

THE ASHGROVIAN



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www.ashgroveoldboys.com.au

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 16 August 2024

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

Friday 4 October 2023

Marist Golf Day at Ashgrove Golf Club

“Ashgrove Old Boys host the Marist Golf Day”

Sponsors for the Golf Day welcomed.

Please contact the President, MCA OBA,

tim.slack@gmail.com or 0487 051 687.

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

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

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.

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, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Front Cover Photo: St Marcellin Centre

Christopher Frederick Jones,
architectural photographer

Phone: 0405 440 180

Website: www.cfjphoto.com.au

Instagram: @christopherfrederickjones

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear fellow Old Boys,

A warm welcome to our newest Old Boy members, the 2023 graduating class! Whilst you are no doubt enjoying your first year following the completion of High School, the Old Boys are here to serve as a connection to your time at Marist College Ashgrove. We aim to be relevant to you regardless of whether your interests in your time at Marist related to the Arts, Academia, Mission or Sport.

In addition to the 230 graduates from 2023, we are thrilled to report a substantial increase in our financial membership numbers prior to the Annual General Meeting this year, from Old Boys ranging from the 1950s through to the early 2000s. This growth reflects a renewed interest in the Old Boys' activities from those wanting to maintain the strong bond shared among our alumni and their desire to remain connected and involved in the Marist community. The enthusiasm and support from our members are crucial as we continue to expand our initiatives and events to help support the College.

The first half of the year is traditionally the busiest period with multiple events and this year has been no different. We started off in March by hosting the Marist Rosalie Old Boys Tribute Day. This allows Old Boys of Marist College Rosalie to gather at Ashgrove and watch the 1st XV play their final trial match in the jersey of Marist Rosalie.

The standout event this year so far has been the highly successful Super Saturday, which included the much-anticipated Old Boys Sports Day where we honoured the 1954, 1964, 1974 and 1984 1st XV teams. These gentlemen presented the current 1st XV Rugby team with their playing jerseys for their important game against St Laurence's College. In a new addition for the day, the 1st XI Football team were presented with their jerseys by members of the 1994 1st XI team in the forecourt of the Tower Block. The 1st XI went on to win the Football Premiership for 2024!

Additionally, we hosted the Super Reunion Day overlooking McMahon Oval for all Old Boys, but in particular the 'milestone years' including 1984, 1994, 2004 and 2014. This was hosted the day after the Champagnat Sports Lunch and was attended by over 350 Old Boys.

The College continues to undergo renewal through the construction of the new primary building, known as the St Marcellin Centre. The next phase is the renovation of the Carrick Wing classrooms. Whilst these important works continue, a rejuvenation of the Brother Cyprian Pavilion is underway. The renovation will allow improved functions to occur for both the College and for the Old Boys. In support of this, we are excited to announce the launch of our 'Support the Cyprian' fundraising campaign. Our goal is to raise \$300,000 to fund the installation of a new roof on the Cyprian Pavilion. This campaign is particularly special because the Class of 1966 has generously committed to match every dollar donated until August 31. Having the Cyprian Pavilion available once again will allow the College and the Old Boys' Association to host various events, further strengthening the ties between the College and all Old Boys.

Looking ahead, we are in the planning stages of a new mentoring program, set to launch in the coming months. This initiative aims to connect our younger members with experienced Old Boys who can offer guidance and support. We encourage our alumni to volunteer for this meaningful program and make a difference in the lives of our younger generation.

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of attending Beef Week in Rockhampton with the Head of Boarding (and 1989 Old Boy) Jim Noble. It was a fantastic event that allowed us to connect with boarding Old Boys from across the country who were in Rockhampton for Beef Week. The Boarding House is such an integral component of what makes Marist so special, and to connect with these Old Boys reinforced this. We will be working with the College to ensure we host more of these events in the future.

Finally, the Old Boys' Association is here to keep the school connected with its former students. The committee wants to hear from you, as every ex-student's experiences and ideas are important. By staying in touch, the association helps build a strong community where alumni can support the school's growth and maintain connections gained during your time at the College. The Old Boys' Association values all voices and looks forward to hearing from each and every one of you.

Tim Slack
President



FROM THE HEAD OF COLLEGE

Dear Old Boys and supporters of Marist College Ashgrove,

On 6th June 2024, Marist College Ashgrove celebrated the 25th anniversary of the canonisation of St Marcellin Champagnat. We did so in a beautiful Mass celebrated by proud Old Boy (1955) Bishop Brian Heenan, Emeritus Bishop of Rockhampton. Part of this celebration was the blessing and opening of our new Primary building, aptly named the St Marcellin Centre.

In 1999, I was honoured and privileged to attend the canonisation of St Marcellin Champagnat by Pope John Paul II at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. I have never publicly shared my experience at this event but in doing so, it will hopefully give you an insight into the Marist spirit, which is a world-wide phenomenon.

I recall arriving a few days prior to discover the sites of Rome – the Colosseum, St Peter's Basilica, The Trevi Fountain, Vatican Museum, Pantheon, Catacombs, Sistine Chapel and so on. At every tourist site I travelled to, there were crowds of pilgrims that had travelled from all around the world to also attend the canonisation of St Marcellin Champagnat. Pilgrims were identifiable by wearing Champagnat scarves that had printed on them, in all the languages of the world where Marists are today, the words - "A heart that knew no bounds". These words aptly described Marcellin Champagnat. Every tourist place I visited was filled with hundreds of pilgrims excited about Champagnat's canonisation. Fellow pilgrims would spot each other's scarves from afar and greet one other with a loud cheer and the words "Champagnat!" Then they would freely introduce themselves, shake hands, embrace, and would keenly ask you about yourself and what part of the Marist world you were from. It didn't matter if each other didn't speak the same dialect as we would all muddle through speaking the same language of kindness and goodwill. Although I kept meeting total strangers and initially felt some awkwardness, I was swept up in this positivity and celebration. It was a joyous time, where there was a warm and unifying feeling, meeting people who shared the same faith and lived the same ethos, all from different parts of the world. It was wonderful to be a part of this special Marist spirit and I certainly felt "one" with other Marists. It was an inspiring and empowering experience and one that I have never forgotten.

On the pilgrimage, I had a chance meeting with another Australian whom I knew as a parent from the Marist school I was teaching at. This parent's name was Allan Deans. "Deansy" as everyone affectionately knew him was a real country fellow. A hardworking grazier from Baradine in north-west NSW, Deansy loved his family and was highly regarded by all who knew him. Deansy was a good humored and fun-loving bloke and possessed all the attributes of a gentleman. Most of all, he was Marist in the way he lived his life – he had lived a good and successful life but was always unassuming and humble. To truly explain the type of person Deansy was is difficult to do in this article but his generosity and kindness is captured in one story that I was told about him. As a parent, each week during the rugby season, after a long day of planting or harvesting, Deansy would drive overnight some eight hours to Sydney to arrive at his son's school around 7am. There, he would meet the sports coordinator and help him in whatever way he could - filling the eskys with ice, sorting the jerseys or organising and cooking breakfast for the boys. Deansy would then support his son's 13B's rugby team with gusto. He told the coach that there was no way he going to miss one of these great games. That was Deansy's way of supporting his sons and showing gratitude to the school.



While sitting next to Deansy at the Canonisation Mass, he quietly shared with me the reason he was attending the canonisation of Marcellin Champagnat. A few years prior, he had been given the dire news of an incurable Plasma Cell Leukemia diagnosis. Being a man of faith and a proud Marist parent, Deansy had prayed to Marcellin that he would be healed. He told me with great conviction that, to the doctor's disbelief, after a short treatment period, he had been given a total clearance from his aggressive leukemia. So essentially, Deansy had made the pilgrimage to Rome quietly to thank Champagnat and God for his miracle cure. As someone of deep faith, he was enormously grateful and adamant that his cure was because of Champagnat's intervention. I was privileged to sit with Deansy, amongst a 20,000 strong crowd, to witness the canonisation of his hero. Sadly, Deansy has since passed away, only some 3 years ago, not from leukemia but from a farming accident but I am sure he is in the same high spirits as he was during the canonisation, in the company of Champagnat and Mary today.

People like Deansy remind us of this Marist legacy – this endearing and empowering Marist spirit. Let us all be true Marists who are kind and simple people, where 'our hearts know no bounds', doing good quietly with a solid faith and where we make others feel bigger. Let us all be inspired by such inspirational qualities reflecting this awesome worldwide Marist spirit.

To conclude, may I take this opportunity to thank the Marist College Old Boys' family. To our Old Boys Committee for your generosity, fortitude and undying support of the boys and the college – thank you. (President – Tim Slack, Vice President – Dom Melrose, Treasurer – Bret Ambrose) To John O'Hare and his contributors for all their work in carefully putting together this outstanding Ashgrovian publication. To all Old Boys for their generosity supporting events like the Foundation Trust Sports Lunch, Super Saturday, Old Boys reunions, Vintage Lunch and Long Lunch and for your generous support of the building fund, especially at present, the renovation of the Cyprian Pavilion. Thank you, it is always humbling to be part of this Marist Ashgrove spirit!

