



# St Augustine's COLLEGE **OLD BOYS**

# Newsletter

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

**FEBRUARY 2012**

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

Dear Old Boys,

Welcome to the first edition for our Newsletter for 2012. I hope you enjoy the pages to follow and be inspired by the many good things happening here at Saints.

Towards the end of 2011, we held our Annual Christmas Appeal for the St Vincent de Paul Society. Our goal was to collect grocery items so that we could support the needy families during the special season of Christmas. I challenged the boys to give generously as there are many in the community who are unable to share in the Christmas experience we often take for granted.

The boys and staff responded generously and enthusiastically so much so that we filled more than 50 laundry baskets full of food. To give you some idea of the overwhelming contribution, we saw an impressive collection of 30 baskets in 2010 grow to over 50 in 2011. I am sure you will agree this is a most impressive result.

Generosity is something we have inherited from our founder St Marcellin Champagnat. The needy would often call in to the Hermitage where he resided, asking for support from the Brothers. On one occasion a man called looking for a mattress. The Brother who responded to the visitor spoke to Champagnat asking for guidance as there were no mattresses left in the house. Champagnat responded by giving away his own mattress. I am often struck by the account because it marks the generosity of the man and the reality that is still alive and well in our school today.

In the book "The Heart of Henri Nouwen" we see Henri reflect on the importance of giving. I find great wisdom in his writing and believe the often simple message he gives us, points us in the direction of being authentic and life giving people. I include this short reflection for your interest.

*When we think about our being given to each other, what comes immediately to mind are our unique talents: those abilities to do special things especially well. You and I have spoken about this quite often. "What is our unique talent" we asked. However, when focusing on talents, we tend to forget that our real gift is not so much what we can do, but who we are. The real question is not "What we can offer each other?" but "Who can be for each other?" No doubt, it is wonderful when we can repair something for a neighbour, give helpful advice to a friend, offer wise counsel to a colleague, bring healing to a patient, or announce good news to a parishioner, but there is a greater gift than all of this. It is the gift of our own life that shines through all we do. As I grow older, I discover more and more that the greatest gift I have to offer is my own joy of living, my own inner peace, my own silence and solitude, my own sense of well-being. When I ask myself, "Who helps me most?" I must answer, "The one who is willing to share his or her life with me."*

You would be please to know that our Academic achievement at St Augustine's is going from strength to strength. In our recent Queensland Core Skills (QCS) exams the College was placed well above the State average in the top two academic bands. To be some 25% above State average is an amazing achievement. I include below a table showing the trend over recent years for your information:

	A		B		Total of A & B %		
	State	Saints	State	Saints	State	Saints	%
2011	15.8	<b>27.7</b>	27.6	<b>40.4</b>	43.4	<b>68.1</b>	+24.7
2010	15.6	<b>24.7</b>	27.9	<b>32.1</b>	43.5	<b>56.8</b>	+13.3
2009	15.6	<b>19.8</b>	27.8	<b>39.6</b>	43.4	<b>59.4</b>	+16.0
2008	15.0	<b>31.0</b>	28.0	<b>29.0</b>	43.0	<b>60.0</b>	+17.0
2007	16.9	<b>26.2</b>	30.2	<b>34.4</b>	47.2	<b>60.6</b>	+13.4

In Term 4 we also competed in the local interschool sports competition (Junior Secondary Sports, JSS) where all four of our teams made the Grand Final. Three of our teams won their grand finals which ensured we remained the Top school once again and the Premiers in the following competitions: Soccer, Basketball and Touch.

We were defeated in the Grand Final for AFL but look forward to going one step further in 2012.

Many improvements have occurred over the Christmas break and the College enrolment for 2012 will see us at capacity, a pleasing situation to be in. I will give details of these things in our Term 2 newsletter.

My best wishes for you all for the year ahead. Keep in touch with our news by visiting the College website and following the links for our fortnightly newsletter.

With thanks for all your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Br Bill Sullivan FMS

# From the Graduation Class of 2011

## 2011 College Captain, Jorge McCulloch's Graduation Speech.

Good Evening Brother Bill, Guest, parents and graduating class of 2011.

Tonight's occasion is to formally celebrate the past five year at St. Augustine's College. Speaking on behalf of the boys, our time with Saints has been nothing short of amazing. Most of us would never think that this day would come, a day when there is no more school, a day when we have to say goodbye. Taking every memory possible from Saints, we must enter into the 'real world', a world that can only benefit with the addition of this group of Saints men. Our paths may become separated, however, our hard work, passion and commitment will serve us well for our future endeavours.

