



Caboolture

St Columban's College - Past Students Newsletter

# The Eagle

Albion Heights

**Edition 5 - Jul 2011**

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*We sincerely apologise if there are discrepancies with your contact details, however we have had serious issues with our Past Student database. Please log onto the College website [www.stc.qld.edu.au](http://www.stc.qld.edu.au) to update your contact details.*

*Thanks to Terry McCarthy for assistance in proofing.*

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**View The Eagle Online**

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

*Welcome to the latest edition of the Eagle.*

Being the first newsletter for 2011, I must take this opportunity to welcome all the new members of the Association from the class of 2010. I encourage you all to take part in Association functions that are planned throughout the year as it is not only a good way to keep in touch with your classmates, but also a way to connect with a wide and varied group of Columban's from the past.

These newest members of the Association become part of the ever evolving story of StC, a school with a unique and eventful history. Unique to a point where it would be hard to imagine another school in Queensland that has experienced such change, yet the school

still not only exists, it thrives.

2011 is shaping up to be another good year for the Association with many functions planned. All details of these functions will be on the College website or posted in the Eagle.

If any assistance is required to promote or advertise reunions, do not hesitate in contacting the school or the Past Student Association committee.  
 Blue, Gold, Blue.

**Eugene Waugh**  
**SCPSA President**



*Students depart for Garma Festival, Arnhem Land, NT with supplies of toothpaste and toothbrushes in support of Oral Health Programs*



1998



1985



1947



1928

# From the Principal

The College strives from strength to strength. Having undergone a recent external validation and coming through with very positive commendation from panellists, including our Executive Director, Mr David Hutton, affirms the richness of education that permeates all aspects of the College. The recent ANZAC ceremony, where we honoured 13 of our Past Students who were Vietnam Veterans, proved to be an extraordinary event. Their gifts to us of a framed print of replica medals and memoirs, flowers and most importantly their presence will go down in history. Their responses to this event (found on page 3 of this issue) aptly sum it up.

This event shares the strength of character of our Past Students and their inspiration to our current students. It is from these links and relationships, that we can all grow and feel the real depth and resilience of the true St Columban and Edmund Rice Spirit, Tradition and Community. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events, and in particular at the Irish Club Reunion.

Take care and blessings

**Ann**



**ANZAC Ceremony**

## *A little bit of history leaves StC*

StC Archivist, Christine Ward, has tendered her resignation from StC to take up a position with Gregory Terrace.

Christine has been central to the gathering, preservation and cataloguing of both Albion and Caboolture campus archival materials. Her dedication to this endeavour and passion for the history of StC will be sorely missed by all. Many will remember seeing her generous smile and appreciated her caring assistance during our Past Student activities, including our annual Soaring Eagles Reunion and College Open Day.

We sincerely wish Christine success and happiness in her new career path.



**Chris Ward**

### **Introducing Margaret Hallinan**

We warmly welcome Margie, who has kindly taken up the post of Archivist at StC along with her position as Library Aide.



**Margaret Hallinan**

## Vietnam Veterans Officially Honoured by St Columban's College

It has been 50 years since they walked the hallways adorned with the StC crest and motto, "For God and Australia", but on Tuesday 12 April, 12 StC past students who served in the Vietnam War and one World War II veteran who was a past staff member, returned to the College to join with the StC community as they honoured those who served our country at the annual ANZAC Day Liturgy.

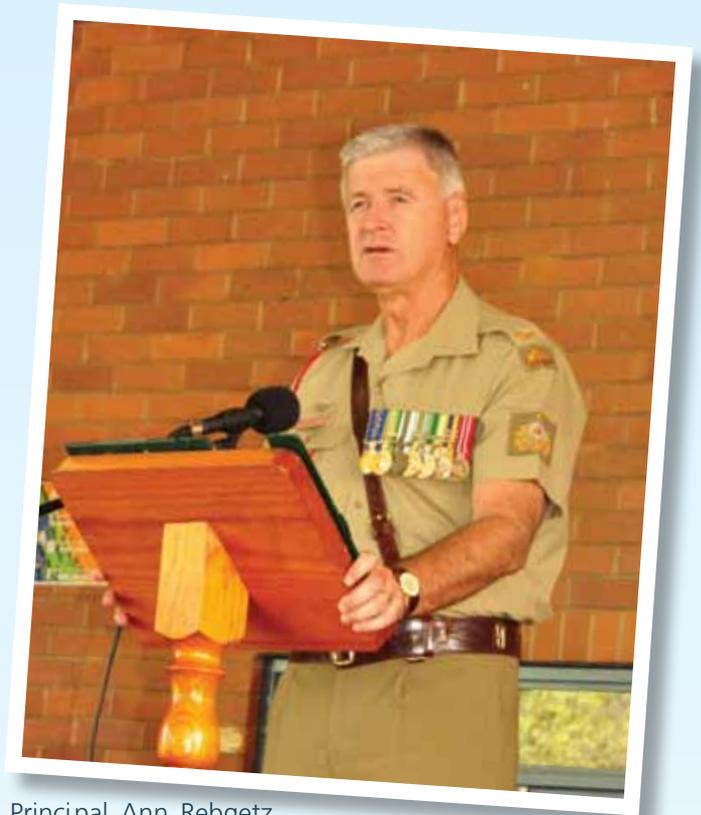
This special occasion provided the current students of the College a glimpse into the amazing sacrifices that their fellow students from years past made for their country.

Former student Charles Bartkus, who flew in from Rockhampton especially for the day, commented that the ceremony was a very special and wonderful occasion and thoroughly enjoyed reuniting with former classmates and battalion comrades.

Warrant Officer Class One Michael Caughey, OAM, addressed the assembly and captivated both students and staff with his recount of his role as Regimental Sergeant Major for the exhumation and return of the Australian Unknown Soldier from France and Belgium in 1993. Vince Webb a current Academic Coordinator spoke of his family links to World War I and the connectivity of us all to our ancestors' bravery.

