



The Eagle

Caboolture

Albion Heights

Edition 4 - Dec 2010

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Visit our website:
www.stc.qld.edu.au



The Soaring Eagles at the Irish Club

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

Welcome again to the latest edition of The Eagle. The past twelve months have been a very active year for your Association. This would not have been possible if not for the willing and very generous contributions of our Past Students and the wonderful staff at the College.

Events have included the inaugural Past Student Golf Day, Past verse Present Students' matches in cricket and soccer, the Past Student Mass in the College Chapel and the (bigger than ever before) reunion at the Irish Club. All these events would not occur if not for the involvement of those who went before and the very involved generosity of those at the College today.

The College Speech night was attended to by Dr Paul Dever (College Captain 1998), the TAS Sports Award Evening by Geoff Rodgers (College Captain 1983) and the Past Student Mass homily by Dr Adrian Farrelly (1966). To have these

past students, all leaders in their chosen fields, involved in present day activities at the College not only promotes our past, but is important for our present students to keep the true Columban's Spirit thriving. For our Past Students to be involved in such events is part of what the Association promotes as engaging the true traditions of the blue, gold and blue with the very unique but ongoing story of the great constitution that is Columban's.

The Association owes significant thanks to the ongoing support from the College staff that are too many to name individually, but special thanks to them.

With time, the Association will only strengthen. Keep an eye out for upcoming functions on the events calendar and get a group of old school friends together for what are great occasions.

Gogra Gogra!

**Eugene Waugh
SCPSA President**



1998



1985



1947



1928

From the Principal

2010 has seen the soaring of the Eagles. The strength of our Past Students Committee, led by Eugene Waugh, has really seen major steps forward in the cementing of bonds between current and past students.

We have had a year of moving ahead as a College – a new Edmund Rice Language and Science Centre, finalist (as a College) in the Queensland Training Awards, and all of our College are now on 1:1 laptops, to name but a few highlights. Our links with the Northern Territory and Papua New Guinea have further strengthened, whilst our students in Youth Ministry are leaders in their field. Our College musical was a great hit! TAS sports have been well supported and again a number of successful premierships were secured.

Our links with our past students provide the building blocks of our future and we really do treasure and pay respect to our enormous legacy. The annual Soaring Eagles reunion at the Irish Club was truly a wonderfully 'warm' event and hopefully you are able to mark Friday 21 October on your calendar now!



Ann Rebgetz - Principal

Many thanks to you all for your support and may the spirit of St Columban always be with you. Happy Christmas and blessings to all

Ann Rebgetz

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The Statue of Our Lady



The statue of Our Lady, which was a feature at the St Columban's College Albion campus, was donated by the McDonnell family in memory of Frank McDonnell (MLA) and his wife, Mary, in 1931. The statue stood outside O'Driscoll Building, and was moved to the front of the Albion campus in 1964.

Frank, a president of Christian Brothers Old Boys, and Mary McDonnell were the proprietors of McDonnell & East department store. They purchased some of the

buildings at our Albion campus. The loan was repaid by allowing McDonnell & East to have a shop on campus.

Frank and Mary's great-grandson, Mike Cosgrove (Alumnus 1976), unearthed the sad story of vandalism of Our Lady that, despite repairs, rendered Her too fragile to be moved to the Caboolture campus. Our Lady was therefore given a burial (metaphorically speaking) on the Albion site.

Where are they Now ?



1998



1985



1947



1928

Perrin Bouna Alumnus 2004

Perrin was not one for academic study, even though he always achieved a passing grade. He was glad to try out a little work experience during Year 11 with motorcycle mechanics and then vehicle mechanics. He was fortunate enough to start a school-based apprenticeship at Wamuran Driveway & Mechanical and completed the four-year apprenticeship in Automotive Mechanical Light Vehicle in January 2008.

He then left Wamuran in February 2008 to work for Hastings Deering in and around Mt. Isa, servicing Caterpillar machinery and later on as diesel fitter. His work for Hastings took him to remote places such as Bedourie, Karumba, Camooweal and Cloncurry. He enjoyed the work, most days doing twelve hours and also loved the outback places.

