

THE ASHGROVIAN



Sub Tuum Praesidium
Marist Brothers in Australia 1872-2022

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Marist Brothers in Australia
1872-2022

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OLD BOYS HUB

Please register for the Old Boys Hub so we may be able to stay in contact, update you with relevant information about your OB colleagues and forward future Ashgrovians.

oldboyshub.marash.qld.edu.au

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Old Boys will be aware that the Ashgrovian is one of the very few 'stand-alone' Old Boy magazines in Australia. We are only able to print, publish and mail out this wonderful product because of the support of our brilliant Old Boy advertisers. We cannot thank them enough. Please show your support by using their varied and high-quality products and services.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 12 August 2022

Blue and Gold Vintage Lunch and Mass (10:00am)

Friday 7 October 2022

Old Boys Golf Day - Keperra Golf Course

Check the Old Boys website at

www.ashgroveoldboys.com.au or our Facebook page for further details.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear fellow Old Boys,

It is with a sense of gratitude I report to you in this sesquicentenary year of education by the Marist Brothers in Australia. We have all been the beneficiaries of those visionaries from 1872. More on this in our tribute on page 7.

At the time of writing, the OBA has been fortunate to not only be able to conduct a number of extremely successful events in 2022 but, most pleasingly, to announce that approval has recently been granted by the State Government for the College Master Plan which will now be implemented over the coming decade to continue to improve the College's facilities for the next generation. The first part of the works is to commence later this year on that area where the current primary school is located (sitting on the ridge above no 3 and 4 Ovals).

But the one feature which has us absolutely all buzzing is the introduction of the 'Spanish Steps' to create a magnificent new walkway down from the Tower towards number 3 Oval (Matthew Hayden Oval). Please have a look at pages 8 and 9 of this edition where we have announced the great news and the corresponding message from the College's new development officer, Ms Cathy Stacey. Cathy has been working closely with the OBA and your Committee considers Cathy will be a great asset going forward in making our collective dream a reality.

Obtaining approval for such huge ventures is far from easy. Many hurdles have to be overcome. I would, in particular, note that the formulation, structure and negotiation of the Master Plan was guided through to the approval stage with great skill and dexterity by two of our most esteemed Old Boys, Mark Kierpal (1988) and Paul Hotston (1985). Given the extent of the complexity of the works the subject of the Master Plan, it has been a great source of comfort to know these two outstanding professionals have been so skilfully guiding the College. There could not be safer hands. More details will be in the next Ashgrovian.

The 'Old Boys' Sports Day' on 30th April 2022, when the College and the OBA invite back the First XV teams from 1952, 1962, 1972 and 1982 together with their counterparts from St. Laurence's and Rosalie for the annual clash was a huge success. Many memories were re-lived and a tremendous afternoon of camaraderie was enjoyed by all. Some photos are in this edition at pages 12 and 13.

Three weeks later, the 'Super Reunion Weekend' was held where many year groups returned to participate in a great weekend of events. The two big functions were the Champagnat Trust Sports Lunch on Friday, 20th May 2022 and the Super Reunion Day at the College on 21st May 2022. The Lunch was again nothing other than an incredible afternoon generating great laughs, many memories and all the time helping the next generation of Ashgrovians. Indeed, due largely to the generosity of the Old Boys who attended, \$170,000.00 was raised for the Trust for bursaries. There are approximately 27 boys now supported by the Trust who otherwise would not have received an Ashgrove education. We hope to see that support continue at next year's Lunch.

The Super Reunion Day was marred by heavy rainfall in the lead up and on the day but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of the several hundred attendees who watched the First XV storm to an impressive victory over Padua College. A highlight of the afternoon was the First XV coming over to the field in front of the Cyprian to acknowledge the Old Boys. That iconic photo is on page 15. Many of the year groups then went on to celebrate their own reunions that evening.

We are pleased to announce that next year's Super Reunion Weekend will be on the 9th and 10th of June, 2023. So start making arrangements now for your year groups to return for what is an unforgettable event.

Otherwise, our communications continue to grow with our LinkedIn page now having enormous numbers and, in particular, the Old Boys Hub now having registered over 2,000 members. The OB Hub is the future for the Old Boys. If you have not already done so, we invite you to note the links in this edition and join so we can stay in touch. There is also the Old Boys Website, our Facebook page and Instagram for those who use social media.

I look forward to updating you in our next edition in November, 2022

VIRILITER AGE!

Dom Melrose
President



FROM THE HEAD OF COLLEGE

Dear Marist College Ashgrove Old Boys and Marist Confreres,

Now that I am mid-way through my second year at Marist College Ashgrove, I can report a College that is in very good order, rich in traditions, history and graced with many fine Old Boy role models. Personally, I am wholeheartedly enjoying the role, the boys and the many supporters of the College who all make Marist College Ashgrove a unified and proud place to be. At the end of last year, another 240 Marist graduands left the College and proudly received an Old Boy's tie from President - Steve McAuliffe. The contribution of the Old Boys to the College through their fundraising efforts, bursaries, social media, reunions and recognition of past Old Boys, is a great blessing to the College – thank you one and all and to the committee members: Dom Melrose (President 2022), Steve McAuliffe, Anthony Collins, Bret Ambrose, Tim Slack and John O'Hare.



May I take this opportunity to present a few of the achievements and undertakings of the boys, staff and community at Marist College Ashgrove as recognised in 2022, so far -

AIC Cross Country Champions (6th Year in a row), 40% of Senior class of 2021 received an ATAR score above 90 with four students receiving 100% in a subject, Optimus Breakfast with Dr Jeannette Young Governor of Queensland, \$170 000 raised from our most recent Champagnat Trust Sports Luncheon which will go toward providing a Marist Education for a number of boys who would not have previously had the opportunity, due to their financial circumstances, Archbishop Mark Coleridge BA DSS presiding at the recent Sesquicentenary of Marist Education Champagnat Mass, Senior and Open debating teams making the finals of the Queensland Debating Union (QDU) competition, Country Boarding Tours to Goondiwindi, Blackall, Toowoomba and Cloncurry, outstanding musical evenings namely – Autumn Concert, Wind and Percussion Concert, Brisbane Youth Jazz Festival, MCA Jazz Night, Blue and Gold Concert, Year 5 Band and Strings Concert, the Year 5 Musical, Engineering and Science Challenge regional champions, Dino Lopez (2021) art work presently being displayed at the Queensland Art Gallery, \$10,000.00 raised for fellow flood stricken Marist school – Trinity College Lismore, new college Masterplan ready and waiting for Ministerial Designation approval, Australian Track and Field Championship placegetters Joel Drew (Year 10) and Lee Martin (Year 11), Nick Osborn selected for the Queensland School Sport Swimming Team, Water Polo Middle Years division were undefeated Queensland school champions, Australian National Swimming Championships MCA Swimming Club finished with 7 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze, \$29,462.00 LENTEN fundraising distributed to Marist Solidarity (overseas aid and development), Lions Youth of the Year Regional Winner, Mother and Son Luncheon, with guest speaker Kathryn Greiner AO and Walkathon raising \$68,000.00 going towards college resources.

I continue to marvel at the great outcomes achieved by the boys and the efforts of our professional and generous staff in achieving so many outstanding outcomes.

2022 celebrates 150 years of Marist Education in Australia. Marist College Ashgrove is certainly part of a wider Marist network and history. The first school was established at the Rocks in Sydney by four Marist Brothers: Br Ludovic who was a Frenchman, Br Jarlat and Br Peter who were Irishmen and Br Augustine a Scotsman. From this initial school, the Marist Brothers spread their wings throughout Australia establishing many schools, including and most importantly, in 1940, the wonderful school of Marist College Ashgrove. Marist College Ashgrove has had a litany of outstanding Principals, Marist Brothers, lay teachers and supportive families and Old Boys working together to shape it into the well-established and outstanding educational institution for boys that exists today.