Over the last few years, we have had our own group of friends who we have mixed with; over this last year we have come together as one cohesive year group, we have even accepted a mountain lion from South Africa. We now finish our time here at Saints as one.

Tonight standing in front of my fellow Saints men, I feel gratitude to be a part of such a group of respectable individuals. I am extremely proud of every Saints man sitting in front of me tonight; graduation from a College such as Saint Augustine's is something we will value and take with us forever.



*2011 College Captain  
Jorge McCulloch*

In the last 12 months, we set out to make a contribution to the College. The Class of 2011, through our leadership and spirit has left this College a better place. We built on our College tradition, we highlighted the great tradition of our school by leading the way with our singing, our sport and other initiatives such as Saints Mates, Friday prayer and our new House Banners.

A speech would not be complete without recognising our gratitude for some staff who have made Year 12 a special time. Thanks to Mr. Harris for our retreat experience and the openness you displayed with all of us during that memorable time.

Lionel Williamson, your experience, generosity and passionate words will never be forgotten. Your presence alone inspires us to achieve great things. We will never forget your dedication every morning at the gym, your reflections, your lessons on respect and love. Thank you for your guidance and support.

A very deep and meaningful thank you to Brother Bill, who after on a short time here at Saints has made a big impact on us. We will never forget you, although, we will try to forget your bad jokes. The words that will stay with us forever are, 'the friendliness of the place' followed by 'the great spirit'. And Brother, your words are so true; this College is comforting and welcoming, with a strong brotherhood which has set us on the right path.

To all our teaching and support staff, plus in particular our Year 12 Home room teachers, I pass on my thanks. You have been a special part of our life and we are so grateful for all your support. Special words of thanks to Br Matthew who leaves us for Alice Springs this year. We have enjoyed our association with you and wish you well for your new role next year.

Back to our final year: it was tough and challenging at times, we faced many obstacles, and hurdled each of them, even a cyclone. Nothing could stop the Seniors of 2011. We may have said how much we hated school on occasions or how we wished we didn't have to do assignments and so on, but if we think about our Saint Augustine's home, the only word that can really describe how much Saints means to us, is love. We wouldn't be who we are today without this College. We have faced so many ups and down through our time, and countless times we have run into trouble; the Saints family has been there for us through all these trails.

Every time we have fallen, there has always been a hand of friendship to help us up, a hand from a teacher, or a mate in arms. Love is a very strong word that should not be used casually. It is the perfect word to describe our Saints Augustine's family. Our chapter in the history of St. Augustine's has now been written. We now have the privilege of being Old Boys of Saints. Everyone will be missed, teachers and students, but will never be forgotten.

Ladies and gentlemen if we could now please stand and raise our glasses to the College.

### REUNIONS

**Any year group planning a reunion this year? Do you want to get your reunion details across to your fellow Old Boys?**

**Contact the College through the [oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au](mailto:oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au) email address to get your details included in the next newsletter and placed on the Old Boys Website at [www.sac.qld.edu.au](http://www.sac.qld.edu.au)**

### Attention Old Boys from 1975 – 1977.

#### Interested in a Reunion in Brisbane in 2012?

Attention Old Boys who completed their Senior or Junior year from 1975 to 1977. If you are interested in a reunion in Brisbane possibly around the middle of this year, please email Geoffrey Villalba ([villalba@optusnet.com.au](mailto:villalba@optusnet.com.au)) or Richard Friend ([richard.friend@optusnet.com.au](mailto:richard.friend@optusnet.com.au)) by Friday 23 March to register your interest, your year and the most suitable timing for you. Geoffrey and Richard will determine if there is enough interest to hold a reunion or possibly a more informal event.

## Staff Changes

In 2012 Mr Bernard Burgess joins the College as a new Head of Boarding. Bernard is well known in the Marist system and will be a great leader for our boarding community.

Mr Joe Cashman will be the Head of Boarding in Year 9 & 10

Mr Tony Sullivan will be the new Head of Boarding in Year 8

Mr Brett Toombs will be moving from Year 8 Co-Ordinator to Director of Mission.

Mr David Harris will be moving from Director of Mission to Deputy Principal Pastoral.

Mr Czek Kersevani returns after a year of leave and will be Head of Promotion and Development with a special focus on connecting with the "Old Boys".

Mr Michael Elphick will be my Executive Assistance.

Mr Matt Walsh joins us to take over the Head of Sport with Mr John Brimstone moving to Head of PE.

Mr Michael Lindsay returns to Saints to be Head of Mathematics.

Mr Max Churchward returns to College after a year of the Sunshine coast.

