



# St Augustine's COLLEGE OLD BOYS

## Newsletter

*Official Organisation of the St Augustine's College, Cairns, Old Boys Association*

**AUGUST 2013**

All correspondence to: [oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au](mailto:oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au)

Dear Men of Saints,

This month approximately 200 Marist educators descended on Cairns for the Marist Schools Australia 2013 Conference. The delegates came primarily from across Australia with a sprinkling from other parts of the world. The conference was an opportunity to share all that is good about Marist spirituality, life and education.

Delegates were treated to a range of guest speakers. Whilst some of the keynote speakers focused on contemporary educational practice, others shared about Marist spirituality. The special guest for the conference was Br Emili Turu. Br Emili is the Superior General of the Marist Brothers. His keynote address was entitled "He gave us the name Mary". I enjoyed this presentation as it goes to the heart of Marist life and education. St Augustine's College is different from the other secondary Colleges in Cairns and a key element of that difference is the Marist spirit. This spirit also permeates the other Marist schools across Australia. When I have had the opportunity to visit other Marist schools, there is a wonderful familiarity and unity evident. It has often been commented that as a student you could leave one Marist school and settle into another Marist school quite easily.

Marist students, and I include you as past students, share a common language that is distinctly Marist. Hymns such as the Sub Tuum Praesidium, stories of Marcellin Champagnat, ending prayers with a certain formula, legends of Marist Brothers and the wearing of cerise and blue are all examples of our Marist shared story. I hope that these things continue to resonate in your life and bring back good memories.

The Marist story tends to hold up five key characteristics, namely; a family spirit, being present to others, simplicity rather than pretentiousness, love of work and doing things in the way of Mary with faith and trust in the provision of God. It is our sincere hope that as young men graduate from Saints they take the best of these distinctly Marist characteristics into their lives.

I am very happy that there has been a renewal of energy around the Saints Old Boys' fraternity. This year we have hosted some wonderful reunions. Thanks must go to Czek Kersevani and the Old Boys Reunion Committee for their efforts. I pray that this continues and welcome your input into ways that we can develop this network and perhaps look at some common project.

Please feel free to drop in to any of our College events. You will be most welcome.

Kind regards,

Mr David Harris  
Acting Principal



*Mr David Harris, with Br Emili Turu and Matt Hancock (College Captain 2013) at the Australian Marist Schools Dinner.*



*Mr David Harris, Br Emili Turu and Mrs Lisa Harris*

## ACADEMIC AWARDS ASSEMBLY

On Thursday, July 18th the College celebrated its bi-annual Academic Awards Assembly. This Assembly acknowledged the effort and achievements of students across the year levels during the first half of the year.

The guest speaker for this occasion was Mr Patrick Nevard. Patrick attended Saints from 2004 – 2007. During his time at Saints, Patrick was a member of the rugby team, played



*Mr Patrick Nevard (Student 2004-2007) presents David Gaul with his Academic Award*

a lead role in the College musical, was a recipient of many academic awards, a College prefect and a National finalist in public speaking competitions. Patrick spoke fondly of his time at the College and exhorted the young men of Saints to make the most of the opportunities that are offered them at the College. He also paid particular tribute to the teachers of St Augustine's College that helped to educate and form him. Patrick has recently graduated with a Law degree and works with a local law firm.



*Mr Patrick Nevard (2004-2007) addresses the Assembly*

## Champagnat Day

A highlight on the calendar of every Marist School is the Feast of Marcellin Champagnat, June 6th. Marcellin, founder of the Marist Brothers dreamt of providing schools to young people, initially in the poorer rural areas of 19th Century France. The schools were to teach young people to "be good Christians and good citizens". For Marcellin, the dream became his lifelong vocation and he worked tirelessly to make it a reality.



*Nathan Geno (Year 9) and Blake Huggett (Year 12) 2013 St Marcellin Medallion Winners.*

Central to celebrating the Feast of Marcellin Champagnat is our Champagnat Mass. On Thursday, the College celebrated the Mass in its usual fine fashion with enthusiastic singing and solemnity. The Feast provides an opportunity to acknowledge the great and generous contribution of members of staff who have faithfully served in Marist schools for a period of time and in doing so they continue the dream of Marcellin.