Michael Newman
Head of College



OLD BOYS SPORTS DAY - JUNE 1, 2024

The Head of College, Michael Newman, MCA Old Boys' Association and the College community were delighted to welcome back members of the Ashgrove, Rosalie and St Laurences 1st XV's from the 1954, 1964, 1974 and 1984 teams. This coincided with the last home game of the season, Marist v SLC AIC Premiership fixture. The grandstand was packed full of Marist men, families and Old Boys who stayed on to watch this exciting spectacle which resulted in a 29-20 win to Marist.



1954 1ST XV RUGBY UNION - MSSSA PREMIERS

Ashgrove were undefeated in all competition matches as well as defeating IGS 24-0, BBC 14-6 and Downlands 9-6 in preseason trials. Ashgrove's only losses were to Nudgee, the GPS co-premiers and Gregory Terrace, where the team was outplayed in torrential rain. Eight Ashgrove players were selected in the combined MSSSA team that ultimately defeated GPS, 13-6.

The 1954 Ashgrove 1st XV included:

Michael O'Reilly (capt), Brian Crank, Noel Lane, Brian Lindsay, Des Ridley, Vince Nipperess, John Nutley, Paul Moroney, Clive Davies, Patrick Duffy, Michael Henry, Paul Jackson, William King, Brian McKee, William Ovenden, William Renton-Power. Br Fabian (Coach), Br Francis (Sportsmaster).



1964 1ST XV TAS RUNNERS-UP TO SPLC

Ashgrove won seven out of eight competition games, scoring 185 points to 54 points against. 1964 was the last season the 1st XV would wear the white shorts and B&G hooped socks!

The team consisted of:

Barry Honan (capt. inside centre), John Breen (vice-capt. second row), Maurice Luissi (fullback), Damian Carroll (winger), Michael Neill (breakaway), David L'Estrange (winger), Colin Loag (breakaway), Errol Allan (five-eight), Rob Weimers (No8), Ron Whelan (hooker), Jeff Leggart (breakaway), Robert Wood (outside centre), John Simpson (prop), Charlie Kramer (second row), Greg Dux (prop), Trevis McKewen (halfback). Relacements during the season, Peter Berge, W. Williamson, Leo Seeto. Br Phelan (Coach)





1974 1ST XV TAS CO-PREMIERS WITH VILLANOVA

Ashgrove registered victories in trials against State High, Brisbane Grammar and BBC, but went down to Villanova in competition, 19-14, despite scoring three tries to two. The team breathed again when St Columbans defeated Villa!

The team comprised:

Greg Chan (fullback), Michael Craig (wing), Frank Sciani (wing), Richard Kelly (centre), Paul Mills (centre), Mark O'Connor (centre), Peter Lung (five-eight), Gary Allen (halfback), Kelly Moran (No8), Julian Counsel (capt. and breakway), Rory Sykes (breakway), David Barbagallo (Aust Schoolboy and second row), Mark Devereux (second row), Michael Webster (prop), Greg Smith (prop), John Murray (hooker). Br Alexis (Coach).



1984 1ST XV TAS UNDEFEATED PREMIERS

Not only did the Ashgrove 1st XV manage a successful tour of the North Island of NZ, winning three of their four matches, but also managed the closest results of a premiership winning TAS 1st XV ever! A firstup 7-7 draw against premiership favourites SLC. The following week DLS missed a kick in front of the uprights for Ash to get away with a 6-4 win. Then, supporters' hearts nearly stopped following a try in the dying seconds to defeat Villanova 4-3. Ashgrove was then kicked to victory against Rosalie 9-4, St Peters 9-3 and St Pauls 9-3! De La Salle did Ashgrove a favour with a surprise 6-4 downing of SLC for Ashgrove's outright undefeated premiership!

The team comprised:

Tony Mee (capt. and halfback), Michael Taylor (v-c. and hooker), Donald Thomson (loose head prop), Lyal Midgley (tight head prop), Stephen Braddy (second row), Sam Scott-Young (second row), Shaun O'Brien (breakaway), Gavin Darwin (breakaway), Anthony Lucey (No8), Chris Ford (flyhalf), Brendan Kiernan (inside centre), Stephen White (outside centre), Stephen Lee (winger), Peter McKee (winger), Troy McCarthy (fullback). Relacements during the season: Jack Vizer, Shane Seeto, Mark Leavy, Danny Powell, Paul Wigan, Michael Kaese. Br Patrick (Coach)



SUPPORT THE CYPRIAN

The Old Boys' Association is proud to lead the campaign to raise \$300,000 to complete the upgrade of the Cyprian Pavilion.

Designed by Old Boy and Architect Jim Crawshaw (1951) and opened in 1982, the Cyprian is an important asset as well as being the unofficial 'home' of the Old Boys on campus.

Supporting this capital campaign leverages your donation in three ways:

- It's worth double until 31 August 2024 (thank you, Class of '66!)
- The Cyprian is an income generator for the College
- As a venue for Old Boy events, the Cyprian also generates income for the MCAOBA.

You will receive a tax receipt and can spread your donation to this campaign over two financial years if you wish (contact the College on 07 3858 4555 or cyprian@marash.qld.edu.au to arrange).

Let's show our community what happens when good Marist men unite around a shared goal.

DON AND ALF SUPPORT THE CYPRIAN CAMPAIGN!

Our older Old Boys have led the charge so far with Old Boys of the 1950s way ahead, and 1980s Old Boys also looking strong.

We have reached out to our earliest Old Boys as part of this campaign! Don Whittington and Alf Cruden were both Foundation students in 1940/41 when the school opened.

Thank you for your support gentlemen!

We're also looking for our youngest Old Boy donor to this campaign. Could it be you? Please email cyprian@marash.qld.edu.au to let us know.



Listen to
Jim Crawshaw's
message



Find out more
about the fundraiser.



SPORTS HONOUR BOARD REPLACEMENT

The new Champagnat Centre (Gym) Sports Honour Board which features MCA Old Boy Australian Representatives has replaced the existing Honour Board which was full. This Board's tradition of recording names chronologically will be maintained.

The new Sports Honour Board planned for the upgraded Cyprian Pavilion will feature MCA Old Boy National Representatives so Old Boys who have represented other nations will also be recognised. To be included on this Honour Board, all representatives must satisfy extensive criteria for selection.



CHAMPAGNAT TRUST SPORTS LUNCH - FRIDAY 9 JUNE, 2023

The 20th Anniversary Sports Lunch was again held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Since its inauguration, the Sports Lunch has raised over \$2.5 million and has provided over 100 students with a Marist education. Over 950 people attended and the day was filled with electrifying camaraderie and plenty of laughter which contributed to an atmosphere brimming with the Marist spirit.

Gary Ablett Jnr. and Luc Longley were superbly interviewed by journalist Sam Lane and MC Rupert McCall. Their presence along with the enthusiastic participation made the event truly memorable. Over \$100,000 was raised from the lunch to support the Champagnat Trust Bursary Program. Thanks to everyone for the support and generosity in making a significant difference in the lives of many future Marist men.



SUPER REUNION WEEKEND - SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2024

Another wonderful “Super Saturday” again generated incredible memories for Old Boys. A special giant marquee catered for the hundreds of old boys as many reminisced and enjoyed the dazzling display of running rugby by the MCA 1st XV who inflicted the first defeat on the undefeated Lauries 1st XV in four seasons, winning 29-20. The MCA 1st XI also secured a great win, 2-1 over SLC in Football, in front of a big crowd on the hill overlooking Cameron Oval. The Old Boys were thrilled when the MCA 1st XV came over after the fulltime whistle and sang “Sub Tuum” in their honour.





Jersey presentation to the 1st XV Rugby Union



Jersey presentation to the 1st XI Football



Rosalie Tribute Match v St John's College Nambour - 23 March, 2024



FROM THE FIELD TO THE COURT: SEMESTER 1 SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

As we look back on the first semester, it's evident that the College's sporting teams have showcased exceptional talent and dedication. Thanks to Derek Lennon, Head of Sport for the following summaries highlighting the key performances and achievements across various sports during Terms 1 and 2, reflecting the hard work and spirit of our athletes, coaches, and support staff.

TERM 1

Cricket

The 1st XI began the season in confident fashion travelling to Bunbury to win the Marist Cricket Carnival. Unfortunately a couple of key injuries and a few off days saw us finish third in the 1st XI and third in the aggregate. Iona College won the 1st XI and St Patrick's College won the aggregate.

Volleyball

The 1st VI worked very hard in the offseason, competing at both the state and national titles. They were on the wrong side of three very tight five-set matches that saw them finish in fourth place with us finishing in fourth in the aggregate as well. Iona College won the 1st VI and the aggregate shield.

