Welcome to the latest edition of the Eagle

It's been a big year so far for reunions and gatherings and this is great to see.

In February I had the pleasure of attending a liturgy at St Columban's celebrating the start of a new school year. The Mass was held in the recently opened Mary McKillop Performance Centre, and this building is a truly magnificent asset to St C. Congratulations must go to Ms Ann Rebgetz and her devoted team at STC for getting this facility up and running. Fr Wrex Woolnough celebrated the Mass and spoke of a changing College welcoming its 86th group of students, teachers, staff and families to the year ahead and inspiring all to be part of the ever evolving Columban's story.

On 18 May, past students from across the decades witnessed the St Columban's teams in action against old TAS rivals, St Paul's, at the St Columban's annual Open Day. Not only was the sporting prowess impressive, but the grounds, buildings and spirit of the College was first class and a special thanks must go to Ann, Mike Connolly, Linda Upton, Pat Greene and all those involved in the day for the very welcoming hospitality. Past students from as far back as 1961 were in attendance and thanks must also go to 10 year anniversary reps Terry Fogarty ('63), Peter Scanlon ('73), Geoff Rodgers ('83) and Owen Hawes ('93) for spreading the word amongst their year group. We hope this becomes an annual event and it would be great to see the '04, '94, '84, '74, '64, '54 etc. year-groups there in 2014.

Reading the news on St Columban's sporting achievements, you can see the tradition coming through from those who went before with Jack O'Keefe named best forward in the 1st XV (son of Mick O'Keefe), Clementine Lepper captain of the cross country team (daughter of Mark Lepper) and Mitch Phillips obviously inheriting his father's skills in the pool (son of Chris Phillips). I am sure there are others, but these achievements are great stories of generational St Columban's families. Well done!

The achievements are not confined to the sporting field though, with many academic, outreach and community events highlighting the diversity of St Columban's 2013 and I trust this will continue for the rest of the year.

Recently, in co-operation with Padua College, the Association arranged for a plaque to be placed at the Banyo playing fields outlining a brief history of the site. This is all part of the Association's aim to recognise the history of St Columban's and acknowledge the work of those who made things happen. We do not want to forget these important facets of Catholic education on Brisbane's northside. Regarding the plaque, special thanks must go to old boy, Mr Joel Fleming for providing a history of the place and also to the Rector of Padua College Bob Out and Peter Franklin from Padua College for their assistance in accommodating this project.

A number of events continue to be organised for all past students so keep an eye out for them.

Eugene Waugh
SCPSA President
World Youth Day 2013

Just the atmosphere of Rio de Janeiro and socialising with countries all over the world was one of the most incredible and life changing experiences I have ever had. Attending interesting events such as the catechesis, mass and stations of the cross really opened up my eyes to see the views of not only fellow Australians but how the Catholic church is challenged and will soon need to be open to the opinions of youth world-wide….

Madison Smees - It's the small things that change us in big ways. When you meet new people from all over the world who can't say a single word in English, it makes you stop talking and start listening. The concentration you have to have is like nothing before.

Ben Morgan - This pilgrimage has been an amazing experience because we had the opportunity to witness the intensity, variety and sheer size of the global Catholic Church crammed into Rio de Janeiro a city so vibrant and faithful.

Hannah Grundy - To me, coming together as one with other nations was an enormous eye opener. It felt as if the faith of every person, young and old, fused together to create an epic wave of spirituality throughout the beautiful city of Rio de Janeiro.

Top End Tour

Once again, a group of students and staff immersed in indigenous culture at the Garma Festival in the Northern Territory.

Brianna Guy - To hear and see more about my aboriginal culture first hand has been a real eye-opener and has given me a new way of looking at life in general.

Sam Treasure - During this trip we were privileged to be able to experience first hand aboriginal culture and beliefs.

It amazes me the strength, pride and respect that they all have for their family and culture. Even with some of their living conditions you never fail to see them all with a big proud smile on their faces.

Darren Pereira - At the Garma Festival I participated in a few activities such as dancing, bark petition, learned their language a little and danced in the bungul in front of a crowd. I loved how strong the culture was.