Students carried hand-made white crosses through the centre of the assembly representing those past StC students who were members of the Australian Defence Force who had died whilst serving their country. These moving tributes to the fallen soldiers were then placed in the College's Peace Garden for reflection. The Last Post was beautifully played by Year 10 student Scott Holloway.

StC Year 12 student Ben Shumack read the poem 'The Lonely Forward Scout' at the assembly, a tribute to fallen soldier Ray Kermode who was killed in action.



Principal Ann Rebgetz spoke of their courage in adversity in facing the war, but also in their return to Australia. All have had to deal with the adjustment to society, which was challenging. The students were urged to think of their futures and take strength from the heroes who were present amongst us. These men were the real heroes as they were willing to risk their lives for our country.

At the end of the proceedings the veterans were welcomed on to the stage to receive a gift and received a standing ovation from the entire College Community. Many a tear was wiped from an eye.

As Kevin Quinn a proud Veteran wrote let me say – it was just great. Approximately 12 of us (Vietnam Vets) and we were given the VIP treatment. We were spoken of as 'heroes' . My God. A bit different to what happened on our return home from Vietnam.

After the formalities we were stood on the stage where the entire school students and staff clapped us. How could I not have tears falling from my cheeks.

Not only was I proud to be a Vietnam Vet, for the first time ever; I was also proud to have been a Columban's kid. And it only took 68 years.

With all that was done for us (lunch also) a 'thank you' just isn't enough. But, all I can say is thank you.

That is the first time my Vietnam Service has been



# ANZAC Day 2011

acknowledged. When, at long last, a welcome home march was given to Vietnam Vets. It was held in Sydney. I was unable to attend as I was on duty at Brisbane Airport.

A highlight of the ceremony was when both former and current students joined together for a StC War Cry.

The College was very grateful for the presentation from Veteran Terrence Fogarty of beautiful flowers and gift of a framed replica of the medals, inclusive of 3 Memoriams and photos of those killed in Vietnam – William John Ashton (22), Dayle Morrison (22) and Thomas Suter (21). Thanks must go to Terence Fogarty for being instrumental in organising the attendance of the veterans for this momentous event at the College.

## Past Students / Veterans in Attendance

Charles Bartkus  
James Baxter  
Patrick Cunningham  
Terence Fogarty  
Paul Gallagher  
Gerard Loth  
Dr Graham Maynard  
Gerard O'Neill  
Lionel Outen  
Kevin Quinn  
Maurice Maunsell WW 11 (past parent & staff)  
Brian Hodge  
Bruce Kent



## StC Past Student Servicemen/Servicewomen Register

We have been asked to keep a record of Past Students who have served in the armed forces. . Past Student and Vietnam War Veterans, Terry Fogarty and Kevin Quinn will be heading up this project with the assistance of the StC Tradition Committee. If you, or someone you know fits this criteria please email [events@stc.qld.edu.au](mailto:events@stc.qld.edu.au) . Please supply name, commission, alumni and current contact details.



Past Student 'Diggers' return to StC for ANZAC Mass



# Past Student Mass & Open Day

A very moving Mass was presided over by Fr Wrex Woolnough (St Peter's Caboolture) who reminisced many moments from both the Albion and Caboolture campuses. Fr Wrex kindly filled in for Fr Graham Gatehouse who had taken ill. Heartfelt thanks to Cathy Galvin (Assistant Principal Religious Education and Identity) for coordinating the Mass, to the current student leaders who paid their respects to those who have gone before, and to the StC Liturgy Band which was led by Jillian Ewbank (Cultural Coordinator).

Following the Past Students' Mass on Open Day, the intimate but enthusiastic group of past students enjoyed morning tea whilst reminiscing about their days at StC Albion and Caboolture. It was enjoyable to see old mates - and in some cases fathers and sons - lost in the memorabilia that was on display from our archive collection.

The College Register was yet again a big attraction as the men searched for their student entries and those of brothers, relatives and friends. One particular gentleman found his name, along with his brothers' - one of whom was killed in Vietnam and honoured at our recent Anzac Day celebration. He was thrilled to see his brother's picture on display with medals in the library.

I had many requests from the men asking for Year Books from their



years at the College. It was wonderful to hear their discussions about obviously wonderful school-day memories.

On a personal note, this is my first year as the College Archivist, and I would like to express what a lovely day I had. I also had brothers, cousins and uncles who attended the Albion campus and I was able to catch up with some of their friends. It is very obvious still today, the Spirit that is St Columban's.

As the history of StC comes to life through the College Archive, we are constantly searching for memorabilia and anecdotes to expand the collection. If you have anything to include, or stories to relate please make contact.

Past Student Association Raffle Winners: Daley Suter, Paul Galvin and David Upton. We raised \$455 thank you.

**Margie Hallinan**  
College Archivist

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## Recent Past Student Achievements:

Congratulations to the following StC Past Students for their outstanding achievements as follows:

- Emma Blanch (2010):** QUT Vice Chancellor Elite Athlete Scholarship
- Katie Cabrera (2010):** QUT Vice Chancellor's Scholarship
- Jacinta Donnelly (2009):** UQ Academic Scholarship
- Megan Dare (2010):** Music Scholarship
- Michelle Ennis (2001):** See article in this issue

- Sheridan Tanzer (2010):** QUT Women in Engineering Scholarship
- Terrence Morse (2010):** Australian Vocational Student Prize
- Ashleigh Taylor (2010):** Australian Vocational Student Prize
- Josh Ramsay (Yr12):** SE Qld representative at National Schools Constitutional Convention for ATSI students

Inclusions for this section are welcomed, please email [events@stc.qld.edu.au](mailto:events@stc.qld.edu.au) .

# Where are they Now ?



1998



1985



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## *Michelle Ennis – Alumna 2001*

Congratulations to past student, Michelle Ennis 2001 graduate and dux. Michelle has graduated in 2010 as a Doctor in Medicine with First Class Honours at UQ. She also was awarded:-

### **The Australian Medical Association Memorial Prize -**

Awarded to the student with the highest GPA in Years 3 and 4 of the MBBS Program

### **The Dr Elaine Katte Prize in Medicine -**

Was established in 2006 and is maintained by an annual gift from Dr Elaine Katte. The prize is awarded to the student with the highest overall grades of the 4 years of the medical program.