Mrs Shari Essex joins us to teach Hospitality.

Br Joa Fabbro joins the College to teach Italian and English.



*Bernard Burgess*



*Joe Cashman*



*Tony Sullivan*



*Left to Right: Matt Walsh, Michael Lindsay, Czek Kersevani, Max Churchward, Michael Elphick and Shari Essex*

## Return of Brother Joachim

Boys from 45 years ago will remember Brother Joachim Fabbro! Brother Joachim has rejoined the Brothers' community and the College staff after a break of almost half a century.

Brother comes from Marcellin College Randwick (where Brother Bill was Principal before coming to St. Augustine's). It's believed that Brother Bill may have poached him from Marcellin!

Whatever the explanation, St. Augustine's College is the beneficiary. Brother Joa (as he is called these days) has a major role in the College in Student Welfare and he becomes the College Italian teacher.

Br. Joa was actually born in Italy but came to Australia with his parents at an early age. When previously at St. Augustine's he taught Italian. These days most of Br. Joa's lessons have been created and are presented electronically. Un miracolo della tecnologia moderna.

When previously at St. Augustine's Br. Joa was a very young teacher; SAC being his very first appointment. He returns older and wiser and much more experienced.

Welcome Brother Joa!



## Retirement of Mr. Don Thomas



Numerous Old Boys will recall Mr. Don Thomas as one of their teachers at Saints.

Mr. Thomas retired from teaching at the end of 2011. In recent times, besides growing older, Don had endured some ill-health, and believed the time had come to take it easier and enjoy other pursuits in retirement.

Don taught at Saints for a total of 12 years. Originally recruited by Stan Johnson in the Tech. Dept. Don recalled at his Farewell that he had been poached by Science for a number of years and then Czek Kersevani grabbed him for Vocational Education and he had spent some time in Marine Studies and also in Computers.

Don noted that his time at SAC was twice as long as any other position. He remarked, "Being here has been much more than work, it has been fun."

In paying a tribute to Don, Stan Johnson told a few amusing stories of Don's dedication and his unique way of solving problems ... some of which have gone down in legend in the INTAD Dept.

On reading this a number of Old Boys will be recalling their particular "Mr. Thomas" stories ... with affection.

Happy retirement, Don!



## OP Results from the Class of 2011

You no doubt have already read in the paper or heard about our excellent results for Year 12. Seven OP 1s for the Class of 2011 is an outstanding result. This is 6.4% of our Year 12 cohort who received an OP 1. Only 708 students in the state out of 47,203 Year 12 students receive an OP 1 (1.49%), so to have 6.4% of our Year 12 boys achieve this result is pleasing indeed, and marks the quality of academic work occurring at the College.

St Augustine's had 27.7% of Year 12 achieve an OP 1-5, our highest ever result, while 60.6% of the year attained an OP in the range of 1-10, the highest the College has achieved.

Special commendation must go to our OP 1 recipients: Mac Talbutt, Daniel d'Hotman, Michael Wedrat, Caleb Petre, Nathan Gibbs, Tom Munro and Greg Hindmarsh.



*2011 OP 1- 5 Recipients with Br Bill at our recent Academic Awards ceremony*

## Old Boys Prizes 2011

### Old Boys' Prize for All-round Achievement in Year 10:

#### LIAM DUNCAN

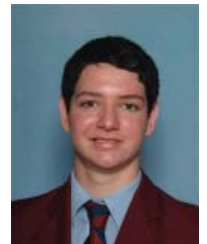


Hailing from a cattle station at Mt. Garnet, Liam excelled during the year in Rugby League and Rugby Union and represented the school, a club team and Peninsula in those sports. In studies his interests are in Maths, English and in Biology. He has in mind a university course and career in the field of fitness.

### Bernie Mullins Trophy for Senior Sportsman of the Year:

#### JOSHUA SPENCE

While Joshua was a member of the College Cross-Country team and Athletic team it is in baseball that Joshua has excelled. Besides being a member of the Under 18 Peninsula, Under 23 North Queensland and Under 18 Queensland Schoolboys Basketball teams, Joshua was awarded the "Golden Arm" Trophy for Best Pitcher at the National Titles. He was selected in the "All Stars Team" at the National Titles and recently travelled to the United States with the Under 18 Australian Basketball Team. Joshua was also a member of the Under 18 Queensland Rams Baseball Team and part of the Major League Baseball Australian Academy program.