Melanie Mabb - The Garma Festival itself allowed me to be enriched in the indigenous culture, partake in timeless traditions and meet amazing people from all over Australia.
Sion
Professional Hairdressing Salon at StC
Three highly experienced hairdressers / training educators
Open Wednesday to Friday and Saturday TAS home games

For appointments
Phone 5495 3111 ext 394
or
Rona—0439 851 660 Wed-Fri and TAS home games
Trace—0401 091 182 Wed-Thur and TAS home games
Anne—0417 119 256 Thursdays
Caboolture Campus Developments

Coming of Age at Caboolture
— “Every Student, Every Success”

After 16 years of operation at Caboolture, StC now has a co-educational enrolment of 955 Students, and will grow to around 1200 students in 2015, with the transition of Year 7 to Secondary.

2013 has seen the completion of the Mary MacKillop Performance Centre, which is located adjacent to our Trade Training Centre in Hospitality and Hairdressing. Our Sion Salon became the “green room” for stage performances and operates as a commercial and training salon. The Salon offers a variety of services and up-skilling courses, whilst our Bobbio restaurant and Mary MacKillop Performance Centre can be booked for functions.

We have witnessed many highlights over the year –

- Inaugural Mass in the new Mary MacKillop Performance Centre.
- ANZAC day with the past students sponsored presentation of the Blaine Diddams memorial.
- Attendance at Edmund Rice Foundation Dinner – Anthony Ryan Convenor, at the Brisbane Convention Centre.
- Sporting Premierships in Girls Tennis, Girls and Boys Netball, Rugby, Touch Football
- Visit from students and staff of Milikapiti School.
- Northern Territory Garma Festival immersion program – thirty students and staff attended this Festival from 8 to 15 August.
- Successful musical Shine being the first major production in our new Centre.
- One of three national finalists in the Schools Pathways to VET division in the Australian Training Awards in 2012 and 2013.
- Hosted the inaugural Concert Band Spectacular Schools Competition for Primary and Secondary. StC took first place in the Secondary section.
- World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Argentina and Brazil – July 13 to August 1. Fifteen students and staff took part and experienced the inspiring journey.
- Support to College by Parents and Friends Association generated funds to equip new stage with curtains, lighting, projectors and baby grand piano.
- Annual Charity Golf Day at Pacific Harbour- wonderful community support.
- Outstanding achievements by individual students in many areas.
- Prime Minister visit- September 2013
Evania Pelite – 2013 has been a very successful year for Evania, representing Australia in both Touch Football and Rugby Sevens. She developed her rugby ability through her Touch Football and as a member of the Queensland Schoolgirls Sevens Team that won the National Schools Rugby Sevens Tournament on the Gold Coast in 2012. In January of 2013 Evania was selected as a member of the Australian Youth Olympic Festival Sevens team that won Gold in Sydney in 2013. Following on from those performances she was brought into the Qantas Women’s Sevens squad for the London Sevens and the IRB Women’s Sevens World Series in Amsterdam.

2012 students, Stephanie Brown, Siobhan Craik, Jayana Kerr and Sydney Bushnell, were awarded the 2012 Australian Vocational Student Prize. Sydney was also awarded the 2012 Prime Minister’s Award for excellence in school Vocational Education.

Excellent Year 12, 2012 outcomes – 93% of all Year 12 students received a tertiary rank/OP HS equivalent and 99% exited with a Certificate qualification.
This year we hosted a special Anzac Ceremony at the College in the new Mary MacKillop Performance Centre. It really was very moving and there are many people to acknowledge in the process. A key focus was the commemoration of Sgt Blaine Diddam’s life as Blaine was a past student. Blaine’s cousin Gavan Baker and classmate, Michael Bath were present and the framed memorial photo, medals and story presented by Terry Fogarty on behalf of the past students (Vietnam Veterans and others) was well received by the College and a Replica presented to Gavan for his family.

We are grateful to Hon. Wyatt Roy MP for his words of encouragement and to Hon. John Alexander MP who came with him and then conducted a tennis clinic with our students.

Brittany Cooper did a superb job playing her grandfather’s wartime bugle. Jeremiah Wray’s and Michael Beaty’s reading of Rupert McCall’s extract on the poem "The Lonely Scout" really brought a tear to the eye!

I would like to thank the Past Students Association for their generosity and for the beautiful bouquet of flowers with which I was presented.

Ann Rebgetz

You can help…

SAS Resources Trust arranges support for the families of SAS diggers who have been killed in action. If you would like to support this please visit sartrust.org.au and your donation will go to the next deserving SAS digger’s family.

