way to a school on Bathurst Island and to schools in Wadeye.

The College has a strong relationship with Milikapiti Primary School and a selection of our students went into the classrooms to help students with literacy and then ran games and activities in the afternoon.

This year student reflections revealed two key points:

- the openness of the Milikapiti school students in wanting to interact with our students; and
- a stronger understanding of how much our students have in comparison to the children in the Milikapiti school.

Our students came away with an appreciation of what they have and a responsibility to advocate for those who have little.

Mrs Raechel Fletcher
APRE & Identity



A Year of Progress

2015 has been a progressive and productive year for St Columban's College

With the Year 7's moving to secondary school, it was a busy start with the influx of around 280 students into Year 7 and Year 8, bringing the College numbers up to 1040. This also saw us very prepared with new additional staff and new buildings - Kells Arts Centre and additional Science laboratories, along with more classrooms in our Edmund Rice Centre. We celebrated this next step with a beginning year whole Staff Reconciliation Retreat with Dr Wayne Tinsey, EREA Executive Director as our dinner Guest Speaker. So, all were focused on our rich heritage of the Christian Brothers and their formation of those wonderful values of Spirit, Tradition, and Community immersed in the Edmund Rice charism of Presence, Compassion and Liberation. As I write this a group of students, staff and parents from the College are embarking on the second Footsteps of St Columban and Edmund Rice Pilgrimage to Ireland and Italy.

We would like to thank Mr Eugene Waugh for his tremendous contribution over the last seven years as President and Committee member of the Past Student's Association. Eugene has flown the Eagle Banner high looking for the connections between Albion and Caboolture with respect to the history of the College. Eugene has revelled in seeing the wonderful response of the Caboolture community emulating the power of Community which was so prevalent at Albion. Eugene has also been so impressed at seeing the development of a strong academic and vocational culture, with great successes in the traditional TAS sporting competition, particularly winning the Rugby for the 4th year in a row, along with the Athletics, Basketball, Netball, Touch Football excellence! Our Mentor Academy has seen great achievements with Lucky Patterson being named Swimmer of the Year and winning six medals at the World Swimming Championships in Glasgow, along with College Captain Josh Connolly participating in World Youth Championships in High Jump. The College musical The Wizard of Oz was an outstanding success highlighting the gifted musicians, dancers, actors, singers, and passion of the talented staff who made it happen.

Being the winner of the Australian Training Awards in 2014 for our innovative approach to vocational competence and pathways saw other achievements this year with one of our students Daniel O'Brien being named Queensland Trainee of the Year for his Allied Health school based traineeship at Caboolture Hospital.

I would acknowledge Eugene's committed and sustained interest, time and consistent support of St Columban's - it has meant so much to us.

It is wonderful to welcome Colonel Paddy Evans to the position of President of the Past Students Association and he has many exciting plans which will take us further on our significant journey.

We look forward to the gathering of our Past Students at the Orient Hotel, 6.00 pm on 23 October and catching up with all. We are very appreciative of the support given by different year groups in Bursary support (1969 group) and this year has again been highlighted by Mr Terry Fogarty's amazing contribution for 2015 Anzac Day, along with Paddy and others. It was terrific to have so many come on our Open Day and see some of the showcasing including a rugby win!

In closing it was truly wonderful to have our students celebrate the 100th birthday of one of our foundation students, Mr Bill Thornton - his life is an inspiration to us all and the fact he is so proud of his Columban heritage and tradition encourages us all in the binding of the new and the old!!

Blessings to you all and hope to see you soon.



Ann

**Ann Rebgetz
Principal**



The Story of "Albi The Eagle"

In 1973 John Bussa (1977) won a contest by designing the new school shirt for StC emblazoned with the Eagle emblem, winning him the princely sum of \$2-50. (In the same competition Gary Larder composed the College song.) John also designed an Eagle Banner. Inspired by this design, eagle wings were sewn by Caroline Giles.

In an effort to increase enthusiasm and support for StC swimmers, Chris Virgen (1983) and his fellow seniors searched the sports storeroom at Albion and found the eagle costume. After dusting it off, Chris wore it on parade during war cry practice. Chris believes Gerard Flanagan wore the wings on 1983 Carnival night.

During the 1984 Carnival the Eagle actually jumped off the 10m diving board and the costume was damaged (and the wearer punished). This carnival also starred StC Swimming Captain John Bettiol (aka Rockfish).

The Seniors of 2007 wanted to capture the spirit of the Eagle by creating a mascot which was unveiled at their Formal. Albi's creation was brought about with the unwavering energy and determination of College Captain, Tahnee Brahim (2007). Albi was named via a student competition; Louis Graham (2007) and Shelbi Grixti (Yr11) beautifully made the link between our new mascot and the rich College heritage created at the Albion campus.

Albi appears regularly at sporting carnivals and College events.

What a wonderful thread this weaves through the history of this great College that is St Columbans!