In July 2008 Perrin competed in Automotive Mechanics at the National Worldskills Competition held in Sydney. He came first which entitled him to enter the International Worldskills Competition held in Calgary, Canada in September 2009.

Due to his remote location, Perrin found it difficult to attend the pre-comp training sessions, most of which were held in Ballarat, Victoria. He came 8th out of 29 other countries competing in his category which was a fantastic result. Perrin was one of 25 young Australians who took part in the International competition covering trades such as welding, plumbing, floristry, hairdressing, tiling, and bricklaying to name a few, with a total of 900 international competitors in 45 skill categories. It was a huge event with all the trades set up at the Calgary Stampede grounds. Competition was fierce and the pressure enormous. It was an experience Perrin will not forget.

In May 2010, Perrin was one of the judges for the next



Perrin - Worldskill National Winner 2008

round of entrants in vehicle mechanics for the National Worldskills Competition. The next International Worldskills Competition will be held in England in 2011. Worldskills is a wonderful organisation for young tradespersons to showcase their skills.

Perrin left in May 2010 with his girlfriend to travel around Australia for a year or so and during this time he will be seeking a place where he would like to live and work permanently. His hobby is pigging in which his hunting dogs seek out feral pigs on properties where they do enormous damage to the environment.

An interesting thing happened to Perrin and his mate who was another Aussie competitor while in Calgary. They had a couple of free hours between events and were walking beside the extremely cold Bow River when an upturned canoe came floating past, followed by a paddle and then a woman. They jumped in and managed to pull the woman to safety.

Vicki Bouna

Katreena Cook – Alumna 2003

As Sunshine Coast Showgirl 2010, Katreena "Katty" Cook is extremely busy preparing for next year's event. Katty plans to encourage current StC students to participate in this fantastic opportunity. The 50 year old quest emphasises local involvement, charity work, deportment, etiquette, dress sense, interview skills and so on.

Congratulation Katty!



Ryan Wilkins – Alumnus 2008

It was very inspiring for our Year 12 students to watch a past student represent the Hilton Hotel in cookery at the National Worldskills competition which was held at the Brisbane Convention Centre this year.

Ryan was offered an apprenticeship with the Hilton following his Year 11 work experience. His passion for cooking has resulted in some remarkable achievements: he placed fifth out of the eighteen chefs at the National Worldskills competition; and the Hilton then nominated Ryan for both the Electrolux Passion for Excellence competition in Sydney and to participate in the prestigious Master Class at the Hilton.

Ryan was runner-up in the highly-competitive Apprentice Chef of the Year competition in 2009, and on the strength of this has been invited to act as guest speaker at the 2010 competition in December.



Ryan Wilkins represents the Hilton

Marissa Bonnici – Alumna 2003

In 2004 Marissa commenced a double degree (Bachelor of Law / Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies, majoring in Chinese) at Griffith University.

Marissa received a Chinese Government Scholarship to study a semester of Chinese language at Zhongshan University in 2005. During this study Marissa placed in the top five students in her grade.

Griffith University awarded Marissa a scholarship to complete a summer program in Chinese language at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou in 2007. In 2008 she was the first Australian chosen as Korean Government TaLK program scholar. This program is aimed at placing university students at school in rural Korea, who are often unable to get the same level of English language education as their city counterparts.

Marissa received the Griffith Award for Academic Excellence in 2009 achieving a GPA of 6.0, placing her in the top 5% of students. Never resting on her laurels, Marissa won the Inaugural Griffith International Humanitarian Law Moot and travelled to Adelaide to compete in the national Australian Law Students' Association competition.

In 2010 Marissa gained an intern position at DR & AJU Law, a firm based in Seoul, South Korea.

Marissa, together with four other university students, is compiling submissions on the issue of cyber-bullying and the possible need for a 'cyber watchdog'. In these submissions,

they are considering both legal and alternative solutions for punishment and most importantly, prevention.



