Welcome to the latest edition of the Eagle

St Columban’s Spirit Shines
Lakeisha Patterson (Yr10) has been reaping rewards for all her hard work and dedication, walking away with nine medals from nine swims in the Brazilian Swimming Championships; winning Bronze at the PanPacific Games in Pasadena. Overall Lucky is ranked Number 3 in the World as a Para Champion Swimmer.

Edmund Rice Foundation Dinner
– A great success!
Two tables of St Columban’s staff and student leaders attended this gala event. Over 900 people attended and it was very successful in raising funds for Edmund Rice ministries in Africa, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea and other places of need.

Past Students Supporting the College
We extend our sincere gratitude to past students who have supported the College through our Building Fund, Charity Golf Day, Trivia Night and student bursaries.

Snippets from the President SCPSA
2014 has been another big year for St Columban’s with many fine achievements by past and present students in a variety of areas including the sporting field, outreach programs, personal achievements, and professional life and of course in the classroom. Special mention for Darren Crilly and his 1st XV who took out the TAS rugby premiership for the third year running. Truly a remarkable accomplishment!
A highlight for the Association was the big contingent of 1964 Old Boys who attended the College Open Day in May. The 1964 year took in some of the sights and the memorabilia organised by College archivist Margie Hallinan, then followed it up by watching the 1st XV have a strong win over Canterbury College. A great way to reminisce fifty years on. Many thanks to Mike Connolly and Pat Greene for getting this day up and running. Details of the 2015 Open Day reunion are in this edition.

... continue reading over
In early August our St Columban’s group of 34 students and 10 staff took off for North East Arnhem land in the Northern Territory to attend the Garma Festival. Garma is a cultural exchange festival run by the Youthu Yindi Foundation and its aim is to bring people together to share their culture and stories with each other and learn together. There were many key political figures present at the Key forum discussions including Mr Bill Shorten and Mr Noel Pearson. The ABC’s Q&A and filmed their weekly discussion panel live from Garma which was a first for them. The students took part in the youth forum which included art, culture, language and dance activities as well as going on bushwalks, taking part in ceremonies with the elders and learning to weave baskets and make spears.

After the Garma festival, we headed back to Darwin and spent the next two days with groups heading to Bathurst and Melville Islands and Litchfield National Park. On the islands the students visited the local schools and helped the take the students through some workshops.

Below are some of the reflections from the students on their experience:

Sophie Lewis – A massive part for me was in Bathurst Island when we gave out the second hand football boots to the children. The look of excitement on each child’s face was precious and made me realise how lucky we really are.

Claudia Chapple – I will take away many unique lessons and experiences from this trip, especially to just enjoy life, full of laughs, smiles and joy, just like the Tiwi kids do.

Riley Martin – Without the eye opening experience, I wouldn’t fully understand the true meaning of family and what it means to be proud of where you’re from and your background.

Tash Llora – It really makes you think how much we take for granted and how much we really have and how lucky we are to have just the little things.

Emily Rockley – It has given me a new look on life, and a want to do something in the world.

Isabella Walker – There were two key moments that not only touched my heart but changed my life forever. One was a little four year old boy named Bokeim. He taught me to notice and to cherish the littlest of things that most people take for granted. The second key point on this immersion was learning to be proud of your family, your traditions, culture and community.
Looking to the Future

Life brings many challenges which are often unexpected. On a personal side, 2014 has been a year of such dimension with the loss of my husband, Pat, who also was a past student of StC. However, the tremendous support and hope given to us through the StC community, and others, takes to a new level the hope and appreciation of the extraordinary value of life. As an educator it also highlights the pinnacle dimension of resilience. The latter is integral to providing enriching experiences for students so they can make a difference.

We aspire to the breadth and depth of education encouraged at St Columban’s College.

Highlights in 2014 encompass the following:

• Great academic results from 2013
  - Academic Results currently tracking at 20% above the State Average
  - Almost 100% of Year 12 graduates gained eligibility to university on application and Graduated with Vocational Education & Training (VET) Certificate

• Completion of $2.5million of buildings and car park in preparation of Year 7 transition

• Flourishing of our Trade Training Centre in Hospitality and Hairdressing.

• Outstanding achievements in Sport
  - Premiership in 1st XV Rugby for 3 years in a row
  - Commonwealth Games medallist
  - All Schools Touch Football Winners

• Immersion program in the Northern Territory with 45 Year 11 Students and Staff

• Academic Coordinators take out BCE Excellence in Teaching Awards

• Celebration of ANZAC Day with Past Students, led by Terry Fogarty

These are a few examples of how we cultivate “Every Student, Every Success”

Thank you for your ongoing support and connection - Our next goal is a swimming pool where we would love your help!
Anzac celebrations commenced with our College ceremony on Thursday afternoon which took place in our Mary MacKillop Centre. The reverence of our students was indeed apparent, as we paid tribute to our past students who were killed in action. Particular homage was paid to Sgt Blaine Diddams who was awarded another Medal of Gallantry last year.