Swimming

We put up a brave challenge to the St Peters machine, with third a long way back but we were again in second place.

AFL

The 1st XVIII were able to secure their second premiership in a row, tying with St Laurence's College and Padua College. A brave effort from the boys and well coached by the staff. The aggregate went to St Laurence's, we finished fourth.



TERM 2

Rugby

The 1st XV played some scintillating rugby throughout but were out muscled against Padua, eventual premiers, and Iona in Rounds 2 and 3. A win against Lauries in Round 6, their first AIC loss since 2019, meant we finished equal runners up with St Laurence's College and Iona College. We won the aggregate shield. The following teams finished undefeated: 4th XV, 5th XV; 10C; 10D; 9B; 9C; 8C; 7B; 7C; 7D; 5A; 5B.

Cross Country

A surprise win here. We expected Iona to continue to improve as they had in recent years, pipping us last year. The boys were magnificent on the day winning both the primary and secondary titles. We won Year 6, 13 years and 15 years and never finished lower than second in any age group.

Chess

The 1st IV had high hopes after beating perennial champions St Laurence's in the trial but a couple of draws and a loss to premiers St Peters saw us finish in third, where we also finished in the aggregate.

Football

We did the football double, winning the 1st XI outright and sharing the aggregate with St Laurence's. This was the culmination of 2 and a half years work with this group to prepare them for this. The following teams finished undefeated: 2nd XI; 7th XI; 10A, 9A; 9B; 8B; 7C; 7D; 5B; 5D Black; 5D Gold; 5 White.



BLUEY AND GOLD!

Brisbane based Ludo Studio, the creative powerhouse behind the beloved kids' television show Bluey, has just been named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential Companies of 2024.

Bluey executive producer and Ludo co-founder Daley Pearson (2001) shared his excitement on social media:

"Thank you to all our partners and friends for all your time, love and support for the team at Ludo. We're very lucky to be able to do all of this from Brisbane, Australia. Thinking particularly of all the love and sacrifices given from our family and friends over the past decade."

Ludo's flagship show Bluey, described by Time as a "streaming phenomenon" has captured the hearts of audiences worldwide.

In 2023, Bluey creator, Joe Brumm (1995) received a "Queensland Great Award." Bluey continues to strike gold!



DYLAN MCLACHLAN (2016) QLD BULLS DEBUT

Dylan McLachlan(2016) made his debut for the Qld Bulls v SA in Adelaide on the 14th February, 2024 in the Marsh One Day Cup. Dylan was wicketkeeper and made a well compiled 44 as No 7 batsman. Dylan was a representative in the Australian Indigenous side in 2023.



ANTHONY MATHISON (1998) - MCA WALLABY

The ARU has recently announced the elevation of Anthony Mathison to Wallaby status, 20 years after touring the UK and Europe in 2004! MCA's 25th Wallaby!

MCA Director of Rugby, Richard Graham (1990) informed the Old Boys' Association of the wonderful news with Anthony finally recognised for a magnificent rugby career which encompassed Marist Ashgrove 1st XV premierships, Aus Schoolboys' selection, Qld Reds selection and finally the Wallabies. As a coach, Anthony masterminded many schoolboy premierships and also successfully coached at Brothers and UQ, prior to his Head Coaching role at GPS Premier grade in 2018 when they finally captured their long awaited and deserved premiership. When Anthony was congratulated by Richard of his achievement, he admitted he had known for a while but hadn't told anyone! A true champion and embodiment of our Marist virtues of humility, simplicity and modesty!

Anthony Mathison has now been listed in our recently upgraded 'Notable Ashgrovian' website and will be listed as a national representative on the new Sports Honour Boards in the Champagnat Centre foyer and refurbished Cyprian Pavilion.



GERARD MAPSTONE (1998) - MUSICAL GENIUS

Gerard Mapstone, class of 1998 has earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Music. Mapstone investigated creative practices in contemporary flamenco guitar performance, and presented a folio of original works and performances. He argued that creativity is integral to the artistic field of flamenco, and demonstrated a process of style formation through emulation and distillation of various structures within the genre.

It is the first Flamenco doctorate awarded in Australia and is from Melbourne University, where he was awarded a scholarship for both his Masters and his Doctorate.

Gerard Mapstone is an award winning concert guitarist, composer and director of the Dale Caña Flamenco Company. Mapstone received first prize at the QCGU Classical Guitar competition, a best Jazz album nod from the Queensland Music Awards. Mapstone has performed internationally supporting legends Buena Vista Social Club, Tomatito, and Cindy Lauper, as well as performing with the Queensland Chamber Orchestra, the Victorian Orchestra, and Doch Gypsy Orchestra. In research Gerard Mapstone is currently a lecturer in flamenco guitar at The University of Melbourne, and contributes to international conferences, symposiums including TEDx, and the Musicological Society of Australia.



PAUL HIGGINS (1970) - TRANSPORT MASTERMIND

The Marist Old Boys community proudly recognises the outstanding accomplishments of Paul Higgins, who attended Marist College from 1962 to 1970. Paul's remarkable career in intelligent transport systems (ITS) has spanned over 45 years, making him a leading figure in the industry.

ITS Australia, the peak advocacy body for transport and road traffic management technologies, recently honoured Paul with the prestigious Max Lay Lifetime Achievement Award for his significant contributions to the field.

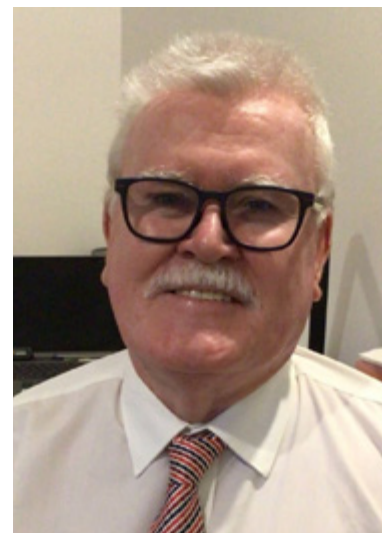
Paul's career began in the traffic signal unit at Brisbane City Council (BCC), where he pursued an electrical apprenticeship and an engineering qualification at QIT. He established the BCC Traffic Signal Laboratory, which developed Brisbane's BLISS traffic management system in the mid-1970s.

In the late 1980s, Paul's entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish a software engineering company, followed by the formation of Excel Infotech in 1992 and its expansion to the Excel Technology Group (ETG) in 1996. Under his leadership, ETG developed over 30 innovative ITS products, secured five patents, and gained a reputation for reliability and quality, delivering solutions across Australia and internationally.

In 2013, Paul was appointed adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Electrical Engineering at the University of Queensland, a tenure that lasted six years. He continues to mentor and supervise research students today. In 2023, Paul received Life Membership of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers Society, highlighting his profound impact.

ITS Australia President Silje Troseth acknowledged Dr Higgins' achievements, stating, "Dr Paul Higgins has dedicated his entire career to the creation of products that have enhanced our nation's intelligent transport systems and made our roads and traffic network safer for all Australian road users. Paul's depth of knowledge, harnessed through an ITS career that includes government, academia, and industry, is to be celebrated, and his influence will be ongoing."

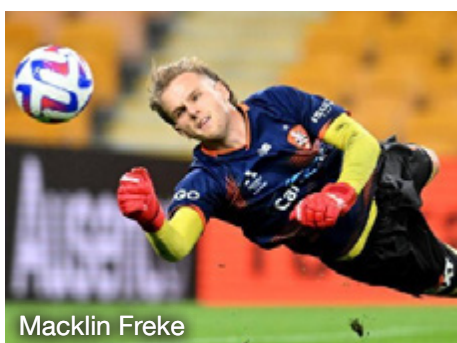
The Marist Old Boys community celebrates Paul Higgins' achievements and hopes his journey inspires both past and current students to strive for excellence in their fields.



OLD BOYS EXCEL ACROSS FOUR FOOTY CODES

Marist College Ashgrove's Old Boys are making waves across the sporting world, excelling in Rugby Union, Rugby League, Australian Rules Football (AFL), and Football. These talented athletes are not only key players in their respective teams but also serve as inspiring role models, showcasing the strength and spirit of MCA on both national and international stages.