This year the following Marist service milestones were celebrated:

10 years: Mr Ian Coleman, Mr Shane McMenamin, Mr Luke Currie, Sr Cheryl McEwan, Mr Mike Park.

25 years: Mr Neil Gregory and Mrs Lesley Willis

30 years: Mr Andrew Dorahy and Mr Stan Johnson

St Augustine's College is also very fortunate to have the wonderful ongoing commitment and life witness of our Marist Brothers who bring a dimension to the College that only they can provide and remain the most tangible connection with Marcellin's dream.



*Mr Czek Kersevani presenting Mr Neil Gregory and Mrs Lesley Willis with their 25 Year Marist Education Service Award.*

## QUT Vice Chancellor Scholarship

Congratulations to St Augustine's 2011 Graduate, Gregory Hindmarsh who has been awarded the 2013 Vice Chancellor Scholarship at QUT. Gregory is studying a Bachelor in Vision Science. We wish Greg good luck with his tertiary studies.



*Greg Hindmarsh (2011)*

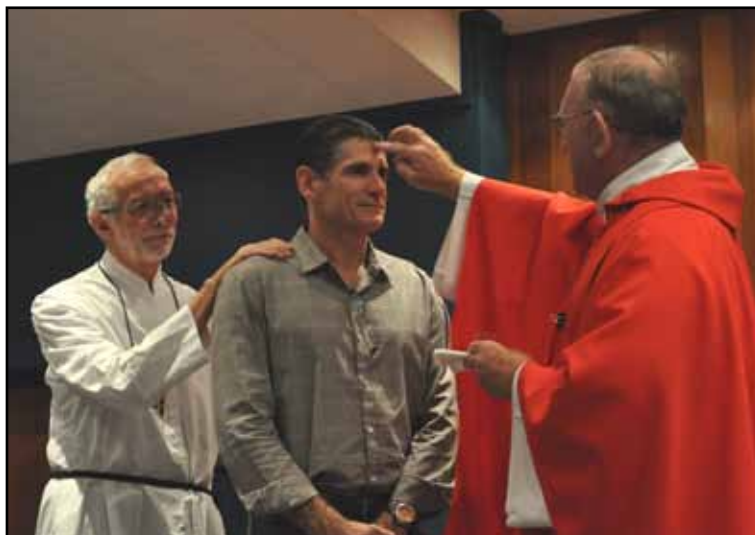


## Sacramental Program

Congratulations to Mr Neil Gregory who made the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist at the Boarders' Mass in July. Neil prepared for these Sacraments under the guidance of our own Chaplain, Fr Laurie.

We congratulate Neil on taking the opportunity to further extend himself into the Catholic faith. As a College, we also look forward to working with those students who have expressed an interest in the Sacramental Program that is on offer this term.

*Congratulations to Neil Gregory on his reception into the Catholic Church*



## Brother Kieran Geaney 1931-2013

Brother Kieran Geaney FMS, after whom the Year Eight boys' boarding residence at St Augustine's is named, died peacefully in Sydney in July.

Brother Kieran was, by any measure, an extraordinary human being. A scholar of uncommon intellect, a leader of daring vision, and a confrere of unbounded warmth and wisdom, he was a much beloved Australian Marist. He began his time in the Brothers as a teacher of Latin, French, and Religious Education before being invited to undertake post-graduate studies in Theology in Rome in the mid-1960s – just after the Second Vatican Council. On his return to Australia, he soon established himself not only as a noted theologian and lecturer but as one of the foremost thinkers around Catholic education, and especially the teaching of catechetics, in the Australian Church. During a ten year tenure as Master of Scholastics for the Marist Brothers, he also became a prime-mover in the establishment of the Catholic College of Education, a forerunner of what later became Australian Catholic University.



Appointed Provincial of the Sydney Province of the Marist Brothers in 1976, he proved himself to be both a visionary and pastoral leader. On the completion of his term in 1983, he was called back to Rome to assist in the preparation of future novice masters. It was shortly after taking up this new role that he suffered a massive stroke, something that left him physically quite incapacitated through the loss of movement and speech. With great resilience and persistence, he worked at his recuperation and was successful to some degree – regaining limited speech and learning to write with his left hand.

