

THE ASHGROVIAN



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Marist College Ashgrove
Old Boys Association Inc.

www.ashgroveoldboys.com.au

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 7 February, 2023

AGM, 7:00pm at the College

Saturday 22 April, 2023

Rosalie Tribute Day and Welcome to the Refurbished Cyprian Pavilion

Saturday 27 May, 2023

Old Boys' Sports Day (v St Pat's)

Friday 9 June, 2023

Super Reunion Weekend

Champagnat Sports Lunch at the Convention Centre

Saturday 10 June, 2023

Super Reunion Weekend

Old Boys Reunion Day at the College (v St Edmund's)

Check the Old Boys website at www.ashgroveoldboys.com.au or our Facebook page for further details.

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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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear fellow Old Boys,

Welcome to our second, and final, edition of the Ashgrovian for 2022. We give a special acknowledgment of those graduates who are receiving their very first edition. The number of Old Boys' Associations throughout Australia that continue to publish stand-alone magazines just for their members continues to diminish. We are proud to be able to provide a publication which is of interest across the generations; and particularly so in still publishing a hard-copy version for our older members.

The Old Boys' Association had yet another extremely successful year as our links with the College and its many thousands of past students continued to strengthen. The OBA's ability, through technology and social media, to stay in contact with so many of our members has now been in place for several years but has been expanded further through the creation of the purpose-built Old Boys' Hub. The Hub has now become fully operational and permits Old Boys around the world to register and stay in touch so as to receive up to date news and the Ashgrovian. Otherwise, our OBA Website, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages have all secured huge followings. We also maintain strong links with the Rosalie Old Boys' Association as part of the cooperation amongst the extended Marist family.

After a very heavy first half of the year, the second half saw the traditional Blue and Gold Vintage Lunch for those who graduated more than 40 years ago. We were joined by our brothers from Rosalie for an exceptional afternoon. That same evening saw the 50th Reunion Dinner of the famous 1972 class who were blessed by the presence of Brother Alexis and Barry Honan. It was extraordinary that after half a century, 60 of the 90 surviving members (out of 105) returned for what was such a special evening. More about that on page 5 and I commend to you the brilliant article by Michael Bauer on pages 26 and 27.

The OBA also provided critical ongoing support to the College by allocating four (4) bursaries to sons of Old Boys and the ongoing development of the Careers Link program through which Old Boys in the trades and professions returned to link with current students in a guidance and mentoring role. This program is something very special. Allowing our young graduates access to the best and the brightest is something we are very proud of.

As President, I would like to extend my thanks on behalf of the OBA to the Head of College, Mr Michael Newman, the Deputy Head of College, Mr Bruce McPhee and Mrs Bethany Halpin for their ongoing support of the OBA and for allowing us to work hand-in-hand with the College to carry out our critically important communications and hold our sold out functions.

News has also just reached us that Mr Bruce McPhee has accepted a position at St Peter Claver College as Principal. He will be a great loss for the College and the OBA. We wish Bruce the best.

I would also like to thank Mrs Ximena Hniopek who is not only responsible for the development of the brilliant OB Hub which all our graduating Seniors will soon be joining but also the very high quality of our social media and website. I particularly thank the OBA Committee who, as always, provided their ongoing support throughout the year.

Finally, and most importantly, we send our congratulations to our latest cohort of Old Boys. When they receive their first Ashgrovian, they also receive their treasured Old Boys' tie and three violets. The 2022 year group (and their mums and dads) have proudly set their own mark in Old Boys' history by producing a record 41 Sons of Old Boys. The entire cohort is warmly welcomed to one of the strongest of all alumni associations and all that it has to offer. Above all, they will have created those special friendships for life which only an Ashgrove education can offer.

May they have all the blessings of St Marcellin Champagnat as they make their way into the world.

VIRILITER AGE!

Dom Melrose
President



2022 MAKE IT EIGHT IN A ROW!

The Old Boys send their congratulations to the 2022 Track and Field Athletics Team who now join their older brothers from 2015 to 2021 as AIC Champions. A fantastic team effort as always.

FROM THE HEAD OF COLLEGE

Dear Marist College Ashgrove Old Boys and Marist Confreres,

As the 2022 year comes to an end, may I take this opportunity to advise and celebrate with Old Boys and friends of the College, some of the achievements of our boys and plans which have been prepared for the College into next year. The College has celebrated another significant improvement in boys' NAPLAN scores in 2022 (Literacy and Numeracy results) with an overall increase in student average results since our new program began, increasing from 4.92 to 6.26 percent above the national average, and there was also phenomenal writing growth with increases above the national average increasing by 60 % from Years 5 to 7 and almost threefold from Years 7 and 9. Five teams won both the Regional and Queensland Tournament of the Minds competitions and progressed to Canberra for the National School Titles. Equally as impressive was Marist College Ashgrove's achievement of winning the AIC Athletics Championships for the eighth year in a row by an impressive 127 points, with the Primary Athletics Team also victors for the second occasion. There have been 3 Australian and 26 Queensland school representatives in a number of different sports and I was glad to announce the employment of a Rugby and Track and Field Director - Old Boy, Richard Graham. There has been a new college publication - 'The Viriliter Age' and additional new community events and functions have successfully taken place including the Year 12 Mother-Son Luncheon and Long Lunch. The inaugural Years 5-12 Awards Night at QPAC was a most enjoyable evening. The College is looking forward to some refurbished facilities including new music classrooms and other general classrooms, weights room and an extensive refurbishment of the Cyprian Pavilion which will occur over Christmas and the New Year. The building of the new Primary building has commenced, an important part of our new Strategic Plan for the Future. As the school year draws to a close, we celebrate the graduation of another outstanding group of young men from the gates of Marist College Ashgrove. To this end, I thank these young men for their positive contribution and the manner in which they have left the College in a better place. I wish each Year 12 graduand every blessing as the latest instalment of Old Boys from our fine College.



This year has been a particularly special one for Marist College Ashgrove as we celebrated the sesquicentenary of Marist Education. Four brothers from France, Ireland, and Scotland - Br Ludovic, Br Jarlat, Br Peter and Br Augustine, respectfully, graced our shores to commence the first school at the Rocks in Sydney. Since then, Marcellin Champagnat would not believe the growth of his vision, with schools now all throughout the world including 13 governed and 41 other Marist affiliated schools throughout Australia - including Marist College Ashgrove.

The theme for the sesquicentenary is "Known and Loved". Fr Champagnat would have loved this theme for such a momentous year. After all, he commenced an order of Brothers to teach the young people of rural southern France about the love of our God. With this theme, there is a wonderful and powerful painting by Margherita Gallucci. This painting features Mary with the baby Jesus wrapped in an emergency blanket. The idea of the image of an emergency blanket emerged from the African refugees stranded on Italian shores escaping from a land of suffering, poverty and war. The gold emergency blanket reminds us of the magnificent attributes of Jesus and his beloved mother Mary, and the goodness and special qualities of all refugees. Mary is depicted as strong and courageous as she cuddles her baby and keeps him warm but looks at us with determination. She is aware of the courage required to face the challenges that lay ahead. We are all dared to be loved and wrapped in this emergency blanket with Mary, always displaying compassion and empathy for our special sisters and brothers in need. We are all formed in God's image and likeness and are innately good and worthy to share our gifts with the world, making it a more loving place.

Marist College Ashgrove holds the important role of being the only Marist owned and governed College in Queensland, one which requires us to be stewards of this land, as well as the history and charism of the Marist Brothers that will take us into an exciting future, together. At Marist Ashgrove, the future certainly looks bright. While remaining true and authentic to our rich history and traditions, the College Leadership Team has listened to parent, staff and community feedback to collaboratively develop together a new Strategic Plan for the Future. This plan will be implemented over the next five years as we attempt to respond to the new educational paradigm for boys' education. We will enliven this plan with a renewed energy and commitment to ensure our college remains a vibrant, relevant and passionate educator of boys. We hope to ensure that Marist, with its traditions and this new plan for the future, provides boys with an education that is appealing, relevant and irresistible, enabling all boys to achieve excellence in all areas of their education.

On behalf of the Marist College family, I would like to thank all Old Boys for your many and various contributions to the College throughout 2022. From coaching the boys in rugby skills, organising reunions, holding functions,

keeping in communication with peers and confreres, publishing this excellent edition of the Ashgrovian, raising funds to provide boys with a Marist education who would not have previously been afforded the opportunity, organising donations and a generous hand to the College, preparing a spirituality reflection day and so the list goes on. Please accept my thanks on behalf of the College. I specifically wish to thank the generous Old Boys Committee who meet each month to plan and organise events, namely: Dom Melrose (President), Steve McAuliffe, Anthony Collins, Tim Slack and Brett Ambrose. The College looks forward to working with, and enjoying the support of the Old Boys' of Marist College Ashgrove into an exciting future together.

Michael Newman
Head of College

1972 CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

There are so many great reunions throughout the years but the 1972 50-year reunion held on Friday 12 August 2022 was something very special. Back then there were only 105 in the graduating class of whom 15 had sadly passed away (including a couple this year). But of the remaining 90, now spread throughout the world in various stages of health, 60 made the journey back to the College where the beers flowed and the tall tales were told. The evening was just that much more special because of the presence of their legendary Headmaster, Brother Alexis, and the mercurial Barry Honan. There were so many fabulous and brilliantly thought-out speeches. This one special night will live with them all for the rest of their days. A most entertaining speech recalling the primary days by Mike Bauer is on pages 24 and 25.

Congratulations to the organisers and to the many men who made the journey home.



OLD BOYS SALUTE THREE OF THE VERY BEST

In 1993, legendary Headmaster Brother Terry Heinrich took the visionary step of introducing the eight House System. Brother Terry said, *“the structure was to promote a greater sense of belonging, and more opportunities for involvement; to engage more of the boys, senior boys especially, in more active and purposeful leadership”*. However, Brother Terry knew his vision could only succeed if those chosen to lead each of the eight houses were of the very highest calibre. They must each be someone who could not only communicate with students from Year 8 (now Year 7) to Senior on academic, pastoral and personal issues, coordinate the house tutors but also have the absolute confidence of the parents. All this was required to be undertaken while still maintaining the deep compassion of the Marist culture which is the hallmark of the College.