- Jordan Courtney-Perkins (2013-2017) was selected in the Olyroos squad which contested the AFC U23 Asian Cup in Qatar. Despite drawing 0-0 with both Qatar and Jordan, the Olyroo's shock 1-0 loss to Indonesia left their hopes of qualifying for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games in tatters. The 21 year old Jordan has been playing for Sydney FC in the A-League.
- Macklin Freke (2016) was awarded the Gary Wilkins medal after being named the Brisbane Roar's player of the season. Macklin enjoyed his best season of his A-League career, under the tutelage of Roar goalkeeper coach and former Socceroos custodian Frank Juric. With the game on the line, Macklin Freke's outstanding ability to save a stoppage-time penalty to snatch a 2-1 victory over Western Sydney on April 5, 2024 was the season highlight and ensured the Roar's stirring victory. When interviewed Freke replied: "I don't know if it was a penalty but they gave it. I didn't mind it. I was confident. I thought I knew which way he was going and lucky enough I got a big shin on it!"
- Josh Billing (2020) has been pressing his claims for a start in the Canberra Raider's NSW Cup side after some eye-catching displays in recent years in the Raider's junior representative teams. Josh won a grand final with Canberra's SG Ball side in 2021 and hopes to break into the NRL with the Green Machine. Josh, originally from Goondiwindi, played as a centre for the MCA 1st XV but has developed into a second-rower.
- Billy Walters (2011) has been recognised for his outstanding form by extending his tenure at the Broncos by another two years. The 2023 grand-final hooker has been in dazzling form and scored a magnificent solo try against Canberra on April 20, 2024 which ensured the 30 year old unheralded rake will remain at Red Hill until the end of 2026.
- Floyd Aubrey (2020) was chosen in the Qld Reds team to play the Auckland Blues at Suncorp Stadium on April 27, 2024. The following week Floyd was chosen in the Reds run on team against the Fijian Drua in Suva and scored a brilliant try. He has now joined the sixty plus MCA Old Boys to have achieved this honour. As a boarder at MCA from Murgon, Floyd played fullback in the 2019 and 2020 premierships winning 1st XV's. Floyd plays for the Ashgrove based GPS club in the Brisbane Rugby Union competition.
- Charlie Cameron (2011) continues to produce outstanding performances for the Brisbane Lions in 2024. Charlie has been the Lions leading goalkicker for the past five seasons. In 202 AFL games preceding the 2024 season, Charlie had amassed 359 goals!



MARCUS BEREHULAK (2013-2018) - AND NOW, 2024 OLYMPIAN!

Marcus Berehulak (2018) competed in his first Water Polo World Championships in 2023 in Japan. His immediate goals were to compete in the 2024 Paris Olympics and play professionally overseas. His dreams have been realised!

Marcus is currently playing in Croatia and after his club Jadran Split won the Domestic title, Jadran Split then won the Croatian Cup final. This was his season highlight, having trained and played with his team mates, 7 of whom are current members of the Croatian National team which won the World Championships in Doha this year.

Now that the European season has finished, Marcus is returning to Australia for the "Aussie Sharks" last training camp at the AIS in Canberra before the Olympic Men's Water Polo Team departs for Paris on June 14, 2024.

Australia is drawn in Pool B for Paris alongside Tokyo Olympic champions Serbia, Hungary, Japan, Spain, and host France.

It all began at MCA after Marcus won the Year 5 and Year 6 Age Swimming Championships and then Marcus had his first foray into Water Polo here in Year 8! The MCA Old Boys are very proud of all Marcus's achievements so far and will be cheering for him in Paris! Congratulations on becoming an Olympian! Citius! Altius! Fortius!



STOP PRESS - MORE MCA PARIS OLYMPIANS

Sam Short (2014-2018)

Sam Short finished second behind Jack McLoughlin at the 2021 Olympic swimming trials in the 1500m freestyle but was omitted as Australian Swimming imposed elevated Olympic qualification times. Following the June 11 to June 15, 2024 Olympic trials at the Brisbane Aquatic Centre, Sam has been selected for his first Olympic Games in Paris, starting July 26, 2024. He has been chosen to compete in the 400m, 800m and 1500m freestyle events. Incredible! Commonwealth Games Champion, World Champion and now Olympian! Go Sam!



Michael Bohl (1971-1979)

Michael Bohl is one of the world's most successful and respected swimming coaches, who will be stepping back from coaching after the Paris Olympics. Michael's swimmers have represented Australia at seven of the last eight Olympic Games going back to Barcelona, 1992. Nine different swimmers have won Olympic medals including four who have collected gold: Stephanie Rice (2008), Emma McKeon (2016, 2021) Madison Wilson (2016) and Emily Seebohm (2021). Australian superstar Kaylee McKeown, who joined the master coach in the hope she could become an even better swimmer after winning three gold medals at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics will be competing in three individual events in Paris, with Michael doing everything he can to help her performance. Congratulations Michael!



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PRAYERS PLEASE

- Barry Ralph Tabrett (1962), passed away peacefully on November 22, 2023, aged 76 years. Barry was the beloved husband of Dianne and dearly loved father of Karen, Elizabeth, Angela, Michael (dec'd), and John. Loving brother of John (1960, dec'd) and Rodney (1962, dec'd), all of whom were boarders from Brighton when they attended MCA. Father in law to Bill Prole (1987), Adam and Natalie. Much-loved grandfather to 12, including Thomas (2022), James (2023) and Harry Prole (Year 10, 2024). Barry's life was celebrated in the MCA Chapel on December 4, 2023.
- Mervyn Jarvis (1948), late of Kenmore, formerly Ashgrove, passed away peacefully aged 91 years. Merv was the beloved husband of Kay and loving father of Karen, Louise and Maree and adored grandfather and great-grandfather. Loved brother of Ken (1969). Merv's Funeral Mass was celebrated in Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Kenmore on January 24, 2024.
- Leon Wetzel (1965), late of Yeppoon and formerly of St John's Wood, passed away in late November 2023. Leon, the older brother of Greg (1967) and Caroline, had worked at the Great Keppel Island Hideaway Resort for the past ten years. His colleagues shared a heartfelt social media post before his memorial service: "It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of our dear Leon. His presence brought warmth, dedication, and joy to our GKI family. Today, we honour and remember a cherished man whose impact reached far beyond the workplace. Leon was a great mate to everyone he crossed paths with, and we were lucky for Leon to call GKI home for nearly ten years."
- Paul Michael Breen (1972), late of The Gap, formerly Bardon, passed away unexpectedly on January 31, 2024, aged 68 years. Devoted husband to Ann and Stepfather to Aaron. Brother to Maureen, Kevin (1971), Mark, and Dennis (1970, dec'd). Paul was a gentle, friendly person and very strong which was evident in Year 10 in 1970 when he threw the shot put an enormous distance to place second at the TAS T&F Championships.
- Paul Carter (2003, Ephrem), formerly of Chapel Hill, passed away suddenly on February 12, 2024, aged 37 years. Paul was brother of Grant (2003 Ephrem) and Sharon Mitchell, mother of Tom (2023) and Eddie (Year 8 H).
- Gabriel Ruddy (1982, Year 9), formerly of Kenmore passed away in January 2024, aged 55 years. Gabriel's funeral was held on February 2, 2024.
- Wayne McGauley, late of Ashgrove, passed away in April, 2024. Wayne was the beloved father of Nick (2009), Harry (2020), Will (Year 12, Ridley), and Oliver (Year 10, Ridley). Wayne's Funeral service was held at the St Lucia Golf Club, Indooroopilly.
- Francis John Deighton, late of Stafford, passed away peacefully on January 5, 2024, aged 92 years. Frank was the much-loved husband of Pat, and cherished father and father-in-law of Des (1975) and Leonne, Christine, Helen and Mark (dec'd), Paul (1982) and Debbie and Jane and Matt. Frank was a loved grandfather to his 15 grandchildren. Frank was on the P&F committee throughout the 70s, culminating as P&F President in 1977/78. Frank's life was celebrated with a Funeral Mass at Queen of Apostles Church, Stafford on January 11, 2024.
- Leonard Roy Bracken, late of Ashgrove, passed away peacefully on November 15, 2023, aged 87 years. Len was the loving husband of Marilyn, and much-loved father and father-in-law of Bernadette, Catherine and Pat, Peter (79), and Angela and Marty. Loved granddad to his 12 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Len was prominent in the Men's Working bees in the 60/70s and will always be remembered for his wonderful assistance with the Amberley tragedy of 1975. Len's life was celebrated with a Funeral Mass at St Finbarr's Church, Ashgrove on November 22, 2023.
- Dawn Anne Jenkins, late of The Gap and formerly Drummond Street, Alderley, passed away peacefully on January 9, 2024, aged 93 years. Dawn was the cherished wife of Ian (dec'd) and dearly loved mother of Paul (1972) and Celie and loving grandmother and great-grandmother. Dawn's life was celebrated with a requiem Mass on January 24, 2024 at St Michael's Church, Banks St., Dorrington.
- Margaret Mary Todd (nee Tierney) late of Innisfail, formerly of Garradunga. Margaret was born October 25, 1936 in Innisfail and passed away peacefully on November 8, 2023 in Cairns. Margaret was the loved wife of Kevin and loving mother of Noel (1974), Kerry (1975), Ron (1977), Bruce (1978), Stephen, Peter (1986, Open Athletics Champion) and Kathryn. Kevin and Margaret's sons boarded at MCA when the family farmed at Garradunga, near Innisfail. All the sons have had successful and varied careers. Kerry was a Marist Brother for a time, Stephen a solicitor in Innisfail while Peter has been a Sportsmaster and teacher for over 30 years!