At a recent assembly, I highlighted this Sesquicentenary of Marist Education and reflected with the boys on a Gospel passage that I believe is most pertinent to our college and we as Marists. This Gospel is the story of Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth whilst pregnant with Jesus. On meeting Elizabeth, Mary recited the Magnificat (Luke:1:46-55). The Magnificat, I believe, has three central themes which encapsulates the very essence of that which is quintessentially Marist.

The Magnificat commences with Mary proclaiming God and her belief in herself as she says that she is in fact a good person as she has been chosen for this privilege...“henceforth, all ages will call me blessed”. For all members of the Marist family, it is important that like Mary, we too, believe in ourselves, our goodness and talents. We are all created individually and perfectly by our creator God. God only makes things that are perfect in his eyes. As Genesis says (1:26-27), we are all formed in God's image and likeness. God chose us and loves us unconditionally regardless of our weaknesses and mistakes. The Marist 150-year theme for 2022 reiterates this fact that we are “all known and loved” by God. From this belief comes an obligation to use our God given talents and goodness to make the world a better place. As our Marist College Ashgrove Mission Statement states, “boys are to be formed to act courageously and stand in solidarity, committed to the creation of a more just world.”

The second theme in the Magnificat is Mary's reason for believing she is good and she cites that it is because God made her like that... "Because he who is mighty has done great things for me." Through God's grace, Marist College Ashgrove associates also have many gifts and talents to share, to live worthwhile and successful lives. A key Marist quality is humility, and we can all live this through knowing and praying in thanks for the many gifts that God has given us. In fact, the founder of the Marist Brothers, St Marcellin Champagnat recited regularly Psalm 127:1... "If the Lord does not build the house then in vain do its builders labour." All our works, the sharing of all our God given gifts, comes from our God.

The final and key theme of the Magnificat, reflects upon God lifting up the lowly and caring for the poor. As Marists, we need to always stand up for those who are less fortunate. We are challenged to be good people by focusing on others. Our motivation as Marists always needs to be reaching out to those people who are less fortunate than we, and finding a way to give them dignity, respect and a belief in their own self-worth. Humility is often defined as not thinking of one's self as less, but rather, thinking of others more

Together as Old Boys of Marist education, we must be sure to always believe in ourselves, while being humble, i.e., acknowledging that all our gifts come from God, and to remember always to lift up those who are lowly and give them the dignity they deserve.

Happy 150 years of Marist Education!

You are always welcome to return to the College for a visit. For more information, please simply contact community@marash.qld.edu.au.

Michael Newman
Head of College

ONE OF THE GREAT HISTORICAL TEXTS OF THE MODERN ERA NOW RELEASED

As can be seen on the front cover, after 50 long years, the much awaited *Sub Tuum Praesidium*, the 150-year history of the Marist Brothers in Australia, has now been released. Co-authored by our very own legendary Headmaster, Brother Neville Solomon, it is an absolute must for the entire Marist Family! Order your copies here: <https://www.thehermitage.org.au/product/sub-tuum-praesidium/>

PRAYER FOR THE SESQUICENTENARY YEAR

God of love Your Spirit ignited the heart of Saint Marcellin Champagnat with a burning passion for God and deep compassion for all people.

You called him and the early Marists to bring this message of God's tender and all-embracing love to the young and especially those most in need.

Generations have been inspired by his example of humility, simplicity and audacious courage to form good Christians and citizens through the Catholic education of young people.

We pray with Mary our guide and Good Mother that you continue to bless us and all committed to Marist education with Saint Marcellin's spirit and heart that knew no bounds.

May it renew the whole Church in its mission to make Jesus Christ known and loved, in Mary's way, through spreading Your compassion and love to the ends of the earth.

Amen.

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 Instragram. With LinkedIn coming soon.



*Additional Old Boys' boarding bursary
available for Years 11 and 12 commencing in*

2023

If you are interested in applying please email

enrol@marash.qld.edu.au

and mark the application ***Old Boys' Bursary***.

ASHGROVE PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN CELEBRATING SESQUICENTENARY OF MARIST SCHOOLS IN AUSTRALIA

“We should approach the Sesquicentenary not with any triumphalism, but with a profound sense of humble gratitude: to God, our collaborators and supporters and the brothers who’ve gone before us” - Provincial and Ashgrove Old Boy, Brother Peter Carroll (1976)

It has been a very special year for the Marist Brothers. The Marist presence in Australia actually began in 1837 with the arrival of the first missionaries to Oceania from France. Over the coming decades, Archbishop Polding, senior clergy, and committed lay leaders were unwavering in their efforts to ensure families and the growing number of children in the colony were afforded the choice of a quality Catholic education. After some years of negotiation and advocacy by the Marist Fathers and the esteemed Archdeacon John McEncroe, the first Australian Marist school was soon to become a reality.

In March 1872, a group of four Brothers arrived in Australia absolutely determined to create history. Only a month later, on Friday 8 April 1872, the first Marist Brothers’ school in Australia was opened at St Patrick’s at the Rocks in Sydney. A Frenchman, Br Ludovic, 29, was leader; an Irishman, Br Jarlat, 25, was his assistant; a 21-year-old Scotsman, Br Augustine, was the teacher of the top class; and another Irishman, Br Peter, 25, was the cook. A young Frenchman educating 139 mainly Irish immigrants must have been just something to see! But succeed they did in what is known in Marist folklore of the ‘May Miracle’. The Brothers encouraged the students to design and build special May altars and decorate them daily with flowers. This engagement of the boys and devotion to Mary seemed to bring about the desired transformation in the students and the very foundations of Marist education in Australia. Ninety years later, the school was relocated to Kirby Street, Dundas, where it is now known as St Patrick’s Marist College.

On 8th April, 2022, 150 years later to the very day, after midday Mass, the Marist Brothers marked this historic moment in Catholic education in Australia, with the Provincial and proud Ashgrove Old Boy, Peter Carroll (1976), unveiling a sculpture of Brother Ludovic commissioned to honour the contribution of the Marist Brothers and all associated with their schools. Within metres of the site of the very first Marist school, the image of Brother Ludovic now gazes across the courtyard of St Patrick’s Church.

Later that evening, Archbishop of Sydney, Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP celebrated Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral together with the Archbishop of Melbourne, Bishops of Paramatta and Wagga Wagga as well as Auxiliary Bishops, and Priests from around the country, many of whom were educated in Marist schools. They were joined in person and online by Marists and their partners in Catholic education from 19 Dioceses throughout Australia.

One of the highlights of the year was the publication in June 2022 of the brilliant historical text ‘Sub Tuum Praesidium, the 150-year history of the Marist Brothers in Australia’ of which one of the authors was Brother Neville Solomon, a former Headmaster of the College.

Today, 56 schools are members of the Marist network, educating 50,000 students across 19 Dioceses in remote, rural, regional, and metropolitan Australia. Marist College Ashgrove has occupied a very special place in Marist education since 1940, has produced countless fine men in the Marist tradition and will continue to do so into the future.





