

THE ASHGROVIAN

**First Edition 2017
Volume 55 - No 1**

**The Official Publication of
Marist College Ashgrove
Old Boys Association Inc.**

www.ashgroveoldboys.com.au



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DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 18 August

Vintage Blue and Gold Lunch for classes from 1940 to 1977

Friday 29 September

Reunion Evening Function at the Cyprian Pavilion

Check the Old Boys website at www.ashgroveoldboys.com.au for further details.

MEMORIAL GATES STILL STAND PROUD

In 1950, Brother Cyprian had the Memorial Gates built to permanently record the names of all Old Boys who had served in World War II. The magnificent gates stand today as the symbolic cornerstone of the Marist Military Project which will honour all Old Boys of Ashgrove and Rosalie who have served in the Armed Forces. The Old Boys and the College are now in the process of collecting that data back the last 77 years.

ARMED FORCES SERVICE

Do you know of any Old Boy of Marist College Ashgrove or Marist College Rosalie who has served in the Armed Forces at any time?

If so, please email military@ashgroveoldboys.com.au.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Ashgrovians,

Welcome to all of the 2016 Senior graduating class of Old Boys and MCA supporters. 2017 has started off with its usual vigour with the AGM taking place on 7 February and the new committee of the Marist College Ashgrove OBA being installed.

Friday 2 June was the annual Golf Day. This was a most enjoyable day with 56 starters (including a noted PNG Old Boy) who participated in the great day at Keperra Golf Club in a 4 ball Ambrose event. It was good to see a variety of talent from the participants that our ever extending community brings to these days. Thanks again to Peter Casey for his efforts in ensuring the day is such a success each year. Peter's summary of the day and some photos appear in this edition.

Planning continues for The Tower restoration project and the OBA is looking for extra and continued support with this restoration and rejuvenation project. All Old Boys and extended community can help by raising some funds to continue the project. The Tower Block is remembered fondly by so many Old Boys and it is only fitting that the Old Boys become an important part of the fundraising for such a wonderful

project. The OBA wants the current and future students to share the same pride that so many of us feel when we remember this extraordinary building and the time we spent around her.

The highlight so far has been the Marist Anzac Dinner which launched the Marist Military Project. We hope to successfully honour all Old Boys who have served and seek your support in identifying those men in the years ahead.

Our final function for the first Semester was to host Marist College Rosalie for our MCA Old Boys Sport Day on Saturday 3 June, with the 1st XV teams from 1957, 1967 and 1977 invited. We were also fortunate to have special guests from the 1st XIII in 1947 (Tom Treston and John Mines) present with us on the day. These gentlemen were presented to the spectators prior to the commencement of the 1st XV game against St. Edmund's College.

I was also fortunate enough to attend the Mass for the Feast of St Marcellin Champagnat on 6 June attended by the Marist Provincial and MCA Old Boy, Br Peter Carroll (1976), along with many special guests, parents, and students. The OBA was proudly represented with my predecessor John O'Hare (1972) and Honorary

OBA Life Member, Kay Wells, not to mention next year's future OBA member Jacob O'Brien all receiving the College's highest honour, The Champagnat Day Award - all thoroughly deserved.

The Old Boys committee would also like to make special mention for Kay Wells' coming retirement. Kay is looking forward to much needed rest and relaxation after many years of tireless efforts going beyond the call of duty for all our OBA functions, in all facets making each one better and better. Kay has devoted years helping many former Presidents and the past and present OBA committee. Through my short time as President I know that Kay's support and friendship has been invaluable. From myself, the current committee and all Old boys everywhere, thank you.

Exciting times ahead as we have our remaining OBA functions in 2017, i.e. Vintage Blue and Gold Lunch on 18 August and the Annual OBA reunions get-together on 29 September for all Old Boys at the Cyprian Pavilion. We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to catching up.

Viriliter Age!

Dominick Melrose
President

ADVERTISING IN THE ASHGROVIAN

Members will note that advertising has been included in the Ashgrovian. It has proved necessary because of the huge costs now associated with producing and distributing such a high quality publication. However, the advertising is both limited and selective. It has also been restricted to not only those who have a close association with the College but also have a service which is attractive to Old Boys. The OBA acknowledges their support and asks members to make use of their services wherever possible.



FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear members of the Marist College Ashgrove Old Boys' Association,

Sometimes I fear when I write to you that I don't comment significantly on the events happening at the College. There are a myriad of activities and events that typify life at the College. On a recent boarding visit to Goondiwindi, it was heartening to speak with both current and former parents about what the College has done for their sons. One commented that people in town spoke about their son in terms of his manners. Referring to people he didn't know as "Sir" or "Miss". It certainly resonates with mothers who volunteer so generously at the canteen. Many tell me how much they love being called "Miss" by the boys! A little thing, sure. But get the little things right and the larger issues won't seem so significant.

The recent celebrations of Easter always feature the reading from John's Gospel about Thomas. The doubting Thomas.

Is Marist College Ashgrove different in 2017? Yes. Is there any link with the past and the heritage of what it is to "carry the torch"?

Absolutely! No doubt.

Second term, when the Seniors wear their winter uniform there is a real sign of the sense of their collective responsibility for what their role is in the legacy you have left. For many there are significant challenges – in their learning, in their home life, in the temptations of life in 2017. But, there is a sense that when challenged about being a Marist boy, they rise to the occasion. Marching with the best part of 900 boys in the Ashgrove ANZAC march and leaving the affirmations coming from those lining Waterworks Road about the sense of presence and respect displayed by the boys is a great cause of pride.

Sadly though, the end of this term will bring a close to the end of an era. An honorary life member of your association will retire.

I refer to Mrs Kay Wells. Kay has been the PA to four Headmasters (Br Chris, Br Terence, Br Robert and Br Neville) as well as being the Community Relations Manager for the last nine and a half years. Kay's service to the College and particularly the Old Boys has been significant. And worthy of our heartfelt gratitude and thanks. I have always appreciated and admired Kay's deep affection for all things Ashgrove. A true stalwart of the College whose presence will be greatly missed. I would like to extend both Paula's and my sincere thanks to Kay for all she has done to support the College over these many years and wish her a long and joyous retirement. To us Kay epitomises Viriliter Age – Act Courageously.

Yours in Jesus, Mary and St Marcellin.

Peter McLoughlin
Headmaster

THE FAMILY THAT IS ASHGROVE

The essence of Ashgrove is the wonderful families that have been part of the College for generations. The College and the Old Boys Association express not only their condolences but their eternal thanks in noting the passing of members of the Crank, Lynch, Sheehan, Hansen, Slattery, Muir, Moynihan, Ajax and Watts families.

Their contribution to our wonderful College is never forgotten.

May perpetual light shine upon them.

GALA EVENING HONOURS HEROES OF ASHGROVE AND ROSALIE

MILITARY PROJECT LAUNCHED AT MAJESTIC ANZAC DINNER

The Marist Military Project was launched in the presence of two Major Generals and a host of distinguished military Old Boys and former staff from Ashgrove and Rosalie at the Anzac Dinner held at the College on 22 April 2017.

The Military Project is designed to honour all Old Boys of Marist College Ashgrove and Marist College Rosalie who have served in the military. A special honour board is also being constructed to record the names of all those who have served in theatres of conflict starting with World War II.

The evening commenced with the call of the Roll of Honour of all 14 Old Boys' of both schools who had died in service. After Grace was offered by

Father Peter Luton (Rosalie) (Brother of Don (KIA), Frank (R.I.P.) and Leo (R.I.P.), there was a magnificent presentation about the history of the military service of the Old Boys followed the key note speech by Ashgrove's most senior ranking old boy, Major General David Mullhall DSC, AM, CSC (1981).