Mr Terry Fogarty and a large group of past students, who were Vietnam War veterans, attended. They were all moved by Brittany Cooper’s wonderful rendition of the Last Post on her veteran bugle, as well as our student recitation of The Lonely Scout. Terry presented a replica of Blaine’s medals on a special blazer, which was then worn by Brittany. We were very appreciative of this meaningful gift – we hope to continue with this idea to honour those who sadly have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Anthony O’Brien (1987/88)

Anthony has been busy heading up a bid for the confraternity of Queensland Brothers Rugby League Clubs to field a team in the NRL. He came to be involved in April 2013 after reading an article in the Ruby League Week about a possible bid.

As a proactive measure, Anthony started an unofficial supporters Facebook page. In six months they had attracted over 2500 fans. The main aim of the page is to spread the word and rally the enormous existing fan base from all affiliated clubs from Darwin down the east coast to Brisbane (and also into Wagga). They have formed a fan committee which includes Brothers 1987 Premiership Captain Trevor Bailey, StC past student Scott Munro (outgoing Brothers Junior President), and a host of representatives from all clubs over Queensland, Northern Territory and New South Wales.

StC students have had a long association with Brothers League and Union clubs, names like the McGraw, Munro, Woodbridge and McCall families spring to mind to name only a few.

If any of the StC past students would like to be involved with the fan committee or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Anthony 0403 951 558 or email anthonyobrien70@hotmail.com

Brendan (BJ) Clark (2011)

Brendan is currently studying the Bachelor of Aviation program at Griffith University, Nathan. He has experienced firsthand the different positions in the aviation industry including flight training in a Jabiru, helicopter maintenance and mechanics, flight simulators, attending Australian Aerospace Youth Forum and managed the operations desk at Pathfinder Aviation on weekends.

Since the age of 14 Brendan has had an interest in aviation and piloting aircraft. He spent hours on his father’s home built simulator, teaching himself the basics of flying. He hopes to achieve his personal goal of piloting turboprop aircraft. He looks forward to and continues to strive to achieve that goal.

In December 2013 Brendan began expanding on a simple idea of creating videos for his channel ‘TheArcherPilot’ on his piloting career by contacting the developers of ShareAviation in its early development and assisting in the creation of the online network. Brendan currently produces and edits aviation media which includes videos, podcasts and blogs for ShareAviation.com.

Brandon Borrello (2013)

As most would be aware the Brisbane Roar won the 2014 A-League Grand Final and whilst Brandon Borrello was not on the bench he was still a part of the team training with them all the way to the final. Many of you may even have seen his face pop up in photos of the team.

Brandon also flew to Dubai as a member of the Australian U20 Football team to take part in four international friendly games. The first two games were against the Oman U20 National team, with the second two against the United Arab Emirates U20 Team. These four games were in preparation for the Asian Football Confederation U19 Championships in Myanmar in October this year.
Joshua Peasley (2010)

Joshua, a member of the band *Phoenix Avenue*, expressed his appreciation for the fan support following achieving 9th place on the Top 10 Triple J Unearthed Pop Charts (and 70 overall in the Top 100) at the launch of their debut single *Trapped*.

After exploding onto the music landscape, *Phoenix Avenue* has taken the region by storm with its tantalizing vocals and catchy melodic tunes. The second single *Hey I'm Brad You Must Be Janet* was released early 2014.

To book a lunchtime concert please contact bernard.raffaut@outlook.com or you can visit *Phoenix Avenue* https://www.triplejunearthed.com/artist/phoenix-avenue

Alex Flew & Cassandra Harris (2006)

On December 23rd 2012 Alex David Flew and Cassandra Alice Harris (Cassie) were married at Topiaries, Samford. They were graduating students of 2006. Cassie is a teacher at Bounty Boulevard State School and Alex is an electrician with Loveday Electrical. They enjoyed their honeymoon in Vanuatu.

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.

Teena Power (2012)

Teena began her career in the Australian Army as a gap year recruit in November 2013. Her position is in Aircraft despatch and she is currently completing her training in this roll. The training has involved basic new recruit training of three months at Kapooka Army Base, NSW, two months driver training at Puckapunyal Army Base, Victoria, two months administrative training in Albury, Victoria and 5 months aircraft despatch training at Richmond Air Force base, NSW.