The next phase of his life, in and through his disabilities, was arguably the period during which he had his greatest impact on people. His time at St Augustine's typified this. Although limited to saying and writing single words – and sometimes none at all – he was indefatigable in volunteering to lead prayers for boarders in the evening, to take small groups on Year 12 retreats, to pen simple messages and cards to staff members and his confreres, and to help around the community and the College as much as he could. A Christmas card may only have three or four disconnected words on it but they so often gave the recipient just the encouragement or the challenge that was needed, or some personal insight or way forward that a learned discourse would do far less effectively. He even re-taught himself to drive, in a much-modified car, and was the driver for boarders and others at the College – often to the mild terror of fellow motorists on the streets of Cairns. The later eventual surrender of his licence in Sydney was a great blow to him but, like all the challenges of his later life, he accepted.



Kieran's last years were in care at St Anne's Nursing Home, just across the road from his Brothers' Community at St Joseph's. Gradually the prodigious mind that had been imprisoned for so long, and the resilient will that had been so long restricted from free physical expression, began to diminish. He went gently home to God on Monday 15th July.



*Br Greg Moran, Br Kieran Geaney (Centre), Br Chris Hogan*

## Brian Gibbs 1925 - 2013



Brian Sheridan Gibbs (1925-2013) attended St Monica's School, Cairns till grade three. In 1934 he then moved across to St Augustine's School, which was the next step for boys attending St Monica's, to complete their schooling. He recalled how classes were held in rooms under the then St Joseph's church building, which today is The McLaughlin Theatre.

He remembered from his schooling days Br Clemicus, Br Ambrose, Br Matthews, Br Baptist, noted for his interest in boxing, and Br Harold, who was famous for his success as coach of the St Joseph's College, Sydney rugby league team, as being some of the teachers. Secondary classes were held in rooms in the Brothers' House on the corner of Draper and Scott Streets as back then (1934) very few boys went on to senior (Year 12). The Brothers' House was also home to the few boys who boarded there.

He described the school grounds as extending back to Scott Street and being a very low swampy area, but which had two concrete cricket pitches situated in what was a dry area during the wet. Brian also wrote of how Br Walters used an old model Maple Leaf tip-truck and every Saturday afternoon with the help of the boarders, would bring in loads of sand to fill in the wet areas of the paddock.

Brian and his younger brother Bernie (deceased 2012) would play handball on the courts in the Hibernian Hall, where their father was the manager. The Hall was situated on the corner of Lake and Florence Streets. The family rule was that you had to be home by the last ring of The Angelus, which commenced at 6.00pm. At the first peal of The Angelus both boys would hot foot it home and there was no going around via the streets, it was straight through people's yards.

As a teenager Brian played cricket in Norman (now Munro Martin) Park. Brian played other sports very well, particularly hockey. He played hockey for Brothers in the 1940s and 1950s. John Philips, a respected hockey reporter, said that Brian was one of the most outstanding inside forwards to play in Cairns. Brian returned as a coach of Brothers in 1975 and in 1976 coached them to their first premiership in 19 years. Following this achievement some referred to him as 'Moses leading the lost followers from the desert.' Brian was awarded Life Membership of Brothers Hockey Club in recognition of his achievements, an award he treasured.

Brian was a rugby league player of note, again, playing for Brothers. He has Brothers League Club membership number 63 demonstrating how long he has been a member and supporter of this club.

Brian also enjoyed fishing with many family and friends, loved his golf and also played squash for a number of years.

Brian worked as a fitter for Queensland Rail, and, as a result the family moved from Cairns, to Gympie, back to Cairns, out to Normanton, to Mareeba and finally back to Cairns, where they purchased the house in Water Street, which became the Gibbs family home for many years.

Over the years Brian and Eva have always been strong in their faith and have invested many faithful hours of service into their local Sacred Heart Church at Freshwater.

On Friday 9th August, Brian passed away peacefully in his Freshwater home surrounded by his family. On the day he died the under 16 hockey team that his son Mick coaches took to the field wearing black arm bands out of respect to Brian. This meant a great deal to Mick and more importantly to Eva and the family.

The funeral Mass was held at St Monica's Cathedral where, as a boy Brian had attended St Monica's school and watched Fr Phelan and his men wheel their wheelbarrows of cement up the scaffolding to pour the walls of Bishop's House, worshipped in St Monica's and St Joseph's churches and then the present Cathedral and lived in St Monica's parish for over 60+ years (the past 25 years out at Freshwater).