Barry Tabrett (1962)

- Ross Turton passed away peacefully on June 1, 2024, surrounded by his family. He was 93 years old. During his 28 years as a senior education officer in Papua New Guinea up to Independence in 1974, Ross was well known to many Brothers and Marist Fathers. He and his wife Tess greatly admired Br Julian Quinlan's Bougainville choirs. Ross held leadership roles in Madang, Bougainville, and Rabaul. An Old Boy of Marist Hamilton, Ross was a proud father to two sons, Captain Michael and Vice Captain Christopher, who also attended Marist Hamilton. Mary, Bernadette, and Terence are Ross and Tess's other much-loved children. Br Alexis received the sad news of his brother's passing in Newcastle, after arriving at the College for the Old Boys' Reunion Lunch on June 1, 2024, from Sydney as a special guest and coach of the premiers-ship-winning 1974 1st XV. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and the Turton family. The Funeral Mass for Ross was held on June 13, 2024, at St Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Booragul, just south of Newcastle, NSW.

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

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'.

GARTH FALLON (1995)

Garth Andrew Fallon was born on March 18, 1978, and passed away peacefully on March 28, 2024. Garth graduated Year 12 from MCA in 1995 and went on to earn an honours degree in history from UQ. After completing his degree, he moved to Paris to work at the OECD in the Protocol division. Returning to Australia, Garth entered Officer Training at RMC Duntroon, which led to a military career that took him around Australia, Malaysia, China, and three tours of Afghanistan. Along the way, he met and married his wife, Ya. His final posting was at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, as a Lieutenant Colonel. Garth is survived by his wife Ya, daughters Nicola, Amelia, and Margaret, his parents John and Frances, his sister Moira, and three younger brothers, Matthew, Duncan, and Eric, who also attended MCA. His life was celebrated with a Mass at the MCA Chapel on April 5, 2024. May he rest in peace.



HENRY FRANCE (2022)

Henry France was born on August 20, 2004. Henry started at MCA in Grade 5 in 2015 as a dayboy from Ashgrove. His younger brother Zac started Grade 5, two years later in 2017, and followed Henry into Gilroy House. Zac France is currently in Grade 12 in 2024. The Old Boys announced with the greatest of sorrow the passing on February 20, 2024 of our beloved young member, Henry France, after his courageous battle with leukaemia.

Sadly, Henry's father, Clive died of cancer in September, 2023. Henry was able to spend some precious time with his father before he succumbed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Henry's Mum, Ali and Zac as they endeavour to face the future after their devastating loss. Our thoughts are also with the extended France and Lawlor families. Henry's grandfather, Peter Lawlor (1965) and uncle Phillip Lawlor (1994) also attended MCA. Henry's life was celebrated with family, friends and the Marist community on February 29, 2024 with a memorial service at Victoria Park, Herston.

May our Mother Mary and St Marcellin Champagnat welcome Henry home.



VALE TOM TRESTON (1947)

On Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024, our oldest living Old Boy, Tom Treston, passed away peacefully and entered eternal life. Tom was half way through his 95th year of a truly wonderful life.

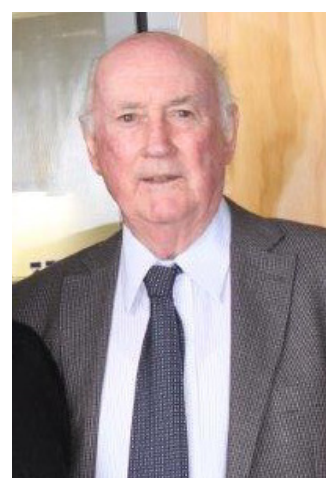
Tom was the eldest of five boys raised during the Depression by his wonderful parents, Mick and Nell, on a small flood-prone farm at Daradgee, near Innisfail. The Japanese invasion saw him briefly below the Brisbane line at Marist Brothers Lismore, returning to Marist Brothers Innisfail until his junior year and then in 1946 to Marist College Ashgrove for his last two years. Tom described his friendships formed at Ashgrove as truly wonderful. Tom would organise an annual Class of 1947 reunion dinner. In 2023, Tom as the sole survivor of his Senior class attended the Champagnat Trust Sports Lunch and was acknowledged with a magnificent ovation!

Tom was in the 1st XI, the undefeated 1st XIII, and MCA's first ever 1st XV. Tom also was awarded the Character Cup in 1947. After graduating, Tom married Jeannine and they were blessed with four sons, Tony (1975), Brendan (1977), Greg (1978) and Luke (1985) and two daughters, Jane and Rebecca. The boys attended MCA while the girls headed to MSM, not far from the family home in Kadanga St, Ashgrove. Tom took on the MCA OBA Presidency for 1958/59 and was then President of the P&F in 1973/74. The College experienced the tragic Amberley accident in 1975 and Tom was an important trustee, assisting with the fund-raising effort to care for those affected by the accident. In 2004, Tom ably assisted the Marist Brothers as part of their Advisory Committee on Professional Standards matters, which he generously did for 6 years. Over the last twenty years, Tom maintained an ongoing connection with the College through his grandsons with at least five grandsons already graduated!

Tom was the inaugural recipient of the Arthur Apelt Memorial Service Award in 2014. It is an award to an old boy of the College who has been outstanding in living the spirit of Marist through their generosity, goodwill and especially their dedicated service. Tom was easily identified as the first recipient.

Tom exhibited all the Marist virtues of humility, simplicity and modesty. Tom was so proud to be an Old Boy of MCA and we were so proud of him! Because of your generous, outstanding and powerful service for life at the College for its present students and the many Old Boys who have passed through its doors, we salute and thank you, Tom Treston! May you rest in peace.

Tom's Funeral Mass was held in the Champagnat Centre on Monday 8 April, 2024.

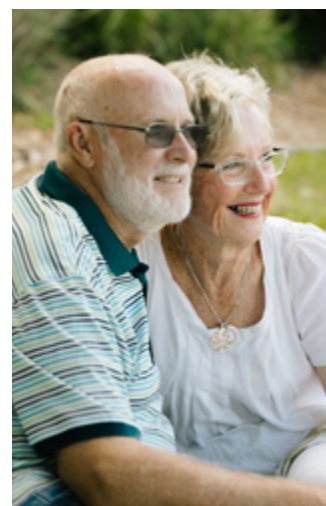


VALE BARRY JOHN MEWBURN (1965)

Barry John Mewburn (1965) passed away peacefully on 25 March 2024, aged 76, on the Feast of the Annunciation at the Sunshine Coast. Baz and his beloved wife, Karen, retired there nine years ago after travelling around Australia for over two years.

Baz cherished growing up in Ashgrove, maintaining lifelong friendships and attending Old Boys Reunions. After nine years of marriage in Brisbane, Baz took a position with the Water Resources Commission in Bundaberg, relocating with Karen and their four sons: Troy, Scott, Grant, and Deen. For 30 years, he balanced his job as District Manager, Corporate Services, with coaching and refereeing in local rugby leagues.

His final role was with Centacare Bundaberg, advocating for First Nations people, a privilege he cherished. Baz often exchanged cheeky greetings with Bishop Brian Heenan, a fellow Marist Old Boy. Barry's life was celebrated with a funeral service at the MCA Chapel on 5 April 2024. Baz's family, including his 12 grandchildren, will remember him fondly, especially for saying, "I did it my way" and "Life is for the living."



VALE ALAN TAYLOR (1949)

On March 22, 2024, we sadly lost a true Ashgrove local, a loyal Ashgrovian! Alan started school in kindergarten at 'Grantully' which still stands at the front of Mount St Michael's; then attended St Finbarr's Primary School for seven years(1937-43); and then the Marist Brothers School at Rosalie in 1944 when St Mary's Ashgrove was closed due to WW2 and then Marist Ashgrove when it re-opened in 1945. Alan progressed through to Senior, our present day Year 12, which he completed in 1949.

Alan represented the 1st XV and after school became a foundation member for Wests Rugby in the early 1950s. Since then his rugby involvement has been truly enormous and he has been recognised as a life member of Wests, GPS, Qld Referees Association and the QRU. The game of Rugby in Qld and even Australia owes Alan a debt of gratitude.

But he also had an extraordinary commitment for society and to the wider community through his charitable works including: The St Vincent de Paul Society, Meals on Wheels, Ashgrove Historical Society, Qld Council of Social Services and State Chairman of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. It's no surprise that a few years ago Alan was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his " meritorious service to society!"

Alan began his connection with the Old Boys Association in the late 1950s, helping to lay the foundations for future executives to build upon. Alan was President in 1960; Treasurer from 1962-64 and returned to the Committee for some years in the 1970s. In 1990 Alan was one of the chief organisers of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations to mark the past 50 years of the College's achievements. Alan was honoured with the Old Boys' Association most meritorious award, the Arthur Apelt Memorial Award in 2018.

