

THE ASHGROVIAN

*BROTHER ALEXIS
SOME THOUGHTS ON ASHGROVE*



First Edition 2020, Volume 58 - No 1
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www.ashgroveoldboys.com.au

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 4 September 2020

(Provisional Only)

Old Boys Golf Day

Friday 18 September 2020

(Provisional Only)

Blue and Gold Vintage Lunch

Check the Old Boys' website at

www.ashgroveoldboys.com.au for further details.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear fellow Old Boys,

Welcome to this year's first edition of the Ashgrovian and my first as President of your Association. Thank you to the Old Boys' Committee and the College for their support of me in undertaking this role.

At this year's Inaugural Mass, the College Captain for 2020, James Clarke (son of Langton 1986) spoke of the theme for this year being "Brotherhood". The Old Boys' Association is indeed a brotherhood and those ties comfort and support us in times such as these we are now experiencing during the Covid-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, the pandemic has affected so many people, including our Old Boy colleagues and their families. We pray that everyone stays as safe as possible during this challenging time.

The pandemic has compelled us to change many of our plans for the first half of this year. Given the restrictions and postponement/cancellation of different sports and College events, the Old Boys Sports Day, Old Boys' Reunion Day and Golf Day have all been put on hold as we assess the ability to hopefully hold events later in the year. Please keep your eye on our emails, website, Facebook and Instagram pages for word on if and when these events will be rescheduled.

One event which will definitely go ahead is the launch of the magnificent "Passing the Baton" book. This 424 page masterpiece, tracing the complete history of Athletic achievements and stories of our Marist College Ashgrove teams since the College was established, has been meticulously compiled by John O'Hare and Dave Cameron. Please order your copy if you have not already done so.

Sadly, a number of prominent Old Boys have passed away since our last edition after leading such wonderful lives in the Marist tradition. We have paid special tribute to some in this edition and also mentioned many others in our 'prayers please' section. Despite our collective sadness, it also gives us the opportunity to reflect on how magnificently these men have served the greater community just as Champagnat taught. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

This edition also contains the wonderful memories of Brother Alexis who has signalled this will be his final public contribution. Brother was at the College from 1964 to 1976 and became a young Headmaster in 1971. All Old Boys from that time cannot speak highly enough of Brother's magnificent contribution. His vision set the foundations for the College to grow for the next 50 years. The culture he built on from those great Headmasters before him now sees so many Old Boys choosing to send their sons back to the College to be educated. The Old Boys are forever grateful for his contribution and thank him for selecting the Ashgrovian for his final work.

This year is very special for the College as we celebrate our 80th Anniversary. Again, we haven't been able to hold events as planned but look forward to being able to do so later in the year. It is also our Headmaster, Peter McLoughlin's final year after 12 years of distinguished service. The Old Boys have had great support from Peter as our relationship with the College continues to strengthen. We look forward to being able to thank Peter appropriately later this year. We also look forward to welcoming the new appointee, Mr Michael Newman, into the role next year. Michael is a St Joseph's Hunters Hill Old Boy and comes with a wealth of experience.

At our AGM earlier in the year, your committee voted to award honorary life membership to Graham Lawson and Peter Murdoch. These gentlemen need no introduction and have both dedicated most of their careers to educating the very many Marist Ashgrove boys who passed through the College over five decades. It was also decided to award the Arthur Apelt Memorial Service Award 2020 to Jack Laracy. Again, many would know the huge impact that Jack has had not only on the College but also during his period as President of the Old Boys. We look forward to presenting all these awards as soon as we are able.

On the administration side, we have been busily updating the Old Boys database, website and Facebook. We have also added Instagram and LinkedIn to our communication channels. You can find us at [ashgroveoldboys](https://www.ashgroveoldboys.com.au). We need to make sure we have your correct details so please contact us at oldboys@marash.qld.edu.au for any updates.

Finally, a reminder that our Old Boys Association meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every school month. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at those and/or at our functions in the second half of the year.

VIRILITER AGE

Steve McAuliffe
President



FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Proud Members of the Old Boy's Association,

On Friday 5 June we celebrated Champagnat Day one day early as the feast actually is observed on 6 June.

I wonder how Champagnat Day was celebrated in the early years of the College? It actually reminded me of an Old Boys visit to Papua New Guinea in 2016. Some Old Boys and I visited New Ireland and a school where the children sang to us as a welcome. I suggested to the two Old Boys that we could respond by singing the Sub Tuum to them. Not a problem for one of the Old Boys (1992) but the other, from 1976, said, 'Sorry Peter, but the Brothers never taught us that hymn'. I was flabbergasted! Went to a Marist school and didn't know Sub Tuum?! Unheard of! But maybe not? There are some Marist aspects of Ashgrove 2020 that weren't part of the fabric of the College in those early days. But one thing remains the same, the boys (98% of them) love the College with a passion and very much 'get it' in terms of how they conduct themselves as 'Marist Boys'.



So, what is the significance of the feast day on June 6th? I would like to quote the prayer sent out by the Marist Mission and Life formation team on June 5. It encapsulates why we celebrate who we are as Marists and gives thanks for the life of St Marcellin.

"The 6th June, the Feast Day of St Marcellin Champagnat is a celebration of the life and immense contributions our founder made to our Church, our communities and to each of us.

He responded to the needs of those of his time who had no voice, the marginalised.

His love of Jesus and his Good Mother Mary inspired and motivated him to work with passion and zeal in order to do God's work.

Let us remember St Marcellin and the early brothers, the risks they took and the uncertainties with which they lived each day, whose legacy allows us to carry on their inspirational efforts today.

Let us pray for our Marist Brothers around the world and in particular those who we are blessed to work beside and walk with, who guide us in our own vocations and lives."

Let us always be grateful for the great deeds of St Marcellin.

God Bless

Peter McLoughlin
Headmaster

NEW HEADMASTER APPOINTED FOR 2021

The OBA welcomes the appointment of Mr Michael Newman as the new Headmaster of Marist College Ashgrove commencing in January 2021.

Michael, an Old Boy of Joeys, brings with him a huge range of educational skills, academic qualifications and experience. Michael was formerly a Marist Brother for 17 years before leaving the order and ultimately marrying Lauren. They now have three children.

Michael is currently the principal at St Mary's College in Toowoomba where, in 2018, he was awarded the "Excellence in Leadership Award" by the Diocese.

All Old Boys send their congratulations to Michael and look forward to welcoming the Newman family to the Marist Ashgrove Community.

HUGE CHANGES TO RUGBY AND FOOTBALL (SOCCER) SEASON

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a huge upheaval to the sporting calendar. The rugby and football (soccer) season now only has three games with two separate pools starting Saturday 8 August, 2020. The winners from each pool will meet in the grand final at Ashgrove on Saturday 12 September, 2020. Ash v SLC in a true GF? Stay tuned Old Boys.

BRIAN MCGRATH OAM – (1940-1941)

- FOUNDATION STUDENT

Last year, the OBA celebrated the outstanding achievements of one of our Foundation Students, Brian McGrath OAM, who was honoured permanently by the dedication of the 'Brian McGrath Playground' at Jubilee Park, Bardon. It was with great regret that the OBA learned of Brian's passing on December 8, 2019. As noted in our 2019 article, Brian's accomplishments were many and, as recognised by his life membership of Lions Australia, Brian's support of the community was the very hallmark of his life.

A true Marist family, Brian's wife, Betty OAM, is also an affiliate to the Marist Brothers. All Old Boys pass on their condolences to Betty and to their children, Ann, John (1974), Mary and Paul (1980).

Truly, one of our great Ashgrovians. A life of dedication and sacrifice.