In his later years Brian had put quite a bit of his memories in writing and much of this information has come from these stories.

Vale Brian Sheridan Gibbs. Thanks for the memories.

*Brian Gibbs in 2010, blowing out the candles on the 80th Year celebration cake.*





# REUNIONS & RECOLLECTIONS

## Class of 1973

Below are few photos from the Class of 73 Reunion held at The Union Jack Hotel on 8th June 2013. Guest of honour was our then principal, Br Roger Burke. Br Roger, who like numerous old boys, travelled from Brisbane to help celebrate our 40th school reunion.



*Mark Curtin, Bart Duffy, Bill Armagnacq and Br Roger*



*John Gavranich, Dennis Blake and Peter McIntyre*



*Angelo Coco, Tony Oro and Bill Armagnacq*



*Dave Greenwood, Wayne Dixon, Laurie Ernst and Dave Lawrence*

## 1993 CLASS REUNION

On Saturday June 1st the Senior Class from 1993 celebrated their 20 year reunion at the College. After a BBQ lunch the men inspected the College facilities and were very impressed at the improvements made over the years. They watched the senior video produced by Jesse Gay in the Br Aquin Theatre and the day culminated with the singing of the Sub Tuum in the College Chapel.

Thanks must go to Dan Baird and John Grieves who worked tirelessly to put it all together. It was a fabulous roll up of over 100 Old Boys. Festivities continued into the night at the Green Ant Cantina courtesy of another Old Boy, Troy Birmingham.

It was heartening to see so many Old Boys become so successful in life largely due to the College's contribution. A big thanks to teachers present and past: Czek Kersevani, Andrew Dorahy, Trevor and Lucy Auer, Lionel Williamson, Steve Brigden and Kevin Kearney for showing up and making their day.

*Mr Czek Kersevani*



*David Davies-Griffith, Ken Harris and Dennis Blake*



*Class of 1993*



# REUNIONS & RECOLLECTIONS

## Junior Class of 1953

This year is the 60th Year since the Junior Class 1953 left St Augustine's College. Ten years ago we held a reunion and it was more than ordinarily successful... now 10 years on we will not be holding another reunion.

We all still remember fondly our College Days and the fine Marist Brothers who taught us not only academic subjects, but also much about living a good honest life, and it has stood all of us in very good stead. We are now in our mid 70s, but the memory of those halcyon days, remain ever fresh in our memories.

The two pictures in this article, one of the original class of 1953 and a group at the reunion 10 years ago 2003.

My kindest regards

Bob Bowles - 1948-1953



Rear: Albert Lanza fame, John Martin, Keith Cooper, Kevin, Hubinger, Stanley Marsh, Paul Ballini, Robert Russell  
Third Row: Charles DeBruery, Santo Sorbello, Illo Gallo Robert Bowles, Brian Conlan, Ernie Edwards, Errol Wiles, Ivo Guernieri  
Second Row: Carl Capitano, Neville Gray, Brian Maher, Victor Aquillina, Guido Ghidella, Joseph Hassal, Kevin Henderson,  
Front: Tom Lennon, Frank Pappalardo, David Maulden, Phillip Bell, Jim Dwuer, George Tye, Denis Garvey

## 5th September 2003 - 1953 Junior Class Reunion

*L-R: Br Hugh Neville Gray, John Martin, Bob Russell, Dave Maulden, Bob Bowles, Jim O'Dwyer, Claude Reghenzani, Guido Ghidella, Errol Wiles, Brian Maher, Albert Lanza fame, Brian Conlan, Stan Marsh, Frank Pappalardo.*

*Front Row: Philip Bell, Santo Sorbello.*



## Class of 1972

*Br Roger Burke recently caught up with some old 1972 Seniors during recent Champagnat Day celebrations in Cairns*

*L-R Peter Moro, Czek Kersevani, Paul Martorella, Br Roger and George Populin*

## Upcoming Reunions

### Class of 78-80

**8th October 2013**

**Kani's Restaurant,  
the Esplanade**

**Contact:** Mick Pease

Email: mpease@bigpond.com

Mobile: 0400625757

### Class of 1983

**30 Year Reunion**

**25-27th October 2013**

**Contact:** Angelo Caltabiano Ph: 07 4036 1711

Mob: 0488 363652

Email: angelo@allending.com.au

# RECOLLECTIONS

## 1983 Senior Fomal/2013 Senior Formal

### 1983 Formal

Below is an article from the Tolle Lege of 1983 regarding the Senior Formal.