Such is the humility of this good person, a truly rare one, the product of a good home, a fine ambassador for this great College, someone who has contributed above and beyond the call of duty and someone we can all look up to and be inspired.

Alan will be remembered as a very generous person and an Old Boy of whom we are so proud. Our thoughts and prayers are with Alan's family at this sad time. Alan and his wife Margaret have raised seven children, Michael (1980), John (1981), Anne, Suellen, James (1986), Richard (1988) and Kate. All four sons followed in their Dad's footsteps by attending MCA over a 17 year period from 1972-1988. Alan's grandsons are also following this fine tradition.

People like Alan don't come along too often. May you rest in peace.

Alan's Funeral Mass was held at St Finbarr's Church Ashgrove on Wednesday, March 27, 2024.



VALE GEOFFREY MCMAHON (1972)

Geoffrey Michael McMahon was born on November 3, 1954 and grew up at Ashgrove, a stone's throw from the Moola Road entrance to MCA. Geoff was the first child of Kerry and Colleen McMahon and the adored big brother of Michael (1974), Jon (1975), Cathy, Janette, Anthony (1980), Paul (1981), and Gabrielle. Geoff attended St Finbarr's Primary School and then MCA. He completed a carpentry apprenticeship with Qld Public Works and worked as a linesman for Telecom. Geoff had a great love of the beach and the outdoors. He was a devoted club member of the Maroochydore Surf Club. His passion for paddling led him to Dragon Boats in which he competed regionally, nationally, and most notably, was a member of the Australian team that competed in Prague and Hong Kong. Geoff always had a smile, was kind and caring and a true gentleman who will be missed by all whose lives he touched. Geoff passed away suddenly on February 19, 2024 at the Sunshine Coast where he had lived happily for many years.



VALE BRYAN KASSULKE (1952)

The Old Boys' Association extends our deepest condolences to the Kassulke family on the passing of Bryan Kassulke, an esteemed member of our community. Bryan passed away peacefully on December 3, 2023 at the age of 90 and is survived by his wife, Morna, and their five children: Matthew, Justin, David, Morna and Helen.

Bryan shone on the Ashgrove playing fields, excelling in football, cricket, and athletics. He captained the 1st XI cricket team in 1952 and uniquely represented the Ashgrove 1st XV for five consecutive years, from 1948 to 1952. As the team captain in 1952, he later represented Queensland in rugby from 1953 to 1955.

A dedicated supporter of the College, Bryan regularly attended the Old Boys' Sports Days and Vintage Lunch/Mass until travel from the Sunshine Coast became challenging two years ago. The Kassulke family originally hailed from Beaudesert, and Bryan's four brothers, Colin (1942, dec'd), Tom (1945, dec'd), Stan (1946, dec'd), and Terry (1953), along with their sons, also left their mark at Ashgrove. Nigel Kassulke (1978), Bryan's nephew, continued the family's sporting legacy by representing the Wallabies in 1985.

Bryan's life was a remarkable journey, both on and off the field. He won the 1954 premiership with the University of Queensland, served as the inaugural captain of Wests when they became an A grade club in 1955, and guided Easts as Club President from 1985 to 1991. As a Queensland representative, Bryan's early talent was evident, playing five seasons in the 1st XV at Marist College Ashgrove and kicking goals from his own half.

A loyal and humble gentleman, Bryan honoured a promise to Brother Cyprian, his mentor, by leaving University's premiership side to help launch Wests' A grade team in 1955. His commitment was unwavering, contributing to Wests' victories and helping Queensland achieve rare wins, including against NSW in 1954.

Bryan's impact extended beyond just playing rugby; he was a long-time juniors and Under-19s coach at Easts, and as Club President, he transformed Easts into title contenders. His leadership during the 1989 Winfield State Challenge and the audacious appointment of former French international Michel Celaya as coach were notable highlights.

Bryan's dedication and spirit left an indelible mark on the Queensland rugby community.

Bryan's life was celebrated with a Requiem Mass at St James Catholic Church, Combaroo on December 15, 2023.



MARIST OLD BOYS' VINTAGE LUNCH AND MASS

FRIDAY 16 AUGUST, 2024

Mass 10:00am (College Chapel)

Lunch 11:30am for 12:00pm

Celebrating 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969,
1974, 1979 and 1984 milestone reunions.

Presentation of 2024 Arthur Apelt Memorial Service Award
to David L'Estrange (1966).

<https://events.humanitix.com/2024-marist-vintage-lunch>

Cost: \$65.00.



CASEY CLAN AT ASHGROVE

Since Marist Brothers College began at Ashgrove in 1940 with 70 students, many families have enrolled their sons at this great College. Fathers, sons and grandsons have passed through the College doors. One such family are the Caseys from Gaythorne. The 5 Casey brothers walked or rode their bicycles through the Enoggera Army camp every school day until Council Buses created a route from Grovely to Arinya Rd in the late 60s. Bernard was the first of the Caseys at Ashgrove starting in Year 5 in 1955. He finished Year 12 in 1962 with the nickname Ben after the "Ben Casey" TV series which spawned the popular song "Calling Doctor Casey". Since 1955 there have been 24 Casey related men educated at the College.

		GRADUATING YEAR	OCCUPATION	NOTES	HOME LOCATION
GAYTHORNE BROTHERS	Bernard (Ben) (Deceased)	1955 to 1962	Self Employed Rep for industrial cleaning products	Roo and wild pig shooter. Archery enthusiast.	Narangba
	Terry	1965	Semi Retired - Forensic Scientist. QUT Lecturer	Prefect, Cadet RSM and YCS Leader. Old Boy Life Member	The Grange
	Kevin	1966	Retired Architectural Draftsman	Awarded the Senior French prize. Played Rugby League for South Perth	Perth
	Dan	1970	Retired Civil Engineer / Technical Manager with Main Roads Dept, Brisbane, Gympie, Barcardine, Emerald, Rockhampton.	CUO. Played at Brothers Rugby, Coached and Managed YCW League and Junior Soccer. Golf Hacker. Involved in Maleny Parish Community and St Vincent De Paul Society. Old Boy Life Member.	Maleny
	Pat (Paddy)	1972	Retired Regional Manager Centacare Disability Employment Services	Prefect. Member of Bros Everton Park 1969 Foundation Rugby Team. Played at Brothers Rugby. Justice of the Peace. Old Boy Life Member.	Stretton
TERRY'S SONS AND GRANDSON	Tom	1988	Project Approvals Manager/ Solicitor	TAS 1984 U'13 400m Athletics Champion. Avid Cyclist	Wavell Heights
	Matt	1991	Director Air Conditioning Installion Company / Refrigeration Mechanic	Keen muscle car restorer	Ashgrove
	Brendan	1994	Freelance Writer	Published - "She That Lay Silent - Like Upon Our Shore"	Kilkenny Ireland
	Lawrence	2000	Learning Designer and Career Advisor at UQ /Teacher/ Youth Worker/ Law Degree Graduate	Firsts Volleyball. Keen mountain biker.	Stafford
	Josh	2022	Apprentice Refrigeration Mechanic	2022 College Swimming Leader. Keen muscle car restorer	Ashgrove
CASEY COUSINS	Jim	Year 10 1960	Sales Rep and Courier for family florist business	Boarded from Nindigully. Teammate of Bob Honan and Mick Barry in 1960 First XV Premiers. Ray Megsy Meagher (aka Alf Stewart) was groomsman at his wedding. Played at Wests Rugby.	Windsor
	Bruce	Year 10 1960	Sales Rep at Hallmark	Boarded from Nindigully. 1959 Under 15A's team mates included Ray Megsy Meagher (aka Alf Stewart) and Alex Pope. Coached and played at West Rugby Union	Brisbane
DIEZMANN (MARIE CASEY)	Peter	1970	Retired - Senior Manager BPAustralia / PNG	1970 first XV. Age Athletics Champion 63/64. Represented NQ and Qld Country in Rugby League in the 70's. Volunteer - Caloundra Coast Guard Senior Coxswain. Keen Game Fisherman -Tag and Release. Member of PNG Rep Team Placed 2nd in World Gaming Fishing Championships	Caloundra
	Michael	1972	Printer Courier Mail, TAFE Lecturer, TAFE Senior Management Qld.	Prefect, Netball Coach, Kayak Enthusiast, Property Renovation Enthusiast	Albany Creek
	Bryan (Deceased)	1975	Plumber, Senior Manager Roofing Contractor Sector	Camping, Fishing. Qld Rugby League Referee and Referee Assessor/Selector - Bribie and Sunshine Coast	Bribie Island/Ningi
	Kerry	1978	Hospital Supply Services Sector. Agriculture Supply Industry Sector	Camping, Spent Time in FNQ Exploring Regional Tableland Area, Agricultural Supply Sector Experience in FNQ.	Yarabilba
PETER'S SONS	Mark	2003	National Marketing Manager Guzman and Gomez	GPS Rugby 2004/5. Competitor in Marathon Yukon River Kayak Race. Volunteer Life Saver North Bondi	Bronte, Sydney
	Luke	2008	Hospitality Sector, Team Leader	Touch Football. Golf. Fishing, Table Top Gaming	Spring Hill
MICHAEL'S SON	Paul	2007	Hospitality Sector, Section Manager	Unique Artifact Collector, Table Top Gaming	Strathpine
BRUCE CASEY'S SON	Ty Casey	1999	Teacher and Assistant Head of Boarding at MCA	1999 College Swimming Captain. Ashgrove XV Coach. Played at Bros Rugby and Rugby League	Ashgrove
WARMAN (EDNA CASEY)	Peter	1969 (Grade 10 1967)	Retired Plumber and Building Inspector Mareeba Shire Council	Coached Little Athletics. Senior Queensland Administrator Little Athletics. Property Renovation Enthusiast. Grey Nomad.	Mareeba - Atherton