During this time Teena has embraced the many challenges and opportunities that the Australian Defence Force has to offer and will continue her enlistment with the Army after her gap year training is complete. Her aim is to pursue a degree in Law and Criminal investigations while serving in the force. This degree will give her many career opportunities both as a soldier in the Army and as a civilian, as she says, “in the real world”.

Colt Kerr (2012)

Colt studied Bachelor of Sports Science at Sunshine Coast University, intending to become a physical education teacher. He was spotted by the National Scout Registry (NSR) while playing for Caboolture Soccer Club and offered a soccer scholarship to play and study in the USA. He is continuing to study Sports Science at Riverlands College, Minneapolis, while carrying out his dream of playing soccer in America.

As top goal-scorer in two of the four seasons he played for StC under coach and mentor Reuben Pather, Colt was heavily encouraged by Dean Stevens to continue his studies toward his career goal of being a PE teacher.
Jack Payne (2013)

Jack has begun his dream career, beginning with his selection in the Queensland Reds A, Queensland Schoolboys and now the Wallabies U20 team.

He was a member of the StC winning First XV side in 2012 and plays in the back row at either blindside flanker or lock.

Jack is a former Sunshine Coast representative and earned his call up to the Queensland side after impressive performances in the Combined Secondary Schools competition.

Adam Macfarlane (Captain 2001)

Adam Macfarlane graduated as a Doctor of Medicine. After graduating from StC in 2001 Adam went to Griffith University where he completed a Bachelor of Nursing and a few years later his masters. This is a wonderful achievement and needless to say his parents Wendy and Bruce are very proud.

Joe Torrissi Retires

In April we held a farewell morning tea for a long-serving staff member, Guiseppe Torrissi. Joe commenced working at the College in 1982 as a member of the ground staff. For 17 years he worked essentially on his own taking care of the Banyo fields. The second oval at Caboolture was recently named after Joe. Unfortunately ill health over the past two years has prompted his retirement, allowing him the opportunity to spend quality time with his family.

TAS Results

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<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>5th place overall, Open boys – 1st</td>
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These results show StC's success in various sports during the 2013 and 2014 trims, with particular emphasis on Girls Volleyball and Boys Basketball in 2013, and Cricket in 2014.
Where are they Now?

Sam Holland (2011)

Like all of his friends, Sam played all the sports at school that he could, from basketball, to volleyball and rugby, as well as representing StC at state titles in javelin, but his main love and prowess belonged to another sport called baseball. With his family and two older brothers, Christopher (2003) and Billy (2006), involved in baseball he naturally had little choice but to play, and even at preschool had the adults ducking for cover when it was his turn to hit or throw, so there were glimpses at this early stage he was ahead of the curve, especially in the pitching department.

After he started playing for the local club from five years of age, he was always in the representative teams for Brisbane North Region, from T-Ball up to U18 earning both Batting and Pitching awards, and was first selected to play for Queensland at age 11 and travelled to New Zealand to play in the Oceania Pacific Baseball Championships. He pitched four innings out of six in the final, to guide Queensland to their inaugural Championship win. This was the start of his representative career and saw him selected to play for the Queensland Rams baseball team from U14 to U18, and travel to National championships from Cairns to Lismore to Geelong. This representative commitment saw him and his team a Silver Medal at the 2012 U18 National Titles. It was there that his athletic ability shone through when he was used as an outfielder due to his speed and arm strength, a first baseman due to his reach and excellent glove work, and primarily as a closing pitcher in the tight games due to his speed, control and above all his steely focused unflappability to deliver, as well as hitting his first Grand Slam the year before to show he could swing the bat as well.

This presence in the game also saw Sam selected for Queensland School Boys sides from age 15 and culminated in him becoming an Australian Schoolboys Representative Player in 2011, where he toured with the National side in the United States playing some 14 games. The baseball opportunities in Australia are relatively limited due to the sport being a minnow when compared to Cricket and football codes, but the Major League Clubs in America created and implemented an academy (MLBAAP) on the Gold Coast for the purpose of finding players and scouting new talent from our part of the world and Sam was invited to participate to show his ability as a pitcher from 2010 onwards. It was there, after being again invited to attend, following the 2012 National Championships, that he was selected to play for Australia in the National AAA Team for the World U19 Titles in Seoul Korea. He has therefore represented Australia at both Schoolboys and Australian Baseball levels, which is a little rare, especially in Queensland.

Sam travelled over to Korea with the team and had an outstanding tournament, pitching in four games (equal most) and was amongst the leaders in pitchers averages till he gave up his first run in the last game against Italy, ending up with an ERA of only 1.29 (16th in the whole competition) and also not walking anyone. However, it was his side-arm performance in the game against Venezuela getting 6 of 6 batters out and hitting 88mph, that caught the eye of the San Diego Padres Pacific Rim scout, who had Sam called when he got back to offer him the opportunity of a lifetime to sign up with the San Diego Padres, as a professional player!