PAUL HOTSTON
(1985)
ARCHITECT



MARK KIERPAL
(1988)
URBAN PLANNER

**THE OBA IS PROUD TO
ANNOUNCE THE APPROVAL OF
THE COLLEGE MASTERPLAN FOR
THE NEXT GENERATION.**

FURTHER DETAILS IN THE NEXT ASHGROVIAN

[HTTPS://NEWSLETTERS.NAAVI.COM/I/ZMXOYBM/TERM-3-WEEK-2/PAGE/1](https://newsletters.naavi.com/i/zmxoybm/term-3-week-2/page/1)



Conceptual proposal

*The Spanish Steps, Francesco de Sanctis, 1725, Rome, Italy.

phorm
Urbicus

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT - MS CATHY STACEY

Dear Old Boys of Marist College Ashgrove,

I am very grateful to the Old Boys' Association for allowing me to introduce myself as the Director of Development of the College and to bring the extended Ashgrove Family up to date with the exciting news about the Master Plan.

To remain competitive, facilities and resources available to our students must keep pace with changing learning requirements, as well as changes in demand.

Our limited Year 5 intake at present leads to disappointment for many families. Some are later unwilling to move a child – who has settled into another school and established his friendship group – for our Year 7 entry point. More than losing one boy, the College may lose his brothers as well.

With addressing the Year 5 intake as a priority, the College has taken the opportunity to think strategically about the campus over the longer term.

The opportunity to come together in fellowship is a high priority for the Marist family. As well as celebrating Mass, the College community also loves to gather to acknowledge our boys' successes in their academic, cultural, and sporting endeavours. Consequently, a more generous assembly space is also planned within the next few years.

Responding to market demand for school-leavers with high-level skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Maths, the College is excited to announce a purpose-built STEAM learning facility.

The College has worked with Old Boys Mark Kierpal (1988) (Urban Planner, Urbicus) and Paul Hotston (1985) (Architect, Phorm Architecture + Design), to develop a strategic master plan for the Marist College Ashgrove campus.

With reference to the natural features and beauty of the site, existing infrastructure, and environmental imperatives, the Master Plan also takes into account sight lines and viewpoints to create a campus that is functional, welcoming, and pleasing to the eye. The updated and improved campus will be something which you will be very proud to return to as, hopefully, will your sons and friends.

With a 30-year time horizon, the immediate focus of the Master Plan is the next five years including:

- Expanding the Primary School
- Building a new assembly space
- Developing a unique STEAM centre
- Refurbishing the Carrick Building.

In my role, the Marist Brothers have requested me to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to design the fundraising strategy and lead the immediate capital campaign.

The College is counting on passionate Ashgrovians to lead the way towards our target of \$15M.

If you would like to know anything more about the Master Plan please do not hesitate to contact me on 0434 074 372 or staceyc@marash.qld.edu.au. I would very much enjoy hearing from Old Boys about their views.



1982 MAKE SUPER REUNION WEEKEND SOMETHING SPECIAL



The Champagnat Trust Sports Lunch is only such a massive success because of the support of so many Old Boys. Chief amongst those were the 1982 40th Reunion where the lads took several tables at the Lunch, kept going that night, some celebrating the next day at the rugby and then again into the night. The stamina is still there. It was a great honour to have such an outstanding year group return and support the College.

2001 RETURN WITH A VENGEANCE



One of the side effects of COVID-19 was the social impact it had in preventing such important things as Ashgrove reunions. The OBA would pay tribute to the incredible effort made by the 2021 cohort who returned in huge numbers on Super Reunion Day to the College to celebrate together, watch a great victory and then head out on the town. Well done boys and we will see you back in four years time for the 25th.

2012 ANSWER THE CALL



It was particularly pleasing to see the success which the 2012 cohort have experienced in the short 10 years since they walked out the front gates. There are some brilliant business minds on the way, gifted tradesman and, of course, some absolutely outstanding athletes including Max Neumann who recently won the Cairns Iron Man for the third time straight. The 2012 boys returned in huge numbers to watch the First XV have a stunning win on Super Reunion Day and then went about celebrating long into the night.



MARIST
Golf Day

The Annual Golf Day is
Friday 7th October 2022
at Keperra GC

\$130.00 pp plus booking fee
or Group of 4 - \$520.00
Sponsors - \$600.00

SHOTGUN START AT MIDDAY

Any queries please contact
E - peter-casey@bigpond.com or M - 0438 325 863

BOOK NOW
<https://events.humanitix.com/2022-old-boys-golf-day>

OLD BOYS' SPORTS DAY - APRIL 30, 2022

Marist College Ashgrove and the OBA were delighted to welcome back on April 30, 2022, the 1st XV representatives from 1952, 1962, 1972 and 1982 from Marist Ashgrove, Marist Rosalie and St. Laurence's College for another magnificent Old Boys Sports Day. Following the welcome to our almost 80 attendees, presentation of jerseys to the 2022 1st XV and a fabulous lunch, those attending were then presented with commemorative medallions in front of the a packed John Eales Grandstand. Everyone then settled in for the much anticipated AIC First XV, ASH v SLC First XV clash, in which Lauries were too good on the day.



1942 1ST XV

Unfortunately, all members of the 1942 Ashgrove "Firsts" have passed away, but their team photo is proudly displayed. The 1942 team also played Rugby League and was based at Eagle Heights as Ashgrove had relocated because of the impending Japanese invasion in WWII.



1952 1ST XV MSSSA UNDEFEATED PREMIERS

This was Ashgrove's first year of official Rugby Union competition. Eight players and two reserves were selected in the Combined MSSSA team to play GPS.

OLD BOYS' SPORTS DAY - APRIL 30, 2022



1962 1ST XV TAS EQUAL RUNNERS-UP

Ashgrove were level with SLC and Rosalie at season's end with St. Peter's winning their first ever Rugby Premiership. Ashgrove also hosted St Joseph's Hunters Hill, Sydney, for the first time in Firsts and Seconds losing 20-3 and 12-5 respectively. The 1960 MCA 1st XV had played Joeys in Sydney, narrowly losing 14-8.



1972 1ST XV TAS UNDEFEATED PREMIERS

Ashgrove were undefeated in all three trials against GPS schools BBC, TSS and BSHS and had only one try scored against them in eight matches of TAS comp. Ashgrove defeated SLC in a virtual grand final, 10-6. After 50 years, eight of the team could make it back together with legendary coach Brother Alexis.



1982 1ST XV TAS UNDEFEATED PREMIERS

Ashgrove inflicted the only defeat of the season to the ultimate GPS Premiers, Churchie, 11-3 and also thrashed, TSS and Nudgee. Ashgrove claimed the TAS Premiership by defeating SLC, 9-7, in very wet conditions. It is a tribute to the closeness of the team that 17 of the squad and master coach Barry Honan returned for a great day.

CHAMPAGNAT TRUST SPORTS LUNCH - MAY 20, 2022

“The Lunch” is now the stuff of legend. This year saw record numbers of Old Boys attend the Champagnat Trust Sports Lunch at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre to enjoy a fabulous afternoon of catching up and celebrating as part of the Super Reunion Weekend. Over 1100 were entertained by Vince Sorrenti as MC and our patron, John Eales (1987), who was joined on stage initially by journalist, Michael Ware and then David Campese, Kevin Sheedy and Brad Hogg.

To cap off a great afternoon the lunch generated \$170,000.00 for bursaries to allow boys to attend Ashgrove who otherwise would not have the opportunity. A great community event!

Next year’s Lunch will be bigger and better and is set for Friday 9 June, 2023.



SUPER REUNION WEEKEND IS ANOTHER BLOCKBUSTER

Another sensational “Super Reunion Weekend” on 20 and 21 May, 2022 again generated incredible memories for Old Boys and will go down as one of the great weekends in the College’s Old Boy history. This glorious weekend started with the sold out 18th Champagnat Trust Sports Lunch on Friday 20 May, 2021 (with over 1,100 in attendance) followed by the Super Reunion Day on the Saturday where the 1st XV Rugby Union put on a dazzling display against Padua College to thrill the the hundred of Old Boys on the balcony of the Cyprian.