		GRADUATING YEAR	OCCUPATION	NOTES	HOME LOCATION
GOLDWATER (KATHLEEN CASEY)	Thomas	1998	Senior Draftsperson [Surveying] at Saunders Havill; Associate Partner	1st Violin in the secondary school orchestra.	Carina
	James	2000	Senior Creative Consultant [Advertising] at Dijgta Marketing	Sailing – 1996 2nd place national corsair, 1998 3rd place national corsair.	Surrey Hills Sydney

DONOVAN (LUCY CASEY)	Terry	1964	Retired from Taxation Office after 36 yrs	Cadet Band Lead Drummer. Coached Rugby at GPS and Villanova.	Paddington
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HONORARY MENTION	Pat Casey Snr (Deceased)		Gregory Terrace Old Boy. P&F committee member 1969 to 1972.	Volunteered in working bees landscaping the Main Oval throughout 1960s	Gaythorne
	Wally Deizmann (Deceased)		Rosalie Old Boy - P&F President 1969 and 1970 - Officiated at the opening of the Main Oval Grandstand.	Volunteered in working bees landscaping the Main Oval throughout 1960s	Newmarket
	Cathy Gillespie (Casey)	1976	Mt St Michaels / Retired Teacher		Wishart
	Donna Kostellar (Diezmann)	1977	Mt St Michaels / Retired - Qld Health - Senior Administration / Management Positions Royal Brisbane Hospital.		Albany Creek
	Hannah Casey	2023	Mt St Michaels - Bond Uni Student	2022 National U'15 Freestyle and Butterfly Swimming champion from the Marist Club. 2024 Olympic Triallist. B Final 100m and 200m Freestyle	Ashgrove



THE INTERLUDE AT EAGLE HEIGHTS FROM 1942 - 1964 (PART 1)

In 2014, the College Newsletter featured a significant article by our late colleague, David Cameron. David's meticulous research was inspired by a call from an Old Boy concerned about the little-known history of the preparatory school at Eagle Heights, Mount Tamborine.

David realised that while he had previously mentioned the evacuation of the College to Eagle Heights during World War II, much of the story remained untold. His article aimed to explore the period from 1942 to 1964 in greater detail, building on Mark Farrelly's chapter "Idyll in the mountains 1943-44" in "Canvas of Dreams."

David's writing provides a deeper understanding of the College's wartime experiences and the resilience of the Marist Brothers, staff, and students. Through his words, we appreciate the challenges faced and the unwavering spirit that guided the College community.

We honour David Cameron's dedication to preserving our history. His work continues to inspire, reminding us of the strength and unity within the Marist Old Boys community.

Hello to you all again. I'm afraid 2014 hasn't been a very productive year for the Archives in terms of articles in the Newsletter – in fact this is the very first one. This piece of scribbling came about as the result of a phone call from an Old Boy who had been at the preparatory school for the College that existed at Eagle Heights, Mount Tamborine. He was concerned that it was a little known part of our history, and I found on reflection that he was right. In previous articles I had referred to the circumstances of the forced evacuation of the College to Eagle Heights in 1942, but had really only skimmed the surface of what had occurred there. There is a wealth of material in the Archives about the period, but it has not been written about in any coherent fashion apart from Mark Farrelly's excellent chapter, "Idyll in the mountains 1943-44", in his history of the College "Canvas of Dreams." This, then, and following articles, will attempt to fill in the gaps about the period 1942 to 1964, when an adjunct to the College existed in the cool air of Mount Tamborine.

The history of St Mary's College Ashgrove officially began when the Marist Brothers opened their new school on 30th January 1940. It was an opening beset with difficulties, for funding, infrastructure and furnishings were in short supply, and enrolments were not guaranteed either. Nonetheless, the indefatigable and inspirational Headmaster Brother Ignatius O'Connor led with verve and courage, and by the end of its first year the fledgling College could point to impressive academic achievements, and even boast it possessed what few private schools in Brisbane could then offer – its very own swimming pool. (This was the result of heroic communal efforts involving the Brothers, parents, students, and supporters, and relied almost entirely on volunteer labour.)

All this of course happened against the backdrop of humanity's greatest tragedy – the Second World War – which had broken out in September 1939. Australian servicemen were overseas helping Britain in her struggle for survival against the Axis forces of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, and the anxiety of relatives about the fate of loved ones in the armed forces was naturally a dreadful strain. Yet it was all happening thousands of miles away on the other side of the world: the Nazis were a horrible threat, but a very distant one.

All this changed dramatically with the surprise entry of Japan into the war through its attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941. Japanese invasions of Hong Kong, the Philippines, Indo-China and Malaya swiftly followed. Australia had always placed reliance for its defence on the great British naval base at Singapore, and when this fell in February 1942, Australia was suddenly and shockingly exposed to the threat of invasion – the mythical "Yellow Peril" was literally at the gates. Everywhere the Japanese seemed invincible, and the fighting was apparently destined to include mainland Australia. St Mary's College Ashgrove was in an unenviable position geographically because of its proximity to the large Army base at Enoggera. Wartime propaganda insisted that all Japanese aircrew wore Coke bottle lens glasses or were cross-eyed, so the likelihood was that a stick of Japanese bombs aimed at Army targets could march straight across the school. (Not mincing his words, Brother Cyprian Dowd in describing this time stated that "An Australian high military expert advised us to get out.")

Australian government thinking, based on Army advice, was centred on the fanciful construction of a "Brisbane Line", in which northern Australia would be abandoned to the Japanese, and resistance would begin from Brisbane southwards. (This piece of military idiocy was fortunately never implemented – Australian forces shattered the myth of Japanese invincibility at Milne Bay and on the Kokoda Track, and the Americans won devastating land and naval victories at Guadalcanal and Midway.) Nonetheless, private boarding schools in Brisbane were given a stark choice by the government – relocate or close until permission was given to reopen. Ignatius was a determined character, and his vision of building "A St Joseph's of the North" – alluding to the Marists' great school in Sydney – was not going to be deflected by the activities of the pestiferous Japanese. For him, closing the school after just two years was simply not an option: relocation was the answer. But where?

Australian Army advice to Ignatius was that he should seek some out of the way place off the main roads, on the principle that the Japanese would use those roads for transport southwards and would be uninterested in isolated outposts. Ignatius and his stalwart deputy Brother Harold Carlson eventually narrowed the possibilities for relocation of the College down to two: Green Mountains on the Liverpool Range (the site of the present O'Reilly's resort), or Mount Tamborine. The former was very difficult to access by road, so the choice settled in the end on Tamborine. Ignatius explained his reasoning for the choice in his Principal's address in the 1942 Blue and Gold magazine: it was an isolated spot, but not all that far from Brisbane, yet it should be safe from the attentions of possibly marauding Japanese; it could be accessed by road easily; its 2000 feet of elevation guaranteed a healthy climate; it had superb scenery; it was agricultural land where wartime rationing could be supplemented through crops and herds. The decision made with characteristic speed, Ignatius led his "troops" up the mountain. He was not to know that he would never leave it.

In the meantime, what of the property at Ashgrove? It is possible to suspect that the advice of the "high military expert" alluded to by Cyprian was not totally altruistic. The Army and the Catholic Church have one belief in common – they both know the importance of "taking the high ground." Situated to the south-east of the Army base on a hill, the College had established infrastructure, with office space, shower and toilet facilities, and sleeping dormitories already established. It was an ideal location for the establishment of some kind of training facilities or headquarters for Army use, and ludicrously close to the Enoggera barracks. For the Australian Army, St Mary's College Ashgrove was made to order.