Care Packages are also being prepared for delivery to overseas diggers on Remembrance Day, 11 November 2013.

Thank you to Terry Fogarty (1963) who has been keeping tabs on our Vietnam Veterans over the years and has offered to coordinate a StC Military Past Student Register. If you are able to help Terry with this huge project please email events@stc.qld.edu to register your interest.

If you have served in the armed forces please also let us know so we can add you to the register.
Mitchell Buckett (2008)
Rugby league fans will be familiar Mitch Buckett's powerful charges down the field. Mitch is a past StC Duhig House Captain. His career saw him score his first pre-season try for the South Sydney Rabbitohs in February this year.
Congratulations Mitch, the StC Community is behind you!

Jon Benussi (2010)
Jon was awarded the NRMA Insurance Apprentice of the Year in 2012. This award recognises the smash repair industry's up-and-coming talent. As the state winner, Jon excelled in the categories of technical skills, ongoing personal development, customer service delivery and contribution to the community and environment.

Alyssa McEwan (2007)
Despite being the 'poster girl' for QUT Education, Alyssa has remained grounded, completing her bEd, receiving her first posting to Dalby State High School.

Robert Stirling (2011)
Robert embarked on his US tennis Scholarship in August 2012 and has commenced playing for James Madison University in Virgina. At the end of 2012 his stats were Singles: 6 wins and 5 losses and Doubles: 10 wins and 1 loss. Robert is enjoying the experience and came home for Christmas before returning to the US for 2013.

YouTube Success
Seven years ago 2007 students Michael Geddes, Ryan Baker and Barney Wray were involved in a six-second incident that changed their lives forever. Their video has been on The Panel, The AFL and NRL Footy Shows, FoxSports Australia, Soccer AM in the UK, Ridiculousness (multiple times), Germany's Funniest Home Videos, ESPN, and they were crowned Number 1 in America's Funniest Sports Bloopers of All Time.

They are proud to announce that this year, The Geddes Falcon will make its feature film debut in the Warner Bros movie We’re The Millers starring Jennifer Aniston and Jason Sudeikis.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=P9ifVx9yZbY
Soaring Eagles 2012

What can I say…gather a group of past StC students and you just know...
How it is going to be a blast! The photos tell it all......

Annual Soaring Eagles Reunion
18 October 2013 6-9pm
The Irish Club, Brisbane
RSVP
events@stc.qld.edu.au
to secure your ticket
StC Senior Class of 1963 consisted of approximately 30 students. We were the leading edge of the post-World War II baby boom, and of the expansion of StC at Albion. In 1993 Ian Spence, assisted by Pat Cunningham, the late Geoff Wilson and others, initiated a 30 year reunion. These reunions have continued every two years since then – with attendance varying between 19 and 30. Our Principal, Ray Whiteman, was a regular attendee for about 15 years until his death. Ann Rebgetz has been a regular attendee since she became Principal.

Bobbio is the name of an Italian Monastery founded in 614 by Saint Columban. It’s the name given to the restaurant which is part of the new and magnificent Mary MacKillop Performance Centre. It is staffed by students as part of their studies. Through large glass windows, Bobbio has views to the internal sports’ courts and the main oval.

Maybe for our class Saturday 11 May 2013 was the winding down of an era, but for StC the opportunity to commence a new tradition, a tradition that should be cultivated.

-Terry Fogarty

John Bradley has kindly sent us a couple of photos of the 1962 group.
What a great gathering with so many stories retold, memories relived and especially the laughter. Columban’s has always had a great spirit exemplified in its past students. I was so proud and overwhelmed to be there last night and catch up with so many, who have been and are, a great part of my life and the source of many blessings for me over the years.

As Woody mentioned your parents were a great source of support for you and especially for us Brothers and I was fortunate to share, through them, in your early lives. I was welcomed into so many homes as Anthony Castellaro mentioned. Many people think that we Brothers (because of our vows) don’t have families. I always say we have lots of family and ‘sons’ of whom we are very proud. Thank you for continuing to inspire me in my vocation. It came out last night, that it was co-incidental, that the year I joined the Christian Brothers you were born. So we will all have a 50th to share!