BRIAN AND BETTY MCGRATH

PATRICK GARRY NOLAN (PAT)

- HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Although not having the opportunity to attend Ashgrove like his older brothers Bernie, RIP (1953) and Joe (1963), such was Pat Nolan's unparalleled contribution to the Marist Community that, in 2014, he was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Association - our highest tribute. Pat passed away on December 4, 2019. Revered in legal circles, Pat was Queensland's foremost criminal solicitor and formed a long-standing partnership with another Old Boy, Leo Luton, as the twin pillars of the highly regarded firm, Gilshenan and Luton. Pat's contributions to the Marist Community are simply too many to mention. However, today's generation (and the generations to come) remain the beneficiaries of Pat's unmatched fund-raising efforts (along with the mercurial Bernie Knapp and John Glennon) in securing the construction of the Champagnat Centre which opened in June 1989. Thirty years on, that magnificent building still stands as the centrepiece of College activities. Pat also remained a loyal supporter of the Marist Brothers who frequently turned to him for counsel and advice. Pat is survived by his beloved wife, Carmel, together with Garry (1981), Elizabeth, Simon (1983), Jeremy (1986) and Dominic (1989). Two of Pat's grandsons have graduated, from Ashgrove, one is at the College now and several more are to come. Then there are all the nephews, great nephews and cousins. The Old Boys and the entire College community give thanks for Pat's life and the wonderful contribution he made to Ashgrove.



NEXT EDITION - A TREAT FOR SPORTSCENE LOVERS

Those old boys who remember the flagship show SportsScene often with our legendary member George Doniger (1956) are in for a treat in our November edition. Something to look forward to.

JOHN LENNON (1940-41, 1945-1946) - FOUNDATION STUDENT

John was one of those privileged few who attended on that very first day and possessed the lifelong memory of standing in the shadow of the Tower in 1940. John was the son of a WWI veteran and started at the convent school in Texas before moving midway through the year to St Finbarr's at Ashgrove. John and his brother Warren (aka Bill) (RIP), attended the Ashgrove campus for two years (1940-41) until the College relocated to Eagle Heights. John then continued his education in 1942 at Warwick CBC, then to Rosalie in 1943 and 1944 before returning 'home' to Ashgrove in 1945 and 1946.

In 1953, John married his beloved Mary Long in Warwick. They resided at the family property 'Cranbourne' at Yelarbon for the remainder of their lives and raised six talented children, Terry, Greg, Claire, Helen, Jenny and David. John was devoted to his family and loved the land. He had completed his 71st shearing on Cranbourne only the week before he passed away on August 28, 2019. The Old Boys were also very saddened to hear of the recent passing of John's beautiful wife, Mary, on February 23, 2020.

The Old Boys pay tribute to this wonderful Son of Ashgrove and to Mary. John's lifelong connection with the land survives and lives on in 2020 in our modern day boarders.



FIRST ASSEMBLY 1940



JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM 1940



FOUNDATION STUDENTS 1979: ARTHUR APELT, BILL LENNON, TIM MCENIERY, JOHN LENNON, TERRY MAHONY



JOHN LENNON AT THE ARTHUR APELT MEMORIAL 2019

JOHN EDWARD 'JACK' JONES (1946-1947)

Jack was born in 1930 in Cloncurry but moved at young age to Brisbane where his parents took ownership of a fruit and vegetable shop at Auchenflower. Jack went to boarding school at Rosalie until Year 10 and completed his senior years at Ashgrove in 1946 and 1947. Jack was school captain, heavily involved in athletics, captain of the 1st XI cricket and 1st XIII rugby league. He was inside centre and apparently a very handy goal kicker which contributed to the team being undefeated premiers.

As is the hallmark of all Ashgrove graduates, the young men of 1947 formed very close friendships which has lasted through the generations. As an interesting note, Jack met his beloved Barbara when they were each in the bridal party to another of the 1947 cohort, Tom Treston, who was marrying his beautiful bride Jeannine. The chance meeting of Jack and Barbara led to 60 wonderful years together. Jack sadly passed away on April 26, 2020. The Old Boys pass on their condolences to Peter, Christine, Sandra, Greg and Helen.



JACK JONES

NEIL SCOTT (1950)

An Ashgrove man always, the wonderful and talented Neil Scott passed away peacefully on March 30, 2020, aged 87 years. Neil and his younger brother Peter (1953) walked to school each day down Glenlyon Drive. The OBA can only imagine the changes they saw on that pathway to the College over the last 75 years. Life in the Scott family revolved totally around Ashgrove. Neil was a brilliant sportsman who excelled in cricket and rugby (see photo page 15) and the boys' father, Mick, coached the Ashgrove 'firsts' in rugby league immediately after WWII - with great success.

On leaving school, Neil played for Wests Rugby Union in first grade whilst studying for his Commerce degree at UQ. Neil then had a successful career which culminated as Manager of the Commonwealth Bank in George Street for many years prior to his retirement.

Neil is survived by his beloved wife, Glenda, and Tony (1982), Michelle and Jason and Elizabeth. The Old Boys salute the life of this wonderful Ashgrovian. We thank the Scott family for being such an important part of this great College.

JOHN KUNDE (1950)

John, who attended Ashgrove in 1949 and 1950, passed away on September 26, 2019. Influenced by those who taught him, John initially joined the Marist Brothers from 1951 to 1967 before marrying his beautiful Rita in 1971. They were blessed with five children, Kathleen, Christopher, Stephen, Theresa and Vincent. John was a great supporter of the College throughout his life. Indeed, a copy of his hand produced photo album from his days at Ashgrove, with commentary, holds pride of place today in the College archives. A beneficiary of the cadet corps started by Brother Cyprian, John and his twin brother, Bill, and four mates decided to join the Mortar Platoon for some external discipline. Cyprian must have been so impressed! John started in the dairy industry in 1969 and remained active until the family finished up in 2014. John was also dedicated to the Church, particularly in the Ecumenical movement and community activities. The OBA pay tribute to John for his exemplary life led in the Marist tradition. We are honoured to have such a great man amongst our members.

ATTENTION: ALL OLD BOYS FROM THE 1940'S TO 1970'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 comerfordj@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

RIC ENRIGHT (1947)

Richard (Ric) Anthony Enright (1947), OAM passed away peacefully on February 9, 2020 aged 88. Ric held one of the rarest of Marist distinctions – attending at both the Ashgrove and Eagle Heights campuses and the patriarch of three generations of Ashgrovians. A very proud Old Boy, Ric travelled to the College with his cobbers from Beaudesert, Brian Panitz (RIP), Pat Enright and Stan Kassulke (see photo). Ric then sent his three sons, Peter (1977), Tom (1981) and David (1989 – College Captain) to board at Ashgrove. Two of Ric's grandsons, Harry (2015 – Vice Captain) and Lawson (2016) also attended as boarders. Ric is survived by his loving wife, Genie, together with children Peter, Marie, Anne, Tom, Beth, David and their families. The OBA passes on our condolences to the Enright family and salutes Ric for his magnificent contribution to the Marist Community through which he, along with others of his era, ensured the unbreakable bond of Ashgrove with the Beaudesert region.



Back: David (1989 College Captain), Harry (2015 Vice Captain), Peter (1976 1st XI)

Front: Tom (1981 1st V), Lawson (2016 - all round legend), Ric (1947)



'Cobbers' - Returning to Ashgrove from Beaudesert (1945)

Ric Enright and Pat Enright
Stan Kassulke and Brian Panitz



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KENDALLS EXEMPLIFY ASHGROVE'S MILITARY TRADITION

Service to the Nation is now part of the long established fabric of Rosalie and Ashgrove. It is with great pride that the OBA announces for the first time we now have three generations of military service from the one family including a hero of Long Tan.

Geoff Kendall served as an officer in the Australian Army after graduating from OCS Portsea. He was the platoon commander of 10 Platoon D Company 6 RAR at the battle of Long Tan. Geoff was awarded the Medal of Gallantry for the action. He retired a Major. For those Old Boys with keen eyes, Geoff also appears in the credits of the movie "Danger Close - The Battle of Long Tan".

Steve Kendall (1985) graduated from RMC Duntroon to the Royal Australian Artillery. Steve had an exemplary 12 years of service to the nation and left as a Captain to pursue a successful civilian career.

But the tradition continues. Young Carter Kendall (2016) was accepted into ADFA as an officer cadet from 30 Jan 2017. He is now stationed with the 4 Regiment RAA in Townsville in the Joint Fires Team.