### **The Lilian Cooper Prize -**

Is in memory of Lilian Cooper, the first female registered as a medical practitioner in Queensland. The prize is awarded to the student with the highest overall achievement in the 4 years of the MBBS Program.

### **The Elsie Butler Wilkinson Memorial Prize in Child Health -**

Was established in 1963 by a bequest under the will of Professor Herbert John Wilkinson, professor of Anatomy at the University of Queensland 1936 to 1959, in memory of his wife. The prize is awarded to the student receiving the highest grade in Paediatrics and Child and Adolescent Health rotation.

### **The John Rendle-Short Prize in Child Health -**

Was established in 1984 to commemorate Professor Rendle-Short's contribution to the University as foundation Professor of Child



Health. The prize is awarded to the student with the best results in the progressive summative assessment in the Paediatrics and Child and Adolescent Health rotation.

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## *Jacinta Donnelly – Alumna 2009*

### **Rotary Exchange Student Inspires Others:**

Jacinta Donnelly, College Captain 2009, returned from her year abroad in France on a Rotary Exchange to share her experiences with us. As she wore her blazer, covered with mementos from all the places and countries she visited, she highlighted the broad experiences she enjoyed. Jacinta encouraged other students follow her lead.

Jacinta now speaks fluent French, enjoys French food, has had a year at school in France, travelled vastly, has friends throughout the world and has an impressive air of confidence emanating from the personal growth of this independent journey. Jacinta has also been awarded an Academic Scholarship (\$24000) on her return to study Arts/Law at the University of Queensland.



# Where are they Now ?



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## *Luke Goodwin and Damian Papazian – Alumnus 2007*

Luke Goodwin (English House Captain 2007) and Damian Papazian (Molloy House Captain 2007) have taken time off from University studies to serve with an Army Reserve Unit in East Timor for eight months as part of the International Stabilization Force.

Whilst on deployment they have been able to undertake further field and promotion training, completing the Junior Leaders Course. Doing the Course overseas has brought the special benefits of a very realistic training experience, while still being able to support the ISF Operation.

In the group photo, Luke (centre with stick) explains the details of a mud map to members of his section on the training course. Damien is on Luke's left taking notes.

Being away from the comforts of home, the boys have been sustained by the Care Parcels sent from family and friends, and look forward to coming home to Caboolture in the near future.



## *Brian "Tich" Reid – Alumnus (1940?)*

It is with great sadness that the Brothers Rugby Club advises the passing of Life Member and club stalwart Brian "Tich" Reid.

When Brian "Tich" Reid played his first club game as a fresh-faced lad from StC in the late 1940s, he had no inkling his devotion to Brothers teams would extend well over 30 years.

It was never a career of first grade headlines. He played just a handful of times in the top grade, yet his sterling service extended to over 200 games in the lower grades over more than a decade-and-a-half. He was involved in more than that again as a coach of U18, U19 and lower grade sides.

The plucky little halfback had his nose broken so often that the club doctor told him not to return until he'd finished playing.....for good. "I reckon I broke it nine times. I'd sit in Doc Sullivan's chair and each time he'd stick a thumb up each nostril and push. It bloody hurt," Reid said. "It was still awfully bent until I finally had it fixed." When Reid collided head on with a University forward one day, it was club stalwart, Joe French who helped Reid off to the sidelines with the words, "Enough is enough!"

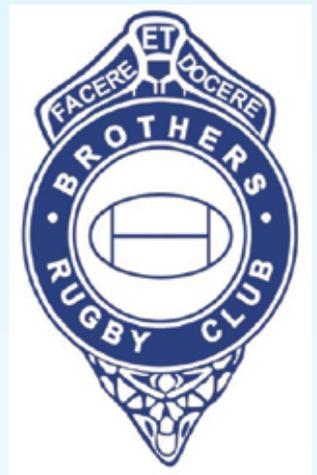
Rather than keep on yapping for cleaner ball from his forwards in his inimitable way, Reid was cajoled by French into directing his energies to coaching.

Tich guided the club's first U19 premiership side in 1964 and was made a life member (1967) even before coaching up another wave of youngsters during a hat-trick of U18 titles (1971-72-73).

It wasn't just seeing the likes of Mick Purcell, Shane Sullivan, Mick Freney, Barry Hogan and Dave Dunworth progress from the under-age sides to the Wallabies which gave Tich a feeling of satisfaction. "I'd get one of my biggest thrills if someone came into those under-age teams as an ordinary footballer and ended up making it to seconds or A grade. I could feel I had a little to do with it. That was my reward," Reid said.

"I know more than 30 years with one club is a long time, but it was just a part of me to be at Crosby. The club was good to me, a lot of my friends went there and they became lifelong friendships I didn't want to let slip."

**Mark Taylor**  
**Brothers Rugby Club**



## StC Students Serve our Country and Community



Not all Past Students stop wearing blue shirts when they leave the gates of StC for the last time. Over the decades, StC has produced many police officers who use the experienced gained at StC in every day of their working life.

Assistant Commissioner Clem O'Regan (alumnus 1977) is testament to the spirit of StC. He is the Officer in Charge of arguably the most

diverse police region in Queensland that covers the major regional centre of Townsville, the coastal areas of North Queensland, west through cattle country to the mining Mecca of Mt Isa. Mr O'Regan was recently asked how StC shaped him into becoming one of the States top cops.

I started in Grade 5 at StC Albion in 1970, completing Year 12 in 1977. I and my two older brothers, Philip and Bernard, were greatly influenced by our time at StC. You don't appreciate what an important part of your life school is until you've been out of it awhile and, if your lucky enough to have children of your own, see them going through the same things you did. (My daughter's in Year 12 here in Townsville.) I learnt a lot about life at StC. I met good and bad and learnt how to deal with them. Many are still good friends – even if only occasionally met.