Thanks to Linda Upton from StC for the many photos and magazines displayed. More great memories! And to Dutto and others who instigated and organised the reunion. I look forward to the next one. Meanwhile you continue to be in my prayers and I will always be forever grateful to you for your inspiration to me as a Brother. I have made a booklet of all your stories of your journey so far. They will continue to remind me of the special people in my life. Thank you.

-Bro Tim Scott
Despite all the apprehension about the reunion it turned into a great night. Our theme was blue and gold and Wendy Suen made our wonderful graduation inspired cake. People came from across the globe to be there, not to mention those closer to home. Our exchange student whom spent Year 12 with us from Japan – Miki - flew all the way over just because she loved being a part of our grade and wanted to see us again. It was like everyone was the same but different... truly a bizarre experience!

Our grade has followed tradition with Tom and Annabel (nee Gelina) Davis getting married! They have a little girl. Some of us have stayed at home and accomplished great things... like our wonderful School Captain Melinda McLaren (now Burrows) whom does fantastic work as the State Youth Membership and Development Coordinator at St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland and was previously with the Edmund Rice Camps. Some of us are conquering the world in one way or another... Leon Van Lieshout has travelled overseas with his band Bertie Page Clinic. Jason Groves has been another of our jet setters to places like Norway, Denmark, The Caribbean and Columbia to name a few.

All in all some of us give thanks to what we have due to being a student at StC. Some of us are still finding our way... I, myself can honestly say that being a past student gives me pride in seeing what we can accomplish as a whole and I treasure the time spent at the school with the students and teachers. It is great to see how much the school has changed and the ever growing possibilities the school is giving its students. You never forget these three little words – Blue Gold Blue!

Our thanks go to The Full Moon Hotel for a wonderful evening.

-Adele Johnson
The bell rang at 3pm, school was in not out but this time it was at the Aspley Hotel. On 1 June the class of 1988 had their 25 year reunion which was a fantastic and reflective afternoon and night. Some great mates made the journey from far and wide to share the evening, which was greatly appreciated by the local boys. Whilst a lot of laughs were had and ‘lies’ told, we reflected on some classmates that could not make it, but I’m sure they were looking down on us.

We were lucky enough to have a race at the Albion Park Trotts named after us but I believe the tipster who selected the horse, on behalf of many, was unlucky (for the want of a better word) in the St Columban’s 1988 class reunion handicap. (Maybe he should have asked a professional!!)

Eight hours of celebration for some lasted into the night and friendships were reformed. Having grown up in the eighties, the standard we showed then which is still reflected today I believe was created by the great days we shared at Albion. This tradition of a reunion will defiantly continue into the future with the aim to one day have all the class present.

I would again like to thank everybody who assisted in locating past students as after a quarter of a century this task was a team effort.

-Cameron McLune

**Past Student Golf Day 2013**

On Sunday the 6 May, ‘old’ Columbans of varying golfing abilities attended the Nudgee College Golf Club for a beautiful autumn’s day of golf.

The Jack Woodward Memorial aggregate was taken out by 1989 trio, Scott Williams, John Chisholm and Dom Corbinieci in a fine performance. John also won the longest drive ousting Ron Thompson (1961) with an excellent hit on the 9th and the nearest the pin prize was scooped by Greg O’keefe (83).

A big vote of thanks goes to our sponsors, Ascent Wealth Management (Steve Nielsen 1986) and Bahco Hardware (Damian Allen 1978). Damian also managed the BBQ, ably assisted by Paul Whitty (1977) and many thanks go to them for their great help.
Sadly, we have also been briefly notified about the passing of the following students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Alumni</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rita Stephenson</td>
<td>Tuckshop Convenor</td>
<td>October 2012</td>
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<td>John Sydney O’Keefe</td>
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<td>September 2011</td>
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<td>Raymond Neighbour</td>
<td>1939</td>
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<td>John (Jack) Murray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Baker</td>
<td>1951</td>
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<td>Kieran Parsons</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>May 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph James Goff</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Forbes</td>
<td>Captain &amp; Dux 1949</td>
<td>January 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Macrae</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>Col McQueen</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
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<td>Terence Kearney</td>
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<td>March 2013</td>
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<td>Mark Proberts</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitch Grehan</td>
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<td>January 2011</td>
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Our deepest respect and prayers are with families and friends of these past students/staff.