This was to lead to a largely unknown battle of the Second World War, the one between the Australian Army and the St Mary's College Marist Brothers led by Ignatius O'Connor. By Commonwealth government regulation, compensation would be paid to schools affected by the evacuation order. Ignatius, somewhat naturally, was determined to squeeze every monetary drop possible from the said government; the fly in the ointment was that the Australian Army, in which the wheels of decision-making ground notoriously slowly and bureaucratic red-tape was a by-word, was the organisation from which the compensation would be obtained. Its aim was obviously to part with as little as possible. Brother Mark Farrelly in his 1990 history of the College, "Canvas of Dreams" devotes an entire chapter (appropriately titled "The Sting") to the war within a war which soon developed. A monetary claim by the Marist Brothers was swiftly followed by Army counter-claims and protests; deliberate delay and procrastination was a tactic used by both sides; Ignatius went right to the top in appealing to the Minister for the Army, Frank Forde; the Minister's own staff tried to stonewall any payments. Who won? Hard to say. Ignatius was probably slightly ahead on points, but there was no clear knockout blow, and it was really too close to call. What is certain is that this battle between Army bureaucratic intransigence and Celtic Catholic cunning deserves an honoured place in the story of the College.

So for almost three years the Ashgrove property echoed to the hobnailed boots of the Australian Army; of the students, dayboys could attend other non-boarding Catholic schools like Rosalie; boarders whose parents wished would move to the mountain. St Mary's College Ashgrove transferred to Mount Tamborine on February 4th 1942. Over one hundred students from second grade to Senior made up this "pioneer" group, and like any such group they would find turmoil and confusion the order of the day, for many factors stood against an orderly transition from Brisbane to Tamborine.



In early February the Brothers and the boys, led by director Ignatius O'Connor, began the trip to the mountain. Then, as now, the setting and climate of the area was idyllic, but several factors militated against a smooth transition from Brisbane to "the bush".

The first problem was where the Brothers and students would stay: they weren't going from one boarding school environment to another, but from a school environment to a place which largely catered to tourists as paying guests in the cool mountain air. Accordingly what was available in terms of accommodation were guest houses with names like Bona Vista, Bungunyah, Davidson's (Davo's), and Semloh (Holmes spelt backwards – the name of the owner.) The school initially paid an average of 10 pounds a week each to obtain the use of these guest houses, financed by the "rent" the Army was paying for the use of the Ashgrove property. None of the guest houses was a school or dormitory, and they were geographically well apart from each other. Initially all meals for all the boys were cooked at Bungunyah. The students would either then walk for meals to Bungunyah, or if the weather was unsuitable, the food would be delivered three times a day, either on foot or in a car possessed by the Brothers, a green coloured Terraplane (hence its nickname of the Green Terror. Sometimes it started normally; sometimes a roll downhill was necessary to encourage starting; on a few memorable occasions the roll downhill became the start of a trip to Brisbane!) This decentralised environment meant that meals initially hot reached their intended recipients markedly colder.

Nor did the weather aid the new settlers. The rainy season in Queensland is normally in January/February, but in 1942 it was an exceptional Wet: the school moving-in period coincided with a deluge that lasted for three weeks – extraordinary even by Queensland standards. The wet weather acted in concert with the rich volcanic soil of Mount Tamborine to turn the ground into a red, glutinous morass: this morass was inevitably to cover shoes, socks, and (boys being boys) boarders. One mother remarked on the June holiday break that her boy's brown hair seemed to have turned indelibly red; boys were required to use basins of water to wash their feet each night before they went to their beds lest the bedding should be permanently stained.

Washing facilities were poor, as was general sanitation. Hot water was a luxury and certainly not the norm. Mark Farrelly says that "compared with what was available at Eagle Heights even the old dunnies at Ashgrove were an architectural gem." Some of the Tamborine ones were constructed over an open channel of flowing water, which of course led the wilder spirits to discomfort their mates in most ingenious ways: strategically applied hoses and bark "ships" on which burning paper could be floated were but two of these.....

At first there were no desks at which students could study or write: sometimes these activities would happen on student beds because there simply wasn't anywhere else that was possible. All in all, it seems very much like the situation covered by the old military saying: Do not be daunted if chaos reigns – it undoubtedly will. Yet out of it all order did emerge, and that had much to do with the character and determination of the Brothers, led by Ignatius, to ensure that all that could be done to ensure the welfare of their young charges WOULD be done. Young boys are constantly hungry, and growing bodies need plenty of fuel. Wartime rationing and scarcities only exacerbated the problem. Yet Ignatius made provision for this: he used what transport was available to stock up on canned goods, but his overall aim was to make his transplanted school community self-sufficient. A herd of Jersey cows was established for milk, as well as a chook-pen and a piggery for eggs and meat. An existing orange orchard was fertilised, and vegetable gardens planted. Each boy had specific tasks every day to contribute to the communal good.

The young savages soon learned just about everything there was to know about their new mountain environment: the clear, clean air and the general outdoor life were ideal for growing boys and they revelled in their changed conditions. There were horses and bikes that would eventually supplant "Shank's Pony", but the initial main method of exploring the mountain was to walk. As student Pat Willsteed recalled: "When we went anywhere on the mountain we went on foot.....we found the time to interact with one of Nature's very best playgrounds. There were vines to swing from and others to get tangled in. There were berries and fruits to use as missiles and to stain our clothes and hides." In short, Nirvana for young boys, and many of them found it the best fun of their lives.

Not that education was devalued or undersold just because of the move. The Marists were a teaching order and teach they would and did. Sometimes this might require a little "moral persuasion" with a cricket bat on the backside or the use of a cane, but this was no more than the students at the time expected or bargained for. They probably would have looked askance at any other treatment. Besides, what grew on the mountain was a kind of mutual admiration society between the Brothers and the boys. Each came to appreciate the other, the boys in particular because they could see that the Brothers shared their lifestyle with no special privileges in food or accommodation, and indeed left no stone unturned to protect their welfare. Led by Ignatius, the Brothers laboured hard and long for their charges, and most of the boys responded with affection.

The 1942 Blue and Gold magazine – the last that would be printed until 1945 because of wartime shortages - is revealing about the changed circumstances that had been forced upon the College, and about the character and quality of the man who led the whole enterprise. Ignatius does not put his name to what is written, but there is no doubt of his authorship. On page 33, under the heading of "Ashgrove Preparatory College", he states that "Eagle Heights has proved an ideal site for a college, and the Brothers have been more than satisfied with the first year's

residence.” (No mention of the difficulties described above – typical Ignatius!) He goes on, “...negotiations were early set on foot to acquire the property ‘Semloh,’ which is at present the central building and administration quarters..... The result is that the property has been purchased and is now in possession of the Brothers.” (And now Ignatius the visionary reveals himself.) “The intention is to remain on Tamborine Mountain permanently and to establish there after the war a preparatory college for Ashgrove. Students will be taken up to Scholarship (year 7) standard.”

What a remarkable man! Others may have bemoaned the unkind fate that saw 2 years of blood, sweat and toil on the Ashgrove property lost, perhaps forever. Ignatius saw in that circumstance not adversity but opportunity. Never mind that the Japanese were still in December 1942 threatening Australia, and whether invasion would happen was undecided; discount shortages and rationing; ignore little problems like sanitation, hot water, and proper educational facilities. St Mary’s College Ashgrove was on the mountain to stay! Indeed, Ignatius excitedly told his band of Brothers that he could see the day when the Ashgrove property would be for dayboys, and Eagle Heights for their boarding counterparts. Such vision and optimism were why Ignatius O’Connor had been selected as the first leader of the College. He was a big man in every way: in stature – (one of his students in later life referred to him as “Olympian”) – he seemed a giant to small boys; in intellect – he possessed two University degrees and an agile mind that could easily put itself “outside the square,” as the Australian Army could testify!; in the qualities of leadership – he had the priceless gift of never asking others to do what he would not do himself and always led from “in front”, thus gaining reverence from his band of Brothers; and in heart and determination – he aimed to create in Queensland a Marist school the equal of any in Australia, and would allow no obstacle to obstruct that vision.

Having acquired Semloh, the Brothers quickly moved to make things more habitable, and with the aid of a family team of carpenters led by Mr Frank Warner, a 100 X 25 foot dormitory capable of housing 50 boys was speedily erected at the rear of and parallel to the existing building. The underneath section was also floored and enclosed to provide a classroom, laundry and Chapel. Classroom accommodation for the primary boys was also constructed under “Davo’s”, at least after the problems of white ants and rot had been dealt with. The workforce in addition to the skilled tradesmen was comprised of Ignatius and his merry men: many boys were amazed to return to the new buildings after their mid-year holidays. More work on Semloh was to follow in 1943, when the school population had increased to 180 boys. The Warner Brothers were again the speedy constructors, aided by the Brothers, of a new dining room with further dorm space underneath, all achieved within a week at the Easter break. There was however one significant change – for the first time in anyone’s memory, Ignatius did not take part in the physical labour. The other Brothers remarked on this at the time, but because Ignatius outwardly retained his optimistic and encouraging manner, they attached little significance to it. The ramifications of this were to be profound, but what they were will have to wait for next time.





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Owned privately by four Marist Old Boys:

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