So, 2013 saw Sam travel to Phoenix in the United States to play Baseball in the Arizona Rookie Ball League where all newcomers start, and after landing in March and getting through spring training and then extended spring training, he started the season in June, where due to the daytime temps getting to C49o at times, they played at night. Sam was pigeon-holed as a closer, due to his control and mental toughness meaning when his team has a lead going into the last innings, he comes on to pitch to make sure the opposition don’t score any more runs to win the game. He led the whole league in appearances with 27 (number of times he pitched in games), came second in the number of ‘saves’ (kept the win) and only walked six batters in his 32 innings of pitching and was extremely close to making the All Star Team in his first year, with his average sitting at 2.25 ERA. It’s a hard act to follow and he is back there again this year trying to go higher up the sporting ladder so many are climbing.

And it’s really a case of coincidences as well, as he was signed by the San Diego Padres and previously played for the Redcliffe Padres, he went to St Eugene Primary School and received news of being promoted into the Class A season team the Eugene Emeralds that play in Mid-West League, travelling from Oregon to Vancouver, and with this only being his second season over there, it’s quite an achievement.

Class of 1973 Reunion

This year saw the 40th reunion of the Class of 73 held at Fratelli’s Restaurant Crosby Park. This was an appropriate venue given the number of training sessions held at this venue, not far from where the school was at Albion Heights.

The evening was a great success, with 26 of the 74 students in attendance (and a couple of apologies). Many hours were spent checking out the photos kindly organised by the Librarian Margie Hallinan. This included extracts from Colana Carnival magazines, with much reminiscing about such things as the Leyland P76, Hobby Horses (with a Horse named Ansett), brands including Pye, Freedman and McDonnell & East, and advertising for Indooroopilly Shopping Town with an amazing 75 shops.

A suggestion for others organising their class reunion is to nominate an organising committee, make contact with Margie and to also hold it at a venue like Fratelli’s Restaurant, where the atmosphere was great and with the tables being set up around the data projector provided the focus for many hours of fun. Another suggestion is to have lots of photos from the Annuals over the years including those interesting comments made throughout. Too often we flick through these Annuals but it provides a different perspective when viewed on the big screen.

When meeting Margie I had the pleasure of walking around the school a couple of times and was pleasantly surprised by two things. Firstly, the strong theme of the buildings reflecting those from Albion Heights (including the bricks, design and building names), certainly worth a look from past students. Secondly, on both occasions I received a respectful “Hello sir” from a couple of students I walked past and a polite holding of the library door open as I exited behind a student. Small things I admit, but they were noticed and must reflect the positive school culture.

John Halliday
2014 saw the reintroduction of the Old Boys – First XI Football Challenge. The game was introduced in 2008 as a way to give the First team a good opposed hit out before the season began. Unfortunately a suitable date for the game could not be found last year and no game was played. The old boys were very keen not to let that happen again as it is something they look forward to.

The first half was a tight affair. The old boys dominated early field position but through some dogged defence, some fine keeping and definitely some inaccurate shooting the firsts held them to only two goals. While the first stanza presented limited opportunities for the first eleven they did manage to find the net once and went into half time trailing by only one goal.

The break presented problems for the old boys as there were no oranges and this almost prompted a walkout. With nothing to eat conversation turned to goal celebrations but it was soon realized that some had to be scored before the celebrations could begin.

The second half was a much more open affair. Play went from one end to the other with both teams responding to refereeing that encouraged flowing play. This opened the game and another seven goals were scored. Both teams were having fun and the Firsts were able to work on some combinations that should hold them in good stead for the coming season. As full time grew near, both teams asked the ref for a few more minutes, and a few more, and a few more, etc. The second half went for 20 minutes longer than the first but no one worried. The players from both teams were having a good time.

For the record the old boys continued their winning streak finishing on top of a 6 – 4 scoreline. If you are keen to be involved in this annual event, please visit us on our Facebook page.

2014 Old Boys
Andrew WILSON (C) (2004)
Ryan HONSA (2004)
Justin REEDY (2009)
Del BEVAN (2009)
Ben HAYWARD (2009)
Tom CLARK (2010)
Pat GRIXTI (2010)
Doug ROBB (2010)
Brendan HOWARD (2010)
Connor GEORGE (2011)
Peter ROSE (2011)
Eli BUTLER (2012)

Henry Rose (Coordinator)
Over 130 past students attended our annual StC reunion at the Irish Club, including a large contingent of 1993 students who led this year’s War Cry.

Once again, the students enjoyed browsing the photos and year books, and recounting stories from earlier days. When you take into account that the College began in Albion Heights in 1928, we certainly have a lot of history and a lot to be proud of. Our past students are a testament to the quality of the rounded education that StC offers.