The Brothers and teaching staff were a dedicated bunch, doing a lot with little. They taught what it is to be Christian in a real working sense. StC taught me that there's more to life than academic achievement (Just as well because I was no great scholar!!) or excelling a sport (Ah the mighty 5th 15) but it was more about service, especially to family and community. So many of my friends, from my time at StC, continue to give so much to their communities and their families. They are teachers, lawyers, judges, doctors, trades people, engineers, senior executives in government and private industry, and many other occupations but so many do so much for their communities from being the heart and soul of the local junior ruby club to leading industrial research.

This idea of service, I suppose, was the great motivator for me to join the Queensland Police Service 31 years ago. I'd given the

seminary ago, but it wasn't for me and found policing. (Poverty and obedience are OK – just ask any police officer – but the celibacy!) I've been fortunate enough now to reach a senior level in the police service. My life still echoes with the lessons from StC – Marching down from the Heights, with our banner of honour...

The StC connection to policing does not finish there, with other notable appointments in recent times. Other achievements in recent times have been Assistant Commissioner Paul Doyle (alumni 1976) of the Ethical Standards Command at Police Headquarters and Superintendent Paul Ziebarth (alumni 1981), the recently appointed District Officer in charge of the Gold Coast District based at Surfers Paradise. Both officers are to be congratulated on their appointments in what are sure to be challenging roles.

Of course with the good stories, there are also the unfortunate stories.

In 2007, Federal Agent Mark Scott (alumnus 1982) was killed on duty in Yogyakarta, Indonesia whilst carrying out duties for the then Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer. Mark was a respected member of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) who had a distinguished career in Australia and abroad having served in Cyprus, Myanmar/Burma and Indonesia. Mark specialised in major drug investigations, counter terrorism and peace keeping roles, having played a major part in the investigation into the 2005 Bali bombings.

His funeral in Canberra was attended by the Prime Minister at that time, Mr John Howard as well as many national and foreign dignitaries. His brother Gerard (alumnus 1981) spoke at the funeral of a 'proud copper' and reminisced of their younger life together having spent many of those formative years at StC.

Our thoughts are certainly with Mark's wife, children and family.

Mark paid the ultimate price for service to his country and community.

Vale Mark Scott.



# Vale Leon Kane-Maguire, 1942-2011

Leon Kane-Maguire was one of Australia's leading research scientists in the specialist field of conducting organic polymers and their properties. His work led to many international awards and the development of several new fields of science.

His pioneering research in nano-materials was balanced by his down-to-earth attitude and a wicked sense of humour. He was made an emeritus professor of the University of Wollongong when he retired last year, celebrating a lifelong commitment to science and education.

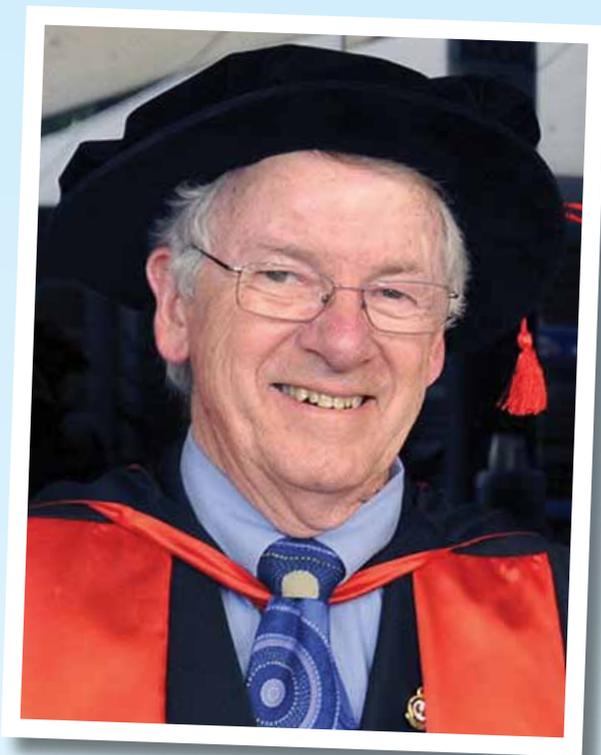
Leon Andrew Patrick Kane-Maguire and his twin brother, Noel, were born in Brisbane on May 4, 1942. The boys were the sons of Noel Kane-Maguire, a clerk, and his wife, Ivy (nee Smales), a dressmaker. Noel joined the RAAF during the war and was killed in action over the English Channel when the boys were only a year old. Both boys showed scholarly aptitude from an early age and went to primary and high school at St Columban's College, Brisbane. They both graduated from the University of Queensland with an undergraduate science degree with first class honours in 1964 and won a university medal.

Also in 1964, on a blind date arranged by friends, Kane-Maguire met Barbara Anderson, who had studied biochemistry at the University and was working in pathology. They married in 1967, the year the twin brothers each took a PhD in chemistry.

Leon Kane-Maguire then did postdoctoral studies at Northwestern University in America, and pursued further studies in chemistry at University College in London and Cambridge University. In 1971, he was appointed a lecturer in chemistry at University College in Cardiff, Wales. He grew to love all things Welsh - the history, language, the scenery, the rugby, the music and the people.

In 1983, Kane-Maguire returned to Australia to take up a professorship at the University of Wollongong. He served as head of the department of chemistry for more than 10 years and as director of the Institute for Molecular Recognition from when it opened in 1990. His passion for science helped to build the University of Wollongong's reputation as a leading research university.

For 15 years until he retired, Kane-Maguire was also a key member of the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute, which he had helped to establish. It focuses on research into electro-materials and bio-



polymers and their application in industry and medicine.

As a researcher, Kane-Maguire was generous in the recognition of his colleagues. His vision and drive were instrumental in helping to secure the funding that led to the establishment of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Electro-materials Science (ACES) in 2005.

Chemistry was not Kane-Maguire's only passion. After his family and science, he maintained a strong association with the RAAF and an interest in war-time aviation and his father's No. 464 Squadron. This led to his lifelong quest to find his father and he and Air Commodore (Retd) Mark Lax co-authored *The Gestapo Hunters*, the story of No. 464 Squadron (1999) and *To See the Dawn Again* (462 Squadron) (2009).

