



Caboolture

The Eagle

Albion Heights

Edition 3 - May 2010

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From the President St Columban's College Past Student Association "The Soaring Eagles"

It is very pleasing to see the 3rd edition of *The Eagle* come to fruition. It's a great read and the Editor, Linda Upton and her team certainly do a great job as has Lea Rubio with the past editions.

I would like to take this opportunity to let all past students know of the very existence of their association and its aim. A group of enthusiastic volunteers have banded together to rekindle the Spirit of the Old Boys' Association from Albion into its present format to incorporate the true uniqueness of our College. St Columban's, like its patron, has had a somewhat nomadic existence that has seen many changes.

In the past couple of years I have spoken to many past students about the viability of such an association and each time this has been met with enthusiasm and willingness for the group to exist. The next step was to commence an association committee and set tasks for the association to be effective and most of all to be inclusive of all past students. The committee is listed below with contact details should you need to contact any one of us.

At recent Past Students' events many opinions were voiced on issues pertaining to the closing of one campus and moving to another and we as an association are only too aware that Albion is not Caboolture and Caboolture is not Albion. Some things stay the same though and the blue, gold, blue remains a fierce competitor on the sporting field and in the classroom and the College continues to offer an excellent Catholic education for people of all backgrounds in a true Columban spirit.

The main aim of the association is to maintain contact with as many past students as possible and to foster a positive relationship between the present College/students and past students.



Eugene Waugh - President "The Soaring Eagles"

The College website has an excellent past students' page and this is a great way to see what is planned for past students. If you have a read and see something coming up, spread the word.

The association is gaining momentum and I encourage all of you to be involved. If the College does not have your current details please contact Linda Upton at the College on 5433 7379/5495 3111 or on email lhupton@stc.edu.au. Membership is free, you just have to be a past student of St Columban's.

Blue Gold Blue!!
 Eugene Waugh

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1998



1985



1947



1928

From the Principal

It has been an inspiring year over the last twelve months as Principal of St Columban's College. The College has truly lived up to its reputation honouring its Spirit, Tradition and Community. A major aspect has been its ability to draw on its legacy of past students. The current students feel so proud of the past of their College. They love to hear the stories of past students – their lives, achievements and their proud connection with the College.

I am so privileged to lead this College, as the more I delve into its richness of tradition, the more I find heralding its days in the past and the present. This was evident in attending some of the reunions last year. Also we have one year group – 1969 – who have raised funds at their 40th reunion to provide bursaries to the College – what a wonderful precedent to establish and we are very grateful.

In this edition you will find many stories highlighting achievements and initiatives over the last year. Our Year 12 results were impressive; we are now a 1-1 Laptop school; we have a strong commitment to Mission and reaching out to those on the margins; our sporting prowess produced 31 state champions as well as TAS premierships in Netball, Cricket, Tennis, Rugby, Hockey and Basketball across various year levels; band and dance performances, including "A Midsummer Night's Dream Theatre Restaurant" were exemplary; QDU debating finals team performed superbly; over 80 school-based traineeships meant we were the local leaders; and we won an Australian Government Highly Commended Award for ANZAC celebrations - to name some of the achievements.



Ann Rebgetz - Principal

The College is fortunate to have a very committed staff, who also are boosted from the spirit of its tradition, being in the mould of the Christian Brothers and the charisma of Edmund Rice.

It has been wonderful to meet with the enthusiastic Past Students Committee led by Eugene Waugh – I hope you can support them and us, as we all have much to gain from the warmth of such a vibrant communion. I look forward to seeing you at planned events throughout the year.

Ann Rebgetz
Principal



Cyber-Smart StC Students



StC has become a cyber-smart community with all students now able to log on to their own Macbook laptop computers. This initiative sees our students with a headstart in the digital age.

The College's parents supported the move, providing funding in partnership with the National Secondary Schools Computer Fund for the infrastructure required, making the school completely wireless.

...excerpt from The Catholic Leader 7 March 2010

Where are they Now ?



1998



1985



1947



1928

Graham Phelan - Alumni 1941

I was born in 1926 – when cars were still something of a rarity in Brisbane and when families gathered around the radio for entertainment. My father was a shoemaker and my mother ran our household, at Hudson Road at Albion. We were a large family by today's standards (though not so unusual at the time) with five children. My four sisters attended All Hallows' Convent in the city; I was enrolled at StC and started school there in Grade 5.