My sincere gratitude must go out StC staff and to Eugene Waugh (President SCPSA) and Laurie O’Brien (Treasurer SCPSA) who assisted in the running of this event, ensuring that all our guests felt welcome and included.

Linda Upton
(StC Alumni Officer)
Annual Soaring Eagles
Reunion
17 October 2014  6-9pm
The Irish Club, Brisbane
RSVP
events@stc.qld.edu.au
for catering purposes

Just a note of congratulations for a great night at the Irish Club. All the work that went into the displays was incredible. One of the past students rang me from Sydney today and he was not able to be there because of health issues, but I told him all about it. I also e-mailed Eamon Gaffney, the President of the Irish Club, to say how well it went and told one of our ‘old’ Brothers about the screen show that was on and all the historic pieces in it. He was very impressed. — Bro Tim Scott
StC Open Day

Once again StC set up a marquee beside Hennessy Oval so that our past students could get a great view of the First XV game against Canterbury whilst enjoying light refreshments and a beverage or two. This year we invited all the fours….1934, 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994, 2004. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and I sincerely thank those students who put the effort in to contact their respective year groups, especially the Class of 1964. Many continued their festivities in the city.

Darren Periera (Yr12) won the Player of the Match trophy donated by the 1964 boys. The smile on his face says it all.

Our Tourism students kindly volunteered their time to take groups on tours of the College grounds, including the Archives. Many were surprised at how much of Albion campus has been included in our current campus. Yes folks, our history and traditions are alive and well!!
I have attached some rather sad looking photos for those of us who frequented the former Albion campus. The photos were taken during a destruction/construction stage. I was not able to attend the Old Boys function but I thought these photos might be of some interest to past pupils of the school. Missing is the iconic Chapel, the Swimming pool and the Grade 8 classrooms (old timber huts).

I am not sure if people want to dwell on this transition phase but the photos do reveal the old buildings in their last remaining days as the predominant structures on the site.

Fortunately for us Old Boys from the 1960s, and others, the Caboolture campus is a continuation of that vibrancy and community absent in the photos but ever present in the minds and hearts of many former staff and pupils of StC.

Usually I was a goody two-shoes at the site in its heyday! Still everyone breaks the rules some time in their life for the greater GOOD!!

It is wonderful to experience the continuity and shared histories. With the closing of Marist Rosalie and the changing demographics of Paddington from working class to upper middle class the experience for most of us oldies is the discontinuity and redevelopment of Brisbane. It is probably a unique aspect of the history of current times that so much of life in a bygone era (1928 to 1990s) is captured and retained and rejuvenated through your campus at Caboolture. Usually one has to go to the State Library to find these fossils. Your campus prevents the fossilisation of so much good and makes it present in the lives of the students you have today. That is good for all of us.

…..While closing the Albion campus was also sad, the loss has been mitigated greatly by the status of things at Caboolture.

Vince Hodge (1968)
Class of 1960

Background: Students of StC at the Albion Heights campus, could attend from Grade 3, right through to Grade 12 (Senior) and thus spend up to 10 years at the one school. Up to Grade 3, they often attended surrounding convents run by various orders of Religious Sisters.

In the case of Year 1960 however, about 12 of us who were attending St Rita’s at Clayfield, were asked to leave part way through Gr.2, and subsequently arrived (slightly unwelcome) at StC in 1951. This early group included Ian Bunce (later Specialist Haematologist and officer in the University of Qld Regiment). We were sandwiched on the side of Gr.3, and a young Br. Butler did his best to teach both classes. We mostly did Gr.3 work but in a quirk of a new syllabus the following year, Gr.3 became Gr.5 and we became Gr.4. At this stage we were joined by an influx of new boys from various convents, and became a full class of about 40.

In those days, 40-50 was an average class size, apart from about 20 in Senior Classes (Gr. 11-12). There was only one class per grade. There were three major state wide exams that students used to sweat over, these were Scholarship (Gr.8), Junior (Gr.10) and Senior (Gr.12). Students could secure reasonable employment after Junior, in Banks, the Public Service and various apprenticeships, consequently numbers tended to halve after that year.

The Era: The 50s was a turbulent time with strong anti-communism sentiments in the Church. There were powerful figures such as Sir Robert Menzies, Clive Evatt, Vince Gair and Archbishop Sir James Duhig. Inevitably, with the influence of various wings of the trade unions, there were splits in the Labor Party, which took many years to heal.

While refugees are a current topic, Australia accepted refugees in the 50’s from the Hungarian uprising and various problems in Poland. Hence we had some lads from those areas in our class. No doubt they had been through hard times, but would arrive at school every day with another lot of items they had “borrowed” from Coles and Woolworths – guess they were still in survival mode.