Kane-Maguire also wrote *The Desert Scorpions* (459 Squadron) (2007). In 2010, he was awarded first prize in the RAAF Heritage Awards for *Lost Without Trace*, describing the service and loss of Squadron Leader Wilbur Wackett, the son of Australia's leading aircraft designer, Sir Lawrence Wackett. This book will be published later this year. These books were in addition to the 183 academic publications he wrote.

Kane-Maguire's parting gift to his family was a detailed history of his father's life, completed just days before he died.

Leon Kane-Maguire is survived by Barbara and their children, Andrew, John and Nicole, and his brother Noel, also a professor of chemistry.

**Andrew Kane-Maguire and Bernie Goldie  
reproduced by permission of the Sydney Morning Herald**



## *Bruce Kent Alumnus - 1961*



### *An Interesting Class!*

The Senior class of 1961 produced a number of students who went on to become ensconced in interesting activities. This class was only twelve in number and, of that number, one became a specialist surgeon and another was connected to the NASA Space Program. A third ended up becoming a teacher in Cambodia (and still is) with a fourth becoming a ballroom dancing director/instructor.

Then there was one who skipped into being a surfer, a male nurse, an escort to wealthy divorcees, a hippie, a soldier, an electronic technician, a would-be parliamentarian, a company manager, a taxi driver, a primary/high school teacher and as of now an ESL teacher.

So it goes to show that, even from a small group of students, a variety of futures can evolve!

## *Past Student Guest Speakers*

It is heart-warming and inspiring for current students to listen to the stories of those that have gone before. We have had some wonderful guest speakers this year including Fr Graham Gatehouse, Aleisha Marr (2007), Scott Williams, Jacinta Donnelly (2009) and Anzac Day representatives Charles Bartkus (1963), James Baxter, Patrick Cunningham (1963), Terry Fogarty (1963), Paul Gallagher (1964), Brian Hodge, Gerard Loth, Graham Maynard (1958), Gerard O'Neill (1963), Lionel Outen, Kevin Quinn (1937), Maurice Maunsell (1963) and Bruce Kent (1961).

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](mailto:events@stc.qld.edu.au). We'd love to hear from you!



*Aleisha Marr speaks to our Year 12 girls on International Women's Day*

# Memories of St Columban's Cadet Corp – 1956–57

After several years of 'growing up' through the lower Primary Grades, passing the Scholarship Grade 7 examinations, and years of envying the many activities of the St Columban's Cadet Corp, our Class of '56 finally had our turn to join this 'elite' troop when we entered Sub-Junior (Grade 8 - but it was very clearly as the 'new kids' in the corps).

Our first 'introduction to the Army' was the bus trip to Kelvin Grove Army barracks to visit the Quartermaster's Store and collect our uniforms. This consisted roughly of slouch hat and rising sun badge, a couple of shirts, a couple of pairs of trousers, a webbing belt, webbing gaiters, a great pair of Army boots, a jumper and a kit bag to contain all of these, and probably a few other military issued possessions such as Blanco for cleaning the webbing.

As not too many regular soldiers came in the pint sized versions represented by vertically challenged cadets like myself, I could wear my shirt for a dressing gown. The fork in my trousers would be down around my knees so that I 'waddled' like a Penguin until some 'alterations' could be made to these ill-fitting garments. I was really lucky that my ears stuck out far enough to hold my slouch hat up from making me appear headless. If my hat ever tilted, or was blown too far forward, I was suddenly as blind as a bat making it very difficult to march in unison with the rest of my platoon. It seemed to me that they were the ones always out of step and not me! Why shout at me, I was doing the best I could given my limited visual range was restricted to either the belt or boots of the cadet immediately in front?

Cadet days were generally held on one afternoon each week and thus you got to wear your full uniform, complete with all brass and boots polished, belt and gaiters brushed cleaned with fresh 'blanco' to make them look as new.

Under the lower floor of the original Albion Heights two-storied school was the musty-smelling armoury where all the .303" and .22" rifles, magazines and matched firing bolts were held in racks along with heavy wooden cases containing a number of Bren Guns, Mortars and Mortar base plates. The Armoury was secured behind steel bars and under strict lock and key just like an old western prison in a cowboy movie.

Control of all armoury items was very closely monitored at time of issue for parades and practice. All rifles, bolts and magazines were numbered and matched to a specific cadet so that there could be no mistake as to who was responsible for cleaning and maintenance of every single piece of hardware and who had/had not returned the armament to the store.

There were the usual army drill routines, marching, rifle drills, shouting, bellowing and all the while kicking up a fair bit of dust on the 'parade ground' (the normal playground below the Brother's residence and above the tennis courts). The Cadet Corps had its own Cadet Under-Officers (Senior Year students), Sergeant Major, Sergeants, Corporals and the rest of us first year Privates (the non-commissioned ranks of the latter two were generally selected from Junior Year upwards with a few notable exceptions from Sub-Junior).