### Lou Piccone Prize for General Proficiency: MACAULEY TALBUTT



Mac, as Macauley is known, excelled in quite a number of fields. He won the Subject prizes for Ancient History, Drama, English, Mathematics B and Religious Education. His achievement in Maths earned him the Graeme Cruden prize for Senior Mathematics. But Mac's exceptional ability at oratory and Public Speaking saw him take out the Laurie Blampied Memorial Trophy for Senior Orator of the Year as well as the trophy for Debater of the Year. During the course of the year Mac was a 2011 National finalist (Qld representative) in the Rostrum Voice of Youth public speaking competition held in Perth and he reached the Cairns Finals in the Lions Youth of the Year. Mac also took one of the major roles in the 2011 musical, Guys & Dolls.

Mac has applied for Cambridge University where he hopes to read English. But before that is a plan to prepare in South America for an adventure trip to Antarctica and the trip itself.

### Matthew-John Mauro Award for Outstanding Effort by a Senior

#### Student: BRANDON WOOD

Brandon was considered to have been a hard and reliable worker who produced good results through his conscientious efforts. His loyalty was noted in the considerations that led to his award.

Brandon hopes to enrol at James Cook University in Law/ Business, but before that plans to spend the Christmas holidays on the Gold Coast. He is also looking towards taking up a cadetship in a law firm.



### The Good Conduct Medal, Presented by the Seniors of 1953: GREGORY HINDMARSH



Gregory was high in the estimation of both staff and fellow-students. When his peers were canvassed about those who should win various awards, Gregory scored highly in a variety of areas. He is seen as a thoroughly decent fellow who is respected by all.

Gregory has been accepted to study Optometry at the Queensland University of Technology, but has deferred for 12 months while he works as an orthoptic assistant at the Cairns Eye & Laser Clinic.

## S.A.C. "OLD BOY" Recongnised David Martin O.A.M.

DAVID MARTIN was born in Cairns in 1948 and following his early school years at St Joseph's Primary School attended S.A.C. from 1958 – 1963. Leaving S.A.C. at the completion of YR 10 at fifteen years of age David was selected to attend the Army Apprentice's School in Balcombe, Victoria as an apprentice Electrical Fitter. Following three years at Balcombe he completed his fourth year training in Sydney and in April 1968, at nineteen years of age, he was posted to 102 Field Workshops in South Vietnam where he served a twelve month posting and returned to Australia in April 1969.

David received rapid promotion in the Army and in 1978, having attained the rank of Warrant Officer, he was selected for Officer Training and was commissioned to Lieutenant in December 1978. He was then posted to Melbourne and in May 1981 was promoted to Captain and posted as the Officer Commanding of an Army Workshop in Townsville. In 1983 he was posed to the RAEME Training Centre Technical School as the 2IC of the Electrical/Electronic Wing. During this posting David also attended University in Albury where he completed tertiary studies in Welfare Administration.

David resigned from the Army in June 1985 after 21 years service and was immediately employed as the Administrator of the Murray Valley Centre Incorporated (MVC). This Centre is a day training Centre for people with disabilities and provides clients with the opportunity to develop skills allowing them to live independently in the community. As well MVC provides employment in various areas of supported employment. David was appointed Chief Executive Officer of MVC in 1998, a position which he currently holds after twenty six years service.

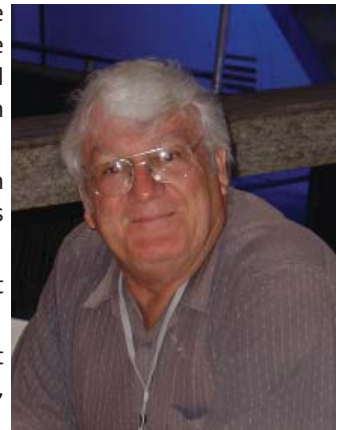
Following his return from Vietnam in 1969 David joined the RSL and he has served continuously for forty two years with this organisation (receiving Life Membership of the RSL in 2004). He has been a member of the Rutherglen RSL Sub Branch since 1985 and he has held the position of President on three occasions, Treasurer for a period of seven years and currently he is the Sub Branch Secretary. During his time in Rutherglen David has been pro-active in developing the local Memorial Gardens by obtaining Government grants for numerous projects including the installation of artillery pieces, the construction of a WW Honour Wall and Vietnam Memorial and recently he was successful in obtaining an obsolete 42 Tonne Leopard Tank for installation in the Memorial Park.

David also held the position of an Honorary Bail Justice in Victoria for twenty years, served on the Board of the local nursing home and was a Councillor on the Rutherglen Council prior to its amalgamation into Indigo Shire.