Linda Upton – Alumni Officer



ANZAC Day Liturgy 2015

The 2015 College Anzac Day Centenary ceremony was a special tribute – we were honoured to have many special guests including Fr Wrex, Senator Chris Ketter (grandson of Mr Bill Thornton, first day student of St Columban's in 1928 who just turned 100), Colonel Patrick Evans, Ms Lisa France representing Hon Wyatt Roy, Ms Cheryl Williams representing Mr Rick Williams Member for Pumicestone, Dr Pat Coughlan, College Board Chair Martin Jonkers, P & F President Terry McMahon, Mr Terry Fogarty, Healy Family and many other Veterans, Past Students and families.

The students were beautifully behaved and showed great respect. It really was a very special event which was done superbly – the feedback from our visitors was extremely appreciative with lots of commendations. The performances of the students were very polished from the Scottish Bagpiper, monologues, singers, pianist, Brittany Cooper on the Bugle, Vashti Borthwick and the Gubbi Gubbi dancers, readers, cross bearers and medal wearers, to the Cadets standing in honour for the ceremony. Fr Wrex led our 100 Years ceremony and made us all feel very blessed.

Loving God of Peace, you created this world and wished all people would live in peace. Inspire the hearts of all humanity so that peace, justice, and true freedom will flourish in our time. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.

Ann Rebgetz
Principal

Excerpt from a speech given by Terry Fogarty at the 2015 Anzac Day Liturgy

"Our motto – Spirit, Tradition, Community"

We're all part of the "Passing Parade" that makes up the St Columban's Community – teachers, students, and past students.

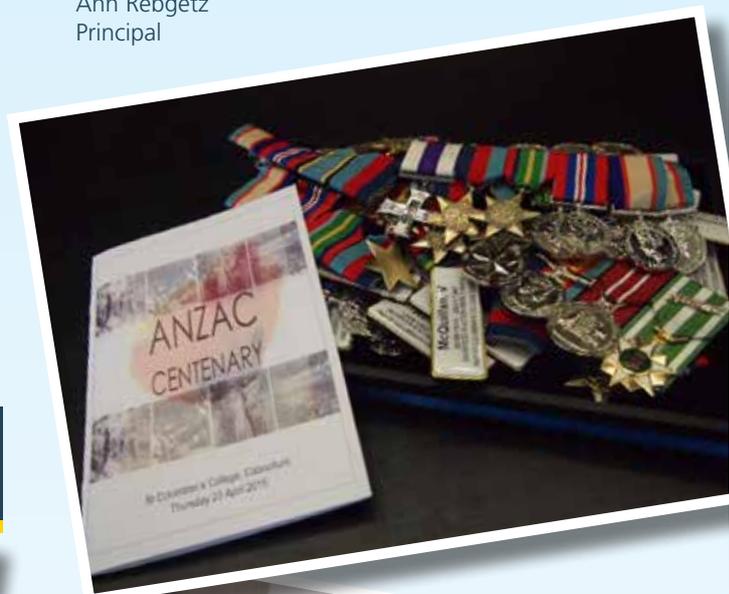
Because of that we have limited opportunities to make enduring changes to the "Tradition" of St Columban's College.

Last week we celebrated Easter, the focal point of which is that Jesus gave his life to save us.

There is another group of people who have given their lives to save us – our past fellow students Killed in Action – 25 of them.

In World War 2, in the early 1940s Japan was on its aggressive push south intending to capture Australia. Had they succeeded life for all of us would be very different today and St Columban's at Caboolture may not even exist. Our fellow students played a part in repelling this advance with some losing their lives in the process.

The reality is that we owe them, along with thousands of Australian and American Service Personnel, for everything we enjoy today."



Where are they Now?



1998



1985



1947



1928

John Bellert – Class of 1960 – War Cry Proud!

Grandad to Josh, Ella and Jonte Connolly and Father in Law of Mike Connolly (past Assistant Principal).

John Bellert is a very proud Grandfather and StC 'Old Boy'. He ALWAYS jumps at the chance to call out the war cry. I do recall as a child, Dad belting out a rendition of the war cry at the breakfast table whenever we had a sports day. So when Josh phoned him last year to let him know he was the 2015 College Captain, the most logical thing to do was to run out into the front yard and belt out a war cry... to the obvious delight of the neighbours. Furthermore, when I was teaching at St Columban's, I was driving the bus returning from an excursion. We briefly pulled off to the side of the highway to collect a parcel Dad wanted me to collect on the way past. I DID pre-warn the girls – and sure enough within 30 seconds he had the whole bus cheering the StC war cry whilst we were parked on the side of the road!

Written by Laurel Connolly



Brandon Borello – Class of 2013

At the 2015 A-League Awards night **Brandon Borello** was named **National Youth League Player of the Year** – Congratulations Brandon!



TEENAGE sensation Brandon Borello has continued his fine form to lead Brisbane Roar to a 1-0 win over A-League rivals Western Sydney Wanderers at Suncorp Stadium.

Having scored the winner in the Roar's 1-0 AFC Champions League victory over Urawe Red Diamonds last Wednesday, Borello repeated the dose on Sunday to seal Brisbane's fourth win in their past five A-League matches.

The three points lifted the Roar into the top six at the expense of Melbourne City, who lost 1-0 to Central Coast Mariners in Sunday's early match.