The Old Boys salute the Kendall family. Their commitment and service brings great honour to the Ashgrove community.



GEOFF KENDALL (1958) - MEDAL OF GALLANTRY



THREE GENERATIONS OF KENDALLS

CALL TO ASSIST SONS OF OLD BOYS

Old Boys will be aware that the primary support the Old Boys Association provides to the College is the award of bursaries to support sons of Old Boys in need. This is a very proud tradition.

The CoVid-19 crisis has obviously led to more calls on the resources of the Old Boys to provide that critical support.

If you are able to provide any financial support to assist with the educating of the sons of Old Boys please email the secretary on a confidential basis at secretary@ashgroveoldboys.com.au.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

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 ongoing support and asks members to make use of their services wherever possible.

PAUL DEIGHTON (1982) AWARDED CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS

Another member of Ashgrove's brilliant military alumni received due recognition in June in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Group Captain Paul Deighton (1982), has capped off an outstanding career in the RAAF (including as Chief Military Attaché to China) with the award of the Conspicuous Service Cross. The CSC is awarded to recognise the outstanding achievement in the application of exceptional skills, judgment or dedication. Group Captain Deighton's award was for language training reform, development and delivery as Commanding Officer of the Defence Force School of Languages.

Just a slight step up from Paul's prize as Dux of French in 1982!

A dedicated and humble Ashgrovian, Paul's award is not only a credit to his family but a sterling example to those young Ashgrovians contemplating a career in the Services. Like all our Military Old Boys, we thank Paul for his service to the nation.

Viriliter Age!



SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES

The College and the Old Boys are updating the records of those who have served in the Armed Forces. Do you know of any Old Boy of Marist College Ashgrove or Marist College Rosalie who has served at any time? If so, please email military@ashgroveoldboys.com.au.

OLD BOYS' WEBSITE CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

The Old Boys' website at www.ashgroveoldboys.com.au just gets better and better!

We are continuing to add information but please make it one of your favourites and visit regularly to see what is happening both at the College and in the world of the Old Boys.

And just a reminder the OBA is now on Facebook and Instagram. With Linked In coming soon.

BLUEY DOES IT AGAIN!

In our last edition of the Ashgrovian, the OBA trumpeted the international success of the Ashgrove originated 'Bluey' - the cartoon cattle dog. Bluey has well over 150 million views and has now racked up over 1 million in book sales together with a warehouse full of Bluey pyjamas.

Just as sure as night follows day, in March 2020 in Cannes, Bluey won the International Emmy Kids Award for the best pre-school program in the world.

The Old Boys again congratulate Joe Brumm (1995) and Daley Pearson (2001) on their phenomenal success. We look forward to Bluey continuing to be part of the daily intake for baby Ashgrovians (and their parents) for many years to come.



FRANK AND JIM TIMMERMANS (1963)

- LIVES OF MAGNIFICENT CONTRIBUTION

Many of our Old Boys will remember the Timmermans Brothers (1963) – Frank (RIP) and Jim. Although a year apart in age, the brothers were in the same year at Ashgrove.

Frank was Dux of the College and was awarded the Character Cup. A father of six, Frank was a renowned surgeon who assumed the role of Chief Medical Officer during the war in Afghanistan for Medicines Sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders). During his tenure in Afghanistan, Frank also set up seven medical centres. Frank also brought his skills to the poorest in Africa and those suffering from leprosy in India before ultimately settling in Whitehorse in the Yukon, Canada where he again tended to the most needy. Such was the respect with which Frank was held in the Yukon that a 'Frank Timmermans scholarship' was named in his honour, a world away from Ashgrove. As a colleague said upon Frank's premature death from a tumour in 1983:

Dr. Timmermans' life was one of the most productive, profound, adventurous and compassionate jewels of mankind.

Jim has also led, and continues to lead, a fascinating and diverse life. After finishing at Ashgrove in 1963 and undertaking a short stint at University and also working as a builder's labourer, Jim spent two years as a Cadet Patrol Officer in PNG. Brother Alexis has a distinct recollection of this large figure arriving in the front office at the College one day and proclaiming 'I'm a Patrol Officer from New Guinea and I want to become a Marist Brother'. 'A great man' Brother Alexis told the Ashgrovian.

True to his word, Jim joined the Marist Brothers at age 21. A talented and passionate educator, Jim taught for eight years at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, three years at Parramatta Marist High, and four years at St Augustine's College in Cairns. He departed the order after 12 months as deputy principal at Benedict Senior College, Auburn and married his beloved Maureen.

Never one to rest on his laurels, Jim has a Master's degree in education and represented New South Wales in shot put, and Queensland University as an amateur heavyweight boxer.

Jim brought his teaching expertise to many Queensland schools including Stuartholme, Trinity Anglican School and St Augustine's (Marist) in Cairns. On his return to Brisbane, he taught at Mt Maria Junior, at Enoggera, and then senior, at Mitchelton. Jim also taught casually at Padua College before his retirement.

As a very interesting aside, Jim's influence even extends to Ashgrove's new Headmaster in 2021, Michael Newman, who was a student at Joey's when Jim was teaching there.

Jim has remained passionate about his faith and published the brilliant 'Christians for Christ' in 2013. A masterful production which Jim credits to the Holy Spirit working through him. The book addresses many issues of interest to Old Boys, including Jim's overriding interest in Christian Unity. With his wife Maureen and daughter Brooke (a paediatric specialist), Jim now lives in Brisbane.

In more recent times, Jim has been an active participant at Healing Rooms, now located at Nathan. As a true Ashgrove man, Jim's door always remains open to anyone who would like to contact him to discuss and learn more about their faith at mandjtimmermans@yahoo.com.au

There are so many stories hidden out there about the wonderful contribution of our Old Boys throughout the world. The OBA gives thanks for the great honour the Timmermans brothers have brought to the College and their contribution to making the world a better place.





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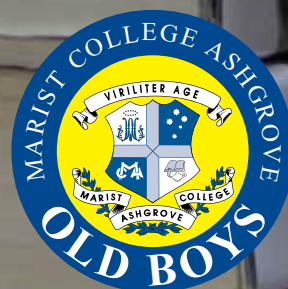


CAREERS LINK

A NEW PROGRAM LINKING
ASHGROVE STUDENTS AND GRADUATES WITH
OUR NETWORK OF OLD BOY EMPLOYERS

The new program linking Old Boy employers with our students and young graduates in the professions and the trades is now underway.

If you can assist our young men with career opportunities or work experience please email the Careers Link Officer, Mrs Tara Franklin, on franklint@marash.qld.edu.au or telephone Tara directly on 07 3858 4686 from 13 July 2020.



POSTPONEMENT OF OLD BOYS' SPORTS DAY

The Headmaster, Peter McLoughlin, the MCA OBA and the College Community were unable to welcome back the surviving members of the MCA, SLC and Rosalie "Firsts" of 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1980 because of the pandemic restrictions.

However, we still pass on some memories of those brilliant Ashgrove teams:

Unfortunately, all members of the 1940 Senior Football team have passed away, but their team photo is proudly displayed in this Ashgrovian. In 1940, Ashgrove did not take part in a regular School Sports Competition. However, the 1940 1st XV played in the "C" Grade Rugby Union competition and performed creditably, finishing runners-up to Teachers. The Bumblebee jersey was worn by the Senior Football team who were managed by Br Swithin Hosey. The Juniors played Rugby League "friendlies" against teams from St James', St Laurence's, Enoggera and Ipswich, and wore blue jerseys.



SENIOR FOOTBALL TEAM

Back Row: I. Wallace, B. Stevens

Third Row: T. McNeich, D. Balmanno, B. O'Shea, T. Ryan, G. Doneley

Second Row: J. Taylor, C. Vale, L. Burton, D. Nagle

Front Row: K. Casey, J. Currie, H. Judge, J. Ross, L. Hayden

1950 1st XV & 1st XIII - MCSA CHAMPIONS

The 1950 1st XIII was a 'weight' team, captained by Frank Melit (RIP) and was again victorious, without losing a game. The College 1st XIII was the lightest team in the division. Fortunately, players such as Bryan Kassulke who were above the weight limit imposed could represent the College in the 1st XV where a ceiling weight limit did not apply.