Many dignitaries were in the packed audience from all branches of the services including retired Colonel Frank Colley AM, CSC (Ret), Captain Michael Turner (Navy), Wing Commander Paul Deighton (Air Force) and many others spanning the decades. The highlight for many Old Boys from the 1970's was the return after 40 years of Primary School legend Allan Clark who was instrumental in the success of the cadets at the College. A special

welcome was made to Old Boy and staff member Brother Neil O'Leary (brother of Jack O'Leary who served in Korea) and Jack's widow, Mary. Brother Tony Burrows (former Headmaster of Rosalie) was present as was Mr Hector MacDonald (Rosalie) who proposed the toast to Her Majesty.

The College was also honoured to have the partner of Rick Milosevic (1989, KIA, Afghanistan), Ms Kelly Walton join us for the evening.

The College and the Old Boys are continuing to accumulate as much data as possible on all Old Boys who have served in the military.

If you have not as yet been in contact with the Old Boys, please email any information you may have to military@ashgroveoldboys.com.au.



Guest of Honour, Major General Davis Mullhall, is joined by 1981 classmates



OLD BOYS SPORTS DAY - JUNE 3, 2017

The Headmaster, Peter McLoughlin, the MCA OBA and the College Community were delighted to welcome back members of the Ashgrove and Rosalie 1st XV's from 1957, 1967 and 1977.

Members of the Ashgrove 1947 "1st XIII" were also remembered. While the great majority of that undefeated premiership team have passed on, it was a great honour that surviving members John Mines and Tom Treston were able to attend.

1947 1st XIII: J. Jones (Captain), K Gillies (Vice-Captain), W. Earle, A. O'Connor, B. Hintz, R. Agostinelli, P. Steinitz, J. Mines, F. Antoni, T. Treston, A. Hammond, H. Murphy, N. O'Connor, B. Panitz, M. Elliott, B. Stuart, reserve: R. Enright

Following the Headmasters welcome and lunch for the teams, they were presented with medallions and acknowledged by the large crowd present. They then stayed on to watch the exciting AIC 1st XV match, with Ashgrove young men of today rising to the occasion to defeat

St. Edmund's CBC, Ipswich - 62-12. A champagne performance just for the Old Boys.

Some memories of those brilliant Ashgrove 1st XV's.

1957 1st XV TAS Undefeated Premiers

The highlights of the season were the games played against Gregory Terrace, won 11-6 and the 3-3 draw with Nudgee, in the night curtain-raiser to the All Blacks v Qld. Ashgrove also drew 6-6 with BBC and defeated Downlands 9-8 with a last minute try.

For the sixth year of Rugby Union competition, Ashgrove triumphantly held the title of TAS "Undefeated Premiers." 8 Ashgrove players were chosen in the TAS 1st XV to play GPS.

1957 1st XV

R. Mullen (Captain), R. Laracy (Vice-Captain), B. Dawson, D. Currier, A. Barber, J. Chan, K. Craven, B. Wilson, J. O'Connor, L. O'Reilly, G. Paff, B. Knapp, A. Madsen, P. Mahony, P. Callaghan, N. Morrison, B. Copley,

D. Kaese, Coach; Br. Francis McMahon.

1967 1st XV – Villanova – SLC Joint Premiers

Ashgrove; P. Costello (Captain), K. Healy (Vice-Captain), B. Gallagher, E. Bryant, W. MacGinley, B. Kelly,

P. Stockwell, A. Beard, C. Palmer, A. Eichorn, J. Connolly, M. Batch, W. Klink, C. Ciccotelli, L. Rigano, M. Talbot, R. Kekedo, P. Murphy. Coach Br. Terrence Curley. Coach of 2nds/3rds: Br. Alexis Turton.

1977 1st XV - TAS "Runners Up" Premiers: St. Columban's College

Ashgrove: 1. Bill Sankey, 2. Steve Jensen, 3. Michael Crank, 4. John Heinke, 5. Richard Brittain, 6. David Meehan (Captain), 7. Anthony Simpson, 8. Steven Smith, 9. Michael Arnold, 10. Paul Frisby, 11. Steven Hagan, 12. Peter Johnston, 13. Steven Gandini, 14. Michael Pike, 15. Peter Osborne.

Reserve: David Ford. Coach Barry Honan



OLD BOYS SPORTS DAY - JUNE 3, 2017



1947 1ST XIII TEAM

John Mines and Tom Treston



1957 1ST XV TEAM

Back Row: Steve Laracy (for Bob V.C), Alf Madsen, Don Kaese, Barry Copley

Front Row: Dan Currier, Brian Dawson, John O'Connor, Neville Morrison

OLD BOYS SPORTS DAY - JUNE 3, 2017



1967 1ST XV TEAM

Back Row: John Connolly, Michael Hefferan (Dad, Peter Costello Captain), Bill McGinley and Michael Batch

Front Row: Eddie Bryant, Michael Talbot, Br. Alexis Turton (for Terry Curley coach) and Brian Gallagher



1977 1ST XV TEAM

Front Row: Stephen Jensen, Michael Arnold, Stephen Gandini, Stephen Hagan

Middle Row: Michael Pike, Tony Simpson, David Meehan, Peter Johnston, Peter Osborne

Back Row: John Heinke, Michael Crank, Bill Sankey, Stephen Smith, Barry Honan (Coach)

GOLF DAY - JUNE 2, 2017

Is there nothing better than a glorious cloud free Friday in winter in Queensland. Of course not, (golf course not, that is). So a hardy, good looking mob of 56 arrived at the magnificently prepared Keperra Country Golf Club for a day of entertainment. All I could surmise from my foursome was that we were a team without luck and from the laughter and howls I heard throughout

the round, the same could be said of quite a few other teams. I would like to thank all those who attended and helped me raise some funds for our Old Boy bursaries especially Stuart Roebig from Retail Logic who is a continuous Hole Sponsor over the past few years.

My thanks, as always, go out to Michael Dash and his great team for

another faultless round, cold beer and friendly ambience at Keperra. Winners on the day were Mark Kierpal, Joe Gumina, Peter Willis and Mark Clayton with a net 52. Nearest the Pins were Peter Lung, (I actually thought I was witnessing a hole in one) and Brian Howell and Longest Drive went to Seb Turnbull.

Peter Casey



ATTENTION: ALL OLD BOYS FROM THE 1940'S TO 1960'S

THE OBA AND THE COLLEGE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING THE DATA BASE IN RESPECT OF ITS OLD BOYS. WE WANT TO STAY IN CONTACT WITH YOU. USING OLD BOYS AS THE SUBJECT ENTRY, WOULD YOU PLEASE EMAIL TO hoffmannk@marash.qld.edu.au THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Name, years at Ashgrove, address, home phone, mobile phone, email

PLEASE PASS THIS MESSAGE ON TO YOUR COLLEAGUES

PRAYERS PLEASE

Please pray for the following who have deceased recently.