David is the son of Joan Martin (deceased 2008) a well known affiliated member of the Marist Order and his two brothers John Martin and Paul Martin also attended S.A.C.

David Martin was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the 2012 Australia Day Honours List for his services to the community particularly in relation to his work with people with disabilities, the aged, veterans and their families.

David Martin is proud to be an ex-student of S.A.C. and to have received encouragement during his early years to recognise the importance of contributing to his local community and assisting those who were less fortunate.



*David Martin at a recent  
reunion of the 1958 -1965  
Class*

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## Financial Hardship Scholarship

Over the last six months I have noted that more and more families are struggling financially. As you would appreciate the fees for a Boarding school are not cheap. Currently fees are approximately \$15,200 per annum. We then add on \$900 - \$1200 per term for our day school tuition fees. As you can see this is a significant burden for many.

While I believe we give great value for money here at Saints we are trying our best to minimise increases to fees. I am also conscious that I do not want to be in a position where many see our fees as unreachable, therefore pricing ourselves out of market for students who would benefit from being here.

I have recently introduced a **Financial Hardship Scholarship** fund which will allow the College to support those families facing genuine financial hardship. It would be disappointing to see young men unable to access our College because of financial hardship. Any arrangements to support such families are all done on a confidential basis.

The scholarship fund may be used to assist with fees, uniforms or text books. Each person's circumstances are different, so this fund gives me the capacity to support worthy and needy families.

If you are in a position to support this fund I would greatly appreciate any contribution you could make. Any amount would support those needy families and give us the capacity to provide a Marist education for boys who would otherwise miss out.

We have the capacity to offer tax deductibility.

Many thanks for considering this possibility. My aim is to support those in genuine need. Anything you can do to support this will be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in supporting this worth cause, please contact me directly via email at [brbill@sac.qld.edu.au](mailto:brbill@sac.qld.edu.au). Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request.

Br Bill Sullivan FMS



# The Way We Were



A look back at St. Augustine's in years gone by

## Be there ... in suitable attire!

his mental condition.

**College Photo.**  
This afternoon a photo will be taken of all boys attending the Marist Brothers' College. All pupils are expected to be there on time, in suitable attire. This photo is to be taken by experts; it will be somewhat near 12in. x 8in. in size, and will be left in the college for all time. The Brother in charge (Brother Reginald) mentioned yesterday that the boys who will appear in this photo will be able to come along in 50 years' time—and point out themselves when they attended the college in its first year's existence.

The extract on the left, is from the *Cairns Post* of September 3rd, 1930. It is interesting to read as it tells about the taking of the photo. It suggests that the boys in it can look at it in 1980 (50 years later) and point themselves out.

The same could be said of the 2005 photo. Those in it can come back in 2055 and point themselves out!

The large picture of all the boys and Brothers displayed at the College entrance and known to all boys and many parents was taken on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1931. Brother Reginald, of Reginald House, is in the centre of the photo.

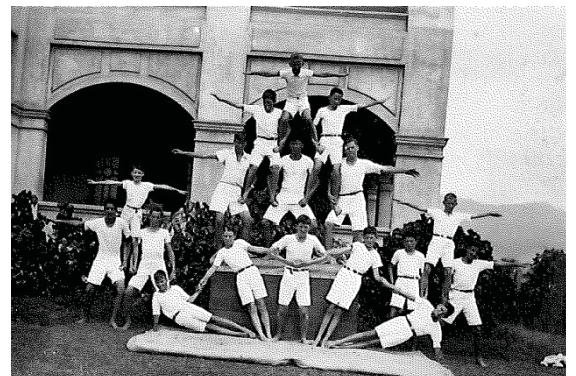


## PYRAMIDS

From the 1930s to the 1960s "Pyramids" were a common feature of any boys' school athletic activity. Where were these photos taken? If you stand at the Brothers' back door and look towards *Tolle's* you are roughly where the boys in the photos are.

At concerts such as St. Patrick's Day Concert or at the Speech Night at the end of the year it was common to have troupes of boys perform these pyramids. At the sound of a whistle the first row would quickly take up positions. Then at the next whistle the next row would run forward and climb up etc.

Who is going to ask Mr. Walsh if we can have "Pyramids" again as part of sports?



## OFF TO LAKE BARRINE, 1942 (70 Years Ago)

Once schools were banned from the east coast of Queensland in January, 1942, because of fear of Japanese attacks, the Brothers quickly leased the Guesthouse at Lake Barrine from the Curry family. In a great rush all school and boarding materials had to be taken by truck up the Gillies Highway to get everything set up.