1950 1ST XV RUGBY TEAM

Back Row: B. McMackin, M. Biltoft, C. Brassington, R. Galway, N. Barry

Second Row: D. Callaghan, K. O'Leary, B. Kassulke, D. Wing, N. Scott, N. Treston

Front Row: G. Davies, M. Moore, V. Evert, F. Melit (Capt.), J. Joyce, L. Luton, W. Mulholland

1960 1st XV - TAS PREMIERS

The 1960 1st XV visited Sydney for the first-ever matches against St Joseph's Hunters Hill, narrowly losing 14-8 in a brilliant exposition of schoolboy football. Ashgrove scored two fine tries by Mick Barry and Bob Honan. Then, Bob Honan and John Arieni both scored three tries as Ashgrove dominated Riverview, 23-0. In the TAS competition, Ashgrove were Premiers, despite Rosalie recording their first-ever win over the College, 6-3. The College won the return clash at the Exhibition Ground, 12-6. Warren Currie was captain and Br Francis McMahon, coach.



1960 1ST XV RUGBY TEAM

Back Row: R. Honan, J. Casey, D. Drake, J. Tabrett

Second Row: P. Moloney, G. Grcman, J. E. Hawkins, J. Arieni, M. Flanagan, F. Lane

Front Row: F. McDonnell, S. O'Reilly, W. Currie (Capt.), Rev. Br. Francis, M. Barry, P. Murphy, R. Pike

1970 1st XV - TAS RUNNERS-UP to De La Salle

Ashgrove won seven of their eight matches, losing 3-9 to DLS at Scarborough when the First XV were unable to crack their defence. Captain Terry Burkett and Al Borle gained selection in the Junior Barbarians side which was an unofficial Qld Schoolboys side. Br Terrence Curley completed his tenure as coach in 1970, having commenced back in 1965.



1970 1ST XV RUGBY TEAM

Back Row: W. Cass, B. Burkett, P. Tierney, K. Graham, L. Wieland, M. Cranitch, P. Diezmann, Brother Terrence

Front Row: K. Glass (Ball boy), P. Laughren, P. Bonanno, A. Borle, T. Burkett (Capt.), K. Murphy, B. Cooke, C. Barbagallo, P. Gibson, L. Townsend (Linesman)

1980 1st XV - TAS RUNNERS-UP to De La Salle

The College was undefeated throughout the TAS competition season, until the last round of fixtures, which then became a virtual grand final. About four thousand people witnessed the match, and the cheering from both sides added to the electrifying atmosphere. The Jeff Miller captained De La Salle won the encounter 24-6, despite Ashgrove dominating territory. Ashgrove was captained by Tim Slingsby and coached by Barry Honan.



1980 1ST XV RUGBY TEAM

Back Row: Mr B. Honan (Coach), W. Wharton, G. Den, D. Costello, D. Patterson, M. McLean, D. McCarthy, J. Donaldson, D. Manahan, C. Haling (Strapper), J. Tam

Second Row: D. Glennon, P. McConnell, C. Chan, T. Slingsby (Capt.), S. Clarke (Vice-Capt.), D. Clair, C. Robinson, N. Sankey

Front Row: M. Bell, M. Tutton, D. Irwin (Ball Boys)

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PRAYERS PLEASE

Please pray for the following who have deceased recently.

- Archbishop John Bathersby, Emeritus Archbishop of Brisbane from 1991-2011, passed away on March 9, 2020, aged 83 years. Archbishop Bathersby had a great connection with MCA. The Archbishop had no less than 9 nephews attend the College: John Mahoney (1976); Damien (1979), Brendan (1980), Chris (1983) and Dominic Bathersby (1992); Steve (1992) and Ben Johnson (1997); and Peter (1981) and Michael (1985) Nolan. There are also at least 4 Ashgrovia grand-nephews Ben (2017) and William Bathersby (2019), Ethan Hoyle in Year 10 and the youngest Max Bathersby, now in Year 8. Although a Nudgee man, the Archbishop made countless visits to the College and was the chief celebrant at many inaugural Masses. His Grace brought his real-life experience and great humour when addressing the boys. A brilliant rugby player in his youth, the Archbishop favoured Ashgrove with his proudest moment; crash tackling one of Ashgrove's greatest ever, Des Connor, when Nudgee were stoutly defending the try line. The Archbishop loved to recount to the boys how Des would acknowledge the ferocity of the tackle with "even though I didn't have the ball, Your Grace!!"
- Fr Peter Conroy (1955) passed away on March 16, 2020. Fr Peter was ordained in 1962 and was a close friend of Bishop Brian Heenan (1955). Fr Peter retired in July 2016 from St Sebastian's Parish, Yeronga, where he cared for the community for 39 years and was greatly loved. Fr Peter's Funeral Mass was held at St Stephen's Cathedral on Friday, March 20, 2020.
- Denis Donovan (1954-1957), originally from Childers, passed away unexpectedly in Bundaberg on February 21. Denis was farewelled from the Holy Rosary Church, Bundaberg on March 2, 2020 by a large gathering, including a number of Old Boys. On completing school, Denis attended Teachers College and for some 20 years taught in State schools in the Wide Bay and Atherton Tableland areas. Denis then joined Catholic Education and served as Principal of St. Joseph's and St. Mary's Bundaberg. In retirement, Denis lived at Bargara. Denis will be sadly missed by sons Peter and Mark, daughters Kathy, Mary, and Anne, seven grandchildren and his extended family.
- Daniel Currier (1954-58) originally from Winton, passed away in Bundaberg on November 30, 2019. Dan was farewelled by family and friends in Bundaberg on December 6 2019. Dan was the beloved Husband of Judith and Father and Father-in-law of Erica & Steve, Dianne, Bryan & Melissa, Catherine & Brett, Leigh (dec'd) and Grandfather of three. On completing school, Dan returned to Winton and took up a position in the local Court House. Over the next forty years he served as Clerk of the Court in many locations around Queensland including Normanton, Monto, St. George and Gatton from where he retired to Bundaberg. Those from his era will well remember his fearless defence in the 1st XV and the TAS Representative Team.
- Bernard Arthur Higgins (1945-1946), late of Elouera Road, Ashgrove, passed away peacefully on June 25 2019, aged 90 years. Bernard was beloved Husband of Adley.
- Vincent Daniel William Evert (1973), formerly of Winton, sadly passed away January 3, 2020 in Canberra aged 63 years. Beloved Husband of Heather and much loved Father and Father-in-law of Ashley & Denise, Warren & Peta, and Madeline & Jarrod. Adored Grandad of six. Dearly loved son of Vincent (School Captain 1950) & Cecilia (both dec'd), Brother of Janice, John (1976), Therese, Helen, James (1979), Mary, Geraldine, Monica and Justin (1994).
- Paul Anthony ("Stretch") Gorman (1969), late of Ashgrove, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family on December 15, 2019, aged 67 years. Dearly loved Husband of Lorraine and proud Father of Daniel (2005); Step-Father of Fiona and Stuart; and Step-Brother of Kay Richards and Patricia Keating. Paul's Funeral service was held at the Marist College Chapel, Ashgrove on December 19, 2019.
- Wayne J. Griffin (1965-1971) formerly of Keperra, passed away peacefully on August 1, 2019, aged 64 years, after battling Alzheimer's. Wayne was a champion junior athlete who won the U13 Qld State Schoolboys 100m/200m Sprint titles in 1967. Wayne is survived by his sister, Lorraine.
- Walter Edward Jan Guivarra (1963), passed away on February 17, 2020 aged 71 years. Walter was an outstanding underage athlete who has a special place as one of the first indigenous students to attend Ashgrove. Walter took great pride in his heritage. We are proud of the leadership he showed in the indigenous community.
- Ron ('Saus') J. Whelan (1964), was formerly of Kangaroo Point when he attended MCA from 1960 to 64. He passed peacefully at 6:30am on Saturday March 28, 2020, after suffering a massive heart attack earlier in the week. Ron will be sorely missed by his family and schoolmates.
- Lyn Harkin (1968) passed away on June 3, 2020. Together with his brothers Owen (RIP), Alan (RIP) and Ken (RIP), the Harkin family has made, and continues, to make such a wonderful contribution to Ashgrove with numerous nephews and grand-nephews having attended the College.
- Mick Healy (1971) passed away on Thursday May 28, 2020 after suffering a stroke. Mick had been living in Sarina, after growing up in Mitchelton. Mick had left school after Junior in 1969. Mick's older brothers, Dan (1966) and Kerry (1969) also attended MCA.