I began at StC in January 1937. It was a comparatively new school then, having opened in 1928 on the top of the hill at Albion Heights. From the school grounds, we had a panoramic view of the river and the city, with the City Hall clock tower the tallest building by a long way. Our tennis court had the best view in Brisbane. We could also see out to the Great Dividing Range to the west, so it was a great piece of real estate!

The Christian Brothers lived on site and, in those days, most of our teachers were Brothers. They wore thick black cassocks in winter and black trousers and white coats in summer. When I started, Br Bourke was the Headmaster, with Br Molloy taking over a few years later. There were only six classrooms – one room per grade – and all were in one building. There was an enrolment of 245 in 1941 – a far cry from today's number. And of course, it was a boys-only school at that time, from Grade 5 to Sub-Senior (Year 11). Those wishing to go on to Senior (Grade 12) usually ended up at Gregory Terrace or Nudgee College.

I enjoyed my years at StC as I was heavily involved in



Graham wins the 1941 Hop skip and jump event



Graham Phelan Today

sport. Perched on the top of the hill, we didn't have a proper oval, so our home ground for rugby league was the Nundah football ground (in those days, we played league, not union). I was Vice-Captain of the First XIII and we won the premiership, undefeated, in 1941. In the All Schools' athletics, StC won all three trophies on offer; the first time all had been won by the same school. A photo of me winning the Hop, Step and Jump event was even published in the Sunday Truth newspaper! I also enjoyed playing cricket and was a member of the First XI.

When I left school, World War Two was in full swing (Pearl Harbour was bombed in December 1941, starting the war in the Pacific, with northern Australia bombed in 1942). In the next few years, I joined with thousands of others in watching the Australian and American troops all around Brisbane, and I saw American General Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Commander of Allied Troops in the Pacific, travel to his office in the city.

At that time, I was working for the Brisbane City Council, before deciding to study Pharmacy at the Pharmacy College (which is now part of the Queensland University of Technology). After graduating as a pharmacist, I worked in a number of dispensaries in the city before being appointed manager of the BAFS (Brisbane Associated Friendly Societies) Dispensary at Nundah; a position I held until my retirement in 1991. I then did locum work in pharmacies for another seven years.

On reflection, my days at StC seemed to pass all too quickly. I left the school with many happy memories and with a collection of friends who remained so for the rest of our lives. I hope the students of today will finish their schooling with the same sentiments and good fortune.

Graham Phelan

For God and Australia: StC and the Anzac Spirit

Throughout its history, StC has always maintained a strong connection to the ANZAC tradition. The Garden of Remembrance outside the Chapel recalls the names of past students who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defending Australia. It's easy to look at these names and forget that each one has a story. Each name is a real person who lived life to the full, was loved by their family and friends and died long before they should have.

One of these names is William Michael Pitchford. In the 1945 annual school magazine, a section was devoted to the ten past students who were killed during World War Two. Whilst all of these stories are tragic, Bill Pitchford's story is particularly heartbreaking. Born in Bowen, the son of William and Ruby, Bill's family moved to Woolloowin. In the words of the 1945 school magazine, Bill "was one of the best athletes that StC and Queensland . . . ever produced." Upon graduating from StC as an eighteen year-old, Bill joined the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and was assigned to 2/9 Infantry Battalion. This battalion was one of the most famous Australian units. During World War Two, the unit served in Tobruk and Milne Bay before being deployed to Balikpapan in Borneo for what became the last major battle against the Japanese. The battle commenced on 1 July 1945 with the 2/9 battalion being held in reserve. Then, on 5 July, the unit was deployed to clear the Japanese forces from the western side of Balikpapan Bay. On 9 July 1945, Bill Pitchford was killed in action. He was 20 years old. A little over one month later, the war in the Pacific ended on 15 August 1945- the feast day of the Assumption of Our Lady. Bill is buried in Labuan War Cemetery, Malaysia.

This ANZAC Day, we remember Bill's sacrifice along with all those who lost their lives. It is a powerful reminder to all of us of the



College Memorial for 'Old Boys' killed in action

tragedy of war. Along with the other past students who lost their lives defending Australia, Bill will always be remembered as part of the living tradition of our College.



St Columbans Graduates of 1949 with Fr John O'Doherty



Class of '99 reunion



From small things, big things grow

On Saturday, 21 November, just at the StC community farewelled the Senior Class of 2009, we were very happy to welcome back the Class of 1999.