Marissa and a colleague in Korea



Tyrone Jost addresses the St Columban's community

the loss of those brave soldiers who fought to preserve our nation's safety in times of world conflict. War affects the lives of so many, and still to this day, we reflect on those who gave their lives for what we have today. As mentioned, I too was a student here at StC, and graduated in 2007. Straight after leaving the College, I entered the Royal Australian Navy Officers College at HMAS Creswell, south of Sydney. It was here I did my officer training. I left the permanent navy in 2008 to commence my studies in business and maritime logistics management through the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania. I am currently serving as a Training and Administration officer at TS Onslow, Caloundra. Next year I hope to resume my career in the ADF as a Supply or Training Systems Officer.

No matter where you find yourself serving, you still wear the uniform with utmost pride, as you are representing the same organisation as those brave men and women who served many years ago. I find as a past student, the College motto of Spirit, Tradition and Community has been relevant to my life, especially on this day..... Even today, almost a century after, we still have men and women putting their lives at risk in defence of our nation, in defence of us, making sure that we are safe to enjoy the freedoms we often take for granted every day.

The valour of those people who we righteously commemorate, remember, thank and commend on this day is clear. From the bottom of our hearts, we will remember them, Lest we forget!

Tyrone Jost – Alumnus 2007

ANZAC Day Address (excerpt)

It is with great honour I stand before you on this day. It is truly rewarding to see this community coming together to commemorate

Past Student Achievements

Congratulations to the following past students of St Columban's College on their outstanding achievements as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Morgan Kunde (2008) | Distance Education Study Support Scholarship |
| Blake Scriven (2009) | QUT Dean's Scholarship in Engineering |
| Justin Foster (2009) | QUT Equity Scholarship |
| Stephen Foster (2009) | QUT Equity Scholarship |

- Phoebe Lepper (2009)
Nicholas Piva (2009)

JCU Entrance into Medicine
Six month internship with the general manager setting up a hotel in Pucket, Thailand

Inclusions for this section are welcomed, please email events@stc.qld.edu.au

Do you have a story to share?

It is heart-warming and inspiring for today's students to listen to the stories, success and adventure of the many past students who have attended our College. We have had some wonderful guest speakers this year including Paul and Yasmin Dever (1998), Nathan Costin and Annyse McLaren (2006), Rando Nicholosi (1985), Laurence Taylor, Very Reverend Dr Fr Adrian Farrelly, Geoff Rodgers (1983) and George Minehan (1967).

We sincerely thank these people for giving their time to foster the well-being of our current students.

If you have experiences to share, please contact the College Past Student Association events@stc.qld.edu.au. We'd love to hear from you!



Paul & Yasmin Dever (1998) at awards night

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. It is about being with the people of the developing country, listening to their stories and sharing a part of their lives. Our aim was to build relationships with the community, not have a once off experience.

Well, two College staff, one Catholic Mission staff and eleven students were the first group to go to PNG in the September holidays in 2007. It was an incredible experience. We were in the Milne Bay province in the Alotau diocese where we were treated as honoured guests. The welcome we received was overwhelming. There were many highlights including the twelve hour boat ride from Watuluma back to Alotau that turned in to seventeen hours in very rough conditions! PNG certainly is the land of the unexpected!

We formed some wonderful bonds in this first trip. We knew that when we visited, it was our intention to host some of the Papuans back here in 2008 for World Youth Day. We hoped to host about thirty people but we ended up with around 85 visitors! Fortunately this is a wonderful College community and everyone dug deep with warm clothes and hospitality for the Papuans. We had a couple of nights where the classrooms became dormitories before the trip to Sydney which was a life changing one for many of us. We were all impressed with the deep faith of the Papuans and their reverence for life and community.

In 2009 we again visited PNG with a different group of Year 11 students and staff. Again, it was life changing. One of the students wrote in reference to the trip: Since coming home I comprehend more of the injustices of the world and I want to be involved in change. This desire to be involved in change, and the awareness of the conditions of the majority of the people in the world, are major benefits that we see arising from the immersion program. We learn so much more from the community than we give to it. It was this desire to give that caused the development of an off-shoot program, and in November 2009 a group of Year 12s and past Year 12s went to PNG to help with technology at a local school, and assisted with the building of a Youth Centre. This group of students included three who were in the first group to go to PNG in 2007, and four girls who wanted an alternative Schoolies experience (including 2009 College Captain, Jacinta Donnelly).