DAN CURRIER

PRAYERS PLEASE

- Mary Philomena Carton, late of The Gap, passed away January 10, 2020, aged 74 years. Mary was the beloved wife of Peter and Mother and Mother-in-law of Greg (1987), & Lara and Nick (1989) & Rebecca and Grandmother of four. Mary's Requiem Mass was celebrated in St Patrick's Church, Fortitude Valley on January 17, 2020.
- Carmel O'Keefe, late of Bardon, was beloved Wife of Ted (dec'd, P&F President 1971-72), and Mother of Anthony (1976), Paul (1982), John (1980), and Cathy. Carmel's Funeral Mass was held at St Mary Magdalene's Bardon on July 24, 2019.
- Desmond Gerard Collins, late of The Gap, passed away peacefully on January 3, 2020, aged 87 years. Much loved Husband of Adriane, Father of Mark (1972), and Neil (1979), Grandfather and Great-Grandfather. Des' Celebration Mass was held at St Finbarr's, Ashgrove on January 9, 2020.
- Margaret Mary ('Midge') Jesberg, late of Sinnamon Park, passed away peacefully on November 2, 2019, aged 83 years. Midge was the loved wife of Brian (dec'd 2005) and loving Mother and Mother-in-law of Greg (1972) and Charmaine, and adored Grandmother and Great-Grandmother. A celebration of Midge's life was held on November 8, 2019 at Centenary Memorial Gardens, Sumner.
- Bridget Mary ('Bid') Johnstone, formerly of St Johns Wood, and most recently Bardon, passed away after a short illness on November 8, 2019, aged 91 years. Dearly loved wife of Len (dec'd) and cherished Mother and Mother-in-law of Len (1971) & Nui, Michael (1973) & Ruth, Margie & Gary, Bernie (1976) & Sue, and Grandmother of 11 and Great-Grandmother of 11. Bridget's life was celebrated from Mater Dei Church, Ashgrove West on November 13, 2019.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

VALE SECTION ON THE NEW OLD BOYS' WEBSITE

The new updated website will have a special 'Vale' section where eulogies and memories of Old Boys can be recorded. Please visit www.ashgroveoldboys.com.au and click on 'Vale'.

MARK DEVEREUX (1976)

Mark Devereux (1976) passed away on 16 January 2020 in Caen, France. 'Dev' would have been 61. Mark was of South African heritage, and boarded at Ashgrove from Bouganville, commencing in 1969, completing Year 12 in 1976.

Mark's sporting achievements at school were significant. He played second row in the First XV for three years and represented the Queensland Schoolboys Rugby Union side in 1976. He was an excellent line-out jumper, at number four, back in the day when you actually had to jump to win lineout ball! He was also an excellent basketballer.

After finishing school, Mark went on to become a heavy machinery mechanic and worked most of his career in mines and on oil rigs in some of the most unforgiving places on the planet.

Mark's classmates gathered at the Breakfast Creek Hotel on 21 February, 2020 to celebrate his life, with a group of 1976 Old Boys calling in from Alva Beach, Ayr during the course of the evening. Mark is survived by his wife, Dawn, son, Lyle, sister, Cathy, and older brother, Paul (1973).

Mark's sister, Cathy, wished to convey to all the family's sincere thanks and appreciation for the thoughts and prayers for Mark in the weeks before his passing.

Vale Mark J. Devereux - Tony Hogarth (1976)



MARK DEVEREUX

REMEMBERING JOSH TAM (2013)

The OBA remembers the tragic passing of our young brother, Josh Tam (2013), in late 2018.

For those who wish to support the wonderful legacy of Josh, please visit the website set up by his parents, John (1981) and Julie.

www.justmossin.com.au

There are great times ahead for young Ashgrovians, but please take care. Look after each other.

BROTHER ALEXIS TURTON - AN ASHGROVE LEGEND

INTRODUCTION BY DAVE CAMERON

Brother Alexis Turton received a posting to St Mary's College Ashgrove in 1964, and then became Headmaster of the College at the request of the Marist Provincial from 1971 to 1976. Those 13 years saw great changes at Ashgrove, not least in its formal name, which became Marist College Ashgrove at the instigation of Brother Alexis in 1971.

If anyone helped cement the concept of the Marist Family in the traditions of the College, it was Brother Alexis. From the formal classroom, to the sporting fields, to the emotional and spiritual development of young men, to communal bonding through involvement in development projects, Alexis was the guiding light urging the College to view itself as a family, a community united in a common purpose – to do whatever would guarantee the best for all its members, especially the boys enrolled there.

No-one could say that Alexis did not give every ounce of himself to this concept – as with all the great men in the Marist College Ashgrove story, he led from the front, never asking others to do what he would not do himself. To be simultaneously a classroom teacher, Headmaster and Coach of the First Fifteen Rugby beggars the imagination!

Never would the strength of the family bond be more severely and shockingly tested than in the tragedy of the Amberley Accident in 1975, and never would Alexis' star shine more brightly than in the way he rallied that grief-stricken community. His calm, his compassion, his sagacity, and his tenderness drew people together in the toughest of times, and cemented his place in the Ashgrove Pantheon. College stalwarts like Graham Lawson and Derek Cameron acknowledge his great deeds in that awful tragedy, but were not surprised by his dynamic leadership: both men are adamant that "He was already a legend to us."

This, then, is the tale of Brother Alexis in his own words. All of his qualities are revealed by his story, but particularly his modesty, his humility, and his good humour. The College remembers him with respect and affection, a true disciple of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, one who always heeded the call "Viriliter Age."

SURPRISED BY THE SPIRIT - BR ALEXIS TURTON

I felt quite honoured some time ago to receive an invitation from the College Old Boys Association to write a biographical note including my time at Ashgrove. I delayed and defended but the committee persisted! So I hope these pages are of some interest and perhaps even surprise. I am aware that some of you readers will have had my presence in your educational journey for some eight years. Be tolerant!

Henri Nouen wrote a book some years ago entitled *Surprised by the Spirit*. To a large extent I can identify with that – and the great majority of the surprises were delightful. As for the others it was time to listen more carefully.

I had visited Brisbane just once before in my life. It was in 1954, at the end of the Year 11 in Newcastle, that the Brothers asked me to attend a training program for Young Catholic Students. It was all very exciting. This was my first plane trip ever - in a veteran DC3 aeroplane. I was billeted with the Grundy family in Chermside. The course was being conducted at Stuartholme College - well known to Ashgrovians. Transport was a very long tram ride from Chermside through the CBD past the City Hall and up to Mount Coot-tha. Apart from the rather spectacular location of the College my strongest impression was the beautiful white starched curtains separating the beds in the girls' dormitory. Don't remember that at Ashgrove! Close as we were to Marist Ashgrove I never did get to see it on that visit.

Let me backtrack to my own beginning days! My mother said I had been born in 1939 on one of the hottest days of the decade in Waratah, with a midwife and assistant in the family home. This was the steel metropolis of



BR ALEXIS TURTON MCA HEADMASTER 1971-1976

Newcastle. We lived quite close to what was universally known as the 'Steelworks,' including companies such as BHP, Brambles, Australian Iron and Steel, Stewarts and Lloyds Lysaght's, and Commonwealth Steel. All these were fuelled by an almost continuous line of coal trains to provide their huge energy needs.