In 1959, with training by Br. Coffee, we debated St.Patrick’s (Shorncliffe). The subject for debate was The White Australia Policy. Though very politically incorrect today, both teams (one from each side) who argued for retention of the policy, won on the night. This was the way people thought at that time.

Pranks: At one point in the 50s, a Senior lad attempted to sell the school. He placed a professionally written add in the Courier Mail, quoting the school address and phone number. The principal, Br. Gunn, (a strong disciplinarian) was not amused. Even though we were fairly sure who did it, no one spilled the beans, and the matter faded.

Many of our early classes seemed to be made up of “saints and sinners”. At one end were lads aspiring for the Priesthood, Brotherhood and the higher professions, while at the other were elements of the notorious Breakfast Creek gang who regularly tested the security of various businesses in Albion, one lad carrying out an armed holdup at his local corner store.

Army Cadets: The school company was about 110 strong made up of three platoons. A feature of the year was the Anzac Day parade to St.Agatha’s at Clayfield. The parade was led by an honour guard of about 12 cadets, who also performed ceremonial rifle drill at the altar rails during the mass. While in retrospect it was an honour to serve in that guard, remembering the complex rifle movements and guard changing procedures, tended to dominate our thoughts. I am sure our efforts were appreciated by the congregation.

Science: Our science laboratory in those days was an old horse stable – it was very historic with a timber shingle roof. For some reason, few of the experiments we did seem to work. This was not helped by one of the lads having a penchant for turning on the H2S generator, and requiring us to evacuate part way through our work. Our problems could also have been caused by the leaky shingle roof, and its effect on chemicals and equipment. Nevertheless, we still did well in science.

Sport: A high point of the football year was a trip to Toowoomba to play St Mary’s. We travelled on the Royal Tiger buses from Sandgate Buslines which often broke down on the trip. Once in Toowoomba, if we were playing after lunch, we walked down town and fed up on hot potato chips and milkshakes – after that we were easybeats. The playing oval was red clay and as hard as a rock, but once hot we didn’t feel it. We won, one year by illegally inserting a giant lad named Barry Harrison into our backline (we also had the chips and milkshakes after the game). In retrospect, I think St Mary’s had been doing this for years, as some of those Darling Downs boys were huge.

While the class of 1960 had a number of very good sportsmen compared to previous seniors, we did not appear to be in the champion class even though we participated and gave our best. As far as can be recollected, the First XV Rugby Team did not win a game all year, apart from defeating the Second XV. The 1960 House swimming carnival saw a dearth of swimmers in the open 100 meters freestyle, and Peter Vine (school captain and later specialist paediatrician and university lecturer) and I, made up the numbers in lanes 1 and 8 after a frantic couple of weeks to become fit. It is not recorded which of us came last, it was just an achievement to finish, and allow the place getters to leave the water before they contracted frostbite.
However, it tends to be forgotten these days that in the late 40s and early 50s there was a polio epidemic, and all public swimming pools were closed for a number of years, which meant a number of us learnt to swim fairly late. Two of the lads in our class were affected by polio – Kevin Barker (later medical practitioner) and the late Robert Barns (school Dux and later PhD Chemistry). They did not let this setback distract them from achieving their dreams.

Nevertheless, the school overall always did well at the Metropolitan Catholic Schools Association carnivals, with legendary athletes Frank Dolan, Jim Gallen and Greg O’Conner, to name a few from other years.

Although the 1960 class did not excel at sport, we did reasonably well scholastically, the fairly small numbers producing Scientists, Doctors, School Teachers, Christian Brothers, an Accountant, an Engineer, a Pharmacist, Public Servants, and businessmen. A number of lads who left at Gr.10, have also done well.

While not wanting to start comparisons with other classes, the StC tradition of participation, striving to achieve one’s capacity and making do, was probably very character building, in spite of a few failures and hiccups along the way.

Hopefully, the above may bring back some memories from other past pupils (but not influence any current students to repeat the pranks).