2010 has just seen us extend our relationship with the Northern Territory,



PNG immersion trip

after the 2009 and 2010 trips to the Garma Festival. The StC Community donated \$10,000 worth of toothbrushes and toothpaste to take to community schools.

Recently, members of the StC community welcomed PNG youth, leaders in their chosen fields, to live and gain work experience in our community. This experience included teaching, building, nursing, cooking and Catholic ministry.

The benefits to our students of this relationship building are unlimited. It allows our students to see the lives of one of our closest neighbours. We see the many things they do not have, but we also see the depth of relationships and the contentment that they do have. This helps us develop hearts full of gratitude for our opportunities here in Australia and particularly at StC!

Cathy Galvin
Assistant Principal Religious Education

Excerpts from reflections from our PNG visitors:

Genevieve: I loved renewing friendships with students and staff who spent time in my village last year in PNG. I also built new friendships and gained a lot of confidence in my leadership skills..... I also benefited from spending time at the nursing home and learning from the nurses over at the Caboolture Hospital.....Dr Pat has been so helpful to arrange so many medical supplies that I am taking back to my health centre. I am also very grateful for the donation of linen cloths to wrap the babies in when they are born.... Liz gave me a head torch to take home, so I will now be equipped to deliver babies in the middle of the night.

Matilda: I have really enjoyed my time working in the canteen. I have gained more recipes and learnt how to cook lasagne and many dishes that I have never seen before. In my village we have no power so I am very grateful to Kym and Tracey for showing me how to prepare meals and cakes that would work well in my village.

Susan: I enjoyed speaking in the classrooms with the students. Over the three weeks I gained confidence and courage to be proud of my culture and my community.... Our rich faith, sense of community and compassion for others are the core beliefs from where I live in Milne Bay...in PNG not all children have the opportunity to complete education past grade 8... it is my dream to go back to school to complete grade 7-10 so I can follow my calling to become a nun.



PNG immersion trip



PNG immersion trip

William: In PNG I am a primary school teacher so I was really excited to spend the majority of my time at St Eugene College, working in the Prep and Year 4 classrooms.... Jason and Melissa gave me a very heavy box to take home that they filled with resources for my school.

George: Mr Garry gave me great support and helpful knowledge on the construction site. I learnt about many new tools and experiences about building that I will never forget..... showed me how to build houses in Australia.

Excerpts from reflections from StC students who went to Garma 2010:

Jeffrey Harvey Yr11: ...I have come to learn that I am blessed with so many opportunities in my life... I have returned wanting to work harder so I don't take these opportunities for granted. I have seen people who lack material possessions, yet they still take and love what they are given.

Odette Pryor Yr11: For me the whole Garma experience made me think really seriously about, not only Australian culture and

heritage, but also my own culture and heritage.

Matthew Bonner Yr10: I was thrilled and touched to have learnt about my indigenous heritage and how I can help. I was especially touched when the young indigenous kids taught me some of the native tongue. I have learnt that there are things in my life that I take for granted such as the internet, mobile phone, food, water and even living in a house. I know that I don't need everything. I am a changed person....

Zachary Waller Yr10: The thing that mostly impacted upon me was that I connected with my Aboriginal culture and voice. Before I went to Garma I knew that I had an Aboriginal background but never really considered myself an Aboriginal.

Shelbi Gixti Yr11: They were happier and spiritually richer than any person I have met back home.

Aidan Bernard Yr11: ...before I judge I will stop and think about that person, who they are, what they have faced and be more understanding of people's needs. I also learnt that everyone needs and deserves an education.



Garma 2010



Emma Burgess at the Garma Festival



PNG visitors 2010

Edmund Rice Centre Opening

The opening of the Edmund Rice Centre at our campus was welcomed with open arms. The Language and Science Centre was funded through the Building Education Revolution Program through the Australian Government. The naming of the centre was especially significant, as it recognised Edmund Rice, founder of the Christian Brothers and his legacy. The centre is designed based on a cultural immersion model of learning, and the charisma of Edmund Rice and his passion for "education for all" will underpin its operations.