After this year’s stunning success, the OBA are proud to announce the dates for the 2023 Super Reunion Weekend.

Friday 9th June 2023 will be the Champagnat Trust Sports Lunch at the Brisbane Convention Centre.

Saturday afternoon 10th June 2023 will be the Super Reunion Day in the Cyprian watching the First XV play for the Premiership.

Saturday evening 10th June 2023 will be your year group’s reunion.

START GETTING YOUR YEAR GROUP ORGANISED !

ROSALIE TRIBUTE DAY - 4 JUNE, 2022

Once a year the Ashgrove 1st XV pay the ultimate respect to Rosa by swapping the Blue and Gold for the Cerise and Blue. The occurred on June 4, 2022 with many Rosa Old Boys in attendance. A wonderful tradition continues.



THE GREAT MAN APPROVES THE NEW FENCE ON 'THE FLATS'



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.

AIC/TAS BEST EVER CRICKET SIDE

MCA named their best ever cricket squad to represent Ashgrove in 2015 as part of MCA's 75 year celebrations. Now 'The Courier Mail' premier sports journalist Andrew Dawson (1985) revealed in Feb 2021 the best AIC/TAS Cricket Side. An edited transcript follows:

"Former Test openers Matthew Hayden and Robbie Kerr would spearhead this all-star AIC/TAS First XI team.

Marist College Ashgrove old boy Hayden and St Paul's School alumni Kerr would be flag-bearers of a team which contains another seven Shield players, including a former state captain.

Throw in an Irish international and you have an imposing cricket side.

But the batting battleship is Hayden who boarded at Marist College Ashgrove (87-88) from his home town of Kingaroy before playing for Valley, Queensland and Australia, while Kerr shone for Northern Suburbs and Queensland before playing for his country.

A small army of outstanding club cricketers were considered for the 12, with the wicketkeeper and bowling positions the most hotly contested. There were some really unlucky omissions, including current player Lachlan Thompson the Sandgate-Redcliffe batting ace and Marist College Ashgrove Old Boy (2011), who was in the side until the last moment, and his golden summer of 667 runs at an average of 74.11 in Bulls Masters Premier grade cricket made it almost impossible to exclude him, particularly after scoring 126 last round.

St Patrick's College old boy Brian Grace (six games for Queensland in the early 70s), Souths batting gun Lucky Petersen (St Laurence's College) and Norths premiership winning skipper James McPherson (2009 Marist College Ashgrove) were among other first grade batting aces.

But many others have also stretched out commendable careers in club cricket having come from the AIC/TAS system. Matthew Hayden's brother, Gary, was also considered for the side. Unlike his brother, Gary was a batting tactician, a technically correct opener who earned Australian under 19 selection from the Valley club.

He later became Matthew's coach, throwing thousands and thousands of balls at his little brother which played a huge role in Matthew's sensational start to his career batting for Queensland.

Marist Brothers Rosalie also contributed contenders like the Donaldsons (Western Suburbs) from the late 1960s and Barry Maranta, one of the Brisbane Broncos founders who played club cricket at University as a gloveman in the 1950s and 1960s.



Matt Hayden celebrating after breaking Brian Lara's world record Test score of 375 runs in October 2003 at the WACA, Perth. Matt eventually was dismissed for 380.

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PRAYERS PLEASE

- Leo Phillip Hartley (1972), late of Caloundra, formerly Mackay, passed away peacefully on May 13, 2022, aged 67 years. Leo was the dearly loved father of Clair, Andrew (1997), Leo (1999) and Chloe. Leo was also the loving brother of Allan, Paul, Neil, Julie, Margo (dec'd), Terri and Mark. Leo's Funeral service was held at Caloundra on May 20, 2022.
- Michael Barrie O'Kelly (1988), late of Ashgrove, passed away peacefully on March 26, 2022, aged 50 years. Michael was the much-loved husband of Rachael (dec'd), father of Liam (2018) and brother of Shaun (1984) and Simon (1987). Michael's Funeral Mass was held at St Finbarr's Church, Ashgrove on April 1, 2022.
- William Patrick Ludwig (1952), OAM, late of Indooroopilly, passed away peacefully on April 11, 2022, aged 87 years. Bill was the beloved father of Carmen and Joseph and daughter-in-law Leanne and loving grandfather and great-grandfather. At Bill's request, a private family service was held.
- Francis Do Rozario (1965) passed away peacefully on July 25, 2022. Frank's funeral was held on August 9 at the Pinnaroo Chapel, Bridgeman Downs.
- Peter John Naylor (1972), late of Winton, passed away on March 5, 2022, aged 66 years. Peter was the dearly loved husband of Julie, adored father of Emma and Chase, stepfather to Allonie and Celeste and grandfather to Ryan, Adelaide and Max. Peter's funeral service was held in Rockhampton on March 25, 2022.
- Paul Joseph Mitchell (1972), late of Annerley, formerly of Dorrington passed away peacefully on June 23, 2022, aged 67 years. Paul was the beloved son of John (dec'd) and Kathleen, and much loved brother of Madonna, Christine, Mark (1977), Gabrielle and Francene. Paul's Funeral service was held at Pinnaroo Crematorium, Bridgeman Downs on July 5, 2022.
- Tenison-Woods, Julian John "Jack", late of Mareeba Road, Ashgrove, passed away peacefully on May 12, 2022, aged 96 years. Beloved husband of Clare (dec'd), and much loved father of John (1969), Helen, David (1976), Judith and grandpa of Julian (2014) and Lachlan (2018). Jack's Funeral Mass was held at St Finbarr's Church, Ashgrove on May 20, 2022.
- Brian Joseph Patterson, late of Red Hill, passed away peacefully on April 10, 2022, aged 90 years. Brian was the beloved husband of Myreen (dec'd), father of Tracey, Dean (1982) and Luke (1986), grandfather and great-grandfather. Brian's Funeral Mass was held at St Finbarr's Church, Ashgrove on April 26, 2022.
- Eileen Messery, late of The Gap, passed away peacefully on November 7, 2021, aged 87 years. Eileen was the cherished mother of Michael (1980) and Teresa and proud and devoted Nana of Lachlan (2014) and Cooper (2015) Messery and great-Nana. Eileen's Funeral Mass was held at St Peter Chanel, The Gap on November 17, 2021.
- Eric Francis Gee, late of Caloundra, passed away on November 2, 2021, aged 78 years. Beloved husband of Leonie and loving father and father-in-law of Scott (1985), Jason (1987) and Dianne, Heath (1990) and Debra, and Travis (1992) and devoted Poppy. Eric's funeral service was held at Caloundra on November 10, 2021.
- Francis Michael O'Hare, late of Ashgrove and The Gap, passed away peacefully on January 3, 2022, aged 93 years. Frank was the beloved husband of Margaret for 68 years, and much-loved father of Peter (1971), John (1972), Paul (1974), Tim (1980) and Stephanie and loving grandfather of Simon (2010) and David Jackson (2015) and great-grandfather. Frank was MCA P&F President in 1968 and Vice-President in 1967. Frank's Funeral Mass was held at St Brigid's Church, Red Hill on January 13, 2022.
- Barry John Burton, late of Ashgrove, passed away peacefully on June 9, 2022. Barry was past husband of Marlene, father and father-in-law of Leanne and Joe, Susan and Damian, Stephen (1977) and Michelle, Karen and Larry, Julie and John (1982) and Scott (1987), grandfather of 12, including James (2004) and Charles (2006) Burton, Elliott Davies (2011) and Josh Tam, (2013), dec'd. Barry's Funeral Mass was held at St Michael's Church, Banks St. Ashgrove on June 17, 2022.
- Ursula Regina Gockel, late of Brookfield, formerly of The Gap, passed away peacefully on May 10, 2022, aged 85. Ursula was the loving wife of Hans and devoted mother to Thomas, Peter, John, Paul (1982), Regina, Andrew and Christine and cherished grandmother. Ursula's Funeral Mass was held at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Kenmore on March 25, 2022.