Roar players celebrate Borello's goal. Picture: Getty



Roar edges ahead in A-League finals race

Sixth spot on the A-League ladder appears to be Brisbane Roar's to lose after a crucial 1-0 win over Western Sydney Wanderers on Sunday.



Odette Pryor – Class of 2011

Well done to Odette Pryor who presented at the Queensland Catholic Education Commission Symposium.

Odette is an outstanding student who graduated in 2011 – she achieved an OP 1, was College Captain, and completed two VET certificates at the same time. Her Youth Ministry Certificate III was the catalyst for Odette choosing a teaching pathway – because of her work with running retreats for younger students.

Odette spoke of the College, her subjects and how she was so well advised and supported to take the choices she did. Odette has studied English and Mathematics as her teaching subject specialist areas but also was a consummate musician and visual artist. In addition, Odette spoke of the strengths of her Hospitality Certificate which gained her a job.

Odette emphasised the skills she gained in communications from her vocational learning.

Odette is in her final year currently completing a placement - she spoke with such confidence and in glowing terms of her St Columban's College education.

It was quite an imposing audience, which Odette handled with ease she probably had everyone there wanting to offer her a job! We thank Odette for her very impressive presentation.



TAS Champions for 2015

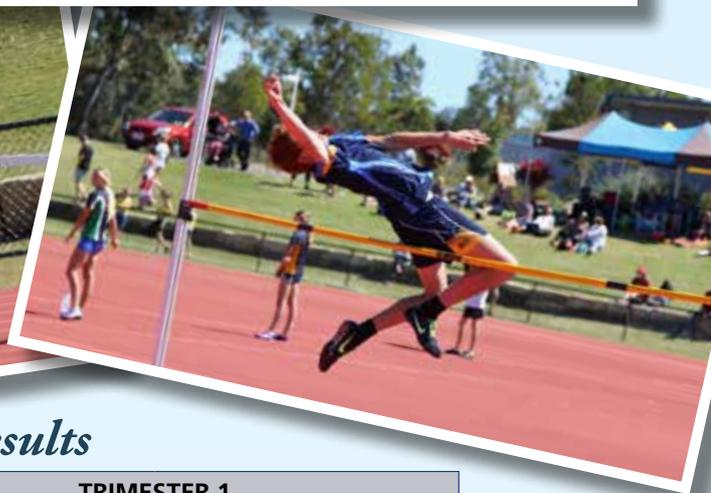
St Columban's College were victorious for the 2nd year in a row being crowned the Champion School Overall at the 2015 TAS Athletics Carnival.

The Boys came 1st overall, which they also managed for the 2nd time in a row, bringing home this monster trophy last year and previous to that it was 1977!

With a disrupted lead up to the Athletics Carnival with Year 11 & 12

exams and Year 9 & 10 Camp and Year 11 Work Experience, there was a great reliance on the members of the TAS Athletics Team to pull together on the day and to perform to their highest standard.

After a bringing home the trophy last year and finishing in 2nd place in 2013 we were really pushing to stay at the top - and our goal was achieved by the competitors, narrowly bringing home the Coveted trophy again! Congratulations!



TAS Results

TRIMESTER 1	
Boys Volleyball	9th
Cricket	5th
Boys Basketball	9th
Girls Tennis	7th (tie)
Girls Basketball	4th
TRIMESTER 2	
Netball	1st
Hockey	8th (tie)
Rugby	1st
Boys Tennis	8th
TRIMESTER 3	
Touch Football	1st
Girls Volleyball	5th (tie)
Boys Basketball	3rd
Soccer	8th



Current Student Achievement Highlights

Success for Connolly Siblings

St Columban's College Caboolture student, 16 year old Josh Connolly along with younger sister, 14 year old Ella Connolly are still celebrating their win at the Australian National Athletics Championships held in Sydney at Olympic Park.

Josh won the U/18 Men's High jump and is now the Australian Champion in his age group for his record 2.14m jump. Josh's two world qualifiers of 2.09 prior, mean Josh will now travel to Columbia to compete in the World Junior Championships as part of the Australian team in July 2015.

After his recent Queensland Athletic Club Championship performance, Josh was also invited to be part of the Under 19's Talent Identification Squad which is a pathway to the Commonwealth Games. Josh said, he was "stoked and relieved with my results."

Also, claiming National Champion status for under 16's, Josh's sister Ella Connolly also ran a personal best in the U/16 age group by running 55.56s for her 400m event. Ella also placed 2nd in the 100m in a time of 12.06, 3rd in the 200 with a time of 24.75 and was part of the 4 x 100m team that came third in the relay.

Both Josh and Ella are part of the St Columban's College Mentor Academy Program and Coordinator Kelly Woods said, "both Josh and Ella are incredibly committed to their training programs and their studies."

"It is this dedication that helps them build resilience and motivation to improve and win," Ms Woods said.

St Columban's College, Caboolture Principal, Ann Rebgetz said, "students with special talents and gifts in music, sports and the arts are supported by the unique Mentor Academy Program at the College, which helps students plan and manage their work and training schedules so both areas are a success."

"Josh is also the College Captain and a great role model for younger students looking to pursue their own goals," Ms Rebgetz continued.