Terry was blessed. Many of those who have been chosen have been just exceptional. The House System is in its thirtieth year and the first sons of Old Boys are following in their Dad’s footsteps. It was therefore with great sadness that the OBA learned that three of the very best, Terry Quain and Stan Kosiek (both Old Boys) and the wonderful Megan Wandell have decided to stand down as the Heads of Ignatius, Foley and Slattery respectively. Our younger Old Boys and our latest graduates will appreciate the sacrifices and the service that each of Terry (4 years), Stan (16 years) and Megan (16 years) gave as leaders. The College community is very grateful they have chosen to stay on in a teaching capacity so their collective skills will remain for some time yet.



Terry Quain - Ignatius (2019 - 2022), Megan Wandell - Slattery House (2007-2022), Stan Kosiek - Foley (2007 - 2022)

SOME THOUGHTS ON IGNATIUS HOUSE

Nearly 20 years after graduating, returning to the Marist College Ashgrove campus came as a bit of an unexpected career direction for me after setting down some strong roots in the nation’s capital. As I was welcomed back to the College as a teacher by Mr Peter McLoughlin, with the lens of nostalgia tinted with years of experiences beyond the gates, it was intriguing to see “behind the curtain” at this place I held in such regard as a student. While much had changed, many things hadn’t: my old home room, my Head of House, my Year 8 Year Level Coordinator and many of the fine staff that influenced my time, seemingly still a part of the package.

The genuine care and compassion shown by the Heads of House: are ever-present. The generosity of time and investment: quintessential. As such, stepping into the shoes of the great man, Mr Gerard Monsour, was no easy feat. It’s been an honour and privilege to hold the position of Head of Ignatius House and to work alongside this dedicated group of professionals. Hopefully, I’ve been able to live up to the standard. I have really enjoyed working with the students and families. We’ve faced many challenges and achieved great success; a few tears shed together, but plenty of laughs and standout moments of pride. My sincere thanks goes particularly to the support, professionalism and compassionate approach of the Ignatius Pastoral Care teachers to guide the boys towards their personal and academic goals – looking forward to seeing great things from Ignatians past and present as they demonstrate strong character with gentle hearts, making positive contributions on this world.

Ex Nihilo Nihil Fit

Terry Quain

COLLECTIVE MEMORIES 2007-2022 OF FOLEY HOUSE

Having arrived at the College as a teacher in 2001, many changes had occurred since I graduated in 1977. One significant change was the introduction of the House system. It has as its central aim to enhance the care and contact with every boy in the College, and to ensure that no one, "slips through the net." The Pastoral Teachers are the front-line staff in this work of knowing and caring for each boy with Pastoral Leaders overseeing that care.

On the wall in Foley House office is a photo of the 1993 foundation class of the Foley House Senior cohort and two former MCA teachers and giants of the College, Mr Derek Cameron and Mr John Mulvihill. Mr John Mulvihill was the first Foley House Leader (1993-2000) and Derek a Foley Pastoral Teacher (Tutor) (1993-2015). Their legacy was in bringing total commitment to every worthy task, building good character and celebrating honest effort and achievement; breathing the glory, as per our House motto. It's heartwarming to see that two of the boys in that original photo have sons who either have graduated or are in the House currently. Wonderful that other more recent Old Boys have provided sons who have joined us.

The Pastoral Leaders since then: Mr David Robertson (2001-2002, OB 1976), Mr John Nunan (2002) and Mrs Simone Baker (2003-2006) continued that tradition.

Never truer is the saying that 'it takes a village to raise a child' when it comes to the House system. Foley House has been blessed with so many caring and compassionate Pastoral teachers working as a team within the House with the support of teachers and the critical support of our parents. A special mention to some of our long-standing Pastoral teachers: Mr Rod Jarrett (1998- 2020), Mr Paul Kearney (1998-2017 and OB 1970) and Mr David O'Brien (2004-present). Steering the ship from the early days was our Deputy Headmaster, Mr Richard Ward, a passionate supporter of the House system. On his retirement a new role was created, the Head of Students, which Mr Bruce McPhee, our current Deputy Head of College filled with the same enthusiasm and energy, leading the team of 8 House Leaders from 2013 to 2018.

Usually, the most enjoyable part of the school day is in the first 20 minutes of the morning, visiting the pastoral groups. Beyond the usual calling of the roll and reading of notices, there is a vibrant atmosphere of up to 24 boys from Years 7 to 12 in each Pastoral group engaging in all sorts of healthy activities from cards, hastily constructed table tennis games, small groups chatting, birthday celebrations occurring and so on; big brother- little brother interactions and whole group discussions usually lead by the Pastoral teacher. Only occasionally do I get a gloomy or sheepish look from a student when he sees me approach, guessing as to whether or not a discussion is to be had over some incident from the previous day. House meetings occur weekly with the whole 180 students and 8 pastoral teachers gathering together, with our student House leaders playing a significant role in that time.

Over the years, I valued the wonderful relationships with our parents many of whom I call friends. We are blessed at Marist College with the collaborative efforts of the parent body and our teachers. This impacts positively on our students and leads to the formation of Marist men of good character. Although emails and phone calls are usually about the standard daily messages of sickness or appointments, I value being for most parents the first port of call for enquiries, notifications or the need to chat over more serious or pressing issues.

Year 12 Graduation for me is the most fulfilling day of the school year. The day continues to be an epic celebration, starting with the Mass and continuing with the grand parade of students and their families to the grandstand, followed by the formalities of the Graduation dinner that evening. Many waves, photos, handshakes, hugs and happy faces marking a special day of transition from schoolboy to MCA Old Boy.

Finally, it's good to know when it's time to pass on the baton to someone else, I would like to thank all members of Foley House for many years of friendship, support and happy memories. **Stan Kosiek**

PARENTS REMEMBER THE PASSION AND KINDNESS OF MEGAN WANDELL

"All of our sons went through Slattery House under the guidance of Megan Wandell. Her departure as Head of House will be such a huge loss for Ashgrove. Megan's thoughtfulness, kindness and understanding through all those years, and all of the ups and downs, were greatly appreciated. She was always accessible and our boys loved and respected her enormously. Her determination to make sure every boy was appreciated and knew he has a place in the College was her most important quality.

Thank you Megan for everything you have done. All parents are forever grateful."

MUSIC PROGRAM CONTINUES TO MARCH FORWARD

If we had to list all of the Ashgrove music prodigies who have made their impact on the world, there would be no space left in The Ashgrovian. Members will be pleased to know the fabulous Blue and Gold Concert returned this year for the first time since 2018 and again dazzled with some brilliant performances across the board. The show was particularly enhanced by the return of so many Old Boys who joined with their younger brothers to put on a concert for the ages.

Special mention this year also goes this year to AJ Hall (2002) who became the first Old Boy to perform at the legendary Glastonbury Festival in the UK. At the younger end of the scale, we are reliably informed that young Jeremy Vanderbyl (2022) will soon be making his way into the musical world. Great things await.



CHARACTER CUP GOES TO ETHEN TSIAMALILI

Of all the awards, there is but one to which the Old Boys give special recognition – The Doctor Alban J Lynch Character Cup.

Way beyond the academic, sports and arts awards, it recognises that which is the most important – the ethos of the Marist Education. This year, the OBA were particularly pleased to hear that the Cup had been awarded to Ethen Tsiamalili, not only the College Captain but the son of a former Captain and Old Boy, Peter Tsiamalili (1997). The OBA congratulates Ethen for his outstanding leadership this year and for being awarded this most prestigious of all prizes.

FATHER TOM MALONEY AWARD FOR THE BEST AND FAIREST IN 2ND XI CRICKET

All Old Boys will be aware of the legendary status of Father Tom Maloney who was dominant throughout the TAS in his amazing coaching of the 2nd XI Cricket. Only rarely did Ashgrove not win an undefeated premiership. In honour of Father Tom's contribution, the OBA commissioned a special trophy for the best and fairest in that team.

This year, the award has gone to Joey Ikin who the coaches tell us was a dedicated team man, highly skilled and applied the very high standards which Father Tom always demanded from his players.

Congratulations from the OBA to Joey on winning this prestigious award.



SAM SHORT BECOMES PART OF AUSTRALIAN SWIMMING HISTORY

There is no more iconic event in Australian sporting history than the men's 1500 metres in swimming. The names of those who have taken the Commonwealth and Olympic Gold are now part of the Australian sporting lexicon. As the third Old Boy swimmer to compete at the Commonwealth Games, Sam Short dominated at Birmingham 2022 to take the gold after earlier achieving a silver in the 400 metres. At just 18, and having been dealt the cruellest of blows when missing selection in 2021 for Tokyo on a pure technicality, we just know there are huge things ahead.

The Ashgrovian sent Sam a few questions to let us know how he is travelling and his memories of Ashgrove going back to the early years when he had to chase the prodigious records of Aaron Bourke (1994).

Q. What are your memories of representing Ashgrove in the early Primary years e.g. winning the AIC Year 6 relay for instance?

Marist has a great junior school and AIC school sport (especially swimming) was one of the best things about Ashgrove. Winning the relay, breaking long standing AIC swimming records just fills you with pride; walking through the school on AIC day – it is just such a great day for the swim team.

Q. How did it feel breaking all those College 100m age records up to U12? Did you think then that this would be a stepping stone to representing Australia?

I don't think they took into account my out of school competition times (which I had some fast results eg Australian titles etc) but it is very special to get some College records. When you break long standing records, it's a good sign about progress. I was pretty small (I didn't grow until around 14 - 15 years old) so any broken Ashgrove records before then were a very big deal for me.