The boys in WALTER house can be proud that it was Brother WALTER who was the Principal at the time and he was in charge, and loads of energy and patience required. Lots to do to be ready for February 10th.

Interestingly, to make it more awkward, the Gilles Highway in those days was only ONE WAY. Up for an hour ... then gates were closed ... then DOWN for an hour!

The Guesthouse is still there near Yungaburra and boys might talk their parents into driving up there for a picnic to commemorate St. Augustine's College being there during the whole of 1942.

(The advertisement reproduced here was in the *Cairns Post* on January 30th, 1942, p.2)

**St. Augustine's College, Cairns**  
TRANSFERRED TO  
**Lake Barrine Guest House**  
**Lake Barrine**  
EARLY APPLICATIONS ADVISABLE  
**COLLEGE REOPENS FEBRUARY 10, 1942**

For full particulars apply—  
The Principal, St. Augustine's College, Cairns, until February 8,  
Phone 2072, P.O. Box 860.



## Brothers in Australia to be ONE Province

Before 1948 all the Brothers in Australia, PNG and the Solomon Islands were all in the ONE Province with one Provincial. A Brother in those days could have been transferred from Perth to Cairns. Brother Reginald, after being boss at SAC in 1930-31 was shifted to Glenelg in Victoria in 1932.

Because of the large number of Brothers in 1948 it was decided to "split" the Province into two: the "Sydney" and the "Melbourne" Provinces.

Partly because of the reduced number of Brothers and the efficiencies gained by not duplicating management, and partly because of pressure from the Brothers' headquarters in Rome, the two Provinces are uniting again. The "new" Province will be called "The Province of Australia".

Recently (January 11th to 15th) a great number of the Brothers from both Provinces met at St. Joseph's College in Hunters Hill to meet one another and to learn about changes that might result. During the year there will be the election of a Provincial Chapter and of the first Provincial of the new Province.

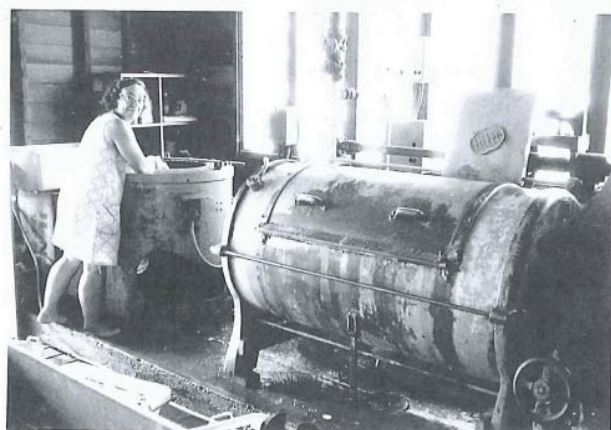
The date for the inauguration of the new Province is set for December 8th, 2012.



*The photo shows the Brothers seated in discussion groups at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill.*

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## Mrs. Charlotte Perkins, "Mrs P.", The Laundry Lady



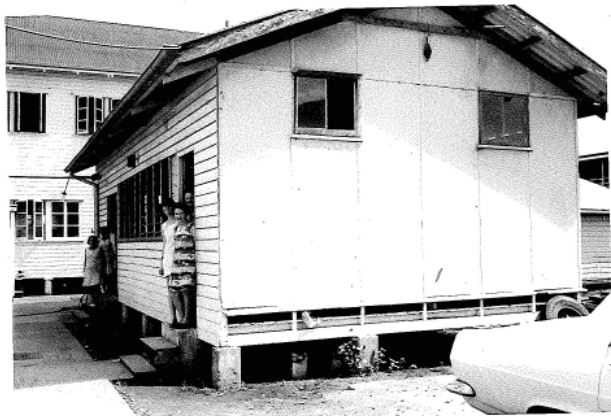
Old Boys leaving home and batching for the first time will know the relentlessness of laundry. Clothes have to be at least washed if not ironed!

Give a thought for the day in day out routine of doing the boys' laundry at St. Augustine's College, starting in 1964 and going through to the 1980s. As part preparation Charlotte gained her Boiler Operator's Certificate!

Now long retired Mrs. Perkins, known affectionately as "Mrs. P.", recently shared her memories and photo album with Br. Barry, the College Archivist. Note the "laundry shed" Mrs Perkins and the ladies worked in. Note, too, the washing machine, which, with momentary neglect, would belch hot soapy water all over the floor.

Laundry did not fill all of Mrs. Perkins' life. She was an active (and prize-winning) member of the Cairns Ambulance Association and a very keen and successful angler, winning many prizes for her catches of fish.