Ella is planning on running for Australia in the future and wants to pursue a career in Physiotherapy, while Josh is planning on studying Medicine and pursuing High Jump in the hope of representing Australia at a future Commonwealth or Olympic Games.



Lucky Patterson brings home Gold and the People's Choice Award

After spending 10 days in a Manchester staging camp with the Australian team, Lucky headed to the 2015 IPC World Open Swimming Championships in Glasgow, Scotland.

This would lead to Lucky winning Gold, two Silver and two Bronze positions which places her for five events at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

"The St Columban's College community, including teachers and friends have been so encouraging," Lucky said.

Lucky Patterson secured the most votes Australia-wide winning the "People's Choice – Swimmer of the Year" accolade at the annual Swim Australia's "Swimmer of the Year" Awards held in Brisbane recently.



Queensland Training Awards Winner

Queensland Training Awards State Final Presentation Dinner, we were honoured to be there to see our very own Daniel O'Brien awarded the "School Based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year".

Dan aims to embark on a Bachelor of Medical Science once he completes secondary school, followed by a postgraduate Doctor of Medicine.

Congratulations Dan, we are so excited for you and what an extraordinary achievement in such a competitive field! Many thanks to all who have supported Dan along this journey and we wish him all the luck for the upcoming National Australian Training Awards this November.



StC First XI v Old Boys Football

Historic Win For Students

The annual First XI v Old Boys Soccer game was another great event. This match has been a feature of the Soccer season since 2007. It has been traditionally held before the TAS season to give the boys a trial before the first competition game. The 2015 draw didn't allow for this to happen but both parties were keen to keep the tradition alive.

In a spirited game the students showed the benefit of having worked together for a number of weeks and shocked the old boys with four unanswered goals in the first half. While the second half wasn't as one sided and the Old Boys' shooting was well off target, the students held on strongly and took the title with an impressive 5 – 1 score line.

This is the first time in the history of the competition that the students have won. What makes their victory even sweeter is that their coach, Jimmy Davis, was playing for the Old Boys. He'll certainly be hearing about the result at training for the rest of the season.

A total of 22 Old Boys took the field on Friday and while a little disappointed with their form, there was no shortage of laughs and complaints about lack of fitness on the sideline. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

The Old Boys were:

- Michael Ashkar (2002) – Captain
- William Holland (2006)
- Nathan Rose (2007)
- Ben Hayward (2009)
- Justin Reedy (2009)
- Daniel Archer-Scott (2010)
- Tom Clarke (2010)
- Brendan Howard (2010)
- Doug Robb (2010)
- Patrick Burden (2011)
- Jimmy Davis (2011)
- Connor George (2011)
- Jacob Payne (2011)
- Peter Rose (2011)
- Elijah Butler (2012)
- Kane Hoffman (2012)
- Andrew Robb (2012)
- Daniel Cabrera (2014)
- Jack Calvert (2014)
- Campbell Cleeton (2014)
- Connor Donges (2014)
- Martin Jonkers (2014)



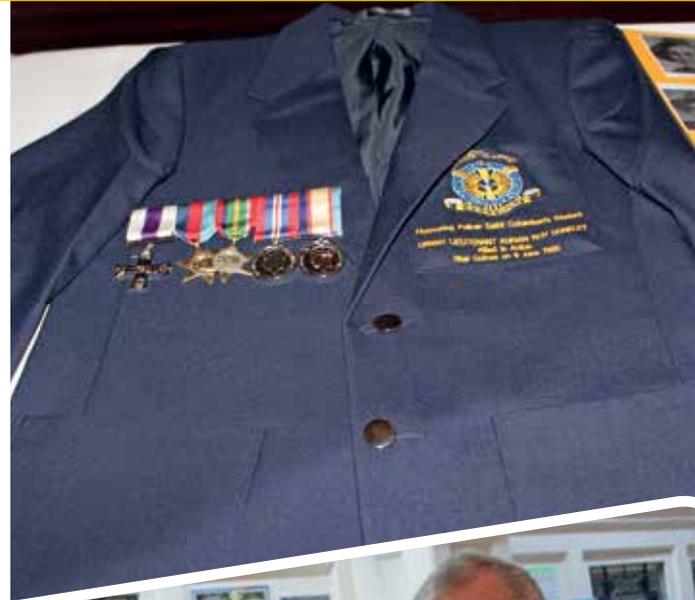
Soaring Eagles Reunion 2014

2014 saw the end of a seven-year era of Soaring Eagles reunions held at The Irish Club, Brisbane. Over 200 Past Students from both Albion and Caboolture campuses enjoyed an evening of reminiscing about days gone by and catching up with classmates and teachers.

It is always great to hear school-day stories and a privilege to learn more about the significant history of the College. During the evening our Past Students were given the opportunity to peruse year books, dating back to 1933 and sign the historic College Register. This proved to be very popular for many, as they stumbled across the names of fathers, brothers, uncles, cousins, as well as many childhood friends long forgotten.

A special highlight of the reunion was the Memorial Blazers with replica medals in honor of those Past Students who lost their lives in battle. Guests were very impressed with the display and it provided much thought provoking conversation. Thank you to Terry Fogarty for his tireless efforts in the production of these.