Q. Did you know that when you broke Aaron Bourke's U13 400m record in 2016 after 25 years, that Aaron had also represented Australia at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Canada? Aaron at the time held every age group 400m record from U13 to Open! Other than the two of you, Michael Bohl (1979) is the only other Ashgrovian to represent Australia at the Comm Games.

I'm a bit of a swimming encyclopaedia (stats man) (like the Bruce McAvaney of the swimming world 🤖) so yeah, I knew of Aaron and knew how accomplished he was. And, of course, everyone knows the legendary Michael Bohl. Aaron was clearly consistent (having all the records etc).

Q. This win in Birmingham came after some considerable disappointment in missing out on Tokyo. Can you just fill us in what was it like coming second to Jack McLoughlin at the Olympic Trials in 2021 in a time acceptable to FINA but still not being selected for Tokyo. Did that inspire or motivate you?

Jack is a very hard trainer and all credit to him with his achievements at the 2018 Games and at Tokyo – they were so good. Jack is 9 years older than me (and, at 17, I was fresh out of Queensland and I had no Australian junior teams experience due to Covid.) But yeah - it was extremely tough not being selected. I made the FINA A time but not the time swimming Australia set - which was 5 seconds faster. It is hard to handle knowing you would have gone to Tokyo for any other country for both the 400m free and 1500m free. Funnily enough, they have since changed those rules and now FINA A times will apply for future Australian teams. But you just have to accept it and get on with it. It took a long while to get back into hard swimming training - but it motivated me - "that will be the last time I would not be selected."

Q. We all know that friendships forged at Ashgrove are very special because they last forever. Did you find Ignatius House under the guidance of Mr Monsour something special?

I totally rate Mr Monsour - great human being. Hope you're doing well Mr Monsour!

Q. You have a younger brother still at Ashgrove. What special advice would you give Josaih and his cohort so as to be successful and happy with their final years of schooling and then their lives?

Just be goal oriented - set challenging goals and slowly work towards them; it's okay to be uncomfortable and it's okay to make mistakes - mistakes are the most important steps in achieving your goals; and enjoy your time in Year 12 because you don't realise how good it is until you leave it. But Joey: pull your finger out!

Q. And overall for Sam Short Ashgrove Old Boy.

Thanks for this! My aim is to have longevity in my sport (I'm only 18 years old) and continue to compete at the highest levels (and hopefully up until Brisbane 2032). I am currently studying (science/laws (honours) dual degree) at Uni. (I actually sat my 3 hour torts exam the day before my 1500m free whilst in Birmingham (in the athletes village). Obviously, I can't leech off my parents forever so if there is anyone out there wanting to sponsor me or provide corporate support that would be greatly appreciated. I feel I have a lot to offer any organisation.



THOMAS PROLE (2022) ACHIEVES THE IMPOSSIBLE - GEOFF MOON'S 1500M RECORD FALLS AFTER 43 YEARS

When Geoff Moon (1979) ran an incredible 4m 03.50 for the Open 1500 metres athletics in 1979, we thought the record may have stood for a decade. But no one could foresee it would stand for an entire generation. Eight years later, even the Champion 1987 athletics squad, captained by Bill Prole (1987), could not break the mark. But Bill Prole was not to be dissuaded. Three sons were sent back to the College in pursuit of that elusive record. In March this year, the oldest, Thomas Prole (2022) simply ran into history by breaking the fabled '4 minute barrier' for a schoolboy (3m 58.96) and with it the most prestigious and long standing record of all sports at Ashgrove. By our calculations, Thomas' record should be broken around 2065. The OBA sends their congratulations and best wishes to both men who each completed a 'run for the ages'.



Geoff Moon (1979) in number 128 sits in his traditional mid-race position waiting to pounce



43 years later Thomas Prole (2022) takes the lead heading into the straight at the AIC Championships

2002 RETURN WITH A VENGEANCE

Another great year for reunions. On 17 September, 2022, the 2002 year group returned to the College and reminisced in the shadow of the Tower. A huge evening of celebrations followed as many a story was told from the years gone by. But one thing was for certain, everyone agreed that 20 years had passed in the blink of an eye.

Congratulations to all the 2002 boys and hope to see you at the Super Reunion Weekend on the 9th and 10th of June, 2023.



ASHGROVE'S WATER POLO GREATNESSS LOOKS SET TO REPEAT 20 YEARS ON

Old Boys will be well familiar with the momentous exploits of Ashgrove's greatest ever sportsman, Pietro Figlioli (2001). Five time Olympian (twice for Australia and 3 times for Italy) and two world championships including one as captain of the victorious Italian side. Pietro remains a proud Ashgrove man.

And so, all eyes have now turned to young Will Valentine (2021) who captained Australia in the World Youth Water Polo championships in August 2022 with a very credible record of three (3) wins and three losses. Will is now playing in the professional leagues in Hungary. We are hoping our latest young Ashgrovian prodigy, like Pietro, will be there in Paris 2024 and beyond.



Will Valentine (2021) - Captain of Australia - now in Hungary



Pietro Figlioli (2001) - Captain of Italy - A living legend

2022 REMINDS OLD BOYS OF 1974

When the waters of Enoggera Creek came up and swallowed the bridge on Glenlyon Road and then swept mercilessly across the playing fields in February this year, it was the first time the Flats had been completely engulfed since the great floods of 1974. The rains had the additional feature of damaging the brand new fence surrounding the Flats in various parts. But true to the spirit of Ashgrove, the parents, the boarders and the day boys returned in droves to clean up the fields so they were sparkling again by footy season



260 IS THE NUMBER. 41 SONS OF OLD BOYS GRADUATE TO ESTABLISH A NEW RECORD

The annual photograph of Old Boys who have sons in Senior was delayed this year from its traditional February date because of COVID, but finally a spot was found at the Father and Son Breakfast in late August. Not all could get there but we were fortunate to have 25 students for the photograph and most of their dads. The OBA are also pleased to report there are now some 260 Sons of Old Boys at the College with a record 41 graduating in 2022.

Amongst them, we spotted some very famous third generation names like Apelt, Thorpe, Darwin and Casey; and two sons of past College Captains. What a sensational breeding program we have, Old Boys.

We were also very pleased to have with us Barry Tabrett, maternal grandfather of Tom Prole, who was a boarder at the College from 1952 to 1962. There is no greater example of the Ashgrove family culture than the fact so many Old Boys send their sons back for the same opportunities they had.



Back Row: Tim (1990) and Ryan Oostenbroek, Dean (1987) and James Henselien, James (1987) and Ruben Darwin, Tim (1986) and Liam Lucey, Jason (1989) and Joshua Locke, Sam and Joseph (1991) Mead, (Daniel (1989) absent) and Lachlan Ford

Middle Row: Zac and David (1990) Apelt, Patrick and Chris (1990) Gilbert, Tom and Tim (1988) Dempsey, Jack and Paul (1983) Henry, Orlando and Brett (1982) Leavy, Michael (1979), Finn and Jack Thorpe, Tom and Tim (1988) Dempsey, (Peter (1997) absent) and Ethen Tsiamalili

Front Row: Damon (1994) and Jack Hardiker, Ross (1988) and Joshua Oakhill, Bill (1987) and Thomas Prole, Michael (1982) and Jeremy Stower, Michael (1987) and Benjamin Warren, Philip (1987) and Anslem Cowley, Martin (1988) and Spencer Hollett, Dominick (1992) and Baxter Melrose

Leading out the front: Barry Tabrett (1952-1962) grandfather of Tom Prole

Absent but there in spirit: Damien (1990) and Jack Cuddihy, Jeremy (1986) and Michael Nolan, John (1986) and Reg Rosanowski, Stephen (1975) and Nick Gallagher, Ben (1991) and Liam Webb, Nicholas (1988) and Sam Weinert, Philip (1985) and Jack Billing, Matthew (1990) and Josh Casey, Chris (1991) and Sam Chetham, Matthew (1987) and Harry Masel, Paul (1996) and Hunter Lewis, Christopher (1990) and Jackson Key, Greg (1986) and Thomas Cusack, Tim (1990) and Thomas Maguire, Martin (1988) and Jacob Doyle, Walter (1984) and Ethan Schnaubelt, Stuart (1987) and Gilbert Donaldson, Andrew (1989) and James O'Connor.

OBA THANKS MR BRUCE MCPHEE

Our younger Old Boys will remember with great warmth Mr Bruce McPhee who came over to the College in 2013 from Mt St Michaels as Head of Students but then progressed to Deputy Headmaster under Mr Peter McLoughlin. Bruce was dedicated to the College and had a very strong relationship with the entire Community. Bruce was also a great friend to the Old Boys regularly attending our meetings. While the news was sad, it came as no surprise that Bruce has been appointed the Principal of St Peter Claver College at Riverview commencing in January 2023. All members thank Bruce for his service and wish him all the success in his new position.