A fair amount of "social shuffling" had been observed for weeks before the Formal. Many mothers prepared the hall the previous morning and this helped the evening to be a memorable one. The Formal was the usual enjoyable and social occasion and the Seniors "scrubbed up" well and appeared gentlemen in their formal attire.

With their partners are (bottom right, clockwise) Peter Beaven, Laurie Rogers, Dennis Wright and mother, Ettore Cortesi, John Fisher, Martin Lee, group of Paul De Boom, Michael Turner, Stephen Langtree and Andrew Lennon, Michael Bagley and parents.



SENIOR FORMAL

### 2013 Senior Formal

The College Senior Formal was held at the Pullman Cairns International Hotel on Wednesday 7th August. It was a glittering affair with our Year 12s exhibiting a high degree of sartorial elegance, only to be completely surpassed by the sheer glamour and elegance of their partners.

The evening started with the usual extraordinary array of vehicular conveyances making their way up to the imposing hotel entrance in front of an enthusiastic crowd of onlookers. A journey down the red carpet led every couple to the reception line where each Senior introduced his partner to Mr David Harris, the College's Acting Principal. It must have been an interesting moment when it was the turn of Mr Harris' son, Ben, to introduce his partner.



*Mr David Harris, Ben Harris and partner*



After a most appreciative speech of welcome from College Captain, Matt Hancock, each class, in succession, escorted their partners onto the dance floor where they were most accomplished in performing a gypsy tap. A sumptuous meal was provided and then the mainline, if less formal, dancing got seriously underway. Before anyone had realized it, the clock had struck eleven and it was time to depart, a splendid night having been had by all.



It was a wonderful and memorable evening, yet another rite of passage as our Seniors continue to make their transition into adulthood.

*Mr Andrew Dorahy  
Year 12 Coordinator*



## Saints Alumni Indigenous Student - Douglas Watkin

An Indigenous student graduate of St Augustine's College, Mr Douglas Watkin, who graduated from the College in 1991, has a documentary screening on SBS /NiTV.

After graduating from Saints, Douglas was accepted into Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, where he attained a BA. and a Grad Dip Ed. His career started with working for the SBS TV Network in 1995. Douglas formed Double Wire Productions in 2000 and has over 100 documentaries, short films, music clips and corporate productions to his credit. He has produced and directed most of these. Some of his dramas have screened in film festivals around the world.

Douglas Watkin has a website that you can visit: <http://www.doublewire.com.au/>



### INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP DINNER

On Saturday 4th May, the College held the Annual Indigenous Leadership Dinner. It was a great evening. Excellent speakers with Dr Roy Whittaker, an Old Boy of the College and Australia's first Torres Strait Islander Doctor and Mr Mark Heiss, a Year 12 Co-ordinator and Teacher at Marist College, Pagewood, Sydney.

All Year 11 and 12 Catholic High School Indigenous students were invited.

A big thank you to Br Paul Hough, Ms Antoinette Cole, Ms Manjit Khalsa and Ms Robin McLean-Williams, for all their hard work in putting the evening together.

Thank you also to the students who attended and the parents, teachers and indigenous support staff who encouraged them to do so. I'm sure they learnt much from the worthy speakers.



*Dr Roy Whittaker (centre) and Mr Mark Heiss (right) with the senior students and Mr Bryan Carswell.*

### INDIGENOUS OLD BOYS OF SAINTS

Saints Old Boy Mr Steve Foster, graduated in 2005, caught up with Mr Carswell recently. Steve was a full time boarding student from the Torres Strait Islands. Steve's father was the Teacher/Principal of a School in the Torres Strait. Mr Carswell was at Saints with Aunty Mary O'Shane when Steve was doing his senior years. Two of Steve's relatives are now at Saints in Year 9. They are Jarvis French, who is a day student and Nelson Foster who is a full time boarder from Horn Island in the Torres Straits.