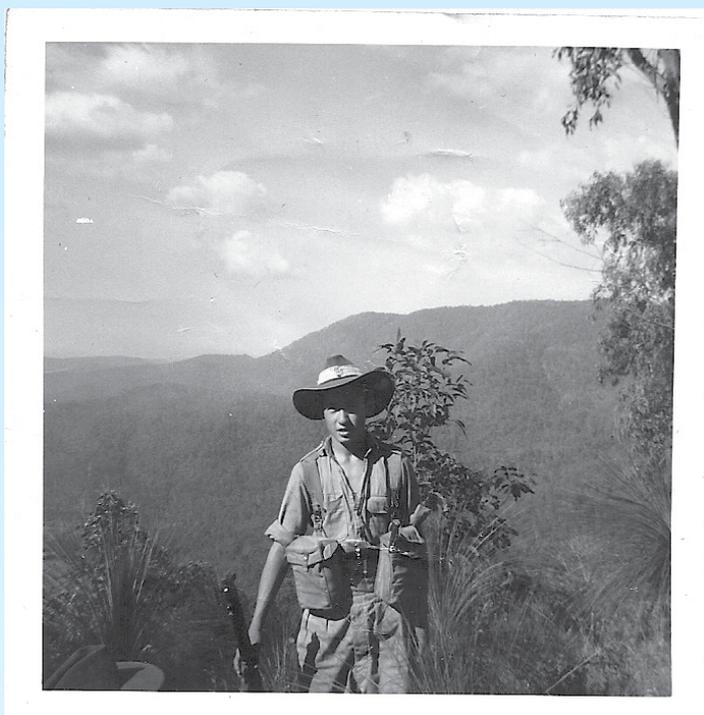
We had a short rifle range of approximately 25 yards beside the tennis court with a wooden and earth mound for the small target sheets. It was very narrow, wide enough for one or two rifleman using .22" calibre rifles only. Rifle firing on this range had priority over playing tennis. So, anybody using the tennis court had to leave for the rifle range to be used. Students often had to walk on part of this target range on our treks backwards and forwards down to Crosby Park for sports days.

Each year, two of the Brothers were given equivalent Regular Army Rank and Commissions of Captain and one Regular Army Company Sergeant Major (CSM) was attached to the school for Cadet days to 'bawl us out' and 'knock us into shape.' Our CSM was an English Regular Army Sergeant Major named Tom somebody-or-other who we all referred to as "Tom the Pom." (We reckoned that he must have done something really, really bad in the Army to have inherited us lot?).

Our first experience of 'real Army life' came with the annual Cadet Corp camps and rifle range days for firing live bullets. Cadet camps were held at either Frazer's Paddock in the Enoggera Army Camp or at the Greenbank Army Camp. Accommodation was either in tents or huts, but in both cases bedding consisted of blankets, pillow and straw-filled palliasses. The huts had cardboard-like walls and no lighting, heating or cooling.

Filling of the palliasses (mattress like bags) was a major event where cadets would take their empty palliasses to an area strewn with straw and fill your bed on a best come/best fill basis; and generally ending in a fight or disaster. If you were there early and managed to get a good deal of straw into your bedding, you did well. If not, it was more comfortable to sleep on the floor. Needless to say there were numerous 'raids' to empty those palliasses of others from your own school platoons, or other encamped school Corps platoons as well. Tom the Pom (who had no sense of humour at all and must have





had his smile muscles surgically removed by the Army) did not look favourably on this activity – particularly after lights out!

Days in camp would be spent on usual Army activities, like mess (kitchen) duties peeling potatoes, washing dishes etc, cleaning up rubbish, emptying rubbish bins, marching, drills, cross-country hikes, crawling through storm water pipes and culverts, ambushing other platoons, visiting the rifle range, throwing 'dummy' (smoke) grenades mixed with frequent additional rifle drills and marching until you satisfied Tom the Pom that you had done a fair days duty (or paid for your sins to his satisfaction) and were covered in dirt, dust, sweat, mud and flies from head to toe!

Many of us would well remember our shoulders being 'kicked' like a mule with the rifle butt the first time we pulled that damn trigger.... I think that personally I went almost as far back, and as fast, as the bullet that went out the front end. I recall Tom the Pom standing behind me with his size 99 boots pinning my spreadeagled boots like a fence strainer post to stop me flying backwards off the mound all the while shouting at me to "hold it firm and steady, breath in, breath partly out, and squeeze the bloody trigger!"

I also recall that, by the time I had fired a few rounds through the .303, I was as deaf as a post and a zillion crickets were singing in my head. I ended up at the Regimental Aid Post (Army talk for First Aid/Hospital) and being kept there for many hours until my temperature and hearing returned to near normal. This was a 'war wound' carried that for the remainder of my life – like Tom himself (and there were no Cadet Pensions to compensate for such injuries).

Then there was the 'luxury' of the Army amenities shower blocks!! Hot water – huh, nice showers – huh, foot bath before you went in and foot bath as you left and no bare feet outside the amenities blocks or Tom would have you shot at dawn or bawled out so severely that to have been shot would have been a pleasant relief.

For many of us, our first Cadet Camp was our first real experience

of firing a heavy rifle, being really dirty all day (and half the night sometimes), and most kids just wanted to break out and head for home; so much so that one daring and brave young cadet could often be heard rendering his own very special lyrics to the tune of the then popular Harry Belafonte's "Banana Boat Song" with the sounds of "Day-o, Day-ay-ay-o, Daylight come and me wan' go home...." wafting through the camp.

If we were lucky, there would be a movie night or two during camp. One classmate recalls that they marched us to the movies one night when they had a relatively hot movie (for the time) called "Ruby Gentry", which faded to black for the suggestive scenes (of course, being good StC boys we didn't understand what was happening). It had an actress called Juliet Jones and the male lead was a young Charlton Heston.

A classmate also recalled that the camp's commanding officer complained to our Corp Officers and CSM that 'their' cadets weren't saluting him when we passed him in the camp. We were more or less told to stay out of his way, but if we couldn't avoid him to make sure that we saluted him.

There were times when we would be issued our .303 rifles to take home - no, not for target practice or to terrorise the neighbours, but in preparation for a day of shooting on one of the military rifle ranges the following day. The rifles did not have the firing bolts in, but still looked quite threatening if you did not know that fact.

One other classmate has reminded me of an occasion, where we were both just somewhere near the school, walking along Sandgate Road, when we passed a policeman (who was not armed in those days). He didn't speak to us, but he did look closely at where the bolt should have been on our rifles. If our walking down Sandgate Road attracted so much interest from the cop, one can only imagine and wonder how other kids fared who had to get on a tram, bus or train while carrying the .303 home! These days, you would be flung into gaol and treated like a terrorist no doubt.