- Ben Scott (1997). Members of the MCA community were shocked and saddened to hear of Ben's sudden passing in Melbourne in November 2016. Ben was very popular among his classmates and was an excellent sportsman, having represented MCA in the 1997 undefeated 1st XV.
- Dr. Kenyon Geoffrey Fry (1954), late of Chermside. Ken passed away 20 August 2016, aged 80 years. Husband of Margaret and father of Jane.
- Charles "Brian" Crank (1955), late of Ferny Hills, passed peacefully on the 7 February 2017, aged 80 years. Husband of Joan Ann and father of Michael (1977), Tony (1979) and Peter (1986). Loved grandfather of Jake (2006). Isaac (2008), Molly, Jayden, Grace and Faith.
- John (Jack) Ernest Robba (49), passed away peacefully on 15 February 2017, aged 83 years. Husband of Margaret and Father of Patricia, John, Paul, Mark, Peter, Grandmother of 13 and great-grandfather of 2. Brother of Victor (50) and Mary.
- Anthony Lawrence Ajax (1990) passed away suddenly on the 22 May, 2017, aged 44 years. Anthony was son of Bob and Denise, partner of Jane, father of Zara, and brother of Robert Ajax (1987).
- Peter Heenan (1949) passed away peacefully in Terrigal, NSW, on 15th May, 2017. Husband of Ellen (dec'd) and Father of Tim, Sue, Michael, Julie (dec'd), Andrew, David and Glenn. Grandfather of 17 and Great-grandfather of 5 and Brother of Mary (dec'd), Frank (dec'd), Patricia, Paul (1952), and Bishop Brian Heenan (1955). Peter holds the distinction of being the first MCA Oldboy selected to play for Queensland in Rugby Union, representing the "Reds" in 1952-53.
- Greg Lennon (1966), husband of Jill, passed away in early April, 2017 after a long illness. Greg attended MCA as a boarder from 1962-65.
- John Patrick McMahon, late of The Gap, passed away peacefully on the 14th June 2016, aged 86 years. Husband of Daphne and father of Stephen (1974), Gregory (1976) and Anthony (1981).
- Noela Monica Corrigan, late of Ashgrove, passed away peacefully on the 9 January, 2017. Wife of Nat (1956) and mother to Peter (1983), Georgia and Rachel (dec'd) and grandmother to Liam O'Kelly, Year 11 (Harold).
- David Brisbane, late of Brookfield, passed away peacefully on the 21 January, 2017. Wife of Mel and children, Hannah, Jed (2011) and Noah (2013).
- Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Walton, late of Ashgrove, passed away peacefully, 18 January, 2017, aged 89 years. Wife of Bill (dec'd) and mother of Cathy, Judy, John (1974), Mary, Joan, Toni and Terri.
- Maureen Griffin late of Bardon passed away peacefully on the 4 March 2017, aged 97 years. Wife of Frank (dec'd) and mother of Paul, John, Patrice, Brian (1975) and Damien (1978).
- Bronwyn Inglis (nee Feehely) whose funeral service was celebrated on 16 February 2017 at St. Finbarr's, Ashgrove. Bronwyn was wife of Greg, daughter of Maureen and Maurice (dec'd) and sister to Jim (1972), Dan (1973) and Karen.
- Mona May Wood, late of Ashgrove, passed away peacefully on 23 November 2016 aged 92 years. Wife of Alan (dec'd), mother of Maree (dec'd) and Bob (1965).
- Allan Carver, late of St Johns Wood, passed away 17 November 2016 Father of Rob (1971), Judy, Sue and Louise.
- Lt.Col N.T.J. (Noel) Williams passed away 21 November 2016, aged 82 years. Husband of Julia and father of Iain (1980) and Simon (1986).
- Kevin William Bilsborough, late of The Gap, passed away peacefully on the 10 November 2016 aged 87 years. Husband of Joan and father of Patrick, Terry (1974), Gary, Tracey and Julianne.
- Barbara Marie Lynch passed away peacefully, 12 November 2016, aged 86 years. Wife of Alban, and mother of Mary, Joe (1974), Patrick (1996), Angela, Martin (1978), Carmel and Suzy.
- Janice Maree Sheehan, passed away peacefully on the 12 March 2017, following a long illness. Janice is mother of Terry (1972), Craig (1973), Peter (1976) and grandmother of Riley (2014) and Neasan Sheehan (Year 9 Ephrem).
- Liana Reginato, late of Red Hill, passed away, 13 March 2017, aged 82 years. Wife of Mario. Mother of Linda and mother-in-law of Peter Casey (1974), MCA Foundation Manager and grandmother of Matthew (2006), Christopher (2006) and Danielle.

PRAYERS PLEASE

- Mervyn Hansen, passed away peacefully, aged 84 years. Husband of Jacqueline and father of Wayne (1972) and Sheree. Grandfather of Thomas (1998), William (2005) and Brendan (2005).
- Florence Slattery passed away peacefully, early March 2017 in Warwick, aged 100 years. Florence was wife of Leo Slattery (dec'd, 1978) who was MCA English Teacher extraordinaire of the 60's and 70's and after whom Slattery House is named.
- Winifred Solomon, late of Burleigh Heads passed away peacefully, 21 March 2017, aged 90 years. Wife of Ivor (dec'd) and mother of Br. Neville (MCA Headmaster 2003-2008), Russell and David.
- Anita Mary Muir, late of Kelvin Grove, formerly of Alderley, passed away peacefully on the 24 March, 2017 aged 93 years. Wife of Bazil (dec'd) and mother and mother-in-law of Chris (68 – College Captain) and Dymphna, George (70) and Cathy, Angela, James (77) and Jacinta, and Francis (81, dec'd). Loved Grandmother of Elspeth, Patrick (2004), Alex (2005, dec'd), Angus, Lucy, Alice, Rosina and Roland.
- John Faulks Coughlan, late of Auchenflower, formerly Emerald. Passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on 23 February 2017, aged 51 years. Husband of Geraldine and Father of Sean (2010 – College Captain), Nicholas (2011 – College Vice-Captain), Joseph (2012 College Vice-Captain), Molly and Lucy.
- Margaret “Peg” Simonds, late of Ashgrove passed away peacefully on 12th May, 2017, aged 93 years. Wife of George (dec'd), and Mother of Divinia, Karen, Michelle (dec'd), Stephen (1972), Grandmother and Great-grandmother.
- Aloysious (“Al”) Borle (1970) passed away in May. Al was a boarder from PNG and a most brilliant schoolboy five-eighth, representing the first fifteen in 1969 and 1970. Al was father of Clint (2001).
- William (Bill) Mitchell passed away in Darwin on 27th February, 2017, aged 88 years. Bill was father of Mike (1981), and Shane (1983).
- Kevin Watts passed away peacefully on the 4th May, 2017, aged 85 years. Kevin was husband to Mary (dec'd) and father of Peter (1975), Michael (1979), and Leo (1981, College Captain). Grandfather of Joseph (2013) and Patrick Watts (2014) and Thomas (11H) and Samuel Vosper (10H).

VALE TO THE GREAT JUSTICE MARTIN MOYNIHAN (1958)

The Old Boys Association notes with great sadness the passing earlier this year of one of our two Old Boy Supreme Court Justices, Martin Moynihan QC.

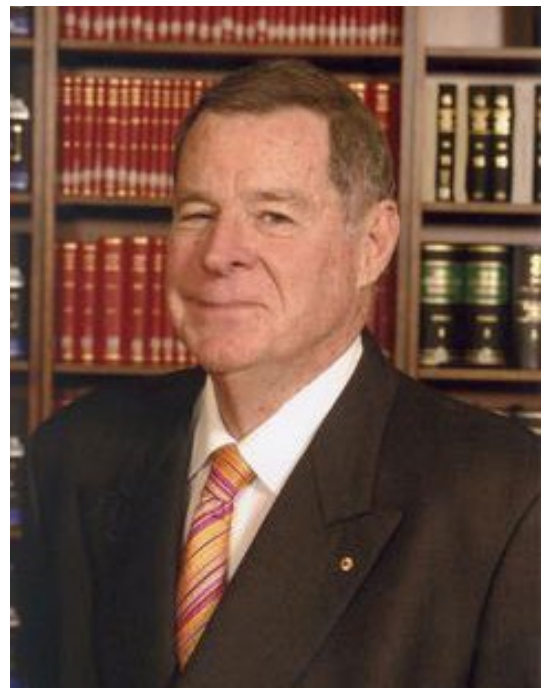
Martin exemplified everything that was Ashgrove. A high achiever who pursued excellence for the greater good of others but always with that requisite Marist humility.