How things change in ten years! In 2009 the College farewelled approximately 160 students. In 1999, only 46 students graduated. Reunited by College Captains Jonathon Carseldine and Lewina Pearson, a group of about twenty students from 1999 returned to have a look around the College that they left behind. They were very happy to see their legacy. In particular, they were happy to hear that teachers such as Judy Keen, Lana Beagan, Cathy Galvin, Michael Dougherty and Gary Curran are still at the College. As a group, they were very impressed with the physical transformation that has taken place in the past ten years. In 1999, there was no Webb building, no chapel and virtually no landscaping.

The Class of 1999 was one of the few classes that have the distinction of beginning their studies at the Albion site and finishing at Caboolture. They recalled, with mixed emotions, the transition from Albion to Caboolture. Current student Monique Locke ably provided hospitality and led the returning students on a tour of the College facilities.

Following their tour of the College, the group continued on to a barbeque at Centenary Lakes where other students joined them. As a College, we congratulate the Class of 1999 on their



Class of '99

achievements and look forward to welcoming them back again, hopefully, for a 15 years reunion in 2014. Scary thought!

*Peter Ivers
On behalf of the Tradition Committee*

Class of '63 reunion

What motivates a group of school friends to stay in touch for 46 years after leaving Year 12? What could they possibly have in common so long after their formal schooling has ended, and they have embarked upon their journey as adults forging their current identities, beliefs, and values? It is doubtful that anyone would be able to clearly articulate just one reason for this, rather, a combination of circumstances that have senior year 1963 looking forward to a dinner together regardless of thinning hairlines, expanding waistlines and fragmented memories.

Like any senior year the environment is punctuated with events of local and international importance. On the global front the assassination of JFK, the first woman in space, The Beatles first album, and the first X Men comic book all seemed like life changing experiences. Each senior year brings with it experiences that in isolation might not mean too much, but collectively, form the conversation pieces for years to come. For this group, discussion always gets around to the building of the pool, the Colana Carnival, the army cadets and endless sporting highlights (some embellished as the years go by).

Naturally not all can attend. Some classmates are deceased, others find it difficult to travel, and others have their own reason for attending. However, even though it is planned for every two years, it doesn't just happen. The group is indeed fortunate to have someone who plans the event and ensures invitations and follow up are taken care of. United by the common bond of being a StC past pupil, it is not difficult to strike up a conversation with someone who you haven't seen for years, did not really know at College, or are genuinely interested in the story of their life.

This year it was interesting in that the Principal of 1963 and the Principal of 2009 both attended as guests. Not too many class reunions could experience that. It was wonderful to be able to breach the generational gap of senior classes of both eras with acknowledgements of the past and the vibrancy of the present.

Reunions are not new and in many cases are infrequent. Seniors of 1963 (and of recent years, interested Seniors of 1962) have dinner functions. The supportive nature of the past is so evident in the interest shown to each other on the night. Finishing time seems to be getting earlier, the venue will not have a record night with the bar bill, but there is never a lull in conversation, always a laugh, and a commitment, God willing, to back up again. That is the spirit of St Columban's College.

*Pat Cunningham
Class of 1963*



Rhys Ward - Alumni 2004

Rhys Ward is no stranger to living an eclectic lifestyle. Since finishing at StC in 2004, Rhys completed a Bachelor of Engineering (Aerospace Avionics) at QUT receiving First Class Honours for his efforts. This led to a job in project management with the Australia Research Centre for Aerospace Automation helping to organise the 2008 UAV Challenge: Australia's largest international aerial robotics competition.

Rhys' other passion for the dramatic arts have seen him perform in numerous theatrical and film productions. Earlier this year he performed in the title role of Shakespeare's Hamlet in Brisbane and has just completed a summer school programme with the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London's West End. His travels also took him from Egypt through Eastern Europe to Scotland. While direction is still unknown to Rhys, it is his goal to return to London to work and study acting full-time.

Fond memories of his time at StC include winning the Rugby Union Premiership in U14s and playing rugby 6-7 days a week. Naturally, he enjoyed studying drama and performing in the College productions of My Fair Lady, Bugsy Malone and Annie. He also relished the tension of the Thursday night debates with his debating team and playing clarinet in the College's various show and jazz ensembles.