CLASS OF 2022

Ben Adams, E
Sam Allpass, G
Toby Anderson, S
Zac Apelt, D
Fletcher Artho, H
James Atkins, D
Frank Baker, H *
Rory Baker, H
Joshua Barichello, D
Tasman Barry, F
Angus Bathe, H
Carter Bidgood, D *
Jack Billing, D *
Angus Blomley, R *
Jimmy Boland, I *
Sam Brennan, E
Zachary Brown, G
Will Bryan, G
Oscar Burg, G
Hamish Burton, R
Alexander Bussa, S
Paddy Byrne, F
Rohan Cahill, F
Aidan Campbell, H
Wil Canning, G
Sam Carroll, F *
Josh Casey, S
Corey Chalmers, G
Sam Chetham, G *
Jack Christensen, H
Riley Chugg, H
Michael Coleman, R
Brady Collins, E
Will Collins, I
Ryan Connolly, S
Dylan Cooper, R
Clancy Cowhig, H
Anselm Cowley, R
Douglas Cowlshaw, I
Mitchell Cox, E
Chastyn Creek, I *
Andrew Crook, F
Jack Cuddihy, E
Thomas Cusack, G
Ruben Darwin, I
Finn de Nino, S
Thomas Dempsey, D
Conall Doherty, I
Gilbert Donaldson, F *
Matthew Donaldson, G
William Dowd, R
Jacob Doyle, I *
Tom Doyle, S *
Jaspar Driml, S
Jack Dunn, D
Kieran Eades, E
Finn Eldridge, R
Raff Evans, D
Hugh Faggotter, G *

James FitzGerald, D
Will FitzGerald, D
Archie Forbes, R *
Lachlan Ford, R
Elijah Foxover, I
Angus Fraser, I
Declan Frechtling, R
Nick Gallagher, D
Charlie Gardiner, I
Lachlan Gardner, H
Patty Gavin, H *
Isaac Gay, D *
Chris George, D
Aiden Gibbons, D
Alexander Gibson, S
Patrick Gilbert, E
Harry Gould, F
Jacob Grant, D
Charles Gribble, S
Nicholas Griffin, R
Jackson Grounds, R
Harrison Groves, G
Elliot Gubby, R *
James Gurr, S
Cooper Hafiz, D
Sol Hancock, F
Jack Hardiker, I
Beau Harriden, I
Hartley Harrison, S
Blake Harrold, R
Ryese Hart, I
Ryan Harten, S
Fred Hassan, F
Angus Healy, F
Jimmy Hefford, G
Cadell Hendrikse, F *
Jack Henry, S
James Henselien, E
Spencer Hollett, S
Oliver Honner, S
Tom Horton, F
Mason Houlihan, R
Matthew Howell, H
Max Hrstick, R
Brent Humphreys, D *
Joey Ikin, I
Killian Jeffrey, E
Lachlan Jenkins, G
Will Johnson, E
Riley Keen, E
James Kelly, E
Noah Kelly, S
Ryan Kelly, D
Gregory Kern, S
Jackson Key, G
Lachlan Killen, G *
Tom Kitson, H
Owen Knight, G
Sunny Lam, H *

Isiah Lavender, H
Orlando Leavy, I
Harrison Lee, G
Jack Lewis, S
Joshua Locke, F
Hunter Lowis, S *
Liam Lucey, E
Connor Lyons, I *
Liam Maccormick, D
Nelson Mackay, D
Ben Mackie-Smith, E
Thomas Maguire, F *
Patrick Mahony, E *
Harrison Mainey, G
Paddy Manning, I *
Eddie Manson, H
Harry Masel, G *
Jack McCabe, S
Jim McCall, G
Hugh McCann, D
Jett McDonald, E
Angus McDougall, F
Finn McDougall, F
Vincent McGarry, H
Nicholas McGibbon, R
Fletcher McMillan, H *
Reggie McMillan, H *
Samuel Mead, H
Ryan Meiers, D
Baxter Melrose, H
Jack Mestric, I
Sam Miller, E *
Riley Montagnino, R
Liam Morris, G
Jack Morrison, S
Louie Mulders, H
Ben Murphy, E
Zack Newsham, S
Luke Nisbett, G
Michael Nolan, H *
Dylan Nona, I
Billy Nuss, E
Joshua Oakhill, D
Aidan O'Connell, E
James O'Connor, G *
Lachie O'Neill, F
Ryan Oostenbroek, G
Jamieson Parkin, E
Ben Parry, E
Sam Patterson, R
Tom Peacock, F
Josh Pegg, H
Tom Perrin, I
Matthew Pimm, D
Luke Porst, F
Michael Pritchard, R
Myles Proietti, S
Thomas Prole, S
Braden Querido, S

Dylan Rabie, R
Louis Rainbird, S
Thomas Reed, F
Charlie Robinson, H
Reg Rosanowski, D
James Rourke, S
Tomas Ruiz, I
Bailey Russo, R
Zen Sakai, F *
Sam Schmidhauser, R *
Ethan Schnaubelt, E *
Roman Schutt, S
Spencer Sharman, I
Paddy Smith, F
Sasha Sofronoff, D
Dylan Soll, F
Jeremy Stower, I
Paul Strachotta, G
William Sullivan, F
Rohan Sweeney, E
Jackson Tallis, I
James Tarlington, S
Liam Thomas, I
Charlie Thompson, R *
Finn Thorpe, H *
Jack Thorpe, H
Patrick Tierney, D
Daniel Tigani, E
Declan Timcke, I
Matthew Trotter, I
Ethen Tsiamalili, G *
Zac Tuckey, I
Owen Tunny, E
Scott Turner, D
Louis van Winden, H
Jeremy Vanderbyl, H
Finn Vidulin, E
Josef Wagner, G
Ben Warren, R
Henry Warren, D
Angus Watterston, E
Ryan Watts, F
Thomas Weaver, R
Liam Webb, G
Sam Weinert, R
Ronan Wicks, F
Luka Wilde, F
Lewis Wilimowicz, D
Charlie Wilkinson, H
Lachlan Williams, S
Flynn Wiseman, E
Daniel Witt, F *
Ryan Witzerman, I
Tom Wright, E
Jack Young, F
Thomas Young, H *
Marcus Zipf, R

Key for Name List

* beside name indicates boarder.

Letter beside name indicates House, e.g. D=Ridley, E=Ephrem, F=Foley, G=Gilroy, H=Harold, I=Ignatius, R=Rush and S=Slattery

WELCOME TO THE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION



YEAR 12 RIDLEY HOUSE

Front Row: Chris George, Will FitzGerald, Ryan Meiers, James Atkins, Thomas Dempsey, Sasha Sofronoff, James FitzGerald

Second Row: Liam Maccormick, Nelson Mackay, Henry Warren, Reg Rosanowski, Jack Dunn, Joshua Barichello, Jack Billing, Nick Gallagher, Scott Turner

Third Row: Raff Evans, Ryan Kelly, Brent Humphreys, Aiden Gibbons, Carter Bidgood, Jacob Grant, Cooper Hafiz, Joshua Oakhill, Zac Apelt

Absent: Isaac Gay, Matthew Pimm, Patrick Tierney, Hugh McCann, Lewis Wilimowicz

Pastoral Leader: Mr David Meehan (Old Boy 1977)



YEAR 12 EPHREM HOUSE

Front Row: Jett McDonald, Ethan Schnaubelt, Jamieson Parkin, Daniel Tigani, Sam Brennan, Jack Cuddihy, Kieran Eades

Second Row: Ben Adams, Killian Jeffrey, Will Johnson, Billy Nuss, Mitchell Cox, Patrick Gilbert, Aidan O'Connell, Ben Murphy, Liam Lucey, James Kelly, Brady Collins

Third Row: Finn Vidulin, Patrick Mahony, Ben Parry, Ben Mackie-Smith, James Henselien, Sam Miller, Angus Watterston, Riley Keen, Tom Wright, Rohan Sweeney

Absent: Owen Tunny, Flynn Wiseman

Pastoral Leader: Mr Tony Byrne

WELCOME TO THE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION



Front Row: Tom Horton, Jack Young, Finn McDougall, Lachie O'Neill, Angus McDougall, Angus Healy, Sam Carroll

Second Row: Luka Wilde, Harry Gould, Ronan Wicks, Paddy Smith, Tom Peacock, Rohan Cahill, Joshua Locke, Luke Porst, Sol Hancock, Daniel Witt, Zen Sakai

Third Row: Thomas Maguire, Andrew Crook, Thomas Reed, Gilbert Donaldson, Tasman Barry, Dylan Soll, Ryan Watts, Fred Hassan, Cadell Hendrikse

Absent: Paddy Byrne, William Sullivan

Pastoral Leader: Mr Stan Kosiek (Old Boy 1977)



Front Row: Harrison Groves, Will Bryan, Zachary Brown, Harry Masel, Harrison Lee, Paul Strachotta, Sam Allpass

Second Row: Wil Canning, Luke Nisbett, Jim McCall, Hugh Faggotter, Lachlan Killen, Ethen Tsiamalili, Ryan Oostenbroek, Jackson Key, Oscar Burg

Third Row: Harrison Mainey, Thomas Cusack, Matthew Donaldson, James O'Connor, Jimmy Hefford, Liam Morris, Corey Chalmers, Liam Webb, Lachlan Jenkins

Absent: Sam Chetham, Owen Knight, Josef Wagner

Pastoral Leader: Mr Brett Gillett

WELCOME TO THE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION



YEAR 12 HAROLD HOUSE

Front Row: Samuel Mead, Matthew Howell, Rory Baker, Louis van Winden, Angus Bathe, Thomas Young, Aidan Campbell

Second Row: Sunny Lam, Tom Kitson, Lachlan Gardner, Frank Baker, Fletcher Artho, Finn Thorpe, Clancy Cowhig, Charlie Wilkinson, Riley Chugg, Isiah Lavender

Third Row: Jack Thorpe, Baxter Melrose, Charlie Robinson, Jeremy Vanderbyl, Patty Gavin, Fletcher McMillan, Eddie Manson, Josh Pegg, Reggie McMillan

Absent: Jack Christensen, Cree Foley, Vincent McGarry, Louie Mulders, Michael Nolan

Pastoral Leader: Mr Brendan Kiernan (Old Boy 1984)



YEAR 12 IGNATIUS HOUSE

Front Row: Chastyn Creek, Ryan Witzerman, Connor Lyons, Matthew Trotter, Declan Timcke, Charlie Gardiner, Ryese Hart

Second Row: Jacob Doyle, Douglas Cowlshaw, Jackson Tallis, Orlando Leavy, Elijah Foxover, Zac Tuckey, Jeremy Stower, Conall Doherty, Spencer Sharman

Third Row: Jack Mestric, Tom Perrin, Dylan Nona, Ruben Darwin, Jimmy Boland, Liam Thomas, Will Collins

Absent: Angus Fraser, Jack Hardiker, Beau Harriden, Joey Ikin, Paddy Manning, Tomas Ruiz

Pastoral Leader: Mr Terry Quain (Old Boy 1996)