VALE SECTION ON THE OLD BOYS' WEBSITE

The website has a special 'Vale' section where eulogies and memories of Old Boys are recorded. Please visit www.ashgroveoldboys.com.au and click on 'Vale'.

PRAYERS PLEASE CONTINUED...

- Lennis George Selwood, late of Enoggera, passed away peacefully on July 15, 2022 aged 88 years. Len, aka 'Selly' was the loved husband of Carmel, much-loved father and father-in-law of Ashley (1972) and Jocelyn, Peter (1978) and Ann-Maree, Greg (1982) and Leonie, cherished grandfather and great-grandfather. Both Len's grandsons Patrick (2008) and Joe Selwood (2010) are MCA Oldboys. Selly's Funeral Mass was held at St William's Grovely on July 22, 2022.
- Patricia (Pat) Moloney's life was celebrated at St Finbarr's Ashgrove when a large congregation gathered to pay their respects at her Funeral Mass. Pat's husband Jim, deceased in 2014, but Pat's children, John (1975), Mary, Kath, James (1975), Michael and Tricia (dec'd 1985), their partners and families expressed their dear love for her beautifully in the service. Pat worked at MCA for over 20 years (1972-1992) in secretarial roles and gave much of her free time to College life and to the Marist Brothers. Such was Pat's commitment that she received the accolade of affiliation to the Marist Brothers. Pat's sons, John (1975) and James (1979) attended MCA as did their sons. John and Debbie, Ciaran (2010) and Tim (2014) and James and Karen, Jacob (2011). Illustrating how the Moloney family history has become intertwined with MCA forever, Daughter-in-law Debbie also served as P&F President in 2008/9 and Vice-President in 2010-2014.

MARK BILTOFT (1951)

Mark Biltoft entered Brother Linus' Scholarship class at Ashgrove in 1947 and continued on to complete Senior in 1951. Though a good scholar, Mark's main interest was sport. He played good cricket (in a team with opening batsman Anthony Carroll), was a dazzling centre in Brian Kassulke's First XV Rugby team (Tom Nutley was hooker), and represented the College in the 440 in interschool sports.

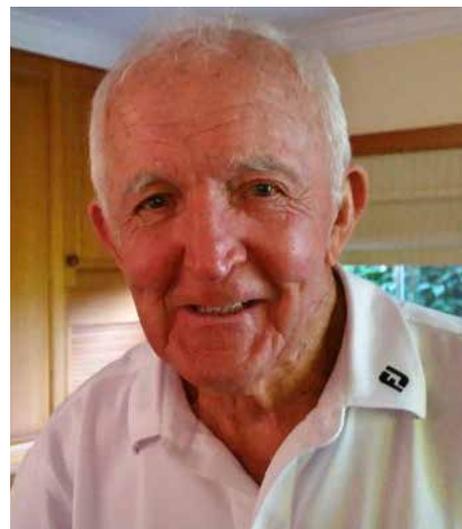
Mark was a great admirer and friend of Brother Cyprian. On some Saturdays Mark and a few other dayboys would help Cyp cement in the steel posts for the original fence surrounding The Flats. What would Mark make of the new white picket fence? Immediately after Senior, Mark and a small group sent a tent to Southport by train, then rode our push-bikes down from Brisbane and holidayed by the beach – a primitive form of schoolies week! After school, Mark was called up to serve his National Service in the Army. He said he spent three years waging war against the Army – he claimed “plenty of dixie bashing, night guard duties, five court marshals and threats of prison”.

Mark decided to study Dentistry, and for a while he and Fred Broad, as university students, continued to board at the College. It was then that he got to know the Scott family in Glenlyon Drive, and eventually married Nora Scott with whom he spent a long and loving life.

Mark practised dentistry in several places including Port Pirie, three stints on Palm Island (more football!) and some time in Mackay (where he built and raced speedboats). He then settled down to practise dentistry in Murwillumbah. A great believer in preventive dentistry, Mark waged campaigns for fluoridation in Mackey (unsuccessful) and Murwillumbah (successful), and worked with the then Deputy PM Doug Anthony in successful broader campaigns.

In recent years Mark kept frequent contact with former school friends. He would drive up from Murwillumbah and meet with the group of his classmates from around '51, convened by himself and Brian Kassulke.

Mark died peacefully at his Murwillumbah home on 31st December, 2021.



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.

JOHN MINES (1948)

John Joseph Mines (1948), late of Bardon, formerly of The Gap, passed away peacefully on June 2, 2022, aged 91. John was the beloved husband of Marjorie (dec'd) and dearly loved father of Leandra, and Anthony (1986), and much loved father-in-law, and grandfather of Angus (2000). John was also brother of David (1959) and Sr Margaret Mines (dec'd). John's Funeral Mass was held at Mater Dei Church on June 16, 2022.

John was part of the College's formative years when our very ethos was enshrined for the decades ahead. John, Ashgrove's greatest ever high jumper, was followed by younger brother David (1959) and then honoured the Old Boy tradition by sending son Anthony (1986) and then grandson Angus (2020) to the College.



MARK PEATEY (1989)

It was with the greatest of sadness that the OBA learnt of the passing of our colleague and friend, Mark Peatey (1989), on 30th December 2021 after a long illness. Never to be beaten, Mark's bravery, dedication to his family and continued zest for life was something to behold. His last year included climbing to the top of Mount Coolum with a prosthetic femur, hip and knee with his OB brother, Lance and family.

Mark's was a life of great dedication, determination and contribution. Such was Mark's love of Ashgrove, he had returned to Australia from the UK so that his son, Samson, could be educated at the College.

The OBA, on behalf of all members, and particularly Mark's colleagues from that close knit 1989 cohort, pass on their very best to his partner, Zaz and their children Scarlett and Samson and to the extended Peatey family.

Viriliter Age.



ANDREW COLE (1977)

Andrew Cole passed away peacefully on July 9, 2022, aged 62 years. Andrew was not only a most popular dentist who practised at Strathpine but was also respected the world over as Australia's finest ever Rugby referee. Andrew was the son of Brian and Therese (both dec'd), and loving husband of Ann-Maree and beloved father of Michael (2005), David (2006) and Megan. Andrew's five brothers, Brian (1976 dec'd), James (1979), Paul (1982), Damien (1983), and Tim (1985) all attended MCA, along with brother-in-law, Tony Hogarth (1976) and five nephews, Daniel (2001), Dominic (2004), Jonathon (2006), Elijah (2016), and Xavier (2021). Andrew's life was celebrated by a magnificent ceremony on the Main Oval and he was afforded the ultimate tribute of a guard of honour as he made his way to his final resting place.



THE DEATH OF PROMINENT OF ASHGROVE OLD BOY - BILL LUDWIG OAM (1934-2022)

We were sad to hear of the passing of Bill Ludwig on 11 April this year after a meritorious career in the Union Movement of Australia, holding the key position of President of the Australian Workers Union (AWU), for an extended period, with a brief interruption, from 1989 to 2017.