Rhys' time at StC taught him to approach life by making the most of

opportunities presented and adopting an open-minded willingness to try new things. At the same time, it is important to recognise the significance of our community and demonstrate this spirit in our everyday life.



Rhys plays Hamlet



David receives the Distinguished Constructor's Award

David Upton - Alumni 2007

David was recognised at the Queensland University of Technology's 2009 Distinguished Constructor Awards held at the recently refurbished Old Government House. He received a \$5000 constructor's bursary from Abigroup. This bursary is on top of the Dean's Scholarship he already receives for academic excellence in Civil Engineering.

David graduated from StC in 2007 with an OP1. He was O'Driscoll House Captain and Captain of the Open A Soccer team in that year. A very proud Columban, David continued training the Year 9 soccer team during 2008

StC Mission

In 2006 StC began investigating a mission/immersion program for our students. Mission programs are an opportunity for people to have exposure to a developing country, to confront inherited cultural assumptions and to cultivate an experience of God.....

Ms Cathy Galvin
Assistant Principal Religious Education

So begins the very special story of the StC Mission Outreach Program which has included visits to Papua New Guinea in 2007 and 2009, hosting youth from PNG for World Youth Day 2008, visiting the Garma Festival 2009, encouraging Year 12 students to assist with technology at a school and construction of a Youth Centre in PNG in 2009, and negotiating to host PNG students in 2010. Please read Cathy's article in our next issue of The Eagle. We always welcome support from the community for our Mission Program.



2009 Students Excel

StC Principal Ann Rebgetz is thrilled with the overall results of the College's 2009 Year 12 students.

"The fact that so many students were in the high OP range with 4 OP 1s and 5 OP 2s reflects the calibre and application of the students" she said.

She said credit was also due to the quality of the teaching and preparation that facilitated their success.

"The College congratulates the students, particularly on their academic leadership in setting the exemplary standards," she said.

These students are outstanding role models, being leaders in a range of areas' they have set the 'bar' high for their peers to follow.

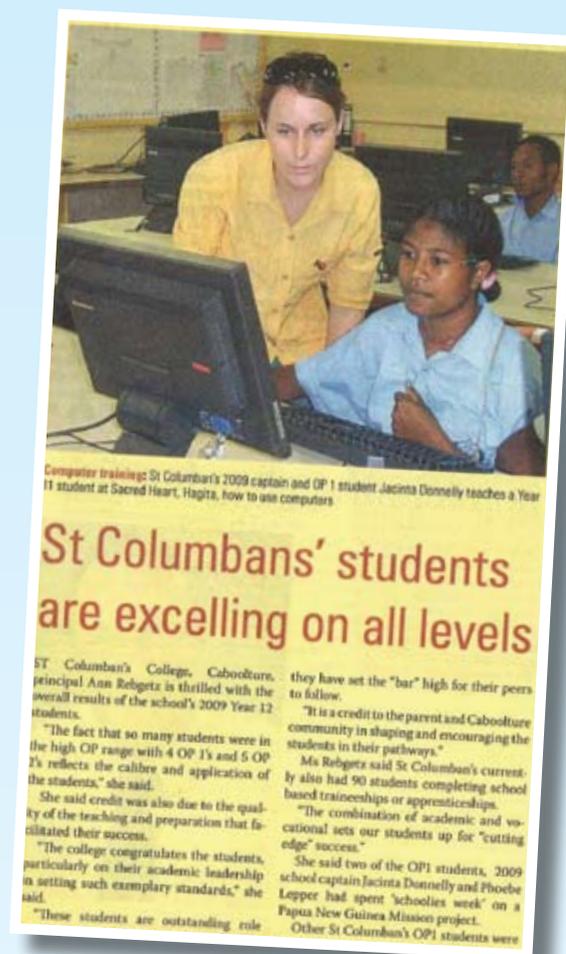
"It is a credit to the parent and Caboolture community in shaping and encouraging the students in their pathways."

Ms Rebgetz said StC currently also had 90 students completing school-based traineeships or apprenticeships.

"The combination of academic and vocational sets our students up for cutting edge success."

Two of the OP1 students, Jacinta Donnelly (2009 College Captain) and Phoebe Lepper, have spent schoolies week on a Papua New Guinean Mission project. Other OP1 students were Blake Scriven (2009 Dux) and Daniel Aitchison.