WELCOME TO THE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION



YEAR 12 RUSH HOUSE

Front Row: Ben Warren, Angus Blomley, Dylan Rabie, Nicholas McGibbon, Blake Harrold, Hamish Burton, Anselm Cowley
Second Row: Lachlan Ford, William Dowd, Mason Houlihan, Max Hrstich, Sam Patterson, Sam Schmidhauser, Bailey Russo, Elliot Gubby
Third Row: Michael Pritchard, Jackson Grounds, Charlie Thompson, Dylan Cooper, Marcus Zipf, Michael Coleman, Finn Eldridge, Thomas Weaver
Absent: Archie Forbes, Declan Frechtling, Nicholas Griffin, Riley Montagnino, Sam Weinert
Pastoral Leader: Mr Scott Minogue



YEAR 12 SLATTERY HOUSE

Front Row: Gregory Kern, Finn de Nino, Jack Lewis, Roman Schutt, James Rourke, Jaspar Driml, Alexander Bussa
Second Row: Zack Newsham, Hartley Harrison, Spencer Hollett, Oliver Honner, Ryan Harten, James Gurr, Thomas Prole, Tom Doyle, Braden Querido, Alexander Gibson, Myles Proietti
Third Row: Charles Gribble, Louis Rainbird, Ryan Connolly, James Tarlington, Josh Casey, Jack Morrison, Jack Henry, Noah Kelly, Lachlan Williams
Absent: Toby Anderson, Hunter Lowis, Jack McCabe
Pastoral Leader: Ms Megan Wandell

WAS THIS ASHGROVE'S GREATEST EVER RUGBY LEAGUE TEAM?

The College had a strong history in rugby league with many titles in the 1940s and early 1950s until the sport was banished by Brother Cyprian in 1952 and declared as one of the three great evils. Rugby League did not really darken the door of the College again until more recent years when teams were permitted to play in the Confraternity Shield during the school holidays. After a trial period, it is now a full AIC sport although there is only one team in each year group (except the Open).

Notwithstanding, between the distant past and the present, there is one team, based on a single game, which has been allowed to claim the mantle as Ashgrove's greatest of all time. It is time to tell the story.

In 1982, Padua College (now a member of the AIC) was one of the great teams of Australian schoolboy rugby league - Qld Schoolboy Competitions, Commonwealth Bank Cup – you name it, Padua was sitting at the very top. Ashgrove, as a bit of a novelty, threw down the challenge to some rugby league schools to play a match just to test Ashgrove's skills. Could the neatly cropped Union school really mix it with the crushing tackles of big time league? Padua accepted what should have been a walkover. How hard could it be playing against a bunch of Union lightweights with neatly combed hair on the pristine fields over Ashgrove way. Did their mothers even know they were playing league?

And so, on that famous Friday afternoon, the full-strength Padua First XIII rolled up to the Main Oval. Fitted out with the full kit including shoulder pads (no one had them at MCA), Padua did not know what was in store. Because Ashgrove had secret weapons far beyond those who usually graced the First XV – BOARDERS! Those who had been born and bred on the rock-hard grassless fields of country rugby league, who were invited to join with their brothers on the field to take on the might of Padua.

And so it was, just as it had been throughout that season, a brilliant tactical game devised by Barry Honan and Derek Cameron followed by an extraordinary defensive effort – Padua learnt the hard way that rugby union players can tackle. Ashgrove then rained bomb after bomb on the hapless Padua backline who rarely made it into Ashgrove's territory. Upfront, the same front row that had dominated all season in the TAS again dismantled the Padua pack not permitting a single point. Ashgrove ran out winners 8 – nil against perhaps the greatest rugby league schoolboy team in the State at the time. A win for the ages!

From there, the stain of playing Rugby League disappeared from the Ashgrove history books, not even getting a mention in the 1982 Blue and Gold. But the loss still burns over Padua way 40 years on.

And so, the Old Boys have designated that 1982 team on that Friday afternoon who conquered Rugby League's finest as the greatest rugby league team to ever take to the paddock. Well done boys!



1982 - Ashgrove's Greatest Rugby League Team Ever

TEAMS OF THE DECADE FOR RUGBY AND FOOTBALL (SOCCER) ANNOUNCED

Old Boys will recall that in 2000, on a magnificent celebratory evening, the College not only announced the 'Team of the Century' for Rugby Union but also teams for each of the six decades. Earlier this year, after a very lengthy process, the College announced the 'Team of the Decade' (2010-2019) for Rugby and then the first ever 'Team of the Decade' for Football (Soccer). The Old Boys congratulate Michael Richards and Matthew Capelo as the respective captains and to all those who were selected. We would also like to thank the selectors who gave up so much of their valuable time to undertake such a painstaking and difficult task.

TEAM OF DECADE FOOTBALL 2010-2019

CAPTAIN **Matthew Capelo**
(2010-2011)

VICE-CAPTAIN **Andrew Girjes**
(2012-2013)

DEFENDERS, MIDFIELDERS AND FORWARDS

1. Goal Keeper **Macklin Freke** (2014-2016)
2. Defender..... **Declan Morris** (2010-2011)
3. Defender..... **Lewis Rielly** (2012-2013)
4. Defender..... **Jack Gullo** (2015-2016)
5. Midfielder **Andrew Girjes** (2012-2013)
6. Midfielder **Matthew Capelo** (2010-2011)
7. Midfielder **Mitchell Fox** (2015-2016)
8. Midfielder **Sebastian Kaye** (2014-2015)
9. Midfielder **Joshua Coops** (2010)
10. Forward **Riley Campbell** (2010-2011)
11. Forward **Ryan Gleeson** (2010-2012)

SUBSTITUTES

12. Sub **Tom Vosper** (2017-2018)
13. Sub **Nicholas Webb** (2017-2018)
14. Sub **James Dunn** (2010)
15. Sub **Flynn Ovenden** (2015-2016)
16. Sub **Sam Long** (2011-2012)
17. Goal Keeper **Dean Campbell** (2010-2011)

TEAM OF DECADE RUGBY 2010 – 2019

CAPTAIN **Michael Richards**
(2010)

VICE-CAPTAIN **Will Thomasson**
(2011-2011)

FORWARDS

1. Prop..... **Tonga Ma'afu** (2010)
2. Hooker..... **Ben Hicks** (2012)
3. Prop..... **Emosi Tuqiri** (2016-2017)
4. Second Row..... **Dan Byrne** (2013-2014)
5. Second Row..... **Josh Tregenza** (2012)
6. Flanker..... **Harry Moore** (2010-2011)
7. Flanker..... **Lachie Howse** (2018-2019)
8. No 8..... **Michael Richards** (2010)

BACKS

9. Halfback **Scott Malolua** (2011)
10. 5/8 **Will Thomasson** (2010-2011)
11. Wing **Jono Kent** (2010-2011)
12. Centre..... **Campbell Moller** (2018-2019)
13. Centre..... **Henry Devine** (2012-2013)
14. Wing **Josh Collins** (2014)
15. Fullback..... **Bryce Hegarty** (2010)

RESERVES

16. Prop..... **Ryan Haling** (2012-2013)
17. Prop..... **John Downes** (2018)
18. Hooker..... **Jack Cuneo** (2015)
19. Second Row... **James Lancashire** (2013-2014)
20. Flanker..... **Sam Clarke** (2012-2013)
21. Halfback **Jaz Day** (2015-2017)
22. 5/8 **Isaac De Flavis** (2015-2016)
23. Centre..... **Tevita Maka** (2011-2012)
24. Wing **Mitch Treleven** (2012-2013)
25. Fullback..... **Ben Bucknell** (2016-2017)

AMAZING RESULT AT OBA GOLF DAY

Another brilliant Golf Day this year saw the boys from 1992 take out the title. But the real surprise was the fact John and Alex Heinke became the first ever Father and Son to record a "closest to the pin". Congratulations to all involved.

RUGBY FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

They are only one year out but our gifted 2021 cohort continue to impress in the sporting arena. Two, Nick Baker and Floyd Aubrey, were this year selected as junior Wallabies to play against Argentina, Fiji and New Zealand. Their selection was complemented by the appointment of Mick Heenan, the greatest coach in Queensland Club Rugby history (6 Premierships and 10 grand finals with University) as assistant coach of the Reds. We look forward to watching the progress of all 3 of our Old Boys.

UPCOMING WORLD CUP GENERATES MEMORIES OF GLEN KOLPAK (1994)

The upcoming football (soccer) World Cup in Qatar will attract huge interest but also reminds us of a few of the Old Boys who have excelled in the sport. Glen Kolpak (1994), son of Bill Kolpak (1962), was only 20 when selected to play for the Olyroos in 1998. At the time, Glen was not even playing in the National league. But his performances in the state league were so strong, he demanded selection at the highest level.

Glen performed well in all lead up matches, was selected for the Olympics but in a cruel twist of fate, was injured just prior.

Corey Brown (2011) had a distinguished career as a defender with the Brisbane Roar for seven years and played over 130 games. Corey also represented Australia in underage national teams including the Olyroos U23 squad which unfortunately just failed to qualify for the 2016 Olympics.

Currently MCA Old boy, Macklin Freke (2016) is progressing well as one of the Brisbane Roar contracted goalkeepers and hopefully World Cup selection might be a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow!

WHEN YOU ARE NEXT VISITING CALOUNDRA

Old Boys, when next visiting Caloundra, be certain to drop by the famous Caloundra Surf Club to view some amazing stories about two of our Old Boys.

You will see the wonderful tribute to Des Dwyer (1948) OAM (1933-2013) and read about his incredible contribution to surf life saving in the Caloundra area. Des was also a city councillor and Mayor from 1994 to 2000. He was awarded the OAM in 2004 for services to the community.

You will also be able to have a quiet beer on 'Jeff's Deck' named in honour of Jeff Morris (1972) who was not only a legend in the lifesaving world, an amazing contributor to the club from 1972 but also responsible for the construction of the beautiful deck in 2016 and which was named in his honour in 2017 upon his all-too-soon passing.