In second year cadets, we progressed to the air-cooled Bren light machine gun (Bren gun) and were taught the basics of its operation and strip, dismantle, clean, load the 30 round magazine, reassemble and change barrels after every few magazine were fired due to the heat build up. At least the Bren gun, which was mounted on its own folding bipod footing, had a pistol grip and would pull forwards on firing and not kick you back as you squeezed the trigger – a much more civilised way of dispatching bullets to do their duty than the .303" rifles. You could select to fire single rounds or automatic mode at ranges from 200 to 2,000 yards.

As I was a 'vertically challenged' cadet in our platoon, I often found it difficult to be seen on certain military manoeuvres (not that I could see too much either with that damned oversized hat flopping over my eyes at the least opportune time!). One kid was a bit of a wag and a very good cartoonist. He did a sketch of our platoon marching single file down into a creek with rifles on the shoulders of all members of our troop. On the far bank of this creek crossing was an officer asking "has anybody seen Reardon?" A close look revealed that there was a gap in the middle of the single-file line of cadets with just the sights of a .303" rifle visible above the water and



**Lieutenant (Brother) D Stewart and Private Peter Reardon at Greenbank Cadet Camp, 1956.**

a few bubbles where 'Reardon' was obviously submerged and using the rifle as a snorkel!

In spite of much of the good, the bad and ugly above, many kids went to serve full time careers in the Services or in the Reserve as a consequence of their experiences gained, for better or for worse, in the St Columban's school Cadet Corp.

### **Recollections of Brother D Stewart**

On coming to StC, as a member of staff, I was appointed to the cadet corps with Br Gardner, my senior officer. Never having been in cadets before either as schoolboy or staff member, this was a new world for me. Fortunately there were two very fine and efficient cadet officers whom I could rely on. One was Under Officer Jim Cleary who later joined the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and was ordained a priest. He later married and I taught with him at the Strathfield campus of Australian Catholic University. A fine man and a good friend.



## *Past Student Bursaries*

StC Past Students have approached StC with a desire to give back to the College via bursaries for current and/or future students of the College. In the true Tradition and Spirit of St Columban and Edmund Rice we are more than happy to assist in this process.

Please fill in the enclosed form and return for the attention of Business Manager, Louise Seaton.

"It has given me the confidence to succeed and opportunities that have changed my life", from a current benefitting student.

The second was the Quarter Master, Geoff Carter who knew his job and was very efficient. He later joined the army, served in Vietnam and as a Major became the Military Attaché in Rome where I met with him and shared stories of Columban days. A few years later, on his return to Canberra I was saddened to hear of his sudden death.

Cadet life had its funny side. While boys were being fitted out with unfitting gear I was trying to get them to get a move on and after a while I spotted a cadet, without a stitch on, standing and gazing into space apparently without a thought or care in the world.

At cadet camp I used to salute the regular army officer in charge but he seemed to ignore me so I gave up saluting him. He then approached Br Gardner to ask if Lt Stewart knew how to salute. Being assured that he did, the Officer then requested that I be asked to salute him each day, which I did with great ceremony so that he could not ignore me.

One day I was left with a platoon of cadets and without an underofficer. I successfully got the cadets into formation, shoulder arms and quick march to a waiting vehicle. We halted in style but I could not remember the order to "unshoulder" arms so I just called out "All aboard" and to a boy they obeyed!

On the rifle range, while our cadets were firing, I was approached by a navy officer who was asking permission to allow his troops to fire somewhat to our left. I referred him to the army regular officer but he would not have a bar of it as I was obviously the senior officer. For better or for worse I gave him permission.

I had only two years at StC, years I enjoyed very much and I still meet with some of the "old boys" but that marked the end of my military career as there were no cadets at St Patrick's Strathfield or at the Teachers College. This was not a disappointment as I was not cut out for military life, not even for the cadet unit!

*Acknowledgment and sincere thanks to Brother D Stewart, my former classmates and Cadet Corp members of 1956-57, Roland (Roley) Bell, Ian Bunce, Owen Deeth, Ken Hall and Peter Vine, for their collective inputs and memory joggers (and many other anecdotes which are not part of this story).*

## *Annuals and Memorabilia*

Ever wondered what to do with College memorabilia and annual publications that you no longer want?

We have some gaps in the Albion annuals. If you would like to donate yours/your father's to the College Archives, please call Margie Hallinan 5495 3111.

# Class of 1980 Reunion



On Saturday 20 November 2010 the StC boys from the class of 1980 celebrated their 30 year reunion at the Transcontinental Hotel. We had a great turnout as you can see by the many handsome faces in the photo. All the guys were in good spirits and there was plenty of reminiscing and banter about the good old days at the Albion campus.

It's amazing how the passing of time can place us all on a level playing field and it was great to see so many reconnect after so many years. There are plenty of success stories amongst the men of 1980 and the good old Columban pride was bellowed out through an outstanding rendition of the War-Cry.

Gogra Gogra!!”

Kurt Marsden



## Class of '69 Bursary

The College would like to thank the Class of '69 for their generosity in initiating this Bursary for St Columban's College. The \$500 Bursary is awarded to 5 Year 11 students to assist them as they complete their studies and to lighten the costs involved with their extra-curricular activities.

In 2010 the Bursary was awarded to Odette Pryor, Shelby Grixti, Brittany Parker, Raymond Serafin and James Griffiths.

Odette Pryor is now a 2011 College Captain. Odette is a swimmer at National level and a musician involved in many areas of the College, who is planning to continue with her music next year at University. Shelby Grixti is involved in many Action groups within both the College and the local community. She actively participates in many sports and is very academic. Shelby wants to study teaching at University next year.

Raymond Serafin is a very academic student currently studying Polish as an extra subject. He is involved in many sports, but his main focus is debating. Raymond plans to obtain a Degree in Business Management and a Double Degree in Advertising and Economics. Brittany Parker is extremely talented in the area of Netball and Touch Football, and has played for the Queensland team for both sports. Brittany wants to study in the area of Physical Fitness after Year 12. James Griffiths is a School based Apprentice with a local Restaurant and is very involved in College community activities and functions. His ambition is to continue on this path to become a Chef.

In 2011 the Class of '69 in their continuing generosity have awarded the Bursary to Rachel Griffin, Evania Pelite, Teena Power, Louis Burden and Simone deSmit.