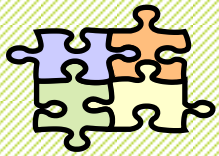
He was a giant of the legal world. Always a brilliant advocate, his life of service meant he later became a preeminent Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland where he served with distinction for 23 years from 1984 to 2007. He later became chairman of the CJC and introduced what is known as the Moynihan Reforms to expedite the system of Justice in the Queensland Courts. No one but no one did more to improve the Queensland Legal system for the ultimate benefit of the public.

Martin was ultimately awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001 and appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia on 10 June 2002.

However, for all of the magnificent achievements, Martin was first and foremost an Ashgrove man. Simplicity, Modesty, Humility. He was most at home sharing a laugh with his mates from all those years ago.

The Old Boys salutes the great man and passes on its condolences to Martin's wife, Margaret, and to his children Nicholas (1992), Catherine and Elizabeth.





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SAVE *the* DATE

MCA OLD BOYS V SLC OLD BOYS

MCA OBA accepted the challenge from St Laurence's College (SLC) to play both Football (Soccer) and Touch Football as curtain raisers to the AIC MCA vs SLC "Firsts" matches on May 27, 2017 at Runcorn. The significance of the occasion was a celebration of 50 years since the first competition game at Runcorn in 1967, coincidentally against MCA.

After the soccer went to SLC, 2-0 in an entertaining, skilful match where the SLC goalkeeper was impassable, there was hopeful anticipation as the MCA touch team needed a 3 try margin to win the combined competition.

How the MCA Old Boys' squad managed this is extraordinary, but having the direction of former Wallaby coach, 2006-7, John "Knuckles" Connolly former Qld halfback, Errol Allan (1961) and NRL player Clinton Mohr (1983) inspired the team who defended magnificently. MCA led 1-0 at halftime which was extended to 4-0 as the refs blew fulltime. Thus MCA retained the SLC-MCA Old Boys' Shield (4-2) which was contested previously in 2015. Thanks to Matt Poole (2001) who organised the MCA OBA inaugural soccer selection and had prodigious talents like Alfie Green (2016) Guy Shoshani (2013), Pat Hoey (2016), Connor McLauchlan (2016), Jack Gullo (2016), Andrew Girjes (2013), Michael Cristiano (2013), Josh Lewis (2013) and Luke Dupont (2016) to evergreens such as Terry Quain (1996) and Fr Chris Ketsore who turned back the clock!

The victorious 2017 touch football squad comprised: John Connolly (Captain) (1969), Errol Allan (1961), John O'Hare (Manager) (1972), Pat Casey (Assistant Manager) (1972), Clinton Mohr (1983), Ben Webb (1991), Andrew Jones (2002), Lloyd Jones (2003) Ben Kirkwood (2003), Oliver Jones (2005), Pat Trubshaw (2006), Tim O'Brien (2009), Ryan Poutsma (2009), Simon O'Hare (2010), Declan McWhirter (2015), Max Stubbings (2015) and Thomas Thorsen (2015).



JOE GARDINER (2010) - THE HORSEMAN OF KAURI ROAD

The Old Boys love hearing about the overseas success of our members. We turn this time to a younger member in an unusual activity.

Joe Gardiner finished Year 12 in 2010. He had never been near a horse. Neither had father, Terry (1981), Uncle Jim (1980) or brothers Jack (2005) or Tom (2007) except when at Eagle Farm.

In the following year, Joe deferred university and went to the remote Aboriginal Community of Ramingining in north eastern Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory where he worked as a teacher's aide.

Joseph lived in the community and became proficient at speaking the local Yolngu dialect.

After a stint in the Whitsundays working as a sailing instructor,

Joseph travelled to the Canadian Rocky Mountains where he worked at the famous Three Bars Ranch as a horse wrangler and skeet shooting instructor. This was particularly impressive since he had no experience in any of those activities.

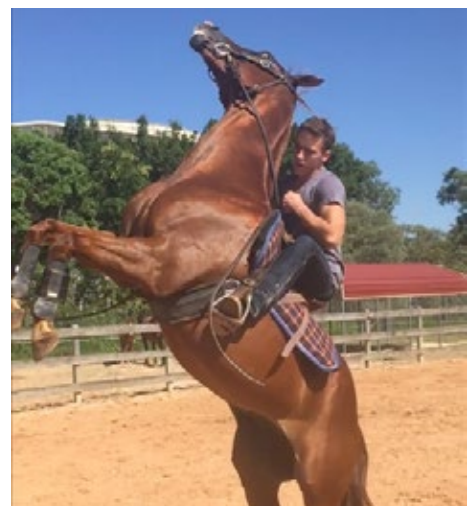
Joseph had to quickly learn the art of horse riding (particularly given he was supposed to be teaching others). After a year, Joe returned to Australia where he worked at the Australian Outback Spectacular on the Gold Coast as a horse trick rider performing Roman riding, vaulting, playing Tommy Woodcock in Phar Lap Scenes and in the charge of the Light Horse Brigade.

In 2016, Joseph travelled to Austin, Texas when he auditioned as a trick rider for the world renowned show 'Cavalia'. He was successful

and since 2016 has been in Beijing performing in the show.

"So what?" our country born horseriding Old Boys say. Well remarkably, Joseph was born with cystic fibrosis, a degenerative lung condition. Joe has undertaken hospital admissions throughout his life and continues to require careful management. Joe continues to inspire everyone that knows him. He has grabbed every opportunity life brings. He simply is the best horseman Kauri Road has ever produced.

Joseph is the son of Terry (1981), nephew of Jim (1980), James Collier, Simon Best, Keith Hall, and cousin of James Gardiner, Mick and Ben Gardiner, Charlie Best, Patrick Cotter (2016) Bill and Peter Kruip, Harry and Tom Collier. He is also the brother of Jack, Tom and Antwon.



GABRIEL PERRY (2008) - UNIVERSITY MEDALIST RETURNS TO THE COLLEGE

Gabriel Perry (2008) was the 2016 University Medalist. This most prestigious award is made to only one person each year by the University of Queensland. Gabriel returned to the College to address the assembly.

The invitation has given me cause to consider the benefits of my education here and how, on reflection, they have shaped my experiences since Graduation.

There are three aspects of my Marist education that I wish to highlight and affirm this morning. The first is the value given to persistent application/hard work. The second is balance. And the third is community-mindedness, or being “other” rather than “self” focused.

The first aspect might seem trite – surely every school values hard work in its students? No doubt that’s true, but I can only speak from my own experience and, fortunately, it was a quality given appropriate recognition here. In my old Harold House Assemblies certificates were awarded to students who achieved consistent commendations for their application to their studies (irrespective of the grades received). Similarly, Optimus awards recognised high achievement across a range of subjects relying on the good fortune of natural aptitude in one area was not sufficient.

It is significant that this school recognises application as a value in itself. While it may seem self-evident, consistency, real grind and genuine effort are absolutely indispensable qualities to success and personal satisfaction. Over the long run, it is that capacity and not innate talent or ability that will come up trumps. If you find yourself, as I sometimes did, envious of the easy achievements of others, at their apparently effortless brilliance, don’t lose heart. If you’re putting in the effort, consistently and deliberately, the rewards will come. Certainly, my own academic success did not come easily but its attainment was all the more satisfying for that

reason.

The second aspect of my Marist education that I want to touch on is the school’s recognition and encouragement of the importance of balance in your life. Balancing your time and efforts across a range of endeavours rather than narrowly focusing on one is life-enriching and will make you a more interesting person! It is also no barrier to academic success; you can fit more into your days than you might expect. Marist provides access to an amazing range of activities and does so in an inclusive, not exclusive way. The fact that there are so many divisions of rugby and cricket teams, for example, should be a source of considerable pride, one celebrated along with, or even in preference to, the success or otherwise of the “Firsts”. And it is not just the main-stream sports that are open to you at this school. I was a happy member of the inaugural Marist field hockey team, formed because the school embraced and supported the enthusiasm of club players and novices alike. This message of extra-curricular inclusivity extends beyond sport. And in this regard I need to give a huge shout-out to the brilliant Music Department for it was the source of some of my happiest and most rewarding experiences. If you want to play an instrument, and/or join in a band or ensemble, you can. Indeed, you should.