But let's start at the beginning. Bill was born, 1934, in the western Queensland sheep town of Longreach. With his father's transfer back to Brisbane, the family eventually lived in the top end of Ashgrove Avenue, from where Bill went to school just down the road at St Finbarr's. With St Mary's Ashgrove closed, Bill travelled by tram with several other Ashgrove boys to Rosalie. Then, with the reopening of Ashgrove after the War, Bill transferred to the College.

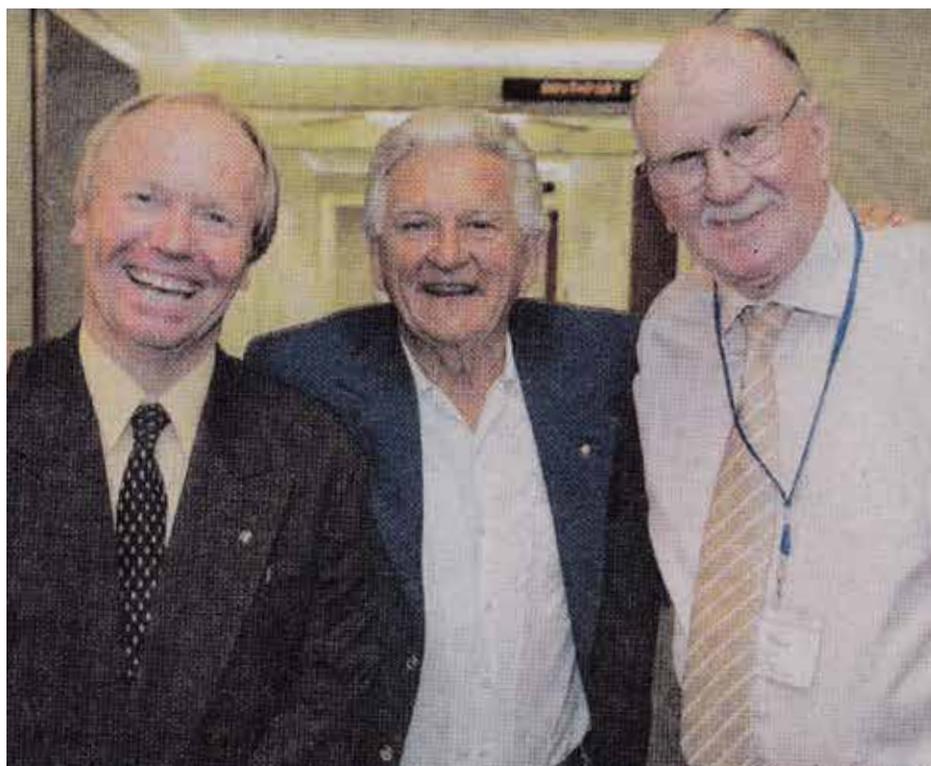
Bill was a star athlete at school, both in Athletics and Swimming. His photos feature prominently in the Annual Magazines. Above all else, Bill said he liked the emphasis that the College placed on sport, at a time when sport could play a prominent role in a young person's extra-curricular activity. Yet Bill missed a lot of schooling with a problem to his back causing hospitalization for six months.

Bill left school somewhat early upon the unexpected death of his mother. So it was back to Longreach where his uncles from Ireland were all shearers, and Bill followed in their footsteps. It is interesting to note that his once-sore back, with a bone out of place, never seemed to worry him as a shearer. He remained in the pastoral industry until 1971 at which time he became an employee of the AWU.

The rest of Bill's life was associated also with the union movement: first as Secretary of the South Western District of the Queensland Branch of the AWU; then Secretary of the Queensland Branch of the AWU in 1988 with its big influence of the State A.L.P. ; then, finally in 2001, the National President of the AWU. His son Joseph, a barrister, was an ALP Senator from Queensland, and was Minister from Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and Minister assisting on Queensland Flood Recovery.

Other honours bestowed on Bill were the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 1997 for "service to Industrial Relations through the AWU", and the Centenary Medal in 2001. Yet in 2008 when he was asked in interview what was his greatest achievement in life, Bill humbly replied that he thought that he hadn't done much!

The members of the Marist Old Boys Association extends their sympathies and the promise of their prayers to Bill's family: his brother Brian and family living in Canada, his children Joseph and Carmen, his grandchildren and great grandchild. May Bill's strong and generous soul rest at peace. At Bill's own request, a private funeral was held, and the family were delighted to have a Marist Brother, Br Peter Stewart, from our local religious community, conduct the service.



ASHGROVE DOMINATES TAS TENNIS 1960-62

In 1967, six new Tennis courts were constructed where the Science Centre now features. Then MCA coach, Vince Kelly arranged for Mal Anderson (1957 US Open Champion) and Doug Smith to showcase top level tennis on the new courts to the budding players and future champions like Ray Kelly(75) and Brian Kelly (69). Prior to the establishment of these new flexicrete courts, the College students played tennis close to where the magnificent current MCA Tennis Centre is located.

In 1960, the College Tennis Courts underwent a massive renovation- new bitumen courts, umpire stands and new netting enclosure. Tennis had come a long way since the mid-50s when the College had to be content with just winning Lower Grade competitions regularly. Admittedly Ashgrove and Villanova had St Laurence's future Aussie great Ken Fletcher to contend with, as SLC won the 1956, 1958 and 1959 TAS A grade Premierships. Villanova won the 1957 TAS and shared the 1958 with Lauries. The renovated courts saw the beginning of a new era for tennis and from 1960-62, MCA won the top trophies to place it at the top of TAS Tennis.

In 1959, Australia had defeated USA 3-2 at Forest Hills, New York. Neale Fraser and Rod Laver represented in singles while Fraser and BGS Old Boy Roy Emerson won the doubles for Australia. Rod Laver lost the 1960 Wimbledon Final to Neale Fraser, but later in the year he went one better and won the Australian National Title at the Milton Tennis Courts defeating Neale Fraser in an epic final, 5-7,3-6,6-3,8-6,8-6. Rod had defeated Roy Emerson also in five sets in the semifinal, after fighting back from a 5-2 deficit against Emmo in the fifth set.

Who better to open the new MCA Tennis facility in 1960? And what better preparation for a looming grand slam final than with a warmup exhibition against Queensland's brilliant undefeated schoolboys! Coach Br Gordon invited Neale Fraser the Davis Cup and Tennis Legend. Accompanying Neale was this rising young star of the future called Rod Laver, aged just 21 years. Peter Corcoran (formerly Br Gordon) recently remarked:

"Little did the MCA Tennis Squads of that time realise that they had a visitor who was about to turn world tennis on its head and go on to become the most renowned player ever in tennis- 'Rocket' Rod Laver! The visitors played a couple of sets with the MCA 'aces' at the time- John Jensen (61) and Bryan Kreis(61). The boys acquitted themselves well. They had previously won the QCLTA U17 Doubles Championship and would remain undefeated in TAS. The occasion would forever remain a memorable event in the life of MCA and fittingly recorded the College taking its place as TAS Premier Tennis College."

As a sidelight to the main exhibition matches, Br Gordon (also a 'leftie' of note) had a hitup with Rod and while Peter Corcoran said humbly: "embarrassment prevented any recording of the score!" - the huge turnout of Ashgrove schoolboys watching intently, were cheering wildly at the standard of tennis!

These were the days of the Dunlop Maxply Fort wooden tennis racquet with its small head and natural gut strings and Dunlop OC Volleys tennis shoes.