Evania Pelite is a Queensland and Australian Touch Football player, Netballer and Basketballer. She is a talented scholar and a dedicated student with great leadership potential. Evania's ambition is to be a Physiotherapist.

Simone deSmit is an Australian swimmer who has just recently competed in the Australian Open Swimming Championships, where

she competed against the Australian top swimmers eg. Stephanie Rice, Libby Trickett etc and she came 39th in 100Butterfly, 22nd 200Butterfly and in both relays she came 8th place. She is currently ranked 39th in 100Butterfly and 20th in 200Butterfly. Simone is a good student who works hard to maintain her studies.

Rachel Griffin is an academic student who achieves very well. She has represented the Sunshine Coast and Queensland in both Volleyball and Touch Football. Rachel has also been a member of the College Netball Team and is very involved in College activities. Rachel's aim is to be a Physical Education teacher after she finishes school.

Teena Power is a very talented girl who spends many hours on her sport. She competes at State and National Level in Swimming Free Style and Backstroke as well as playing Netball and competing in Cross Country races. She is ranked 21st in 100 Freestyle, 5th in 50Backstroke and 8th in 100Backstroke in the 15 years National Team. Teena is currently training with Australian swimming elite with the aim of selection in the Australian Swimming Team. She is an excellent student who is very dedicated to her studies. Teena aims to study Biomechanics at University when she finishes school.

Louis Burden is a very talented musician. While he is only in Year 10 he is at Grade 5 Level in Piano. Louis was recently accepted into the "Young Conservatorium" at Griffith which is a wonderful achievement. He is currently in the process of completing his qualifications to Grade 7 with the aim to teach Piano while he pursues his music at University or his dream of studying at the Conservatorium.

The Bursary will help each of these students achieve their goals and pursue their dreams. All of the recipients are very appreciative and grateful to the 'Old Boys' who contributed to this Bursary. From a College point of view these Bursaries do make a significant difference to both the students and their families.

# StC reaches out to flood victims

We were pleased to travel to Gatton on Wednesday to take up 100 packed bags of toiletries and a cheque for \$2000 (making a total of approximately \$8000) to give to the school community to help those affected by the floods. Our College Captain, Odette Pryor and Aiden Bernard along with Vice Captain, Tasia Morrison, Jessica Mercer, Melanie Farr represented us well and were very affected by the Year 7 students and staff sharing experiences. We were taken on a tour of Grantham and were stunned to see the very wide impact of the devastating floods. Many of the houses are gutted or gone, so we (Ms Cathy Galvin, APRE, Mr Les Conroy, APA, myself and other students) felt so pleased that the college community had responded so generously to people, who have been traumatised and now face the slow journey of rebuilding. The following words from Odette aptly describe the impact of the visit.

*"It was absolutely heart-wrenching to begin to comprehend what the people in the Lockyer Valley went through. At the primary school we have been partnered with, Our Lady of Good Counsel, we heard the stories of some of the staff and students who were directly affected by the torrent of water that swept through the neighbouring town of Grantham and lower part of Gatton. To hear a year 7 girl talking about how she had to swim for her life to safety was completely different from seeing footage on a TV screen, and drove home how real it all was. The school secretary then took us on a tour through Grantham, which is still in total disarray three months after the flooding. Simply seeing and hearing the tales from the disaster gave an entirely different perspective and shows the incredible courage of*



*the hardy Queenslanders who are still picking up the pieces."*

We were grateful to the hospitality shown to us by Mr David White (Acting Principal) and the school community. The Year 2 and Year 7 students were very excited to receive so many goodies from those "big boys and girls". I can assure you that our support has meant a lot to this community, where there is still so much hurt. So, thank you to everyone.

**Ann Rebgetz, Principal**

## Date Claimer 2011

**Soaring Eagles Reunion:** – The Irish Club: Friday 21 October  
**StC Awards Presentation Evening:** Wednesday 26 October  
**Last Day of the School Year:** Friday 2 December  
**Past Students' Race Day:** postponed to 2012

Please check the College website [www.stc.qld.edu.au](http://www.stc.qld.edu.au) for current information and to update your contact details.

## Reunions

**Class of 1979:** Expressions of interest welcome for a reunion in 2011.

**Class of 1962 & 1963:** Friday 29 July Fratelli, Brothers Rugby Club

**Class of 1991:** Saturday 5 November, Queens Arms Hotel  
 3:30pm - late

**Class of 2001:** Saturday 24 September, venue to be advised, 6pm

**All Past Students:** Friday 21 October 2011, The Irish Club 6pm-9pm

Please email [events@stc.qld.edu.au](mailto:events@stc.qld.edu.au) and we will forward your email to your reunion

# CALL 5 MATES

OR FEEL FREE TO COME ON YOUR OWN

**The 2010 Reunion was fantastic....  
Can we top that???**

**Just pick up the phone, open your laptop, log onto facebook.... Whatever it takes....  
Just get hold of five mates and let them know it's on.**

<b>When?</b>	<b>Friday 21 October, 6pm-9pm</b>
<b>Where?</b>	<b>The Irish Club 125 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane</b>
<b>Cost?</b>	<b>\$25ph—includes beer, wine, soft drink and hot and cold platters... Bargain!!</b>
<b>Who?</b>	<b>All past students from either St Columban's College Albion or Caboolture Campus</b>
<b>RSVP</b>	<b>visa <input type="checkbox"/> mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> cheque <input type="checkbox"/> Name on Card: _____ Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: ____ / ____ Ammt: \$_____</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>	_____.Alumni_____ _____.Alumni_____ _____.Alumni_____
<b>Fax to:</b>	<b>5495 3211 attn Finance Dept</b>
<b>Or Email:</b>	<b><a href="mailto:events@stc.qld.edu.au">events@stc.qld.edu.au</a> Contact—Linda Upton (Alumni Officer) ph 5495 3111 St Columban's College PO Box 1254, Caboolture Qld 4510 <small>(* Alumni = the year you or your classmates would have completed Year 12)</small></b>