The Marist approach of encouraging all students to get involved certainly helped me to sign-up to new experiences (despite my natural introversion and aversion to failure). And that approach stays with you. I still regularly participate in orchestral and choir rehearsals and concerts and am currently (slowly and bit-by-bit) teaching myself French.

The final aspect of my Marist education that I wanted to emphasise was the value given to community-mindedness, of looking beyond yourself to others both within and beyond the Marist community. Since leaving Marist I am frequently

surprised, but certainly pleased, when I am approached by an Ashgroviaan alumnus and greeted with the warmth that comes from sharing a common element in our background.

But that sense of community-mindedness isn’t insular or exclusive, for this school also promotes the value of community beyond its own members. The values of selflessness and service to others were constantly reinforced here. It was, in large part, these values that informed my decision to study law – thus placing me in a position to help those facing considerable difficulties or disadvantage. I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to assist many vulnerable groups – for example, by providing practical, plain-English legal seminars to prisoners about their basic rights; by providing advice, information and referrals to hospital patients facing diverse legal difficulties; and by representing clients before the Mental Health Review Tribunal. It is undoubtedly the case that the value of service to others underpins my ongoing participation in pro bono (that is, public good) legal work, currently with refugees at the Salvos Legal Asylum Seeker Clinic.

So, to sum up, three aspects of my Marist College Ashgrove education that deeply affected me and how I’ve gone about my post-school life are: the valuing of, and acting on, persistent application; balance; and community-mindedness. And, of course, there’s no magic in the themes and ideas I’ve expressed today: it comes down to you – your commitment, persistence, passion, and willingness to both take and create opportunities. This year I expect that you will be immersed in those same values and practices that shaped me and invited to embrace them. I hope that you do.

Gabriel Perry



"VINTAGE BLUE & GOLD" OLD BOYS LUNCH

FOR CLASSES 1940 – 1977

CYPRIAN PAVILION - FRIDAY 18 August 2017

12 noon for lunch and conclusion at 3.00 pm

For those who would like to do so, there will be a
Mass in the College Chapel at 10.30am

PARTNERS WELCOME

Entry via Frasers Road and parking available as directed

COST: \$40 (lunch, beer, wine and soft drink)

RSVP: 11 August 2017

ALL VERY WELCOME

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BOOKING SHEET TO ATTENTION OF PETER CASEY

Any enquiries please contact Peter Casey

Phone: 3858 4584 or email caseyp@marash.qld.edu.au

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"VINTAGE BLUE & GOLD OLD BOYS LUNCH" FRIDAY 18 AUGUST 2017

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Marist College Ashgrove – 1973-1981

Marist College Ashgrove Old Boys Association – Member since 1981

Son, Jacob Stower, current Marist College Ashgrove student: 2008 – 2016

Success built on combating nature's elements has seen David develop his business into an employer of 20 staff members.

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DID BROTHER IGNATIUS EVER MENTION THE SNAKES AT EAGLE HEIGHTS?

From left to right:

Ron Whelan, Peter Death, Errol Allan, Colin Loag, Stephen Dick with a snake found in the dormitory at Eagle Heights.

Many thanks to Errol Allan for this photo. He tells us that he thinks Charlie Kramer was the one who killed the snake (not any of them in the photo!!!)



Do you have any photos you can share of the early Ashgrove years? If so, please email secretary@ashgroveoldboys.com.au

VISIT BY THE LEGENDS IN 1968

Left to right:

Br Phelan, Mick Barry, Alex Pope, Des Connor (coach) Br Terrence, Barry Honan

The passing last year of Brother Terry Curley and the recent return for the Sports Day of Barry Honan reminds Old Boys of this visit to the College in 1968 by some famous rugby Old Boys just before the 1968 penalty try test at Ballymore.



NEVER FORGOTTEN



How proud must he be 77 years on! The headstone of founder Brother Ignatius at Tamborine.

FIRST XV RUGBY DROUGHT COMES TO AN END

In what seems like an eternity, the 2017 1st XV ended a 10-year drought on 10th June 2017 by capturing the first UNDEFEATED premiership since 2007. Since 2007 there were two co-premierships in 2009 and 2011 and the brave 2012 side just missed by a whisker when beaten in the last minute of the last game. The OBA sends their congratulations to the team and notes they were co-coached by two Old Boys, David Miles (1992) and Brendan Kiernan (1984), both in their first year's coaching at the highest level. Sean Anderson at inside centre was the son of Peter Anderson (1983) also a premiership winning team. Lachlan Tenison-Woods, son of David (1976) was also a valuable member of the team. The team also had twins Matthew and Thomas Dangerfield whose older brothers Jack (1st XV 2005 and Captain 2006) and Nicholas (1st XV 2004) also played in undefeated premiership winning teams.

The 2017 year like their 2007 older brothers have achieved a remarkable double by being undefeated champions in both volleyball (a rare feat) and rugby. The OBA notes the tremendous spirit in which the boys have conducted themselves.

TOP OF THE MOUNT: BRENDAN MOON (1976)

Former Wallaby speedster and Marist College old boy Brendan Moon has been spotted scaling the heights of Machu Picchu, the Incan fortress in the Andes Mountains in Peru.

Perhaps he went to the top of the mountain seeking inspiration for his new job. Moon arrived back from holidays to be named chief executive of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority by Deputy Premier Jackie Trad.

Moon is responsible for a cyclone and floor reconstruction efforts worth \$13 billion since 2011.

The former winger told me he still gets twitchy when he sees a Test match on television. "I have to stop myself from doing dummy steps," he said.

Moon has replaced Frankie Carroll. He is now Director-General of the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.

PAUL FURNESS (2005) ARIA NOMINATION

The never ending success of the MCA Music program has produced another superstar.

2005 Old Boy Paul Furness' band Ball Park Music was nominated for another Aria recently for Best Rock Album which is an amazing achievement.

The Old Boys look forward to hearing about Paul's success in the future.

View a list of the nominees here - www.ariaawards.com.au/nominees/2016/ARIA-Awards/Best-Rock-Album.



MARIST COLLEGE ASHGROVE OLD BOYS' PRESENCE FELT IN CAMBODIA

Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS), in support of Marist Solidarity Cambodia (MSC) and the Marist Brother's work, are creating awareness and educational outcomes for the disadvantaged and marginalised young people in Cambodia. The MCA Old Boys' network is at the forefront of our progress thanks to the many generous donations and fundraising contributions made to this work. AMS CEO Brother Allen Sherry said, "Brother Tony Burrows in his time with Brother Terry Heinrich at LaValla School Cambodia felt, as a former MCA teacher and now returning Ashgrove community member, strongly supported by the Marist College Ashgrove School so as to become a model facility for education of those with a disability."

The continuing generosity of the MCA Old Boys' community provides vital funds towards the ongoing expenses of the Marist Brothers' Lavalla Primary School and the Inclusive Education Program. At LaValla this year, there

are 102 students with disabilities enrolled from grades one through to six. Interestingly, of the 35 students starting grade one this year, 11 are aged 14 years or older. Two students are aged 18 and one student is 19.

AMS and the Marist Brothers in Cambodia are now appealing to our generous supporters within the MCA Old Boys' network to renew their commitment to supporting the future of education in Cambodia.