Margie Hallinan
StC Archivist







Written by Barry O'Sullivan (Class of 1965)

"On 16th May, from the time I approached the Reception/Welcome tent until the time I returned to my car, the warmth and hospitality extended by everyone at the College was a joy to experience.

Obvious highlights of the day were catching up with classmates I hadn't seen for 25 years (and some for 50 years) and the First XV playing so brilliantly well. However, what will remain in my memory of the day is the spontaneous friendliness of every student and teacher with whom I conversed. I don't mind a chat and as well as visiting the displays spread around the College (Chess, PE, Houses, Performing Arts, etc), the various sporting fields (Hockey, Netball, Tennis, Rugby) and the refreshment stalls, I often struck up conversations with groups of students as they moved through the grounds. Even those who were a little shy, at first, readily broke into a smile and happily spoke of their role in the day and did so with great courtesy and maturity.

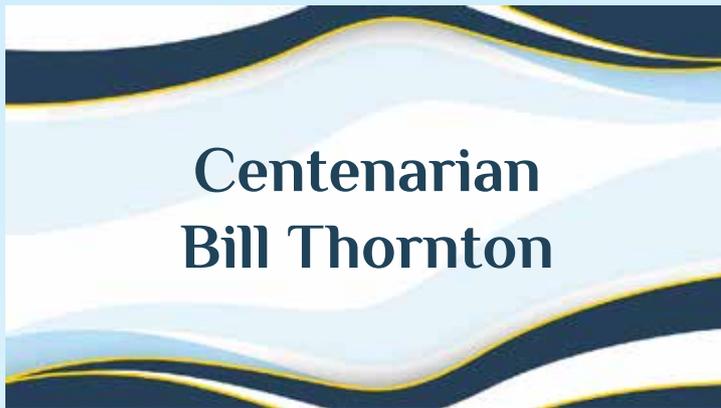
My old classmates were still the same down-to-earth, humble, open and caring individuals I remembered from 1965. Fifty years on, I know that not everyone in the world has those same core characteristics. I experienced those same values in action throughout all of my time at the Open Day. The students don't know it now but St Columban's is clearly continuing to instil outstanding values that our students will take into their later lives - and the world will be a better place as a result. Like me, they will eventually look back with gratitude and belatedly thank their parents for choosing St Columban's.

Please tell all teachers that whatever they're doing, keep doing it – it's working. Congratulations to everyone involved in the organisation of the Open Day. Thank you for the opportunity to be there. It's a day I will long remember."

DATE CLAIMER

2016 OPEN DAY – Saturday, 21 May

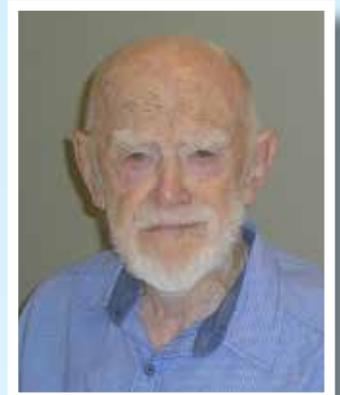
Centenarian Bill Thornton



Centenarian Bill Thornton

Centenarian Bill Thornton – part of first class of St Columban's College students at Albion in 1928

Cap: 100 not out: Bill Thornton and his son Br Neville Thornton with the Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis in honour of Bill's milestone birthday.



but now resident at Bethesda Retirement Home Nudgee, recently attained his century, with well wishes from many including the Queen, PM Tony Abbott and Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge to prove it.

A framed Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis to mark Bill's 100th birthday also has pride of place on the wall of his unit.

But ask him about his time as a political warrior in the days when Catholics among others were fighting the Communist Party for the control of unions and the years melt away.

Like an old warhorse, Bill straightens up and, mind still sharp, will recall many details of his time alongside B.A. Santamaria, being a part of the Catholic Social Studies Movement (often known as The Movement) and later the National Civic Council.

He also remembers Santamaria's epic clashes with arch-rival ALP Minister Dr H.V Evatt and many others.

Inevitably too, he has opinions to give on the turmoil which saw the Catholic-influenced Democratic Labor Party break away from the Australian Labor Party in 1955.



Catholic Leader, 22 March 2015

And Bill's political influence lives on in his grandson Chris Ketter, an ALP Senator he helped mentor in the craft of politics.

Born in Gladstone, Bill arrived in Brisbane aged six.

His early schooling was at Wooloowin Convent and St James School in the city.

At the age of 13 he became part of the first intake of about 40 students into St Columban's College, Albion in 1928.

"The school had been bought as a lovely old house from a family," he said.

"The grounds and everything were pretty dilapidated to begin with.

"Lunchtime was pretty exciting – we chased goannas and snakes around the yard.

"(Christian) Brother Gilbert Molloy taught us how to use a long plank to hold the snakes down and get rid of them – you needed a springy plank, a stiff one was no good."

Sports-loving Bill admits to "not a lot of homework done, but plenty of footy played".

"So I ended up working in the meatworks at Cannon Hill," he said.

"My father Jack was president of the Australian Meat Industry Employees Union and I became a member.