You can read more about these two great men here: <https://caloundrasurfclub.com.au/historical-signs>

MAX NEUMANN (2012) REACHES THE ELITE LEVEL IN IRONMAN

The Ironman is one of the toughest endurance events in the world. It consists of a swim of 3.8km, followed by a bicycle ride of 180km and concluded by running an entire marathon (42.2km).

While just finishing is an achievement on its own, reaching the elite level is something very, very special. Max Neumann (2012) has been dominating the sport for some time and this year, won his third Cairns Ironman in a row. But Max really stamped his authority on the world stage when finishing fourth on debut in the legendary Hawaiian Ironman in October. Whilst finishing fourth in his first attempt is simply outstanding, Max did so by smashing the previous all-time record going back to 1978 by some 10 minutes.

We all wish Max the very best going forward and salute his outstanding achievements to date.



40TH ANNIVERSARY SEES RENOVATED CYPRIAN SET TO RE-OPEN IN 2023

It has witnessed countless wedding receptions, 21sts, christenings, wakes, dinners, reunions, presentations, lunches, breakfasts and just old fashion drinks.

Forty years ago, the 1982 Blue and Gold was abuzz with excitement at the magnificent new building and all it had to offer. Presided over by the great man, Br Cyprian. The stories he could tell.

The absolutely superb professionalism of Architect Jim Crawshaw (1951), Builder Ivan Harris, Engineer Ted Melville and Electrical Contractor Kev Watts saw the new Cyprian Pavilion through to completion in just six weeks.

There has only been one upgrade since 1982 but this Summer will see wholesale renovations in time for the opening next year of an all-purpose building ready for the modern era. The OBA looks forward to holding many functions in the years ahead.



MICHAEL BOHL (1979) CONTINUES TO EXCEL

The Old Boys congratulate Australia's greatest swimming coach and Old Boy, Michael Bohl (1979) on yet another outstanding success at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Michael's protege Emma McKeown again blitz her Commonwealth Games rivals with 6 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze to bring her total medal count to 20.

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

JACK ANDREWS (2007) LOOKING FORWARD

Young Old Boy Jack Andrew's passion for innovation and new product development has already led to some great benefits to society.

Jack worked as an innovation consultant for many years, travelling Australia to guide businesses on best practice new product design in food, manufacturing, and mining. He then took a role as Innovation Manager at UnitingCare QLD, Australia's second-largest not-for-profit, where he led the design and release of an award-winning app.

Jack now runs his own small consulting business with clients including The Department of Defence, the University of Queensland, and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). His current projects include helping The Department of Defence implement Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning technologies, and trying to increase coconut production in Pacific island nations.

Incredibly, Jack also finds time to run his own online mental health service, Temperature Checks (www.temperaturechecks.com) that aims to get those struggling with mental health problems into treatment.

Jack is just one of our brilliant young Ashgrove men improving people's lives and changing the world. The OBA congratulates Jack and know that great things lie ahead.

MARIST OBA VINTAGE LUNCH 2022

On Friday, August 12, 2022, nearly 150 people attended the annual Marist Vintage Lunch held in the Cyprian Pavilion with many also attending Mass in the College Chapel immediately preceding lunch.

We were fortunate to have Fr Michael Carroll sm (1970) celebrate Mass with College Chaplain, Fr Alatini Kolofou'ou sm. Our former Headmasters Br Alexis (1971-1976) read the First Reading and Br Neville Solomon fms (2003-2008) was our organist and cantor. Marist Brothers' Community Leader Br Daniel Hollamby (1969) read the Second Reading. Peter Murdoch, former MCA teacher and Honorary MCA OBA Life Member, Geraldine Knapp and Tom Treston (1947), officiated in the Offertory Procession. Philomena Apelt, sister of Arthur Apelt (1945), was joined in the Prayer of Intercession readings by Maureen Quain, Br Roger Burke fms (1953), Peter Zillman (1961), Terry Darwin (1962), Peter Corcoran (formerly Br Gordon, 1956-64), David L'Estrange (1966), Brian Towler (1968), Michael Talbot (1969), Pat Casey (1972), Greg Treston (1978) and Rosalie Old Boy, Stan Macionis(1968). Michael Newman, current MCA Head of College welcomed the congregation and the lunch attendees. A short tour of the newly restored Tower following Mass was very well received.

The Classes of 1947, 1952, 1961/2 and 1972 attended as part of their milestone reunions. Foundation student of 1940/1, Colin Apelt attended as did 93 years young Tom Treston (1947) who represented his few surviving classmates from his Senior class of 1947! Our most treasured recently deceased Old Boys were fittingly recognised during the day.

Tom Quain (1965) was presented by Arthur's brother, Colin Apelt (1946) with the highest honour that can be bestowed on an Old Boy, the 'Arthur Apelt Memorial Service Award'. Damian Carroll (1965) detailed Tom's involvement with MCA over his many years. The many Old Boys present from all decades joined with a wonderful contingent of Rosalie Old Boys in giving Tom and Maureen Quain a rousing ovation.



SPEECH BY DAMIAN CARROLL IN HONOR OF TOM QUAIN

Tom was born in Ashgrove, one of a large Catholic family of nine children. He attended St Finbarr's Primary School and started at Ashgrove in 1957 completing his senior year in 1965 when he was a School Prefect, a Cadet Under Officer and a key lineout man in Brother Alexis' 3rd XV.

It is interesting how memories dim with the passage of time. Tom and I were in the same year from grade eight to Senior. He has reminded me that in our Junior year Brother Frank McGrath was our French teacher. For some reason which I cannot now explain, on one of our internal exams we marked one another's exam paper. Apparently, I marked Tom's paper and incorrectly doctored him one mark which meant he got 99% instead of a perfect score. (Brother Alexis tells me that Tom always regarded 95-100% as his target). If he was upset with me then he was even more upset with Frank McGrath who, upon complaint from Tom, told him, in a manner of speaking, to jump in the lake.

Notwithstanding his disappointment with the mark in the French exam, Tom had a very good academic record, especially in maths and the sciences, before winning a Commonwealth Scholarship to study Engineering at the University of Queensland. One of our contemporaries who also studied Engineering with Tom, Henry Mendra (who cannot be here today for health reasons), recalls that, as impecunious students, it was common to pool the driving to and from University. He goes on, "It used to be the custom that when the driver finished his Uni course and moved on, the honour of becoming the incumbent driver transferred to the next eligible person, the only qualification being that one had access to a motor vehicle and the licence to go with it. Eventually this honour fell to Tom. He made his entrance driving a Buick Straight 8, an American gangster car that could fit more bodies into the boot than it could carry passengers in the interior seats. It was straight out of the bootlegging dramas during the prohibition period in America but without the machine guns and the fedoras pulled over the eyes". Tom, how our modes of transport have changed!

Tom graduated in 1970 and worked in the Commonwealth Department of Public Works. His lengthy professional CV shows he was closely involved in the design and construction of many projects, large and small, in Queensland and other parts of Australia.

Tom is married to Maureen and they have five children - four of whom are boys who attended the College. His sons Peter and Nick coached under age football teams and Terry, who teaches at Ashgrove, is presently Head of Ignatius House and a former Director of Football.

Tom has been a member of the Old Boys' Association since he left the College and has been involved in many Old Boys' Committees over the years. In particular, he was Association treasurer from 1974 to 1978 and only relinquished that position because his work took him away from the Brisbane CBD and close contact with his good friend, Arthur Apelt.

Tom was involved in the Association raising funds for Father John Begg to buy a water pump to service his village in the Solomon Islands. The funding target was exceeded and John was able to supply water to every hut in his village.

Tom attended the College over a period of nine years. David L'Estrange contributed an article for the Ashgrovian following the 1965 year celebrating fifty years since leaving school. Of Tom's efforts to get us all together for the event he wrote "Of the total cohort of one hundred and sixty three students, fifty one could not be contacted. Tom called them our 'lost sheep'. Sadly fourteen (now at least sixteen) of our number had passed away..." Tom's biblical description of the uncontactable students as 'lost sheep' speaks of someone for whom his classmates were not just fellow students but people for whom he cared.

A few years ago one of our classmates, Bob Porter, suffered a serious health episode and was hospitalised for several weeks. Typical of Tom, apart from visiting Bob regularly and encouraging us classmates to do likewise, he made it his business to keep us nineteen sixty fivers continually updated of Bob's progress. Bob and his wife, Julie, are with us today and Bob has asked me to express his and Julie's deep appreciation to Tom for his care and concern for him during his illness.

As many of you know, Tom is an inveterate shutter bugger. Wherever he goes his camera is invariably with him. Over the last fifty or more years, Tom has captured many events, places and people of interest which he has shared with the Association. This has made a significant contribution to the Association's archives, both in relation to the College and also to our former little brother primary school at Eagle Heights.

One of Tom's biggest and most enduring contributions to the Association is keeping students in all his classes through his nine years at the College 'in the loop' and also informing us of Association news and events. As one of those classmates and, it is now fifty seven years since we left school, I can say that Tom's regular emails are most informative and welcome even if, as the years go by, they are to advise us of a classmate's illness or death. He is also a good source of contact details for former classmates.

To sum up Tom's commitment to and love for the College and our Association, I can but repeat John O'Hare's words, "A regular attendee at most of our functions and many school events often with his camera when he generously sends us photos. His continued interest, passion, energy and love for MCA is so impressive and amazing, especially as with so many oldies whose health tends to restrict their abilities."

As Marcellin Champagnat would say, the aim of the Marist Brothers was to form their students in to becoming "good members of Church and citizens of State". Tom is an exemplar of those goals and values.

Tom, you are a truly worthy recipient of the Arthur Apelt Memorial Services Award and I congratulate you accordingly.