The greatest impediment to the lives of young people with disabilities is social isolation. They are 'disabled' from participating fully and equally in community life because of the stigma of bad karma. The Village project builds on two other Marist projects, the LaValla Primary School and the Inclusive Education Program, by providing purpose built accommodation for young people with disabilities enrolled in high school or university.

The village will accommodate 80

physically-disabled students from families living in rural and remote communities across Cambodia each year. Each house will have its own vegetable patch, where students will be able to develop skills in small-scale farming. This 1.6-hectare plot which sits adjacent to the LaValla School will be the hub of the educational services that LaValla and the Marist Brothers provides

The stories of these Cambodian children's lives are almost unimaginable for those of us in Australia from living in very impoverished conditions to attracting infections leading to serious impairment and dismemberment. But the continued support of the MCA Old Boys' can ensure these children have a brighter future. It is expected that the first phase of dormitory construction will get underway by mid 2017.



To donate to the Community Village in Cambodia or to find out more go to the project page on our website www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/project/msc-community-village or contact AMS Cambodia Projects' Coordinator and member of the Cambodian Village Planning Committee, Mr Ashley Bulgarelli, by email Ashley.Bulgarelli@marists.org.au or phone (07) 3354 0600.

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KEVIN MCMAHON was born on 24 June 1928. He was raised in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales where his parents were storekeepers. Kevin attended the Marist school at Hamilton Newcastle. Aged fourteen, he entered the Marist Brothers Juniorate at Mittagong in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales when the Second World War was being fought in the Pacific. Kevin completed his training and made his profession in 1949 and took 'Francis' as his religious name. After brief stays at St Patrick's Church Hill, Bondi Junction and then Maitland Brother Francis, aged twenty-four, arrived at St Mary's College, Ashgrove in 1953 for the first of what would be his ten years at the school.

MCMAHON OVAL

BROTHER FRANCIS died on 28 July 1991. Within twelve months of his passing and on the feast day of Blessed (now Saint) Marcellin Champagnat - 6 June - the College's main oval was named in his honour. As the then President of the Old Boys' Association I was asked to participate in the dedication ceremony. The plaque commemorating the ceremony contains these words, "Brother Francis McMahon who, with boys, Brothers and parents laboured to shape this (the oval) and other parts of the College grounds."

Brother Terrence Heinrich - the then College Headmaster - asked me to speak on behalf of the Association. As I was taught by Brother Francis and was at the College for six of his ten year's service, I had many fond memories of this dynamic personality and could have related many stories about him. The one that came to mind, however, concerned an incident I was involved in when I was in primary school and has remained as vivid today as when it first happened - and it did have a slight connection with the dedication ceremony.

FERGIE AND RADDISH

BROTHER FRANCIS was on his Massey Ferguson tractor collecting topsoil for the College's playing fields. He was working in the area between the swimming pool and Enoggera

Creek. As I lived immediately opposite where he was working and often hung out around the creek, I raced up to him and asked him for a ride on the Fergie. He agreed, and I climbed aboard and sat on the small mudguard over the larger rear wheel, as directed. As he drove off I was immediately propelled forward then downward in front of the rear wheel. The tyre had completely passed over the top of me by the time Brother Francis had worked out what had happened and applied the brakes. My instinctive reaction was to quickly remove myself from the drama. So without thought of injury or impairment I just bolted - crossed over the creek, up the embankment, scooted across Acacia Drive and up the steps to our home as quick as I could - to my mother apparently - with Brother Francis in hot pursuit. I was informed that he found me on my parent's bed curled up in a ball in a state of shock with the Fergie's tyre marks covering my entire body - but otherwise uninjured.

It was not unusual for boys to be hanging around the Fergie or Brother Francis. He enjoyed engaging students in his work commitments around the College; and we were happy to work with him as best we could in whatever job he was undertaking. Sometimes he got us to stand on the scraper bucket behind the Fergie to add weight when he

was lifting soil or rocks with the front excavator bucket. A little risky perhaps by today's standards but this was well before workplace health and safety regulations.

Brother Francis loved his Fergie but equally his old Ford tip-truck, nicknamed 'Raddish'. If he wasn't on the Fergie he was driving Raddish - whatever vehicle could complete the allotted task. Damian Carroll recalls, "After finishing cadets at about 4.30pm on a Friday afternoon, Brother Francis would do a quick change into his work gear and take off in Raddish to collect firewood for the boilers. A few of us would pile into the back and give him a hand. A lot of fun but no thought of seat belts in those days."

The Fergie and Raddish; they were his two most valuable possessions. No one dared touch his toys. They



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were housed in the machinery shed behind the new toilet block (both now demolished) and Frank's shed was out-of-bounds to all. He wore King Gee work clothes under his black soutane and always had a bundle of keys in his right-side pocket. He would jingle the keys when speaking to you and you got the sense he was just marking time until he could get out of his soutane when his classroom duties were over for the day, get on his Fergie, and get his hands dirty.

THE MEN'S COMMITTEE

IN 1958 Brother Francis established the Men's Committee to help carry out the necessary improvement work to the College grounds - usually on a Saturday. (In 1957, he had also established the Mothers' Auxiliary.) The grounds were nowhere near what they are today: Apart from where the buildings stood, the land was mostly covered with bare dirt and stones - totally devoid of any grass or plant life. Bill Frost, one of the fathers, supplied his earthmoving equipment to the College - which Brother Francis learnt how to operate - to level some of the grounds for sporting fields and general use. Endless construction work was carried out under the direction of Brother Francis: the machinery shed (which housed the Fergie and Raddish); kerbing and guttering along the drives; concrete terraces at the swimming pool and the main oval; the main oval picket fence; asphalt to the (old) tennis courts; construction of the culvert over the (old) main road to oval; bitumen to the road leading to Moola Road; the grotto in front of the tower building (now demolished); and the countless maintenance jobs necessary to keep such a facility in good working condition.

Saturday was just one day amongst many in the never-ending schedule of Brother Francis to keep the grounds and fields at the best possible standard. The Canvas of Dreams - the Marist publication celebrating Ashgrove's golden jubilee in 1990 - records, "Preparation of pitches, mowing of lawns behind a horse called 'Treasure', repair of machinery:

all left to the Brothers themselves which, in effect meant Francis. Every break from lessons in summer, it seemed, he would be racing down to roll the pitch for the cricket game on Saturday, only to have the game washed out on Friday afternoon by a tropical storm."

The naming of Ashgrove's iconic main oval in honour of Brother Francis was a fitting gesture for the limitless energy enthusiasm and passion he poured into the College grounds.

GRADE 6

BY 1959 - my Grade 6 year - Brother Francis had acquired an imposing and well-earned reputation in his six years at the school. As well as his constant presence on the Fergie or in Raddish he was also coach of the First XV. Rugby was big in those days - the only winter sport - and Brother Francis was a very successful coach. In fact, with Brother Francis as coach the First XV had only ever lost one competition game - to St Lawrence's in 1958 - and had never lost a First XV premiership. He also was involved in a range of other College activities which included being the sports master, an officer in charge of the College Cadets, the gymnastics coach, an athletics coach, and coach of the Second XV Rugby team.

Miss Quann's 1958 Grade 5 cohort were keen to get into Brother Francis' class to experience the aura that surrounded this human dynamo. Another thirteen boys joined us that year; there were sixty-nine of us now. We were second to Mr McRoberts' Grade 7 - with seventy-one - as the school's largest class-size for 1959. A prize did not accompany the honour.

Yes sixty-nine boys in one classroom with one teacher - with only one cane. Would it be enough? Some of us had encountered Brother Francis' proficiency with the cane the previous year when Miss Quann delegated correctional duties to him when her head executioner - the Principal, Brother Ferrer - was unavailable. We no longer had to worry about Brother Ferrer as he had moved on, replaced by the kindly Brother Valerius. Corporal punishment was a given

in those times and if administered fairly no offence was taken; most times it was expected. And this was the way it was with Brother Francis. He demanded strong discipline in his class but he was fair and we respected him. Some of us even admired his athletic ability with the cane like Henry Mendra who recalled, "He was the most masterful of the cane-swingers, having the fluid grace of a pro golfer". Needless to say one cane was more than enough for Brother Francis to handle his sixty-nine eleven year-olds that year.