Peter Corcoran would go on to provide incredible service to the sport of Rugby League in many roles such as: Chairman of the ARL Coaching Council (1982-97); Head Coach of the ARL National Youth Squad(1983-2000); Former Chairman of the Newcastle Knights, plus leading roles with the NSW Sports Federation (1999-2008). Peter was recognised with his Member of the Order of Australia in 1988 and received an Order of Australia Medal in the Queens Birthday Honours List in 2019. Little wonder that Ashgrove students in the 1950/60s era achieved so well under his guidance.



Rod Laver

MCA 1959/60 Open Tennis Champion John Jensen commented at the time: "On behalf of squad members, I'd like to thank our coach, Br Gordon, who throughout the year has, in an inspiring manner, urged us to greater heights. With his coaching and guidance behind us, we enter the 1960 competition very confidently.

Bryan Kreis, 1961 Tennis Champion and Brian Gray 1962/63 Champion endorsed multiple premiership winning player Barry Low's final complimentary words of gratitude to Br Gordon as well as lamenting their narrow 1963 gf loss to DLS (35-29). "We thank Br Gordon for his enthusiasm and congratulate him for raising the standard of Tennis at MCA to the wonderfully high position it now holds."

It would be nearly 50 years for Ashgrove to repeat their back to back to back victories of the 60s with a fivepeat from 2007-2011!



Neale Fraser

ASHGROVE DOMINATES TAS TENNIS 1960-62



1960

"A" Grade Undefeated Premiers
"B" Grade Undefeated Premiers
"C" Grade Undefeated Premiers
"Under 15" Runners-up

Back Row: L. Scholes, A. Morris, B. Casey, G. Burke, D. Nolan, R. Itzstein

Third Row: B. Low, P. Hine, A. De Groot, J. Keenan, L. Edwards, B. Gray, A. Louie

Second Row: J. Casey, B. McKenna, R. Meagher, J. E. Hawkins, N. De Groot, P. Moloney, B. Gilmour, A. Pope

Front Row: E. Baisden, B. Kreis, J. Jensen (Capt.), Rev. Br. Gordon, J. Cronin, B. Moore, W. Currie



1961

T.A.S. COMPETITION TEAMS

"A" Grade Undefeated Premiers
"B" Grade Undefeated Premiers
"C" Grade Undefeated Premiers
"Under 15 Grade" Premiers

Standing: "C" Grade: A. Louie, B. Mauro, L. Scholes, R. Meagher, P. Moloney (c), "B" Grade: B. Low, A. Pope, J. Hawkins (c), B. Gilmour, A. De Groot, "U15" Grade: J. Keenan (c), J. Costello, Alfons De Groot, D. Ryan, O. Gray.

Seated: "A" Grade: B. Gray, B. Kreis (c), Rev. Br. Gordon (Coach), P. Hine, R. O'Connor



1962

T.A.S. TENNIS TEAMS

Standing: "B" GRADE: A. De Groot (Capt.), L. Scholes, R. Meagher, A. De Groot, A. Louie, "C" GRADE: D. Nolan (Capt.), J. Smith, R. Pattison, L. Guilfoyle, C. Robertson, D. Dickson, "U15" Grade: M. Yip, B. Kelly, W. Griffith, O. Gray (Capt.)

Seated: "A" Grade: B. Low, B. Gray (Capt.), Rev. Dr. Gordon (Coach), R. O'Connor, B Gilmour

ASHGROVE DOMINATES TAS TENNIS 1960-62



1963

T.A.S. TENNIS TEAM

"A" Grade Runners Up
"Under 15 Grade" Undefeated Premiers

Back Row: "A" Grade: J. Costello, B. Gray (Capt.), J. Gray, B. Low

3rd Row: "B" Grade: C. Robertson, J. Smith, R. Meagher (Capt.), L. Guilfoyle, G. King

2nd Row: "C" Grade: D. Grant, S. Rejmer, W. Yip, R. Goodwin (Capt.), M. Yip, J. Baxter, W. Monaghan

Front Row: "U15" Grade: B. Kelly, L. Wetzel, W. Griffiths (Capt.), Rev. Br. Gordon (Coach), P. McQuillan, W. Stewart

ASHGROVE Marist Brothers' College dominated The Associated Schools' tennis competition this year.

Ashgrove won the A, B and C grade premierships and were runner-up to St. PETERS in the under 15 competition.

In the C Grade the premiership was shared by Ashgrove and Villanova, whose match was washed out by rain.

This match was drawn and both teams remained undefeated.

In the 16 games in all grades, Ashgrove suffered one loss — to St. Peters in the under 15.

★
THIS was Ashgrove's first win in A grade competition since 1951.

The Ashgrove team was John Jensen (captain) John Cronin, Brian Kreis and Brendan Moore.

In 1959, Ashgrove were undefeated premiers in the C grade and runner-up in the B grade.

Jensen and Kreis are the only two players who returned to school from those teams this year.

Jensen was No. 1 player in the Ashgrove under 15 premiership team in 1958.

The doubles combination of Jensen-Kreis won the Queensland under-17 Catholic Lawn Tennis Association championship this year.

★
FOUR singles and four doubles matches are played in

each inter-school match. Two teams play at each school on Saturday mornings.

Cronin, Ashgrove No. 2, had four games only scored against him in his four matches.

Jensen had nine games scored against him Moore seven.

★
SCHOOL coaches said the standard of play was high in all grades.

Under 15 No. 1 and 2 players were perhaps the best.

The Associated Schools' tennis competition was established in 1956. St. Laurence's and Villanova have each won the premiership twice.

This year Brian Canty of St. Laurence's was the only player to defeat John Jensen, of Ashgrove. He won 6-5.

Canty, who relies mainly on his power serve went down to Brian Dawson of Rosalie, 2-6. Jensen beat Dawson 6-1.

Another top player in the A grade was Villanova's Ed Davis, who did not meet Jensen.

Closest A grade match was between St. Laurence's and Villanova — St. Laurence's won by two points.



1960 NEWSPAPER REPORT

ASHGROVE DOMINATES TAS TENNIS 1960-62



1960 FIRST IV

Bryan Kreis, John Jensen (capt),
Brendan Moore, John Cronin



1962 CHAMPION B GRADE

Ray Meagher, Alfonso DeGroot,
A. DeGroot (capt), L. Scholes



DR KEVIN WILLIAM VANDELEUR

Dr Kevin William Vandeleur AM, grew up in idyllic Banksia Avenue in Ashgrove in the 50s, 60s and 70s in a large house directly adjacent to the Marist Father's Monastery ('Glenlyon House') with his Dad, Dr Kevin Snr, his Mother, Julia (Jules) and five younger siblings, Margaret, Barbara, Peter, Brian and Julie.

I was fortunate to join this wonderful environment and start a long friendship with Kev and his family in early 1968 when my mother Pat bought a house in nearby Glenlyon Drive following the death of my father on New Year's Day 1968.

In those days "our house was your house" and casual sleepovers were part of the norm and in later years, refuges if you got offside with your parents such as Kev did when he purchased an aging BSA 650 motor bike not long after a serious accident (more about this later) and had to hide the beast at my mother's house. We were North Queenslanders from Ayr, and I had previously boarded at Marist Ashgrove during 1967 with a number of other boys from the North as we were sent South as part of an advance party for others to follow in many years to come.

Kev's parents were a wonderful support and great company to our newly widowed mother.

I missed the very early years of Kevin's life but Noel Saunders (1968) lived two doors down from Kev with his family and has also been a lifelong friend. Says Noel... "Kevin was always visible and audible in the Ashgrove District as well as likeable and engaging and his formative years reflected the care and determination that would see him develop into one of Australia's leading Ophthalmic Surgeons.