"When war (World War II) broke out, the recruiting officer told me I could serve the country better as a meatworker in a reserved occupation."

"Then a chap I was working with left and joined the army so I checked to see if I could also go."

Bill left to join the Air Force where he served from 1944 to the war's end.

Returning to the Cannon Hill Meatworks Bill, found a new battle to fight.

"Fr Barney McLaughlin asked me to come along to a meeting in the Hibernian Building," he said.

"I discovered that the Communist Party had their people in key industry unions across Australia with a view to controlling the Trade Union movement and thus gaining access to political power in Australia. The editor of Ben Chifley's speeches described this as the battle for the 'soul of Australia', which was fought out mainly in the ALP and in the union movement."

Not long after this meeting, Bill was invited to leave his job as a meatworker and work within the union to help combat the communist influence.

This he did before his involvement in the Federated Clerks Union of Australia.

On another wall of his unit in a Nudgee aged care facility is a certificate bestowing lifetime membership of this union of which he was National (Federal) Deputy President and State President.

His son, Christian Brother Neville Thornton (Bill also has a married daughter Judith living in Brisbane) noted that the "political gene had jumped a generation".

"My nephew Chris Ketter, who was the Secretary of the Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association, was elected as an ALP Senator for Queensland in 2013."

Vale Joe Torrissi

Giuseppe "Joe" Torrissi started his employment with St Columban's in 1982 at the Albion campus after a short informal interview on one of the Schools park benches with the then Business Manager Mr John Hennessy.

Joe was based at the Banyo playing fields where he worked tirelessly to maintain and improve the ovals and cricket wickets. Joe always referred to the Banyo playing fields as "his farm" as it reminded him of the time he worked on the family farm at Mareeba.

When St Columban's moved to Caboolture in 1997 Joe had a tough decision to make; he loved the Banyo playing fields so much that he was unsure if he wanted to move to the Caboolture campus, Joe even considered returning to the family farm in Mareeba. Once again it was an informal and persuasive chat from John Hennessy that convinced Joe to stay with St Columban's and so a new challenge for Joe started. The early days at Caboolture were hard the campus was a greenfield site and Joe had to start from scratch with the ovals and cricket wickets, but as always Joe was up for the challenge and proceeded to nurture the new ovals and wickets. Joe even kept some of the grass clippings from the Banyo cricket wickets and reseeded the clippings to create the wickets at Caboolture; a part of Banyo had travelled to Caboolture with Joe.

Joe's commitment to St Columban's over a 32 year period is quite amazing, the countless weekends worked to ensure that the ovals and wickets were perfect; the early morning starts on the day of a home sports fixture, Joe took all of this in his stride he simply wanted to provide the best playing fields for the St Columban's students that he could and he certainly managed that.

In 2012 Joe faced his biggest challenge when he was diagnosed with cancer. Over the next 18 months Joe needed to draw on all his strength to alleviate the cancer and recover from the operations and treatment. In 2014 Joe made the decision to retire due to his health, this was a decision that Joe never wanted to make as he loved his job so much but he realised that his health had to come first.

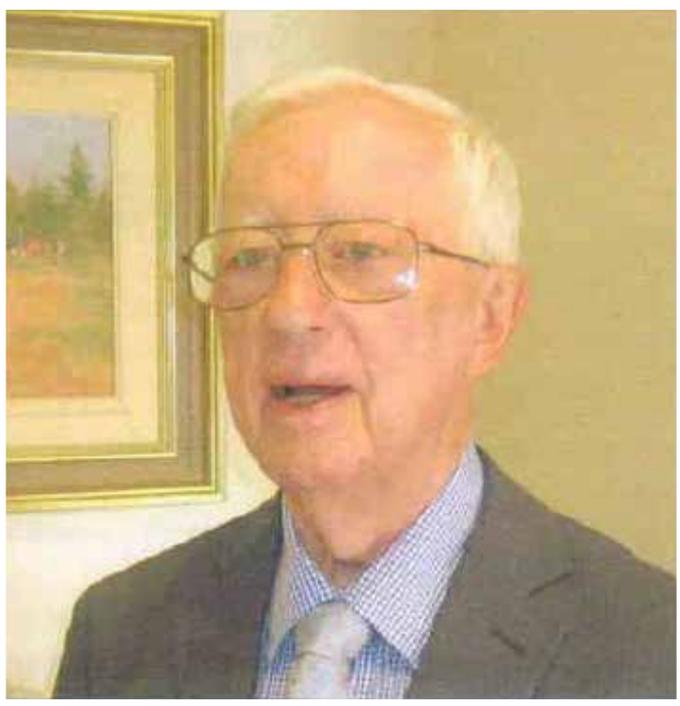
In appreciation for Joe's outstanding contribution to St Columban's the College named one of the sporting ovals 'Torrissi Oval'. We offer our loving thoughts and prayers to Joe's family at this difficult time.

"Lord grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen."