We knew him as 'Frank' and that is what we called him, but not to his face. He had a trim muscular frame



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with the compact build of a half-back, wiry darkish orange-brown hair, and the fair freckled complexion of someone with Celtic heritage – complete with a distinguishing mole on his left cheek. He was respected amongst the students for his personable manner and engaging grin. Even at our tender age we sensed the contrasting difference between Frank and our previous two class-teachers at the school. Trevis McKewen even claims that his Grade 6 year with Brother Francis, “Restored his faith in humanity and civility – at last we could relax at school, and the class room had a feeling of friendliness.”

Frank tried hard to make us independent and self-reliant and he used the classroom as well as the sports field to achieve this goal. He organised us to participate in theatrical plays – such as Wax Works and The Thunderer - which we performed for our class and sometimes for the other primary classes. He introduced weekly confidence building exercises where he encouraged boys to volunteer to give short talks to our class about any topic of their choice. Interestingly the presentations were made remotely from the room adjacent to our classroom using the latest technology, the newly installed public address system connected to each classroom. Mostly the presentations were about a boy's hobby. Mick Drake recalls volunteering but told Frank he wanted to talk about his dog. Frank didn't approve of the topic so Mick suggested he could explain the advantages of Rugby League over Rugby Union. That didn't go over too well with him either. When Mick accepted Frank's directive on the superior Rugby code he was given the green light to address the class.

As our gymnastics coach he spent countless hours perfecting our skills on the vaulting horse and artistic routines. Our artistry was then displayed at the annual College Speech Night at the City Hall. In our minds – and that of our parents – our performances were close to that of the Cirque du Soleil exhibiting

amazing feats of gymnastic and athletic ability. And Frank was always there proud-as-punch with our achievements.

Looking back, Frank's concern for his students often went beyond the classroom. For instance, he was worried about my nickname. I was called 'Liz', sometimes 'Lizzie'. I thought nothing of it - everyone had a nickname. But Frank didn't like because it was a girl's name. He said it would be a disadvantage when I was older as I would be picked on. So he encouraged me to tell the other boys to drop the nickname. It didn't work but I appreciated his concern.

Trevis McKewen recalled that Frank took him and a bunch of his classmates to Cashes Crossing on the South Pine River for swim and a picnic BBQ one Sunday. Frank drove them in Raddish and they all sat in the back – no seats, no seat belts. Trevis recalls, “Frank instructed us like a Boy Scout Leader how to build a fire to cook our lunch, and pretty soon there were about ten raging fires as we all competed to see who could stoke the largest fire. It was simply a great experience and good fun. He was the sort of guy you would be happy to have as a father.”

Mick Drake attempts to sum up the essence of the man, “It is hard to really capture the qualities of people such as Frank as he acted as if everyone in the world was just like him; and did not expect, and indeed would not accept, any accolades for who he was or what he did. If each of us were as generous, forthright and an all-round ‘good bloke’ like Frank, the world would be a wonderful place.”

TIMES TABLES

TIMES TABLES was an entirely different matter with Frank. It was his obsession: Bad mental arithmetic was anathema to him and, I am sure, resulted in the most number of canings for the year. Tables were a daily ritual and if Frank asked a boy who didn't know the correct answer, we all knew what to expect. Mick Drake recalls one of our classmates, Lindsay Laurence

Lebler, was so overwhelmed by Frank's daily interrogation, his ability to concentrate diminished to such an extent, the resulting punishment would have merited an entry into the Guinness Book of Records, if there was such a category in those early years of its establishment.

I know how Laurence felt. I felt the same when it came to reading. I was so shy and lacking in confidence I was a mumbling mess when asked to read aloud to the class. Surprisingly Frank did not rate poor reading ability as badly as poor mental arithmetic and the cane was not the solution. But he did have one: Brother Marcellus.

BROTHER MARCELLUS

BROTHER MARCELLUS helped the boys who had difficulty with reading. His bedroom was immediately under the tower in the White Tower building and that is where we had our instructions. They were held there as Brother Marcellus had multiple sclerosis and was either wheelchair-bound when we visited, or confined to his bed.

Brother Marcellus (Steve Howe) came from Berrigan in NSW and grew up on his family's farming property. He was



Br. Marcellus (seated), Br. Jarlath (standing).

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a late starter to the religious life at the age of twenty-five and was professed as a Brother in 1938. For the next five years, he managed the Brothers' farm at Mittagong before becoming a primary school teacher, initially in New South Wales before moving to Queensland where his illness was first identified with his health then progressively deteriorating. He was in his late forties when I had the good fortune – by virtue of my problematic reading skills – to meet this kindly, generous and compassionate human being. I don't recall what effect he had on my reading ability, but he was such an interesting and interested person I visited him often just to have a chat.

Some years later Brother Marcellus said to me on one of my visits, "David, if you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything." I have never forgotten those words and often repeated them to my children when they were younger. Brother Marcellus was secretary and spiritual director of The Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart. The aims of the Association were "to make reparation to the Sacred Heart for the sins of intemperance and for the conversion of excessive drinkers". When Brother Marcellus uttered those challenging words I suspect we may have been discussing the aims of the Association. I was not unfamiliar with the negative effects of alcohol abuse on families at that time and so Brother Marcellus' words were a rallying call-to-arms. I became an enthusiastic member of the Pioneers at the advanced age of fifteen, in my Junior year.

We were required to say the Pioneer prayer daily and to bear witness by wearing the Pioneer badge at all times. I initially signed up until my twenty-fifth birthday – for which I was given a red badge – and then in my Sub-Senior year I took the pledge for life – and this commitment came with a green badge. It may have been the colour of the second badge that brought me unstuck as I only lasted until 6 May 1969, the twenty-first birthday of my 1959 classmate Bob Wood. In toasting Bob's majority I

tasted alcohol for the first time – only weeks before my own twenty-first. We were told a plenary indulgence at the hour of death would be granted to faithful members. I became unfaithful over less than half-a-glass of champagne and relinquished the opportunity of a plenary indulgence. Brother Marcellus died in 1972. I was thankful for the time I was able to spend with him, his wise counsel, and friendship, and enduring words of advice.

HUMPHREY MCQUEEN

One of Brother Francis' Grade 6 students in his first year at the College in 1953 was Humphrey McQueen. Humphrey was in Senior when I reached Grade 6 in 1959. Humphrey was the inaugural President of The Pioneer Total Abstinence Association that year. He had come to my attention early in the year while I was walking across the bridge over Enoggera Creek leading to Glenlyon Drive. Some of the Senior boys – including Humphrey – were leaving the school and I was with my mother going in the opposite direction. As we passed, Humphrey raised his grey felt school hat, inclined his head slightly, smiled at my mother and politely bid her "good afternoon". My mother was most impressed by this display of courtesy. From that moment, Humphrey McQueen was the gold standard for good manners in our family with my mother developing adages over time, perhaps to invoke the spirit of Humphrey, such as, "Good manners don't cost you anything" and, "Good manners are a letter of credit anywhere." I didn't know Humphrey's name at the time but my mother asked me to find out. I did and was then able to follow his post-Ashgrove career with great interest.

It was not difficult to follow Humphrey's career as he was often in the news; and this was in the days before social media. Humphrey was newsworthy after he left school for his social and political beliefs. But what was interesting about Humphrey is that he had formulated and was confident enough to advocate his opinions whilst he was at school.