...from the Catholic Leader 31 January 2010



2010 Cricket Challenge

A break in the TAS cricket schedule seemed like the perfect opportunity to play an Old Boys game. The current StC First XI took on a group of students who had all played for the StC First XI themselves while at StC. Past Students; Jamie Ryan, Matthew Parkinson, Tim Brown, Ben Hayward, Jason Christodoulou and Stephen Foster all turned up to play. To fill the team some of the players from the First and Second XI squads and one much older teacher played as well.

The match began with the Old Boys batting first and they looked fairly comfortable from the start. Jason Christodoulou and Ben Hayward got the side off to a positive start but it was when Jamie Ryan came to the crease that the runs really started to flow. Most batsmen were able to make a contribution but it was the 112 from Jamie Ryan that set up the massive total of 261 from the allocated 30 overs.

This total was always going to be difficult to chase with a required run rate of almost 9 runs an over from the very start of the innings. There were some good efforts by the First XI batsman, especially Dean Riechle and Jason Todd who played some nice shots in their innings. Unfortunately these starts could not be built on and the current First XI was all out 98.

This match is a great initiative and one we hope to continue in the years to come. In addition to this match against some of our more



2010 First XI Team

recent we will be having a game against the Old Boys from the days when St C was at Albion. This will take place in November and should be a great family day out.

Luke Hamilton
Cricket Coordinator

Old Boys' Challenge Cup

In its second year running, the Old Boys' Challenge Cup proved to be a goal-scoring feast as the First XI pre-season squad of 2009 took on the Old Boys, 2008 champions.

Sibling rivalry added to the competition as Year 12s Hayden Griffiths and Bradley Upton took on their brothers Elliott Griffiths and David Upton in the Old Boys. 2008 senior Luke Collier went from playing against his older brother Nathan last year, to playing along side him this year in the Old Boys' team.

The Old Boys took charge early on in the game with Luke Collier scoring their first goal. Before too long the Old Boys were up by two after Daniel Mangano slotted one past the keeper. It was becoming an uphill battle for the First XI as the Old Boys went up 3-0 before the break thanks to Ollie Vellin's fine finish.

Not to be written off, the First XI showed courage as Lachy Wright scored the first goal of their spirited comeback. Tom Clarke then scored the second goal for the Firsts, bringing the score to 3-2 and the Firsts right back in the game.

Old Boys' William Holland found the back of the net to cut short the momentum of the Firsts and extend the lead to 4-2. Elliott Griffiths was determined not to give the Firsts a look in by netting the fifth goal for the Old Boys. As testament to the courage and determination of the Firsts, they battled on and were rewarded with a third goal by James Mann before the final whistle.

Thanks to the lads for a very entertaining match. Spectators, players and coaches enjoyed the opportunity to catch up post-match over a BBQ provided by the P&F and I look forward to seeing our current Year 12s return next year and cross ranks to join the Old Boys.

A big thank you to Tasia Morrison, a current student and qualified referee for officiating the match.

2009 Champions – Old Boys - Final Score – 5 – 3

First XI pre-season squad	Old Boys' XI
Mr Dell Bevan (Coach)	Elliott Griffiths
Tony Murdoch	David Upton
Hayden Griffiths	Fergus Gehrman
Daniel Kent	Barney Wray
Tom Clarke	William Holland
Daniel Archer-Scott	Andrew Wilson
Brendan Howard	Daniel Mangano
Jason Christadoulou	Ollie Vellin
Lachlan Wright	Ryan Honsa
Bradley Upton	Luke Collier
Ben Hayward	Nathan Collier
James Mann	

George Goves, Coordinator



StC 1st XI



StC Old Boys

The Soaring Eagles Noticeboard

- StC Annual Trivia Night – Saturday 15 May, 6:30pm-10:30pm at the StC C Community Chapel, 100 McKean Street, Caboolture
- Soaring Eagles Mass (in association with the StC Open Day) - Saturday 22 May, 9am at the StC Community Chapel, 100 McKean Street, Caboolture.
- StC Annual Charity Golf Day – Friday May 28 at the Pacific Harbour Golf Course.
- Soaring Eagles Golf Day—July 30 at Virginia Golf Club.
- Annual Soaring Eagles Celebration—Friday 22 October, 6pm-9pm at the Irish Club, 125 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane.
- StC Albion v StC Caboolture Cricket Challenge – November TBA.

Please email: events@stc.qld.edu.au or phone: Linda Upton 5433 7379 / 5495 3111 or visit: www.stc.qld.edu.au