Dad was a signalman on the railway. He was from Tamworth and mum from nearby Werris Creek in the New England district of New South Wales. Dad was from a very strict Calvinist family and he was shown the door when he announced his intention to marry a Catholic girl from down the line. I never met my paternal grandfather. Sadly my maternal grandmother was equally unhappy to have a non-Catholic son-in-law. Thank God for the love mum and dad had for each other, which was strong enough to carry them through some rocky beginnings and give their three boys a great family setting.

1939 - World War II and my birth coinciding - I was just three when two Japanese submarines hove to off Newcastle to try to shell the steelworks, a key to wartime steel production. It was June 1942. They loosed about 25 shells, one of which landed in the Newcastle abattoirs close to the signal box where my father was working. The shells did little damage but the combined effects of the shelling and the Japanese minisub's attack on Sydney Harbour, in which 21 Australian naval ratings were killed, sparked a huge reaction. We boys, I was 3 and my brothers 11 and 12, were very quickly on the train with mum to Kundumbal, a remote western New South Wales town where my Uncle Ernie was headmaster of a one teacher school of 22 students.

While too young to be an official student, I had the run of the school, welcomed by students and enjoying the freedom of the wide open spaces and country life. No wonder I later settled easily into Ashgrove with a significant component of boarders from near and far.

1945 saw the end of the war in the Pacific, a return to Newcastle for me and early schooling with the Sisters of Mercy. A move to Hamilton saw me follow my brothers into Fifth Class at Marist Brothers. My teachers included Brothers Cecil, Kenneth, Patrick and Neil, who later shared time with me at Ashgrove. Our Headmaster was the legendary Brother Anselm, famous for the working bee projects he organised. My favourite was Brother Alfred, an outstanding teacher and confidant of many students. He taught Maths.

When I was in Second Year the Provincial Brother Andrew visited the school. 'Just write yes or no on a piece of paper if you have ever thought about being a Brother' he said. I wrote 'Yes'. I had always admired the community spirit of the Brothers. I was keen on sport and Brothers coached the teams. There were just two lay teachers at that time in my school. The next thing I knew Brother Andrew turned up at our door and asked dad if I could go to the Mittagong Juniorate to finish schooling there. Dad was not happy! He quickly but firmly indicated that there was no question about that until I had finished school.

I had a great regard for my dad. I suspect his anti-Catholic upbringing left him uneasy with me even going to a Catholic school. Through marrying mum he was virtually cast adrift from his family of birth. I think I really got to know my dad through the many hours



THE BEGINNING OF THE JOURNEY



THE MARIST STORY COMMENCES

I spent working with him in restoring a Wolseley Hornet car - the classic old London police car. We inherited a mechanical interest from dad. One friend used to say, 'The Turtens have spark plugs for hearts and oil in their veins!' I asked dad one day while working on the car why he hadn't become a Catholic. I remember him replying that God was our Father and yet the Catholic God could send his children to hell! He looked at me and said, 'I could never send you to hell.' That seemed pretty sound theology to me.

Career wise I leant towards teaching, engineering, flying or maybe the Brothers. I decided I would like to begin training to be a Brother. Not long before setting out I was out driving with mum and dad practising for a driving test. We stopped and my father turned and said, 'So you really want to be a Brother son?' I replied 'Yes I do'. He replied, 'Well if you really want to be a Brother then I want you to be a Brother!' I'm pretty sure he did not want me to be a Brother but I really admired him for his loving support.

Mittagong, in the Southern Highlands of NSW, could be very cold. The religious training of the Brothers was a bit of a shock to the system. Maybe that's why everyone joining had to repeat their Year 12 year of school if they had already graduated or even had a Uni degree. This was seen as a settling-in year. The novitiate was very much a time of lectures, study, prayer and manual work, mostly in silence. We really looked forward to our recreational afternoon once a week, and some pretty intense sporting encounters on the cricket, rugby league and hockey fields. Being one of only two drivers in the group, I often ran messages into town or drove the truck for wood drives - which I enjoyed.

So it was that still 'wet behind the ears' and with two weeks 'teacher training' we were released on the unsuspecting students for six months. In my case it was at Maitland. We all survived - teachers and students! I enjoyed it although I was teaching lower secondary Latin and History, definitely not my strength.

I was so looking forward to Uni and being able to focus on my favourite subjects. It seemed like a dream. Mind you we Brothers at Sydney Uni stood out like a sore thumb wearing the Roman collar and the black suit all the time. Right from the word go my goal was to major in Maths and Physics, and so it was. The final year Diploma in Education finished my educator's 'package'. To young people today it probably sounds pretty standard. Up till my time Brothers counted themselves fortunate to get a year of teacher training. Quite a few went into the classroom without this formation. For them it was a sort of teaching apprenticeship, supported and guided by Brothers who had learned to teach on-the-job, and did this very well on the whole.

1963. Marcellin College Randwick was a well-established large Sydney School, my first appointment and Science Master to boot! It was great, an extra period before school each day and Saturday morning teaching, as well as the usual cricket and footy team to coach. With the famous Royal Randwick Racecourse just down the road, it was not surprising that quite a few of the boys knew more than their prayers! I was looking forward to teaching there for quite a few years.

1964. With a few week's warning here I was at St Mary's College Ashgrove - quite a contrast to Marcellin College Randwick. As we know it's a large property of some 60 acres including the flats along Enoggera Creek. It was largely undeveloped bushland adjoining the huge Enoggera Army Camp. The College started on this site in 1940 after the closure of Father Cain's Missionary Order for the Philippines. The architectural masterpiece we affectionately know as the Tower Block was the centrepiece. The crisis of World War II saw the Army take over the property in 1942. The barracks that they built were to become known later as the 'possum dorms' when the Brothers returned to re-establish the College in 1945. I well remember sleeping in the last of the old possum dorms. One night a possum with rather sharp claws climbed in the louvres of my bedroom and down onto my face. What I thought was a nightmare was painfully real!

Headmaster Br Othmar was a real change agent. I moved into the brand-new dormitory block as Grade 8 Dormitory Master. This dorm included a number of young boarders from our primary boarding school at Eagle Heights, which sadly had just closed.

The surprises of the spirit continued when Br Othmar asked me to accompany him to the annual general meeting of the Queensland Science Teachers Association. Unbeknown to me it was also going to be the Office Bearers election. I was intrigued by the process until Brother Othmar without warning nominated me for President. I was elected! (I was probably looking a bit more than shell-shocked. The day before the College First XI had played the staff cricket. I was opening bat for the staff and Laurie Ceccato the opening bowler of the Firsts. I was felled by a bouncer and was certainly looking the worse for wear!)

As it happened all this coincided with the introduction of State Aid in 1964. Queensland also initiated major curriculum change in science and technology. Chem Study was introduced as the new syllabus for Chemistry and PSSC became the new curriculum for Physics. The University of Queensland was a great partner with the science teachers in running seminars on these new curricula. It was all really very exciting.

Brother Othmar continued his surprises. He said he was considering introducing Geology and Zoology. I had not studied either. Undaunted I successfully enrolled in Geology I. The next year I enrolled in Zoology 1. Doing Uni lab work and having a dormitory to boot was quite a challenge. To be succinct I didn't even sit for the final exam in Zoology but did end up teaching the subject. Somehow students passed! The following year I found myself OC of the Cadet Unit and appointed to a somewhat embarrassing role of Master of Discipline! I'm glad that title has been consigned to history.

These days were full – morning prayer, dormitory, dining room, normal class, sporting practice, meals and sometimes night study before finally back into the dormitory and lights out. I must say I loved it, even though the week of the Cadet Camp at the end of term running into holidays was a significant extra. I never looked forward so much to a shower and a long sleep as I did after the return from Cadet Camp.

There was a National Census in the late 60s. The government sent special officers to places like boarding schools to gather information. The lady I was interviewed by wanted to know the staff routine as well as basic numerical facts. She wondered whether the authorities would believe it all: 'You people are full-time parents and full-time teachers!'