The Canvas of Dreams records: "When he was a little boy in Francis' Grade 6, Humphrey McQueen was all the things the Brothers hoped he would remain: studious, polite, pleasant, neatly dressed. Five years later he was found to be spreading communistic ideas among the students, and a priest who was also an old boy, Father Leonard Treston, was called in to straighten him out." Even the Senior Class Notes in the 1959 Blue and Gold – written by the College Captain Trevor Rodgers – records Humphrey's activism: "The class is unique in having our own political adviser, Humphrey McQueen, and many a debate is held with him on the whys and wherefores of this controversial topic." [The "controversial topic" is not mentioned – perhaps censored by the Brothers – but presumably it was communism].

There is a wealth of information about Humphrey on the internet, all of which I found most interesting. Interesting also in how he developed an awareness and appreciation of politics at such a young age. For instance, in an article titled Labour History – Radical Brisbane, Humphrey discloses that he joined The Gap branch of the ALP on his "fifteenth birthday to ensure there was a quorum"; and that "at an annual retreat at Marist Brothers Ashgrove I read a copy of Lenin's Imperialism, which was wrapped in a Catholic Truth Society pamphlet".

Wikipedia provides only a small snapshot of his prodigious achievements: "Humphrey McQueen (born 26 June 1942) is an Australian author, historian, and cultural commentator. He has written many books on a wide range of subjects covering history, the media, politics and the visual arts. He also broadcasts on radio and is regularly asked to speak at public lectures and conferences."

From what I could garner on Humphrey from the internet Father Treston – and the Brothers – were unsuccessful in their late-1950s attempt "to straighten him out" – more likely, it cemented his resolve

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to further develop his political and social concepts. It is also evident that Humphrey has remained "all the things the Brothers hoped he would remain: studious, polite, pleasant" and perhaps this is more the measure of a person than their political point of view.

It is remarkable how a minor incident in one's formative years can have a lifelong impact. Humphrey's display of good manners to my mother and her positive endorsement of his behaviour has remained with me all these years. Although my views are at the opposite end of the political spectrum to his, I am happy to view Humphrey and his vastly diverse ideas and works through the prism of his 1959 act of kindness.

Brother Francis - post-Ashgrove

BROTHER FRANCIS completed ten years at the College in 1962. For the next eleven years he taught at St Joseph's College Hunters Hill, Sydney and continued with the same relentless pace as at Ashgrove and even broke new ground, notably in outdoor activities where he challenged boys to reach beyond themselves.

In 1974, with typical enthusiasm and a host of plans, he took over the Rural Training Centre at Vanga Point in the Solomon Islands. He taught, he extended, he built – an outstanding chapel being a lasting memorial to his vision and faith. He set up new courses and pioneered new schemes. St Dominic's became a showpiece to the Pacific. After seven years he moved to St Joseph's, Tenaru Bougainville Island, where the 300 high school boys and girls – like all of the students at his previous schools – marvelled at his monumental work rate.

Returning to Australia in 1984 Brother Francis took up a new challenge: helping the unemployed youth in Toowoomba, Queensland. His unusual flair for inventiveness and encouragement gave hope to the young with whom he had contact. He reached further – teaching R.E. in State schools, running retreats, involvement in the local parish and

helping people in need and, true to form, offering all the willing ear and the ready hand.

It wasn't easy for Brother Francis to return to Papua-New Guinea in 1991 but he threw himself into this last challenge as vocations promoter with his usual enthusiasm. He was based at the Brothers' property at Sixteen Mile on the outskirts of Port Moresby. He was having blood pressure problems at this time and his health was giving some concern.

Shortly after returning to Sixteen Mile from a retreat in the Highlands he suffered a stroke during the night and was found in his bed the next morning. His death came as a shock. The night before he showed no signs of distress as Brother Des Howard, the then District Superior, recalls in *Melanesian Stories*, "As was our custom we relaxed that Saturday night with a game of Five Hundred. Around 11.00pm we were neck and neck with the outcome depending on the final hand. We bid ten no trumps (an unbeatable call, we thought). Frank wagered on open misere and we were convinced he would lose. However, the wily old card sharp won, amid rapturous outbursts." He was aged just sixty-three.

Brother Alexis Turton, then Provincial of the Marist Brothers, said in Frank's eulogy, "It is impossible to describe this man who had such a contagious, optimistic enthusiasm. He never graced the Headmaster's podium or joined an academic procession, yet he was a consultant of Prime Ministers and parolees, the confidant of the hierarchy and heroin victims. His heart was so big it had room for everyone." Again, in the eulogy, "Based on a sturdy faith in God and trust in his Mother Mary, he was impelled to take on and achieve so much for youth, for the Church".

AN OBSERVATION

Brother Francis did "achieve so much for youth, (and) for the Church". He was not alone; he and so many others gave there very best to ensure we had a good education and be provided with the best opportunities in life. I think Damian Carroll sums

up their contribution so well, "The overwhelming feeling I have (of my time at Ashgrove) is one of appreciation for the work done by the Brothers for us students. As parents we can now understand the concept of 'working and making sacrifices for our children'; but the Brothers were working, some at a high personal cost, not for the benefit of their own children, but for us; for which I will be forever grateful."

I am mindful these Ashgrove memories are written in the shadow of the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Catholic Church – including the Marist Brothers and other religious institutions – have been put under intense pressure by the commission; and all have been found wanting in their handling of child abuse cases. The reputations of the Church and all religious institutions have suffered as a result and understandably there is a profound mistrust and scepticism within the community about the Church and child sexual abuse.

I realise my positive experiences of school life with the Marist Brothers are incompatible with the negative of those who have suffered abuse in a school environment. The commission has exposed the reality and the horror of child sexual abuse and thankfully the commission has given a voice to those who were abused.

But what of Brother Francis and Brother Marcellus – and men like them - whose lives epitomise the very best of service and commitment to the community? They no longer have a voice. I do hope their eminent contribution to the Marist Brothers and the Church is not buried and forgotten in the maelstrom from the fallout of the royal commission's findings. Justice would not be well served if the reputations of the selfless lives of many were destroyed by the selfish criminal actions of a few.

David L'Estrange, 27 April 2017

MARIST COLLEGE ASHGROVE

THE TOWER APPEAL

THE TOWER HAS BEEN AN ICONIC LANDMARK IN ASHGROVE SINCE 1931. IT IS A PLACE OF IMMENSE HISTORICAL, RELIGIOUS AND COMMUNITY SIGNIFICANCE. IT IS NOW TIME FOR US TO RESTORE THE TOWER SO THAT IT WILL ONCE AGAIN HOLD ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE OF BEING NEAR THE HEART OF MARIST COLLEGE ASHGROVE.

Once restored The Tower will greet visitors to the College, the main reception will be located at the entrance of the building on the ground floor. There will also be a reflection and parents room and a function room for the use of our Marist family and friends. Within the function room there will be a long needed College museum to house and display our extensive historical collection.

The restored Tower will also be a significant place for teaching and learning. Upstairs there will be two multi-purpose classrooms. These classrooms will provide an innovative and vibrant learning hub, supporting the 21st century learning needs for our students and teachers, and will include writable walls, comfortable furniture, wi-fi and usb ports.

The Tower is a legacy of our proud Marist history. It has served the Marist College Ashgrove community for over 77 years. The responsibility now falls to us to preserve this historical building for those who will follow in our footsteps.

Please give generously to The Tower Appeal. Without your support the dream to return The Tower to its former glory may remain just that a Dream.

How You Can Help The Tower

Assistance can be provided in a number of forms, including by;

- Making a personal donation
- Making a Corporate donation
- Making a Bequest to the Restoration Appeal
- Organising a fundraising event
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or contact the Foundation Department on Ph: 3858 4584 or mcafoundation@marash.qld.edu.au

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