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Joe Torrissi. Joe was a member of St Columban's grounds staff for many years at the Albion campus and at our current College. He became ill with cancer in 2012 and we hoped he may recover, but sadly he passed away peacefully this morning. We fondly remember Joe proudly looking after the fields and always willing to have a friendly chat. At the recent BCE retirement function honouring long term employees, Joe was unable to attend but Pat Greene and I attended, and these words were read to pay tribute to Joe's career at St Columban's.



Vale Donald Button



Donald John Button 12 May 1939 - 16 December 2014

Don Button was a student at St Columban's Albion Heights, from 1949-1954.

He spent almost 40 years in the Public Service, retiring as Manager, Housing Advisory Service in 1994, and receiving the Public Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours and Awards in 1991.

In 1977 Don was elected to the Executive of the then Queensland State Service Union and in 1990 was awarded Life Membership of the Union. Whilst on the Executive of the Union he was requested to join the Executive of the State Service Club of which he later became President and was awarded Life Membership. He was a member of the Brisbane Racing Clubs for 47 years.

This excerpt is from the Chairman's letter to Don's family....."We all knew Don as a regular and passionate racegoer who possessed a great knowledge of thoroughbred racing. We will certainly miss Don's happy and congenial presence at Doomben and Eagle Farm after 47 years membership."

Don spent his whole retirement working for various charity organisations etc. In 1998 Don was appointed a Community Representative on the Queensland Police Service

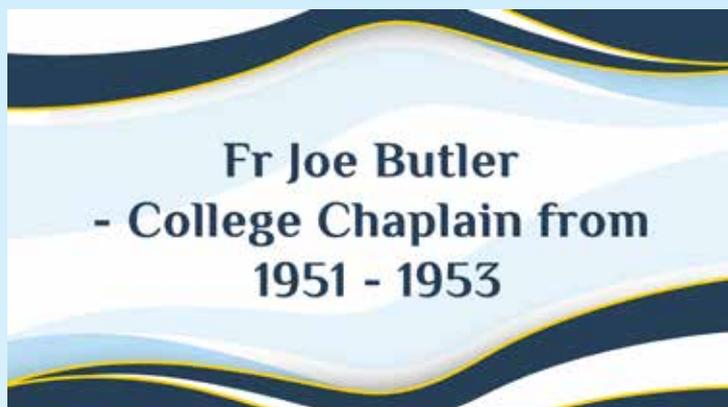
Selection Panel, was a Board Member of a large Community Housing Organisation which was a registered Charity, was a member of the Board of Directors of AEIOU (2007-2011), a committee member for fund-raising for the local Crime Stoppers Program, and a member of the Parish Pastoral Council at St Agatha's Church, Clayfield until his resignation due to ill health.

Don was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in July, 2014 and died in Holy Spirit Private Hospital on 16 December 2014 aged 75 years.

Don was an inspiration to many people in the way he courageously handled his illness.

Glenda Button (Don's Sister)

St Columban's College Voluntary Building Fund
Visit page 19 to complete your donation form



Fr Joe Butler - College Chaplain from 1951 – 1953

Over the years, St Columban's has had a wide and varied assortment of College Chaplains. They have included local parish priests as well as visiting Passionist and Columban missionary priests. All have served the Columban's community well and have been an integral part of the College community.

One Chaplain in particular has stirred the memories of some of the old boys from the early 1950's due to his humble existence and his genuine sense of compassion. Some of the old boys from that era remember him well as to them, he provided a very real example of what it meant to be Catholic.

This chaplain was one Fr Joe Butler, former parish priest of St Christopher's Church Breakfast Creek and chaplain to Columban's from 1951 to 1953.

St Christopher's was situated on Sandgate Road on the site where Leo Muller Toyota presently sits. St Christopher's was opened in 1930 by Archbishop Duhig and also attended to by the Reverend Dr J Doody and the Reverend Father R Thomson. According to the Brisbane Courier dated 13th October 1930, the church was named after St Christopher due to its proximity to Breakfast Creek. There were also mentioned plans of a convent to be built on the site. The St Christopher's parish remained on this site until its closure in 1982 when the parish became part of St Agatha's Clayfield.

Fr Butler was born in Sussex, England in 1885. He was ordained on the 29th June 1911 and took to his duties among the slums of London's East End and was a regular at the police courts providing support to the 'down and outs'. Fr Butler developed quite a reputation in this role as a worker for the downtrodden according to the Catholic Leader of July 1st 1954. Not only was he a tireless worker, but he was a well educated man who studied at the Gregoria University in Rome where he won the Bene Morenti Gold Medal for outstanding academic achievement. His award presented to him by then Pope Pius X, who was later canonised.

In 1925, Fr Butler came to Australia where he became parish priest to the people of the Cleveland and Manly parishes as well as ministering to the local Moreton Bay Islands. The Islands included the then leper colony of Peel Island, the prison island of St Helena and a number of aged care infirmaries on Stradbroke. Fr Butler developed a reputation as a priest for all people.

In 1993 Fr Butler was transferred to Breakfast Creek and again he was asked by the Archbishop to minister to the Brisbane Prison, otherwise known as Boggo Road. Fr Butler continued these duties until his death in 1954. The Catholic Leader of July 1st 1954 reports that prisoners gathered in the prison chapel on hearing of his death to recite the rosary for his soul.