Fr Graham Gatehouse (1958-64) presented the opening mass. Many distinguished guests attended including Mr Chris Smith, Director of Identity from Edmund Rice Education Australia, and we were honoured with the presence of Br Tim Scott, Br Brian Grenier (Principal 1977-78), Br Ted Walker (Principal 1983-84), Alain Sauvage (Principal 2001-08), Michael Harkin (Principal 1990-97), Pat O'Shea (College Historian), Mark Shakhovskoy (Past Deputy Principal), and John Hennessey and James O'Connor (Past College Business Managers). Unfortunately Ray Whiteman (Principal 1962-66) and Chris Branson (Principal 1998-2001) were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

It was wonderful to see past students and past staff attend this event, which included an opening mass and delightful food and beverages kindly produced and served by StC Hospitality students and staff. All guests were greeted to vocal and instrumental performances and artwork displays by the current students.

Thank you to Br Tim Scott for his donation of the framed icon of Br Edmund Rice.

Linda Upton
StC Alumni Officer



Principal Ann Rebgets with Senator Mark Furner at the opening

The Soaring Eagles Date Claimer 2011

School Resumes

StC Open Day (tours of the campus & archives),

Past Student Mass, TAS StC v CHAC

StC Charity Golf Day

Eagle Publications

StC Careers Expo

Past Students' Golf Day

Past Students' Race Day

Soaring Eagles Reunion

StC Awards Presentation Evening

Tuesday 25 January

Saturday 21 May

Friday 27 May

May & November

Tuesday 19 July

Friday 29 July

To Be Advised

Friday 21 October

Wednesday 26 October

Please check the College website www.stc.qld.edu.au for current information and to update your contact details.

Reunions

Class of 1979

All Past Students

Expressions of interest for a reunion in 2011

The Irish Club, Friday 21 October 2011, 6pm-9pm

Please email events@stc.qld.edu.au and we will forward your email to your reunion coordinator. Please let us know if you are planning a reunion.

Story of Albi



Swimming Carnival 1983

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



Unveiling Albi at 2007 Formal

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, College events and represented StC at this year's MMM Running of the Mascots at Doomben (proudly worn by current teacher Andrew Skinner). What a wonderful thread this weaves through the history of this wonderful college that is St Columban's!

Linda Upton – Alumni Officer

If anyone has the words and music for the College Song, please contact us.

Class of 1990 – 20 Year Reunion Wrap-Up

A great night was had by all those who attended our reunion at Brothers Rugby Union Club. We thank the roughly 30% of the 1990 Seniors who came along. Unfortunately some couldn't make it due to work or family functions, but it was great to catch up with the guys whom I still see sometimes, as well as guys whom I haven't seen since we finished aeons ago in 1990.

In closing, I can only say that each and every Past Student class should hold a reunion. It is always good to see how far we've come and where we are going!

Gerard Wylie
Alumnus 1990



Soaring Eagles Reunion 2010

What an exhilarating experience it was to share a reunion with over 200 Past Students from both StC Albion and Caboolture campuses. The students included Alumni 1932 to 2004. Wow... some great stories were shared and lots of raucous laughter abounded. This was the first time that a brave group of 2004 ladies fronted to help celebrate... and they did us proud!

A couple of hobby-horses made their appearance and a relay of jockeys was arranged. The race brought raucous laughter from the crowd... a big hit!! We are hoping to have a 'breeding program' to increase the number of contestants at next year's event.

A wonderful atmosphere of friendship prevailed, with so much excitement that the bar tab was extended.

A huge thank you to Eugene Waugh (President SCPSA) for keeping the night flowing, to Rando Nicolosi (Vice-President SCPSA) for