From day one at Ashgrove I sensed something different, something special. Maybe both. It was a quality of family life that I had not seen before. Perhaps it was the combination of boarders and day boys, perhaps a passionate desire of so many parents to be part of their own son's education, even if not directly in the classroom. The men's working bees had developed over the years with giants like Brother Francis in the 50s, and Bob Keating every Saturday with his little globite bag and toolkit. Brisbane's Chief Magistrates working as brickies labourers, doctors trying their hand with a paintbrush, and senior public servants waiting for instructions from the plumber!

The mothers were not left behind with many fundraisers, Ironathons, Art Shows, Brisbane's Biggest BBQ, and the September Fair. Teacher Jack Eales would spend the year growing hundreds of plants, including those magnificent orchids that he specialised in, to fill his beloved Plant Stall at the Fair. Of course everyone was involved in the Walkathon after it became regular practice in 1968. The first one was the longest! Jolly's Lookout! Former Wallaby Br Terry Curley promoted the route – 23 km each way - and Brother Hugh was campaigner and chief entertainer. Brother Terry Curley, a fit and tough man, challenged us to keep up with him on the track. Brother Donatus, Brother Leon and myself were determined to complete the course with some of the boys, including Year 8 boarders John O'Duffy and John O'Brien, God rest his soul. We felt pretty chuffed when we saw Terry had succumbed to an old rugby knee injury and regretfully accepted a lift home.

Looking back it was such an exciting ride! I worked with Queensland University to conduct special seminars for science teachers in Catholic schools. With ongoing fundraising through the Art Union and the beginning of broader state aid for private schools, we had a brand-new science block to facilitate science education. It was a special thrill to see Terry Dwyer awarded first place in the State in Physics in 1969. We were even able to conduct classes for the girls at nearby Mount St Michael's College in Chemistry and Physics. As OC Cadets I entered a new world. I very much doubt I would have been much chop in the demanding situation of military action. I didn't see Cadets as a military exercise as much as leadership formation for the boys. The leadership courses the army ran for CUOs and NCOs, all students, were excellent. The College as a whole benefited and a number of boys went on to successful careers in the regular army. Being a boarding school next to one of the largest army bases in Australia, we had a number of military families send their sons to Ashgrove. All of this fitted in with the proud history of Ashgrove and its Old Boys in military service.

Sport seemed to be a natural fit in a boarding school. Most teachers were involved as coaches and I just loved it. The College had a proud history in this area and



OFFICER COMMANDING MCA CADET UNIT

Left to Right: Lt J. Fitzgerald, Lt J. Gray, Capt. K. Turton, W.O. 2 R. Duncan, Lt. G. Dux

especially so in Rugby. It was Rugby League in the early days of the 1940s, but much to Brother Cyprian's relief, and lobbying, the League became Union or just Rugby in 1948. So it was Cricket in summer, Rugby in winter and Cadet Camp first week of the holidays. It soon became obvious that I developed deeper relationships with students that I shared more time with, for example in sport, dormitory and even Saturday morning boarders' workgroups, than simply the classroom contact. I recalled some wise advice from my old Novice Master Br Ethelred: 'Remember that you will learn more from the boys than they will learn from you. More education will take place outside the classroom than inside.'

By the time 1970 came I was expecting a transfer. Church law stated six years as a normal period for religious leaders, and Brothers in the classroom came to expect something like this in their appointments. I remember well a phone call midyear from Brother Othmar, the Provincial, asking me if I enjoyed my time at Ashgrove and if I was ready for a new job. I indicated that I was expecting a move and wherever I went I would give it my best shot. He replied that he would like me to stay – as Headmaster! At age 31 I still considered myself a learner. My image of a Headmaster was very much a pastoral as well as a pedagogical leadership role. I was coming from the position of Master of Discipline! Not the most pastoral of titles. It will be announced at Speech Night, he said.

I remember it so well. I was quite scared of what the boys, the parents, and the teachers might think. I could not bring myself to be in the main chamber of Brisbane City Hall as Brother Phelan made the announcement. In fact I was out in the corridor listening and looking through a crack in the door. I was much relieved when there was general applause.

My relief and satisfaction was soon replaced by the knowledge that where the College went from here was very much a function of how I took up my new role. Coming up very soon was a totally new system of assessment for matriculation known as the Radford Scheme. Although non-teaching Headmasters were becoming the norm, I wanted to maintain face-to-face contact with students by continuing to teach Religious Education and Physics.

The family metaphor seems more than ever appropriate at the College. Marcellin Champagnat was not only the founder of the Marist Brothers, he was our spiritual father. He believed in what we have come to know as Marist education. His most common reference to Mary the mother of Jesus was 'our good mother'. His advice to early Brothers was 'lead your students to love Jesus,' and always treat them as your own brothers and sisters. So it was that I saw fit to welcome students, parents and teachers to the Marist Family. It was good to see former students return to their school as committed teachers – one might say family members.

There were surprises aplenty and moments of challenge and sadness as are to be found in any family. A group of College Rugby coaches approached me early in the year to ask that I reconsider my decision not to coach. Specifically they wanted me to coach the First XV! The previous coach, Br Terry Curley, had been moved to Sydney. After some hesitation I took it on, and it proved to be most enjoyable and reasonably successful. For me it was another way to get to know the boys better. All the while the College population was growing - both day boys and boarders. Student leaders, especially the Seniors and Prefects, were a significant group in the ongoing development of College spirit and a great support for myself and staff.

One story perhaps brings together many aspects of what we understand by family spirit and education. Peter Harrington from the Richmond area in far North Queensland had never even sat in a classroom until coming into Grade 9 at Ashgrove. Stories flourish of day boys spending holidays on outback properties with boarding mates and often boarders spent free weekends with dayboys. At one working bee at the College I was talking with Rowley Noakes from The Gap about the challenge of getting to know boarding



FAREWELL TO ASHGROVE 1976

parents. Rowley said he would be happy to fly Brothers to visit outback families in his four seater Cessna 182. Rowley had been a Mustang pilot towards the end of World War II.

Before long Father Tom Maloney SM, College Chaplain, and myself were airborne heading for Tennant Creek, Mount Isa, Richmond and Ayr. The welcome everywhere was overwhelming. On the way from Tennant Creek to Mount Isa, a fierce electrical storm closed Mount Isa airport, and Rowley had to land at Camooweal and overnight. Meanwhile the Mount Isa parents of boarders were gathering for a meeting and a meal. I think it was at the Smith's house. Thanks to the good graces of an indigenous Telstra technician, Father Tom and I hitched a ride in his truck to Mount Isa and met parents that night! Rowley was able to fly into Mt Isa early next morning.

The next day after a barbecue breakfast we took off for Olga Downs, which was the Harrington's property. It's just 50 km north of Richmond with a big 'Olga Downs' painted on the top of the shearing shed. After considerable searching and late arrival, Bill Harrington picked us up at the property strip. Mrs Harrington had truly prepared a banquet and we had to limit our time! This was so embarrassing as our next parents' gathering was that night on the coast in Ayr! Brandon was the airport for Ayr. A headwind over the range near Charters Towers, and we had a hair-raising late arrival at Brandon airstrip, which had no lights! Miraculously we landed just after last light. As we got out I told Father Tom I was certainly praying Hail Mary's. Father Tom's reply: 'Struth, I was on the Act of Contrition!' That was 1973.

Coming up to the present I looked up 'Olga Downs' recently on Google to find not only Olga Downs Station, but Olga Downs Flight School and Harrington Electronics Olga Downs. I picked up the phone. Peter's daughter-in-law answered and I was soon talking to Peter himself. Our last conversation was 1976! He meets each year with classmates such as Damien Kennedy at Longreach, Paul Mullins at McKinlay, and others in the class at the Breakfast Creek Hotel. I know from many reunions that this pattern continues with many year groups.