Thanks Mrs. P. For all those many years of dedication. These days we have the laundry "sent out" to be done. How times change!





# REUNIONS & RECOLLECTIONS

## 1961 Reunion Lunch

By Ron Brennan

November 27 saw the Class of '61 reunite in Brisbane for a sit-down lunch to celebrate 50 years. Bernie O'Shea, Hugh Gilvarry, and Frank Poglio came from the "Deep North", while Vince Fitzgerald, who was the Dux of that year, flew up from Melbourne. Some had not seen each other since we left the gates of SAC in late November, 1961. Prize for making the best effort went to Frank Poglio, who had a mishap with a step ladder the previous week, and though wheelchair bound, managed to attend with the assistance of his wife, Carol. The members' ladies were welcome too and, as expected, they added some decorum to the occasion.



### Seniors, 1961

*Top row: Rod Auer, Michael Wallis, Vince Burns, John Kenny, Bill Venables, Mick Boylan, Frank McFadden, Bernie O'Shea.*

*2nd row: Brian Toohey, Howard Smyth, Don Prato, Allan Briggs, Ron Brennan, Brian Wilmot, Jim McDonald,*

*Front row: Richard Peauril, Stan Lee, Frank Poglio, Steve Collins, John Morgan, Bill Beard, Steve Papas.*

*(Absent: Vince Fitzgerald who, incidentally, came 2nd in the State for Senior that year.)*

### Reunion - Class of 1961

*Top row: L to R, Jim McDonald, Hugh Gilvarry, Vince Fitzgerald, Bill Venables.*

*Middle row: L to R, Barry Wilmot, Howard Smyth, Ron Brennan, Bernie O'Shea.*

*Front row: L to R, Rodney Auer, Brian Wilmot, Frank Poglio.*



It was a great day with stories, adventures, and mis-adventures of our time at the College told and re-told. Bernie O'Shea, who was a front row forward in the "Firsts", reminded all of the time, when playing Cairns High for the "Ozzie Phillips Cup", with a dazzling change of pace, he set up the winger to score the winning try. No one else can recall this event. There was much vigorous discussion and debate on current events, with raucous laughter prevalent.

It was a wonderful occasion, and as one of the lovely ladies remarked at the completion of the proceedings "You were all 17 and 18 year olds once again today".

## Graham Rooney, aged 90+, looks back to 1935 and 1936

Recently Graham Rooney responded to an invitation in the Old Boys' Newsletter to share some photos from his early days in the College. He is seen in the Rugby League football photo (below) at the extreme right of the front row; and as a handsome lad of 16, striding out with a friend, in 1936.

Thank you Graham.

It's easy these days to scan photos and return them, of course. And that's what we did in Graham's case.

Brother Barry





# REUNIONS & RECOLLECTIONS

## SOME BRISBANE OLD BOYS (late 1940s to early 1950s)

In Brisbane a bunch of good mates from St. Augustine's from the late 1940s to the early 1950s occasionally get together for lunch. Just before Christmas they were joined by Brother Tom Hickey (also an Old Boy) and Brother Hugh Thomas from back in those days and Brother Barry. The photo shows them in the Easts' Club.

Vic Vadala took time with Brother Barry (College Archivist) to recall some personalities and events from those days for the records. One memory that is repeated by many boarders from that era is how they were always hungry. More recent Old Boys might wisely reflect on how unpleasant some aspects of the "good old days" were compared to their own time. But that was the time ... and more than 60 years later they are able to happily reflect on their school days.

Others remarked that it was only the persistence of some of the Brothers (like Brother Gildas) and the Brother's belief in their abilities and potential that allowed them to succeed academically and subsequently go on to Law or other professions, and lives of fulfillment.

Henry Friend is one of the key organisers of these get-togethers. Besides being a dynamic student when at school, Henry went on to be a great and long-time supporter of the College, particularly assisting Brother Roger in the extraordinarily important building program and associated fund-raising.

And there were recollections of Brother Hugh Thomas' teaching and his accompanying the cadets to Sellheim and the various adventures enjoyed there.

A most pleasant get-together.

*Br Barry Lamb*



*Back - Lawrie Quinlivan, Tom Hickey, Michael Dunlea, Henry Friend and Robert Connolly. Front - Br Barry Lamb, Vic Vadala, Jay Lennon, Henry Ponchiardi, Joe Mangano and Br Hugh Reilly*

## A Brother Gildas Expression

Rob Connolly of Tingalpa has written with a memory of one of Br. Gildas' expressions. Rob began at St. Augustine's in 1947 and remembers Brother Gildas well. He wrote:

"As one of those taught by Br Gildas (later Br Robert I think ) I have many memories of his excellent teaching ability.