**Vale Mitchell Grehan (2002)**

Mitch played prop, lock and fullback (an interesting range of positions) for StC TAS Rugby. Following these games, it was a mad rush to get back to the Sunshine Coast for League fixtures in the afternoon for the Wolves.

After he left school, Mitch worked in the construction industry – mainly in concreting. He had a year in SE Queensland before moving to Townsville to be with his family in 2004, continuing in the concreting game, working for a variety of firms and for himself. Mitch worked as a concreter/formsetter on roads, prisons, ports, mines, residential, commercial and industrial construction projects. Mine sites included Lady Annie, Mount Isa, Chillagoe and Ernest Henry as well as Sunmetal and Yabulu. He had a terrific work ethic and was a natural leader.

Mitch was a leading hand formsetter with S&N Civil Constructions at Ernest Henry Mine at the time of his passing. He was electrocuted moving a shipping container at his planned new home in Cloncurry on 30 January 2011. Mitch will be remembered by family, friends and the StC Community as a lovable larrikin.

**Vale Jim Baker (1949)**

Living in Wooloowin, Jim was a graduate of the 1949 Junior Class at Albion and went on to a career in radio communications with the Dept of Civil Aviation, followed by a successful career in computing. He was ultimately the Director, Computer Systems with Victorian TAB before being headhunted to the US where he spent some 20 years developing new systems and applications.

After retiring, Jim moved to Tasmania in 2008 where he lived with his daughter and extended family. Jim passed away on 29 June at the age of 79. He will be sadly missed by his family, friends and the StC Community.

-Richard Baker (brother)
As part of our continuing endeavour to keep the history of Columban’s alive, the Association consulted Old Boy and long-time Brisbane resident, Joel Fleming about the history of the Elliott Road site. Joel’s family has a long and dedicated history to the area and he provided the following information.

The Banyo playing fields land was part of an original 150 acre holding, extending the entire length of Elliott Road, owned by Mr Joseph Francis Fleming and his wife Sheila, who lived in their family home on the property with their nine children for many years. They bought the property from Nudgee College after selling their Scarborough property to Monsignor Frawley who built De La Salle College on that land.

The Brothers from StC visited the Fleming home one evening in the early 1960’s to discuss the matter of sporting grounds for the College at Elliott Rd. StC bought the land and developed it into their playing fields, which were the scene of many memorable sporting events. StC subsequently sold the grounds to Padua College.

Joe Fleming was a grandson of Thomas and Catherine Fleming who came to Brisbane from Ireland on ‘The Golden Dream’ in 1863 and were early settlers of the Nudgee district. The Courier Mail of Friday 28 April 1899 published an Obituary for Mr Thomas Fleming, referring to him as a pilgrim father of Queensland. It read in part that the departed gentleman was held in special esteem by the late R.C. Bishop of Brisbane and by the good Sisters of Mercy of All Hallows and St Vincent’s, who also held him in like-valued estimation.

It was reported that not only Mr Thomas Fleming’s large family, but also all fellow-colonists, knew the sterling worth of the man. He was described as leaving ‘a legacy of character, conduct, and industry, in which they and those coming after may share an honest and noble pride.’

A truly remarkable history of a place that has strong and undeniable links to StC!

Bro Con Moloney, with the assistance of Bro Marshall, must be acknowledged as being instrumental in the building of the Banyo Playing Fields.

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TAS Results

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<td>Girls Basketball</td>
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<td>Netball</td>
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Help with our Archives

Do you have any old StC photos or yearbooks (especially the 60s)? Please scan and email photos or, if you prefer, we could scan them into our database and return them to you. Please email scaboolture@stc.qld.edu.au for attention our archivist, Margaret Hallinan.

Reunions

Saturday
17 May 2014

At StC Open Day, 100 McKeen St, Caboolture
Light refreshments will be served during the First XV game in the Past Student marquee beside the main oval. Please check the StC website for updated time.

All Past Students:
Friday
18 October 2013

Venue- The Irish Club, 125 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane
Time - 6pm-9pm

Class of 1973
Saturday
2 November 2013

Venue – Fratelli’s Restaurant, Brothers Rugby Club, Crosby Rd, Albion.
Time – 6pm

40 year reunion.

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.

Calling Past College Captains, Vice Captains, House Captains and Committee Chairs….

We need to enlist your help by asking you to liaise with your classmates.

Please visit www.stc.qld.edu.au to update your contact details and check for current information and events.