*Keiron Laifoo (2008), James Uta (2012) and Haryne Uta (2010) with Mr Bryan Carswell*



*Steve Foster (2005) with his son Zachary and Bryan Carswell.*

### PAST STUDENTS VISIT US AT CAIRNS SHOW

Keiron Laifoo (Graduated 2008), Haryne (2010) and James Uta (2012) visited the Cairns Show to say hello. Keiron is now a practising accountant in a local Cairns firm, having completed his Bachelor Degree in Commerce from the University of Queensland. Haryne is currently studying High School Teaching at James Cook University here in Cairns. All three students were assisted through their secondary schooling with the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (IYLP/DEEWR), which now has become Yalari/DEEWR. Keiron had an IYLP/DEEWR Scholarship while at uni and James is currently on a Yalari/DEEWR Scholarship.



# ANOTHER ATHLETICS CARNIVAL, ANOTHER WALTER DOMINATION

Like the mighty Queensland Maroons, Walter has made it 8 wins on the trot with victory at the recent St Augustine's Inter-house Athletics Carnival. Right from the outset, Walter put their opponents to the sword, leaving Phelan, Heavey and Reginald jostling for the minor positions. With places limited in the St Augustine's team to compete at the TCN Athletics Carnival on Monday August 12<sup>th</sup>, the competition in all events was fierce with most events and races coming down to a matter of millimetres or milliseconds. The spirit and endeavour displayed by all students in all events was a testament to their commitment to their House and College.

After a long, hot, arduous day, 17 Age Champions were crowned with first, second and third medallions, four records were broken and Walter continued their winning streak followed by Phelan, Heavey and Reginald. Special mention must go to the staff of St Augustine's for making the day a success. Your efforts throughout the day were second to none and without your assistance, these days would not be possible.

*Yours in Sport,  
Mr Matt Walsh*

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| <b>WALTER</b>   | <b>1846</b> |
| <b>PHELAN</b>   | <b>1682</b> |
| <b>HEAVEY</b>   | <b>1471</b> |
| <b>REGINALD</b> | <b>1375</b> |



*Walter Captain Jack Ward claims victory.*



*15 Years: Tim Ford (3rd), Theo Watson (1st), Brenton Goebel (2nd) with Mr David Harris.*



*13 Years: Lachlan Goebel (3rd), Matthew Cheesman (1st), Jaxon Majer (2nd), Marco De Roma (2nd) with Mr David Harris.*



*16 Years: Brodie County (3rd), Aidan Taylor (1st), Lachlan McKinstry (2nd) with Mr David Harris.*



*14 Years: Jack Redmond (3rd), Mitaru McGaughey (1st), Harrison Cozens (2nd) with Mr David Harris.*



*Open Champions: Dallas Skardon (3rd), Liam Spannenburg (1st), Giuseppe Cavaliere (2nd), Connor Quinn (2nd) with Mr David Harris.*



# CONFRATERNITY SHIELD JUNE 2013

In its thirty-fourth year the Confraternity Carnival attracts 44 Catholic and Independent schools from around Queensland. This year the Carnival was hosted by Ignatius Park College, Townsville.

St Augustine's has been a part of the Carnival since 1984 and Lionel Williamson as the coach since 1985. Along with St Augustine's, five other Marist schools fielded teams this year – Marist College Emerald, Chanel College Gladstone, St Peter Claver College Ipswich, Mt Maria College Brisbane and Trinity College Beenleigh.

The competition in Division A was tough with teams with a strong Rugby League tradition in their schools. After defeating Aquinas College Southport, a loss to St Edmund College Ipswich and a draw with Rockhampton, we made the cut off for the top eight to play for the Confraternity Shield.

In the play offs we lost both our games: to St Peter Claver College and St Edmund's College. It was a tough encounter with St Edmunds who made the most of their opportunities to beat us 30 to 20.

The demands of the Carnival showed in our last game against Abergowrie College which we lost to be placed eighth in 2013 – the highest we have achieved in recent years!



*Connor Quinn*



Congratulations to Matt Hancock who received the Team's Player of the Carnival and Blake Huggett who was selected for the QISSRL Queensland Team.

Congratulations to the team for their representation of St Augustine's in Townsville and we are now looking forward to the 2014 Confraternity Carnival to be hosted by Aquinas College, Southport.

*Congratulations to Blake Huggett (left) who was selected in the Qld Independent Secondary Schools Rugby League team as a starting front row forward*



*Jordan Way*



*2013 Saints Confraternity team*

If you have any stories to be submitted for our next edition please email us at [oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au](mailto:oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au)

Tolle Lege, Take Up and Read