"Today (29/01/2012) he once again comes to mind because an English website has chosen St Gildas as their Saint of the day.

"One of my memories of Br Gildas was his use of the old Irish word of "foosterer" to describe anyone who was slacking or wasting time.

"Since leaving school, I hadn't heard the word until last year when a man from Warwick phoned Prof. Roly Sussex's radio program on ABC local radio to ask the meaning and origin of the word."



## Assistant in the Old Boys' Office

Andrew Stingel (at SAC 1980 to 1984) has generously volunteered to give an hour or so each week to keeping Old Boy records (including email addresses) up to date. A message sent to [oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au](mailto:oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au) will be picked up by Andrew.

An ambition is to gather the emails of EVERY Old Boy and send the Old Boys' Newsletter to ALL OLD BOYS AND FORMER TEACHERS. Any help with achieving this will be appreciated.

## No Thanks!

If anyone receiving this Newsletter does not wish to receive it ... please email [oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au](mailto:oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au) to say so. Thanks.

## Teachers and Brothers

Some former teachers and Brothers from far-off St. Augustine's days may be surprised to see the Old Boys' Newsletter arrive in their email in-tray. We hope you would like to keep abreast of the College and its Old Boys.

Brother Barry used the list of Brothers' emails from the address book, but we are in the process of scrounging everywhere for emails of other past teachers.

If Old Boys have some former teachers' emails and believe they would enjoy receiving the Newsletter they might email them to [oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au](mailto:oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au) to be added to the mailing list.

**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)**

# 2012 SAINTS INTERHOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

## WALTER MAKE IT TWO IN A ROW

Walter House has made history by going back to back for the first time in this year's Swimming Carnival. On a day bathed in sunshine, Walter lead from the outset and was never headed as it romped home to an 180 point win over its closest rival. In a three way battle for 2nd place, Phelan finished strongly and managed to edge out Reginald who was closely followed by Heavey in 4th place.

### Overall Results

St Augustine's is fortunate to have an exceptional group of swimmers and this made for a fiercely contested battle in the 'Age Champions'

WALTER	1947
PHELAN	1767
REGINALD	1578
HEAVEY	1500

race. The boys lived up to their reputations with the top three in all age groups only being separated by a handful of points. Special mention must go to the following students who broke longstanding College records:-

Adam VanderZant (Open 50m Breaststroke New Record 30.29 sec. Old Record 30.87sec B Eales (1998))

Daniel Esposito (16 yrs 50m Butterfly New Record 27.65 sec. Old Record 30.28sec D Billiau (2002))

Noah Kresevic (13 yrs 100m Freestyle New Record 1.04.01. Old Record 1.04.56 L Billiau (1999)) .

### Age Champions

1999	1st Noah Kresevic	2nd Lachlan Paterson & Jack McMenamin	3rd Dylan Anderson
1998	1st Hudson Anu	2nd Lachlan Jackson	3rd Nicholas Sibree
1997	1st Max Fifield	2nd Zygi Holmes	3rd Lachlan McKinstry
1996	1st Daniel Esposito	2nd Jonah Glasson	3rd Jordan Bromley
Open	1st Adam VanderZant	2nd Mason Baty	3rd Cailan Byrnes & Andrew Stott

In conclusion, special thanks must go the staff of St Augustine's who worked tirelessly through the day to ensure the carnival was a success, the St Augustine's kitchen staff who provided morning tea and lunch for all students & staff, the ladies in the St Augustine's front office who assisted with the paperwork for the carnivals organisation and the College prefects who helped organise the day and lead by example throughout the carnival.



*Br Bill presents Walter House Captain, William Holmes, with the winning house trophy*

## Are Your Contact Details Up To-Date?

*"The only constant thing in life is change"*

Personal contact details are always changing.

We would like to encourage people to update their details for the Old Boys' database.

Please email the following details to: [oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au](mailto:oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number : \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Year began at St. Augustine's: \_\_\_\_\_ Your last year at St. Augustine's: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted for Old Boy Committee Meetings? Y / N

Would you like to be sent an electronic copy of the Old Boys Newsletter? Y / N

Would you like to be sent an electronic copy of the College fortnightly newsletter "Saints News"? Y / N

Preferred contact method Email / Phone / Mail

If you do not have email, please mail your contact details to the College at 251 Draper Street Cairns, Q 4870

If you know of other Old Boys, can you get them to forward their details to us in order to update our database.