**Reunions:** There have been four reunions of this class, triggered off some years back by Paul Wijngaarden. I have included a photograph of the 50th anniversary reunion (2010) at Dr Ian Bunce’s residence, and a reunion the year after at Dr. Kevin Barker’s home. (Two previous reunions took place at the home of Ken and Diane Hall).
Catholic Bishop of Townsville

We received news of the passing of Bishop Michael Putney, Bishop of Townsville. You may be aware that Bishop Putney was a past student of the College and in fact, was the 1962 Dux. I have received emails from past students who remember him well and spoke so highly of him. He was a man of the people, scholar and a fine religious leader. – Ann Rebgetz

Bishop Michael was admitted to the Mater Hospital on Friday, 21 March for a routine procedure to drain a build-up of fluid on his stomach which has been produced by the cancers in his stomach. There was a complication then and he remained in hospital until his death early this morning, Friday 28 March, when he passed away peacefully in the Mater Hospital. – Fr Michael Lowcock

Bishop Michael Putney was 67 years old and was ordained as a priest in 1969 and ordained a Bishop on 27 July 1995 as Auxiliary Bishop, Brisbane. He was announced as the 5th Bishop of Townsville in January 2001 and was installed 27 March that year. Prior to his cancer diagnosis in December 2012 Bishop Michael was a member of the Permanent Committee of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Chair of Bishops’ Commission for Mission and Faith Formation, Catholic Co-Chairman of International Methodist / Roman Catholic Dialogue and Member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

He brought to the work his gifts as priest, pastor, teacher, preacher, writer and friend, but most of all, and in all, he brought to the work the gift of faith. I’d seen this through the many years of our friendship but I saw it at a new depth when he first told me of his terminal cancer not long after the diagnosis. I fondly remember the wonderful conversations we had, usually at a meal table, intelligent, amusing, interesting, encouraging, and all suffused by faith and enriched by wine. – Archbishop Coleridge

Vale Andrew (Andy) Purcell (1946)

We have received notification of the sad passing of Andy Purcell. Andy attended StC until his junior year, prior to moving to Toowoomba to complete his schooling at St Mary’s.

Following matriculation, Andy studied Dentistry at University of Queensland. Andy set up his private practice in Millmerran and remained in the area until 1956, when he was appointed as staff dentist at Toowoomba General Hospital. He remained on staff until 1961, and was appointed to Dental Superintendent, a position he held until 1978. He was then appointed as the regional school dental officer.

Andy’s rugby feats include four games for Queensland, refereeing from 1963-69, officiating at three Risdon Cup finals, a Queensland Country selector, Darling Downs coach, Queensland Country coach, and Queensland selector.

Our prayers are with Andy’s family.
Vale Patrick Rebgetz (Captain 1967)

Patrick was much loved by all, with his spirited wit, and time for his family and people. Being the eldest son of Mary and Reg Rebgetz in a family of 8 children brought up in the Albion Hotel, he attended StC graduating in 1967. His passion for sport and the arts saw him in the swimming team and the First 15, as well as taking part in the Annual Eisteddfods. Pat was privileged to be College Captain in his final year and always had a special love for the St Columban’s community and his life-long school friends, such as Dr Paul Bauert, Peter Bechtel, Dr Tony James and Bernie Stafford. This was also seen in his great support for Ann in her leading role in the school in recent times.

In July, Pat’s ashes were sprinkled in the Aspley Strait between Bathurst Island and Melville Island, putting him to be in his wished for place so symbolic and close to his heart. A moving ceremony by the Tiwi people paid tribute to his contribution and friendship. Pat’s strong belief in Aboriginal people’s access to quality health care saw him employed by the Tiwi people in 1982, as the first doctor to reside on Bathurst Island. He was a pioneer in terms of Aboriginal health and the advocacy of better health care.

Having met Ann in North Queensland they then progressed to the Northern Territory where Pat forged his way working initially at Darwin Hospital in the mid to late 70s and then became a District Medical Officer. This led to a long term relationship with the Tiwi people, culminating in his appointment in the Islands in 1982. Pat also worked later for the Gagadu Association in Kakdu. During this time they had three sons, Damian, Paul and Matthew and a daughter, Louisa and also spent a year in Sydney where Pat studied for his Masters in Public Health.

Following the NT experience, Pat then spent 17 years on the Gold Coast in General Practice, where he had a particular interest in Palliative care, Mental Health, Aged Care and general medicine. After this period, Pat returned to the Northern Territory and took up a position at Wadeye at Port Keats. This was extremely challenging as the community of 3000 people had not had a resident doctor for 6 years. Over the last 4 years, Pat had resumed in General Practice on the Gold Coast in the Tugun Family Medical Centre.

Fr Frank Brennan, long term friend, led the funeral celebration and the following extract from his homily depicts Patrick’s spirit:
The anthropologist Professor WEH Stanner spent time on the traditional country of Adrian Tunmuk up there at Wadeye, Port Keats, and at other such places where Pat spent much of his time as a doctor. In 1958, Stanner wrote an essay entitled “Continuity and Change” in which he reflected on the two worlds which people in those places have to straddle. He labelled the two worlds: the Market and the Dreaming. It can be a very demanding task to straddle two such different worlds. Sometimes people find themselves stranded without a foothold in either world. Pat was such a reflective person, and he cared so deeply, that he found himself immersed in those two worlds having to straddle them, and hold together a coherent life plan. He was not a naïve optimist who expected heaven to come on earth. He endured the frustration of working tirelessly for justice and what he knew to be right for the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal Australians.