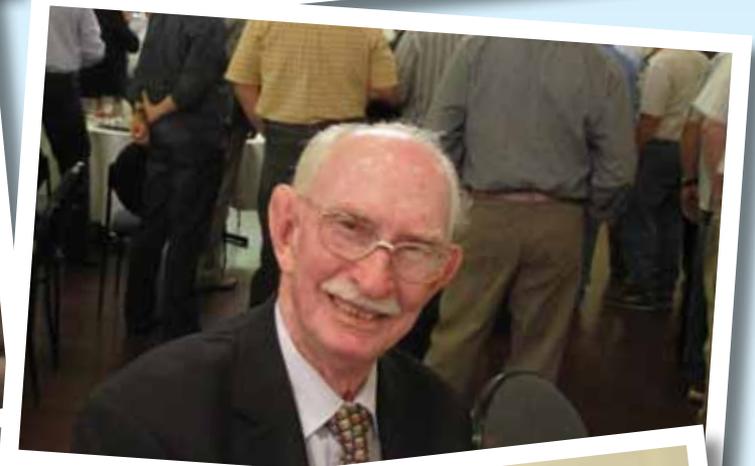
helping me lug all the memorabilia back, to Chris Ward (StC Archivist) for all her wonderful displays, to our wonderful staff in attendance including Ann Rebgetz (Principal), Frank McCullagh (Deputy Principal), Cathy Galvin (Assistant Principal Religious Education), Mike Connolly (Assistant Principal Senior Phase), Louise Seaton (Business Manager), Kris Johnson (Molloy House Coordinator).

Most of all.... I'd like to shout out a huge THANK YOU to our Past Students, of whom we are so proud! You embody the Spirit and Tradition of our College.

Linda Upton
Alumni Officer

From Br Tim Scott:I had a great night catching up with past students and their spirit and obvious pride in the school, both old and new, was easy to see...





Old Boys' Cup Challenge 2010

Old Boys 7 v First XI 4

For the many who didn't rise early enough to make it to StC for the First XI hit out against the Old Boys, you missed a game that put many a match from the recent World Cup to shame!

If Old Boys conjures up images of walking frames and oxygen tanks... well... youth sprang eternal!

The match itself was a splendid affair with the Old Boys taking an early lead and our Firsts equalling only to go 2:1 down at half time. Plenty of skill, speed and determination was on display with the score going to 2:2 early in the second half then 3:2 and 3:3 a short time later. The Old Boys put in a three goal spurt but, to their credit, the Firsts didn't let their heads drop: the intensity was still there. A final goal to both sides resulted in a 7:4 score line to end what was a most entertaining game, played with Columban Spirit and humour.

Well done to all players for their participation and sportsmanship. A big thank you to George Goves for organising the Old Boys; to Les and Suellen Conroy and Michelle Wust for cooking the BBQ; and Tasia Morrison (Yr11) for refereeing the game.

John Clarke
First XI Coach
Reuben Pather
Soccer Coordinator



Back Row (from left): Elliot Griffiths (2008), Ryan Honsa (2004), Daniel Mangano (2006), William Holland (2007), Joel Bruckner, John Clarke (First XI Coach), Travis Russell, Patrick Burden, Samuel Walkerden, Douglas Robb, Joshua Prince, Jack Krohn, Dean Reichle, Rhys Hartley, Alex Mitchell and Charlie Shaw.

Front Row (from left): David Upton (2007), Dell Bevan (2009), Ben Hayward (2009), Barney Thomas (2006), Chris Jones (2003), Kevin Reeks and Alex Good.

Absent from photo: Andrew Wilson (2004)

Innaugural Past Students Golf Day



An enthusiastic group of Columban's gathered on a fine and sunny July day for the inaugural St. Columban's Past Students Golf Day at the Virginia Golf course, just down the road from the schools old playing fields at Banyo. There was a great variety of age groups

and abilities represented with past students ranging in years from 1961 to 2007.

The competition was played on a four ball-best ball event with 1989 alumni players Tim Kelly, Clem Piscitelli, Brock Sherman and Dan Watkins taking out the Jack Woodward Trophy, named in honour of 1928 Old Boy, Columban's stalwart and our inaugural Old Boys President. Nearest the pin awards went to Steve Stanton (12th), Tim Kelly (14th), longest drive to Steve Stanton (18th) and straightest drive to Peter O'Malley (13th).

Next years Past Students Golf Day will be on Friday 29 July, so get a group together for what is a great day out.

The day was supported by Ascent Wealth Management, Commercial Freight and Logistics Pty Ltd and The Mango Hill Tavern and a big thank you to the Past Students from these companies whose contributions added to the success of the day.

Also a big thank you to Andrew Halliday and staff, from the Virginia Golf Club, for all their friendly assistance.

Eugene Waugh