RECOLLECTION OF THE PRIMARY DAYS - 1964-1967 BY MICHAEL BAUER

50TH REUNION: CLASS OF 1972

Reflecting on our primary days at Ashgrove from 1964 to 1967 is a big ask especially when we're at an age where it can be a bit of a challenge just remembering where you parked your car at a shopping centre or why you've just entered a room. So I'd like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Peter 'Bambi' Keating in helping me recall and gather these thoughts together. Any embarrassing errors, glaring omissions or potentially libellous statements, are obviously his.

Although we commenced Grade 4 in 1964, our first official visit to Ashgrove as a group occurred the previous year when we sat for an Entrance Exam covering Spelling, Arithmetic and Reading. I still have my exam paper. One of the questions in the Reading section was:

Peter went fishing with his father. They took a can of bait with them. Peter took a little fishing line. Question: What did Peter take with him? My answer was: They took a can of bait with them. Somehow they still let me in.

In our first year Br Othmar was Principal, Br Loman was Deputy and the college had a population of 680 students. The staff was made up of 4 Lay and 16 Religious. There were 41 of us in 4 Blue and 39 of us in 4 Gold. Our primary class numbers would go on to peak at around 55 students in each class. Perhaps not that surprising then that canes were a common teaching accessory. As an ex-teacher myself, I might have also opted for a whip and a chair.

Our first classrooms were in old wooden buildings up on a hill and the library was housed at the top level of another old wooden building accessed by a set of stairs so long and steep that it would have been handy to have a base camp established halfway up. But armed with our brand new exercise books from Pellegrinis our Marist journey began in earnest. While Spelling, Grammar, Arithmetic and Social Studies were high on the agenda, the first thing we learned was that no page was ever acceptable without JMJ prominently displayed at the top.

Soon after arrival we were also allocated to the various Houses. These days there are eight Houses named after important figures in Marist history but back in our day they obviously needed to keep things as simple as possible so they wisely stuck to the 4 primary colours of Blue, Green, Red and Gold. Once we were allocated to a House we needed to learn our colour War Cry. Back then we accepted them without question but I think the time has come to examine them more closely and critically.

BLUE HOUSE

Their war cry started off like this:

*The BLUES are here The BLUES are there
BLUES, BLUES are everywhere.*

This clearly tells us that Blues are essentially a disorganised and leaderless rabble. But there's more.

*We won that race. We'll win the next.
That proves the BLUES the BLUES are best.*

So as you can see, Blues entire claim to sporting superiority is based on victory in just two races – one of which is merely wishful thinking!

GREEN HOUSE. With all the power and beauty of the English language to draw upon to inspire the troops, the Greens came up with this:

*Shumalacca, shumalacca, shumalacca sha!
Boomalacca, boomalacca, bis bomb ba!
Shumalacca, shumalacca, shumalacca sha!
Greens! Greens! Here we are! G-R-E-E-N-S*

All of which can be summarised as: Hey, we're green. We're over here talking complete gibberish. But in a triumph of rote learning we've somehow managed to memorise the spelling of our colour.

RED HOUSE

*Karangi Karangi Karangi Ka
Yarrabi Yarrabi Yarrabi Ya
Zip Boom Bah, Zip Boom Bah
Reds, Reds, Yah, Yah, Yah, R-E-D-S REDS!*



This was a tough one to crack. But from what I've been able to piece together from extensive research, all members of Red house are directly descended from the inhabitants of just two isolated outback towns - Karangi and Yarrabi. This then explains that bizarre third line which could only be a direct result of inbreeding. Like the other teams Reds have also learnt how to spell their name, but with only four letters, it's just not that impressive.

GOLD HOUSE

This is my old house and as far as I can recall, in my nine years at the College we never won a single thing. We drew our inspiration from those great sporting icons, Bill Haley and the Comets.

*One o'clock, Two o'clock, Three o'clock, Rock
The golds are best, the golds are top*

Then comes the key line:

Reds, Blues, Greens are on the blocks

And there it is in black and white. The reason we never won anything. Every other team is on the blocks ready to go while Gold House obviously is struggling to find anyone to compete in the race! But ...

*We'll roll 'em, bowl 'em, pitch 'em in the tar
Yah Gold, yah Gold, Yah. Yah, Yah!*

... none of that matters because apparently our plan is to just 'go the biff'!

Along with the Academic and Sporting aspects, there was also the Cultural dimension to our Primary days. Many of us took part in the College Choir and in 1965 the first College Eisteddfod was held, but the main cultural outlet each year was the College Speech Night held at Brisbane City Hall. On the night each primary grade had the opportunity to perform on stage.

In Grade 4 we kicked off by displaying our gymnastic skills on the vaulting horse. Sadly this would prove to be the absolute highpoint of our Speech Night performances. It was followed by a relentless nose dive into the depths of political incorrectness. In Grade 5 we dabbled in cultural appropriation by dressing up as 'Cowboys and Indians' in our own Wild West Musical. In Grade 6 just when you thought it couldn't possibly get any worse, we appeared as Black and White Minstrels in 'Alabama Bound'. And finally, our Grade 7 Singalong With Seventh Grade performance included the song I Belong to Glasgow - a rousing ditty about the joys of a drunken night out. The times may have been a'changin', but it seems they still had a long way to go.

Of course we weren't the only ones producing ground-breaking musical entertainment between 1964 and 1967. The arrival, meteoric rise and wide-spread influence of the Beatles over those years resulted in the need for the first ever college hair-cut assemblies. When it came to a dreaded inspection day, the school population was generally divided into two tribes - the Wets & the Dries.

The Wets were the boys who rushed to the bubblers to soak their hair with water when the assembly bell rang hoping that by plastering it flat, it would appear shorter. The obvious downside to this approach being that having wet hair might just a clear sign that even you thought your hair was too long to pass muster.

The Dries on the other hand went boldly to the assembly au naturale hoping to confidently bluff their way through by sending out the positive vibe that their hair couldn't be too long because if it was, surely they would have plastered it down with water!

It goes without saying that neither approach worked. If your hair was even marginally beyond the acceptable limits, you would inevitably find yourself at the local barber, where despite your earnest request for a fashionable square-cut at the back and just a touch of length left on the sides, the bulk of your precious mane would be terminated with extreme prejudice.

There are of course countless more shared memories from those early years. Among them:

The free milk deliveries cleverly left to heat up in the morning sun in order to kill any lingering germs. Brother Jarlath running the tuckshop and making sure we always had the 4 basic food groups: Meat Pies and Sausage Rolls; Cream Donuts and Boston Buns; Lollies (the ones Brother didn't eat himself); and Fizzy Drinks. The heats of the annual slow bike race being held in the playground. (A demonstration event for the Brisbane 2032 Games perhaps?) Mastering the skill of standing with one foot planted on a white dot painted on bitumen for lunchtime assemblies. Bike racks packed to the brim which meant there was always a friend's bike to borrow if you needed to fly home at lunchtime for that forgotten homework or sports uniform. Sharing lunch with several hundred other boys in the peace and serenity of the undercroft before being released to play. The excitement of seeing the dodgem cars and octopus rides being set up for the Spring Fair. Multiple games of football, cricket and brandy taking place simultaneously during lunchtime and trying to avoid getting concussed by a ball hitting you in the head. Joining an extended conga line of boys going to confession during religion lesson and making up fake sins because you were worried you didn't have enough to confess. (Or was that just me?) Never leaving home without a fashionable grey plastic raincoat tucked in your bag. Writing with a fountain pen. Marbles having a designated area in the playground. The entire school having to freeze on the spot like statues as soon the end of lunch bell sounded. Yoyo crazes sweeping through the school and trying not to get your teeth knocked out by someone attempting to master the 'Around the World' trick - usually yourself. Recognising the songs from the College Hymn book from just their number. Marching in Corpus Christi processions at the Exhibition Grounds each year along with several thousand female students but never successfully meeting a single one of them. (Just me again?) Memorising the answers to Catechism questions - or else! The change from summer to winter being marked, not by leaves turning brown, but by the brothers' habits turning from white to black.

So here's to everyone who was a part of our Marist journey from 1964 to 1972. Here's to all the memories, friendships and bonds we shared back then, to those created since and to the ones that are still to come.

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PRAYERS PLEASE

- Br Anthony Atkinson, MCA Primary Principal, 1989-1994, sadly passed away in Campbelltown, NSW on October 27, 2022, aged 89 years. Br Anthony was a Marist Brother for 69 years. At Ashgrove, Br Anthony was greatly admired for his hard work, often very unsparing of himself and his many kindnesses in the wider school community and senior Brothers were greatly valued. He will be missed by all.
- Bernard William McMackin (1952), late of Bribie Island, formerly of Ashgrove, passed away peacefully on September 30, 2022, aged 88 years. Bernie was the beloved husband of Doris and loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Bernie was also a caring brother to Brian (1953) and Anne.
- Rosemary Gallagher, late of Auchenflower, passed away peacefully, aged 86 years on September 1, 2022. Rosemary was the beloved wife of Michael and much-loved mother, grandmother, and sister of Paul Coote (1958), Fr Leo Coote (1962) and Bill Coote (1966).
- Maureen Theresa Laing, late of Ashgrove, passed away peacefully on August 31, 2022, aged 90 years. Maureen was the beloved wife of Bernard (dec), and mother of Brian (1971), Peter (1973), Graeme (1974), Rosemary, and Stuart (1978) - a past President of MCA OBA.
- Catherine Gelling passed away on August 3, 2022. Cathy was the cherished wife of Eric (1958) and mother of Shaun (1987) and Scott and devoted grandmother.
- Patricia Mary Hollamby, late of Ashgrove Avenue Ashgrove, passed away peacefully on September 5, 2022 aged 92 years. Pat was the beloved wife of John Joseph, 'Joe' (dec) and much-loved mother and mother-in-law of John (1968) and Adrienne, Br Daniel (1969) FMS, Peter (1972) and Rosemary, Anthony (1979) and Christine, and Jennifer, and cherished grandmother and great-grandmother.
- Elizabeth Mary Eviston, late of Chapel Hill and formerly Amarina Avenue Ashgrove, passed away peacefully on October 2, 2022 aged almost 97 years. Betty was the beloved wife of Paul(dec), and much-loved mother of Tony (1972), Phillip (1976, dec), Libby and Jane. Betty was also the loving grandmother of Gerard (1997), David (1998), Tim (2002) and Alex Eviston (2006) and great-grandmother.