From 1951 to 1953, Fr Butler also took on the role of College Chaplain at St Columban's Albion. A number of his parishioners attended Columban's and Breakfast Creek was more suburban then than the now more industrial area of today. Information received from a number of the Old Boys of that era show what high regard Fr Butler was held in among the students of Columban's. Some of the comments recall Fr Butler as being a Saint who regularly attended the College to say Mass and hear confessions. His Sunday Masses at St Christopher's were popular because they were not too long and the tram stopped right out the front.

According to one old boy of the time, Fr Butler was an Englishman who was somewhat out of sorts with the Irish dominated Brisbane church of the time, however this did not deter him from a life of total service to his people and this had him very well thought of by those who matter, the people of the Church who he served.

Fr Butler died on the 26th June 1954. His funeral was held at St Stephen's Cathedral and Fr Butler was later buried in the Nudgee cemetery.

A truly great contributor to the story of St Columban's College.

Many thanks to Fr Denis Martin, the Brisbane Archdiocese archivist.

Marie MacGinley

Marie MacGinley, P & F Life Member and former Ladies Auxiliary and Tuckshop Convenor. She was also mother to five St Columban's College Old Boys. A truly great contributor to the St Columban's story. Late of Geebung, formerly Wavell Heights and Capella. Passed away peacefully, 25th July, 2015. Aged 88 Years Beloved Wife of Niel (dec'd). Loving Mother of Peter, Yvonne Cronin, Geraldine Young, Angela Mackay, Terry, Paul, Michael and Damien. Grandmother of 22. Great-grandmother of 1.

Michael Colin Hickey

Michael Colin, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, 26th August, 2015. Aged 69 Years Devoted Father, Michael, lovingly remembered by Kacey, Children Sean and Rachael, Grandson James.

Graham Henry

Graham finally lost the fight and passed away on 6 July, 2015. Aged 68 years, cherished husband and best friend of Grace, Loving Father and Father in Law of Travis and Natalia, Amy and Tiel, Leena and Peter and "Pa" to seven lovely Grandchildren.

Sadly, we have also been briefly notified about the passing of the following students/staff:

Name	Alumni	DOD
Patrick Storer	1946	15 October 2013
Alfred 'Harvey' Ward		December 2013
Paul Hanley		17 May 2014
Jack Carroll		6 March 2014
Bolek Cebula		March 2014
Jack Liddy		
Josh Murphy	2009	
Owen Cusack		
Graham Henry	1964	
Michael Hickey	1963	
Tom Grundy		8 February 2014
Justin Kingsford	Teacher 1972-86	28 March 2014
Joe Torrissi	Groundsman	15 April 2014

Back to the nook-shotten isle of Albion

The 50 year anniversary for the Junior Class of 1963, which became the Senior Class of 1965, was marked by a reunion celebration for 36 old boys and 3 teachers in the historic O'Driscoll Building at the former College site. We were thrilled to be joined by much-loved teachers Con O'Sullivan, Barry Hose and Fr. Bill Busuttin.

A moving video honoured the 10 class members now deceased – Noel Allom, Les Baker, Dennis Broderick, Robert Cosgrove, Greg Curry, Kerry Fitzgerald, Laurie Hinton, Greg McLagan, Richard Paluch and brothers Allan and Peter Tayler.

Following a magnificent barbeque prepared on the first floor verandah, the group exchanged old stories (many true) and, even without the aid of too much lubrication (yes, the old boys have slowed down somewhat), re-formed the eisteddfod-winning choir for a memorable rendition of "New York, New York".

A pact was made to visit (in small groups) a number of our old classmates who, for various reasons, no longer have the mobility to attend such functions. They are not forgotten.

If the success of an event is measured in smiles, the reunion on 8th August 2015 was a cracker.



St Columban's class of 1965 – O'Driscoll House 8th August 2015

Back row: Michael D'Arcy, Ray Bailey, Bill Whittaker, Kevin Power, Gerard O'Neill, Dennis Murphy, Rod Fracchia, Jim Ballenger, Jim Griffin, Greg Ryan (Obscured - see inset), Brian Fogarty

Middle row: Kerry Hodge, Michael Silvester, Alan Ferrando, Kevin McMahan, Mike Berry, Bob Stewart, Paul Caesar, Richard Nikola, Ray Donato, John Cividin, Damien Parry, Aaron Clark, Michael Quinlan, Sal La Rosa

Front row: Adrian Lestani, Peter Moore, Alex Spanevello, Craig Duby, Barry Hose, Paul Charlton, Con O'Sullivan, Bill Busuttin, Barry O'Sullivan

Insets: (L to R) Greg Ryan, Gerard Taylor, Tony Downs

Who knows something about this St Columban's College ashtray?



A photo of this ashtray been shared by a friend of Mark Michalski (1988) who had this ashtray included in his mother's estate possessions. It looks commemorative, maybe from the mid 1950's or 1960s?

If you have any information about this or other St Columban's College memorabilia, please get in touch with Margie Hallinan, College Archivist on 07 5495 3111 or by email mhallinan1@stc.qld.edu.au.

You too can make a difference...

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Card Holder: _____ Expiry: _____ / _____

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