A man of wide reading committed to the spiritual quest, he found inspiration in the American Benedictine mystic Thomas Merton who said “we should not passively exist but actively participate in God’s creative freedom, in our own lives, and in the lives of others by choosing the truth”.

Sadly, Pat became ill with cancer in late October and passed away on 8 February at the age of 63, with much space in his heart (Thich Nhat Hanh), being an inspiration for all, surrounded with love from all his family and friends.
Vale Desmond Breen

Following his graduation from StC and St Joseph’s and gaining his Articles, Des Breen and his brother, Neil set up practice in 1966 at Annerley Junction, above the Green Jade Chinese takeaway.

In the 1980s Des, a prominent Brisbane criminal defence barrister was enlisted to head the Hawke government Administrative Appeals Tribunal in Queensland and New South Wales.

Des held various posts on the board of Easts Rugby Union. He loved horse-racing and owned So Simple, Right of Audience, Secret War and Power Nap. As a committee member of the Brisbane Amateur Turf Club, which changed its name to Brisbane Turf Club, Des helped re-write its constitution. He retired in 2002 after 16 years as deputy President of the AAT.

Due to failing health, Des spent his last three years at Marabello at Victoria Point.

Our prayers are with the Breen family.

Vale Mick Conroy (1966)

Sadly we have received the news of the passing of Mick Conroy in Canberra. Mick played breakaway for the First XV in 1966 in a team with the likes of Paul and Greg Bone, John Knight, George Minehan and Tony James.

Despite beginning his university studies in Medicine with Tony James, Phil Finнимore and Grahame Row, Mick decided to return to his home city of Canberra where he became a pharmacist.

Our prayers are with the Conroy family.

Vale Peter Tuffield (1969)

Peter and his brothers (Ian, Derek and Gerard) attended StC in the 1960s and 70s and have always been regulars at the Irish Club reunions. Columban’s stalwarts the Tuffields!

Peter had a long, distinguished career in banking prior to being hit with the devastating news of cancer diagnosis three years ago. In this time, he and his mates took it head on and raised money for cancer research. Peter didn’t take the news lying down; instead, he shared his experiences and gave advice on how to deal with such tragic news. Have a read of his frank and amazing battle and heed his advice (link below).

Sincere condolences to Peter’s family and friends on their loss.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Alumni</th>
<th>DOD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andy Purcell</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>15 October 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Purcell</td>
<td></td>
<td>December 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Kingsford</td>
<td>Teacher &amp; father 1972-86</td>
<td>17 May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desmond Breen</td>
<td>1960s</td>
<td>6 March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mick Conroy</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>March 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danny Ryan</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerry Holmes</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil Hanley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinnie Harten</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Reed</td>
<td>Dux 1948</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Rebgetz</td>
<td>Captain 1967</td>
<td>8 February 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Putney</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>28 March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Tuffield</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>15 April 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You too can make a difference…

St Columban’s College Voluntary Building Fund – donations invited

I would like to contribute to the StC Tax-deductible Building Fund. I hereby donate the following amount:

- $10
- $25
- $50
- Other
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- One Off

Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________Postcode: _________________

- Please find enclosed chq/money order  or  
- Please charge my credit card  or  
- Direct Debit

$____________
Visa   M/card   B/card

Card Holder:  ___________________________________________________________ Expiry:  ________ /  _________
Signature ________________________________________________________________________________________
## Reunions

### All Past Students from either Caboolture or Albion Campus:

**Friday 17 October 2014**

*Bring five friends and have a blast!!!*

Venue: The Irish Club, 125 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane

Time: 6pm-9pm

$25ph includes finger food, beer, wine and soft drinks

Linda Upton  
events@stc.qld.edu.au  
5495 3111 or  
Direct Line 5433 7386


**Saturday 16 May 2015**

At StC Open Day, 100 McKean 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 as TAS games are liable to change.

[(events@stc.qld.edu.au)]

### 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.

### Sion Professional Hairdressing Salon at StC

Two highly experienced hairdressers / training educators. Open Wednesday to Friday and Saturday TAS home games

For appointments Phone 5495 3111 ext 394

Rona – 0439 851 660 Wed-Fri and TAS home games  
Traice – 0401 091 182 Wed-Thur and TAS home games

SCPSA: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Columbans-College-Past-Students-Association/617394945006351](https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Columbans-College-Past-Students-Association/617394945006351)

COLLEGE: [https://www.facebook.com/StColumbansCollege](https://www.facebook.com/StColumbansCollege)

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