As an altar boy at the Marist Monastery in Glenlyon Drive, serving at Benediction one night, the red hot coal fell out of the thurible onto the carpeted floor. With no implement in reach, Kevin calmly picked up the coal in his fingers and placed it back in the thurible with no thought to how his fingers would feel later.

A free and easy life in those days often led to exploring the bushland on the army property opposite what is now the GPS rugby ground. Imagine the delight when young Kev discovered the two-part casing of an anti-tank shell, and it conveniently had a small hole at one end making it ideal for the wick of a twopenny burger to protrude. Of course this "toy" had to be hidden from misunderstanding adults and why not in his mother's baby grand piano!

Kev's calmness and self-control under pressure were obvious and necessary when he arrived home from school one afternoon to find a raging mother, a distressed piano tuner, confused policemen and an angry army bomb disposal squad team swarming over the family home in Banksia Avenue.

The primary school at Marist in 1960 was familiar with Kev's boxer dog "Ginger" who was a regular attendee at school as he invariably followed Kev there in the mornings. One morning in class Br Francis informed Kevin that Ginger, who had been tied up behind the cricket nets all night as Kev had forgotten to take him home the previous evening, had managed to wrap the rope around its neck and had sadly died.

Kev was directed to grab a shovel from the garage and bury Ginger – an onerous challenge and task for a Year 6 boy, undertaken quietly and calmly without question..."

The Monastery lawn was the scene of many memorable Cricket and Rugby Tests involving the local suspects...Kev and his brothers, his cousins John and David Wood from Mareeba Road, the Saunders', Neil Condon from Waterworks Road Terminus, Michael and John Carroll from Myagah Road just down the laneway adjacent to my mother's house, and Ross Boyce and Ken Jarvis.

Apart from always being an academic High Achiever and sometimes Class Captain, Kevin excelled in the sporting arena, Vice Captain of the 1969 1st XV, a member of the 1st XI and successful opening bat with John Connolly in the Combined TAS XI versus the touring Indian Schoolboys in late 1968. Kev performed well in Senior 1969 to matriculate and be admitted to Medicine at UQ in 1970. Adjunct Professor Jim Houston (1969), now Director of Medical Services at the Wesley Hospital in Brisbane and who commenced his Medical Studies with Kev, adds the following commentary.

"...Kev actually started Medicine at UQ with a plaster cast surrounding his neck!.

He, Noel Saunders, Terry Burkett, Neil Condon, Noel Nunan (now Magistrate), Mark Esler and others had been working as kitchen hands in the Army camp at Greenbank, a job many of us used to do for the holidays.

Unfortunately, he had fallen off a motorbike and broken his neck. Luckily there was no nerve damage but he spent a few weeks on a rotor bed at PAH. Then he arrived conspicuously with the Minerva cast to start first year Med. The year progressed well but that was the time of street protests against the Springboks and the indigenous discrimination. There was also a University strike. And for lads who had come from the cosy existence of MBC Ashgrove, it was a startling change. Kev upheld the values of equality and the values of the old school and I still remember him running away from the police down the hill at the Tower Mill.

Then we arrived into the start of 1974 when Brisbane flooded. There were the creeks flooding through Ashgrove and then the river flooding. Kev was accommodating and several of us spent many nights in his house behind 'Glenlyon House' till his parents arrived home.

DR KEVIN WILLIAM VANDELEUR

Our third year was just a blur with socialising and partying, but we managed to get through with only one repeated year. Kev got the gist of the medical student life and advanced well.

In late 1974 Kev took off on his new Honda 4 with Dave McLellan another Med Student on his bike to spend Christmas holidays working at Darwin Hospital and meeting his future wife Annette a nurse, and during that period ran into Cyclone Tracy in 1974. They performed Medical procedures well beyond their charter for several days without sleep until Medical help arrived in numbers adequate enough to allow them to get on their bikes and head South.

He then joined us all at Townsville Hospital for his Second Year Residency. He always impressed his supervisors and eventually arrived in the Ophthalmology training program to exit with excellence. He did his eye fellowship in Melbourne whilst living at the Dandenongs and Albury where he married Annette. Hopefully, the rest is history...”, says Jim.

Jim has mentioned a repeat year for Kev’s studies. In 1972 he decided to take some time off and headed to Mosman in NQ where his uncle was the Parish Priest. Time wasn’t wasted there with him exploring the rugged tropical surroundings on his Yammy 350, fishing at Cape Tribulation.....and just chillin’ out. In the course of 1972, I had taken time off (extended as it turned out) from Kelvin Grove Teacher’s College and was working in the Construction Industry in Mount Isa with John Connolly (1969).

Kev and my brother Brian Burkett had passed through the ‘Isa late the previous year while we were there, enroute to the ‘Territory where Kev’s uncle Paul Vandeleur had organised work on the Main Roads, Brian to the border grid on the WA border and Kev to Roper. They couldn’t have been further apart but Paul saw that they had a Merry Xmas and flew them in his plane to his property, Camfield.

But on to 1972 and Kev and I travelled to Weipa where we discovered that Ray Parsons (1969) was HR Manager for Franco Railroad, a company building a private ore carrying line from Andoon to Evans Landing. Kev was offered a position on the gang, which apart from Kev was comprised of an incredible legion of giant, fit and strong men.

They nicknamed him ‘lightning’ for never hitting a railway spike twice in the same spot. I said later that this might have helped Kev to become such a renowned surgeon, performing delicate micro retinal surgery.

He was soon widely accepted and liked among the gang but left early in the New Year on his Yammy which he had shipped to Weipa. Kevin resumed his Med Studies with renewed vigour in 1973 - completing his MBBS in 1976. As Jim has previously mentioned, Kev joined him and Dave McLellan in Townsville for his Second Year Residency and a Gap Year followed by camping in New Zealand and Australia for 12 months, with his wife Annette and their first-born Moya....quickly followed by Maggie and Myles.

Five years of Eye Fellowship Training followed at the PA Hospital, Brisbane and the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, Melbourne. Then he set up his own Practice at 708 Gympie Road Chermside – The Brisbane North Eye Centre – and for the last 25 years has had an active interest in Overseas Eye Training and Practice. This has taken him to Kiribati, Burma and East Timor. This Volunteer work has provided a great sense of satisfaction and value personally. The East Timor Eye Programme has now matured and trained 10 local Timorese Ophthalmologists making it a self-sustained Eye Department.

Kev says ...” I have been lucky enough to be honoured to travel the world and lecture in Third World Ophthalmology. The East Timor Eye Programme is now regarded as a world benchmark in developing Countries for Eye Training. My father before me was a pioneer in Eye Surgery and took yearly Educational forays to the USA as a Churchill Fellow to keep himself at the cutting edge of Eye Surgery Developments.

I have also been fortunate enough to continue my Education in both America and Europe.

How fulfilled I was to have my three children - Moya, Maggie and Myles with me when I was recently invested The Order of Australia at Queensland Government House, presented by the Hon. Paul de Jersey. My thoughts that day were of the hundreds of other Australians who have given tirelessly to these programmes.

Sadly due to Covid-19 I haven’t been able to continue with the overseas work but we have been able to maintain a level of assistance with the difficult cases using Zoom.

Hopefully, we will be able to resume these vital overseas programs in the years ahead....”

In conclusion, I have been associated with Kevin for over 50 years and a recipient of his wonderful friendship and generosity. I never cease to be amazed at his infinite energy and intellect, his devotion to family and friends. No one less fortunate than Kev misses out... always willing to consult a patient down on their luck, whether in Brisbane, South Pacific, Asia or otherwise. ... and that’s why he got the gong!!!

Terry Burkett

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