VINCE NIPPERESS (1954)

The OBA was very saddened to learn of the passing of one of our great members and a magnificent educator, Vince Nipperess.

Vince completed his secondary school education as a boarder at Ashgrove and represented the College at the top level in Swimming, Cricket, Rugby Union and Rugby League.

Vince's interests after school were many and varied. In 1951, Vince was selected to play in the curtain raiser to the Australian National rugby league team playing the touring French team at the Gabba in Brisbane. Later that same year he completed his training with the Australian Military Forces and quickly rose the rank of "Corporal" in the Australian Cadet Corps and being trained in the use of both Rifles & Bren Guns, along with Fieldcraft. This proved invaluable when completing his 18-month conscription to National Service in later years, with Alpha Coy 9th Battalion Royal Qld Regiment.

When Vince completed his education at MCA, he was awarded a scholarship to attend Teachers College. On the 23rd of January, 1955 Vince began his 37-year teaching career with his first posting to Mt Campbell State School at Stockyard Creek (which he returned to many times for their re-unions).

In 1956, Vince Moved to Nambour State School on the princely annual salary of 800 pounds (1600 dollars). He would go on to teach at Bli-Bli, Morayfield, Glasshouse Mountains and Burnside State Schools before retiring on 5th July 1992.

Outside of his professional life, he considered his finest achievement was marrying and his 4 children – Shane, Peter, Mason (Darin) & Jolene.

Outside of his family and stellar teaching career, Vince's other great legacy was his massive involvement in Rugby League on the Sunshine Coast as a Player, Coach & Administrator.

Whilst he was well regarded as a player for both Souths Magpies in Nambour and Sunshine Coast representative at both Junior and Senior levels, it was as an administrator that his exploits are best known. His dedication to both Senior and Junior Rugby League was without compare. He also was a reporter for the Nambour Chronicle on all matters Rugby League.

The Old Boys salute Vince on his incredible life and contribution to society.

ASHGROVE ESTABLISHES THE MEL RETCHFORD AWARD

Mel Retchford epitomised the very best of Ashgrove and the Marist Brothers. The love of hard work, a commitment to education, dedication to family and of helping others.

Like so many other parents in the 70's, Mel was a regular participant in the famous working bees. On 11th October, 1975 he was at Amberley when tragedy struck. One of the huts collapsed, Bill Myers died and Mel was rendered a paraplegic. At the time, Mel was part of the private business world, but was convinced by Brother Alexis to come to Ashgrove in 1979 to be the first ever specialised careers guidance officer. It was a role Mel relished and built into his own. Many of our Old Boys who read this will have had held meetings with Mel to discuss their future life and followed his advice.

Mel's three sons Andrew, Michael and Bernard attended the College as did grandson Shaun.

Mel was also an affiliate of the Marist Brothers.

In recognition of the dedication and commitment of Mel, the College, this year, established the "Mel Retchford Award" to celebrate those who had overcome adversity. The first recipient was James FitzGerald who was presented the award by Bernard Retchford.

May Mother Mary and St Marcellin Champagnat welcome Mel home. May perpetual light shine upon him.



Andrew, Bernard and Michael with their father Mel Retchford.



Plaque dedicated to Mel and others in the College Chapel



Bernard Retchford presenting the award to James FitzGerald on the Awards Night.

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'.

HILTON HURST (1972) AND MURRAY HURST (1973) - 'MCA QUIET ACHIEVERS IN SPORT AND LIFE'

Hilton and Murray grew up on 'Wylarbah', a sheep station near the town of Surat. Both were boarders at Marist College Ashgrove, Hilton from 1969-72 (Grade 9-12) and Murray from 1972-73 (Grade 11-12). Both felt privileged that their Mum and Dad decided to send them to Ashgrove and both consider that they were the best years of their lives.

Hilton's ability at Rugby Union was noticed immediately and in Grade 12 he was second row in the 1972 undefeated 1st XV premiership team. It was captained by Paul Andrews, coached by Br Alexis, and Bill McDonnell at No 8 would later represent Qld in 1980. Only one try was conceded in premiership games and all trial matches against GPS schools were won. Following this impressive season, Hilton Hurst (1972) was selected in the first interstate Queensland Schoolboys' tour to NSW for three matches. Hilton toured alongside some great players such as Grammar's Graham Noon and Brian McNish, Churchie's Sean Mowen, State High's Peter Garbett and Ipswich Grammar's Don Regeling.

After leaving school and returning to the family property on the Darling Downs, Hilton was contacted by Keith Doyle from All Whites in Toowoomba (now Brothers) and offered a playing position and employment. Hilton had told him he was a rugby union player, not a league player! Keith's brother, Ian (Ripper) Doyle had observed him at the Qld Schoolboys trial and thought his style might be suited to league. Ripper had been a great Qld and Australian player in the 1950s.

In 1973, Hilton was selected in all the Toowoomba U18 representative sides which were coached by the great Qld and Australian captain, Herb Steinhart, aged 73 years and quite amazing coach. He was a tough, uncompromising front rower of the 1920/30s. One of the representative matches was against Brisbane U18 at Lang Park and was the curtain raiser to Queensland v New Zealand. Toowoomba U18 had a good side with Wayne Lindenberg, Gary Walker and Alan Smith joining Hilton. Brisbane U18 ran out John Ribot, Norm Carr and Bruce Astill. Bernie Pramberg was the referee.

In 1974, Hilton moved to Rockhampton and continued to play Rugby League up to 1980, mainly for the Brothers club. In 1974 Brisbane Brothers toured and played a memorable match. They had just lost the BRL Grand Final to Valleys. Noel "Chips" Harrington liked the Rockhampton Brothers club so much, he returned to play the 1975 season! Rockhampton had some wonderful players back then and all the matches were tough going. The standard, toughness and brutality of Rugby League in the 70s in country Queensland was legendary.

Murray Hurst (1973) made his name at Marist College Ashgrove as a member of the 1973 undefeated 1st XI premiership cricket team. This is still vivid in Murray's memory, especially as he contributed handy runs as a middle order batsman and recorded a rare hat-trick with his spin bowling. Murray played as a breakaway in the 3rd XV premiership rugby side and was remembered for his solid defence.

After leaving school, Murray fully expected to spend his entire life on the Surat family sheep station. Due to consistent droughts, his parents were forced off the land in the mid-70s and Murray found himself having to get use to town life in Rockhampton where Hilton was living. Here he displayed considerable talent as a rugby league player and cricketer as a spin bowler. Murray caught the eye of legendary English cricketer, Geoff Boycott by dismissing him twice in an exhibition match. Boycott had been playing for Waverley in Sydney at the time. Boycott was impressed and wanted to recruit Hurst to play for Yorkshire and sent Murray a letter of invitation. A commitment Murray agreed to but then couldn't make due to a severe knee injury sustained in a rugby league game.

While cricket has always been Murray's first sporting love (and still is!), it's in the cut-throat world of rugby league that Murray Hurst has been an influential figure for more than twenty years. Murray was Head Coach at the Cowboys between 2001 and 2002, after starting as Tim Sheen's assistant coach in 2001. Graham Murray succeeded Murray and coached the Cowboys from 2002-2008. Murray has coached Tonga in the 2000 World Cup, Australia U19s, Brisbane Brothers, Queensland Country, Queensland Residents, Australian Universities etc. His teams won eight premierships in country areas plus the state league title with Rocky.

Murray stated in the Courier Mail on April 10, 2002 after finishing as Cowboys' coach;

"I remember way back in 1988 when I first decided to try my hand at coaching with Townsville Brothers and I said: 'Gee, I'd love to coach North Queensland one day!' I also remember how proud I was to first coach NQ at state league level and then to get the job at NRL level for one year after a 14 year apprenticeship. North Queensland was always special to me. It was the place I decided to make my home and I will always be grateful to coach the top team in the area."

The Cowboys would finally gain NRL premiership success in 2015 with Paul Green as coach. They were contenders again in 2022 under Todd Payten, narrowly losing to Parramatta in the Preliminary Final.

Murray has been a mental health advocate with the NRL for 8 years as Queensland manager of Well Being and Education. Prior to this he held several positions in several industries. He has thrived in people related positions. After serving four years as an elected Councillor in Local Government, Murray was unsuccessful as the LNP candidate for the seat of Townsville in the 2009 Queensland election.

Hilton Hurst gave the game of Rugby League away when he was 30 and apart from 20 right shoulder dislocations, came out unscathed! Hilton then worked for the various Central Queensland mines and lived at Tieri.

"The best thing about Tieri was the Brolga (pub) run by Brian Fitzsimmons and his sidekick, Chris 'Choppy' Close."

In 1997, Hilton relocated to Brisbane and worked for Downer Mining Head Office for 21 years in Human Resources and Industrial Relations.

"With 6,000 people, we operated numerous mines in coal, gold, iron ore, lead, zinc, diamonds. There was drill and blast, tyre management, underground and open-cut mining in every state. Trips to our operations in Africa and Laos were memorable. My final role was Executive General Manager-Human Resources, which was a fantastic role that I loved almost as much as going to Ashgrove."

After 40 years in the mining industry, Hilton is now working in a completely different field as a voluntary Human Resource's Manager within the Archdiocese of Brisbane's Centacare.

"The role was referred to me by fellow Ashgrove old boy, Pat Casey (1972) who was also a fine Rugby breakaway at school. I am loving the work and the opportunity to help people!"

Hilton enjoys the Marist Old Boys' reunions and particularly annual catch-ups with his classmates. As he says:

"Marist College Ashgrove is a wonderful school and with the array of sports and education available, it gives boys a great opportunity to become part of a team, which can be the start of incredible friendships for the rest of your life."

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