On October 11, 1975 a large group of dads and Year 11 students went to Amberley



1975 FIRST XV RUGBY COACH (OBVIOUSLY SUCCESSFUL!)



GO THERE! TRAFFIC WARDEN, WALKATHON 1975



BR LEON, BR ALEXIS & BR DONATUS AT JOLLYS LOOKOUT

Airbase to dismantle a barracks building the College had purchased. The aim was to reassemble it at the College outdoor education site at Dayboro. There were a number of professional builders and demolition experts included in the group. Tragically the building collapsed and Bill Myers, the grandfather of John Arnold in grade 9, was killed. As well as the terrible loss of Bill, two of the dads, Mel Retchford and Terry Maguire, spent a very long period in hospital, and Mel remains a paraplegic today. Despite the shock and pain of this tragedy, the College community responded strongly and immediately. Support and funds poured in from all over Australia. This included accommodation for Bill Myers' widow and housing modifications at Mel Retchford's home to enable wheelchair access. Supporting all these people was very much a personal focus of mine. Catching up with Mel, now in aged care, is a feature of my visits to Brisbane.

Looking back, the 70s were a time of consolidation. The first purpose-built science block at the College and closed-circuit TV through the school, controlled from the new Library Audio-visual Centre, had an immediate impact. Teachers finally had an adequate functioning staff room, with the Headmaster comfortably ensconced in the new Administration Block! The move away from an external final exam to the new Radford Scheme saw our relationship with local high schools and teachers, especially those of The Gap and Mitchelton High, deepen. Developing the campus continued as a larger focus. The Art Union, a significant source of funds, was now shared with projects of the wider Marist Family of the Sydney Province schools. The men's working bee continued to perform miracles, supported by the Old Boys. This included the major development of the area around Number One Oval and the new John Eales stand. Number Two Oval, now the Derek Cameron Oval, and Ovals three and four benefited significantly from this ongoing project.

All too soon it was 1976 and time to move on to new pastures. The Farewell Mass and function on the Main Oval was one to remember and moved me deeply. I was so glad that my own parents managed to get up from Newcastle for the occasion. When



CARTOON OF THE PLANE FLIGHT (EXCITEMENT AND PRAYERS!)



FATHER TOM MALONEY - FELLOW PASSENGER



MARIST STUDENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA-NELSON MANDELA'S NIECE AND NEPHEW ON RIGHT

I arrived in 1964 there were 760 students and 19 staff, 15 of them Brothers. In 1976 it was 1115 students (305 boarders) and 44 staff, of whom 21 were Brothers! In my heart the centre of it all was the boys and the increasing and impressive lay staff. With great affection I remember magnificent teachers like Leo Slattery and Jack Eales, who set a great standard for the lay teachers of today, who now constitute 100% of College staff. These 13 years at Ashgrove were undoubtedly the very special time of my teaching career.

Surprises continued to be firmly embedded in the years that followed. 1977 saw me back at my old school in Newcastle as Headmaster. Many students were sons of my former classmates. Not long after arriving, I remember a youngster in First Year coming up with the question, 'Brother was your name Keith Turton?' On receiving an affirmative reply the lad continued: 'Well my mum said she was in the same class as you at St Laurence O'Toole's at Broadmeadow!'

1979 - I was just settling in to my role in Newcastle when I was tapped on the shoulder for a two-year stint on the Marist Retreat Team. Many Old Boys would recall this new and successful three day retreat for Seniors away from the school. Tallebudgera Creek National Fitness Camp would be familiar to many. Ex-students still talk to me about 'that letter that I wrote to myself about my future.'

1980 – a major shift. Little did I know that my days as a classroom teacher were nearly over. Brother Kieran, the Provincial, asked me to take some time off for personal study and preparation for a new role. It was a big transition out of the classroom, leading to a wonderful change of pace and a sense of spiritual refreshment. In fact I had been initially asked if I would return to another boarding school at St Joseph's Hunters Hill in Sydney, but Brother Alman, the new Provincial of the Brothers and well known to Ashgrove parents and ex-students, asked me to step into a more administrative role as his Deputy Provincial for the Sydney Province.

It was fair to say that change was in the air! Vatican Council II had issued a great challenge to the Church and to Religious Brothers. Decreasing numbers of young men were joining the Brothers. One of the first



WITH FRIENDS IN THE SEPIK RIVER PNG ON THE WAY TO BONGOS SCHOOL



A MEETING WITH POPE JOHN PAUL II AT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT'S CANONISATION



WITH SOME WALLABY LEGENDS AFTER THE REDS PLAYED THE BULLS IN PRETORIA: JOHN EALES, JOHN BREEN, GARRICK MORGAN, BR JUDE, DAN HERBERT, JOHN CONNOLLY

tasks given to me by Brother Alman was to visit the schools of Innisfail in North Queensland and of Maitland in the Hunter Valley to inform people that the Brothers would be totally withdrawing from those schools. This was a tough message to deliver to people who were very much part of the Marist Family. On the positive side, lay teachers and the parents continued to help the Brothers see how enriching and effective the Marist Charism and Marist education could be.

In fact Br Alman's call to the Brothers HQ at Drummoyne turned into twelve years, six as Deputy and six as Provincial. Reading the signs of the times in order to plan for even more dramatic change following Vatican II could not be delayed. Workshops and courses were set up to educate lay teachers in the Marist Charism. It was unheard of then not to have a Brother as a Headmaster of our schools. Today we are now amazed at the quality and strength of lay staff and leaders in all our schools. Presently the Marist Mission and Life Formation Team continues that formation. A parallel level of formation was underway for the Brothers themselves.

In a way I became something of a trouble-shooter for Br Alman. Our context was that of a religious family, not just an organisation. On one occasion he asked me to confront a Brother regarding a complaint of abuse. I was astonished when the man admitted misconduct. There were tough moments, but none tougher than standing on the steps of the Downing Centre Courts in front of five television cameras to acknowledge the sexual abuse offences of a Brother, and expressing my deep shame and sorrow.

Fortunately I was supported by a magnificent team of Brothers in my leadership role. The key tasks that arose were: Rationalisation of schools structure and staff as the number of Brothers diminished.

The ongoing education of Brothers for new ministries in new places such as Cambodia. Ashgrove would be very familiar with the impressive project for the handicapped developed by former Headmaster Br Terry Heinrich. I know many groups of Senior students from Ashgrove have visited there.

The transition of ministries to modern formats, such as the change of large units such as St Vincent's Westmead from a large-scale institutional Home to care in normal houses in the community

After a period of personal renewal in 1995 I spent most of 1996 in India teaching English and Marist History to young trainee Brothers. This was followed by four years working in English-speaking areas round the world developing Marist Apostolic Spirituality with Brothers and school staffs. These workshops were particularly well received by the increasing numbers of lay teachers in Marist ministries in areas such as Southern Africa, the Philippines, Scotland, Japan and Hong Kong.

2000. Surprise! It was back to Ashgrove as Community Leader of what was now as much an aged care community as a school community for the Brothers. Those six years became a delightful reunion with so many old friends.

2001. Just when I was starting to slow a little, provincial Br John Thompson asked me to assume the role of Director of Professional Standards, as complaints of child abuse were emerging from the past. We can never fully appreciate the harm to young people who suffered this way from a Brother who was committed to their welfare. Sadly, much of my work in the Professional Standards role was apologising to those who had been hurt, as well as facilitating financial mediation. All this and the experience of the Royal Commission has been a source of great shame and pain for our Brothers.

On an entirely different theme I congratulate Peter McLoughlin as he finishes a wonderful extended term as Headmaster at the College. He has been an outstanding leader and promoter of the Marist Charism and the Champagnat Trust at the College. I personally appreciate his thoughtfulness in inviting me back for significant College occasions.

Moving to Blacktown in 2009, I had four years as Chaplain to Marist Youth Care, supporting the wonderful staff there who are committed to the welfare of our most vulnerable young people - Champagnat's favourites. So it is that I now continue to count my blessings in semi-retirement, looking after a few people in aged care and relaxing with the odd game of tennis and golf! A special joy for me is sharing time at College Reunions with Ashgrove ex-students from earlier days! Most of the stories recounted are true with a little fuzziness around the detail!! Thank you all.

HELP US BUILD ON BROTHER ALEXIS' LEGACY

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