



St Augustine's
COLLEGE
OLD BOYS

Newsletter

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

OCTOBER 2011

All correspondence to: oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au

Affiliations in Cairns

The highest honour the Marist Brothers can bestow is "Affiliation" with the Brothers. In July, 2011, four stalwart supporters of the Brothers were affiliated to the Sydney Province of the Brothers. Two were Old Boys: Czek Kersevani and Bernie Mullins. The other two are Chris Chapman and Andrew Dorahy.

All four will be well known to many hundreds of Old Boys. Those who are wondering ... Yes! Czek Kersevani, Chris Chapman and Andrew Dorahy are STILL teaching at St. Augustine's.

The word "affiliation" is from a word for family and affiliation is recognizing formally that those affiliated are, and have been, part of the Marist family for many years. The honour is given to those who over many years have shown that they share the spirit of the Brothers in a very significant way. They are Brothers in all but name.

Brother Jeffrey Crowe, the Brother Provincial of the Sydney Province, visited Cairns for the sole purpose of conferring this honour on the four men. He spoke about the contribution that each had personally made to furthering the work of Marcellin Champagnat through their lives.

Current Principal Br Bill Sullivan joined former Principals of St Augustine's who came for the ceremonies and who had enjoyed the affiliates' company and support over the years. Present were Br. Michael Green, Br. Robert Aitken, Br. David Hall and Br. Paul Hough who is currently back in the Cairns community working for the Diocesan Education Office. Br. Christopher Hogan was also here as well as Br. Michael Callinan and Bernie's brother, Br John Mullins.

Chris, Czek, Andrew and Bernie shared the evening with the Brothers and their families and friends. The ceremony took place at the end of Mass led by Father Laurie Timms, the College Chaplain, and was followed by rather special refreshments on the deck and courtyard outside "Tolles".

A memorable occasion to be treasured. Congratulations Chris, Czek, Andrew and Bernie.



PHOTO: Andrew Dorahy (Red handkerchief), Czek Kersevani, Bernie Mullins and Chris Chapman



President's Note

Hi all

October? Really? What happened to the other 9 months?

Here we are for the third newsletter for the year, and I do hope you enjoy the read.

Thanks again for those that have sent in articles, pictures and other contributions, and I encourage everyone to please continue to do so.

Best Wishes

Brad Hutchinson

Principal's Note

Dear Old Boys,

Welcome to the third edition of our special newsletter for Old Boys. I hope you find the pages to follow both informative and worth reading .

I have quoted a few times this year in our College Newsletter some writing from the book 'The Last Lecture' by Randy Pausch. It is a book well worth reading in my opinion.

In one of the chapters he talks about the priority we all should have around building community. In this section of the book he wrote:

We've placed a lot of emphasis in this country on the idea of people's *rights*. That's how it should be, but it makes no sense to talk about rights without also talking about responsibilities.

Rights have to come from somewhere, and they come from the community. In return, all of us have a responsibility to the community. Some people call this the "communitarian" movements, but I call it common sense.

This idea has been lost on a lot of us, and in my twenty years as a professor, I've noticed more and more students just don't get it. The notion that rights come with responsibilities is literally, a strange concept to them.

I'd ask students to sign an agreement at the start of each semester, outlining their responsibilities and rights. They had to agree to work constructively in groups, to attend certain meetings, to help their peers by giving honest feedback. In return, they had the right to be in the class and to have their work critiqued and displayed.

Some students balked at my agreement, I think it's because we as adults aren't always great role models about being communitarians. For example: We all believe we have a right to a jury trial. And yet people go to great lengths to get out of jury duty.

So I want my students to know. Everyone has to contribute to the common good. To not do so can be described in one word: selfish.

When we work for the common good we build a culture of acceptance and compassion. Working together as a team ensures we build an environment where success is valued and promoted.

Another key ingredient in a vibrant and healthy school is gratitude. In a newspaper article I read recently the writer said

Robert Emmons, professor of psychology at the University of California and an advocate of "positive psychology" (in contrast to negative psychology, which focuses on fixing problems), has been researching gratitude for a decade.

He claims the practice of gratitude can increase happiness levels by 25 percent - presumably in the case of people not already grateful - and it can be achieved simply by writing a 'gratitude journal'. A few hours of counting one's blessings over three weeks can create an effect that lasts six months.

He says cultivating gratitude brings longer and better-quality sleep time, helps develop a more optimistic outlook, and brings well-being and health improvements that make us better - as well as happier - citizens.

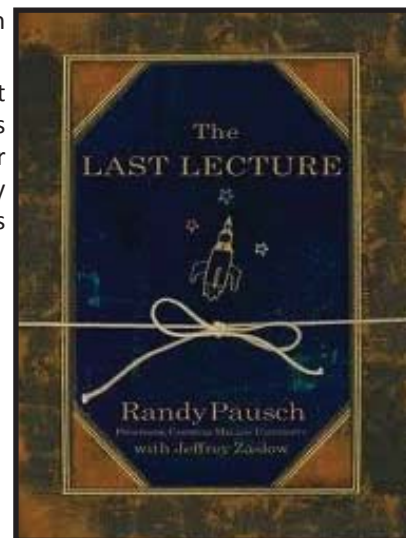
He states later in the article that 'The capacity for gratitude and for expressing it is an important element in a good life.'

Building up a culture of appreciation has been one of our priorities this year at St Augustine's. Showing gratitude to Staff and Coaches, Support Staff and Bus Drivers takes little effort but makes a significant difference to the environment we have here. Our theme for the year, "Respect at the heart of the Saints Community", highlights the priority we have in ensuring our community is both a positive and enjoyable place to work. This will continue to be our priority as we move through the remainder of 2011.

I hope you enjoy the pages to follow and this third edition of our Old Boys Newsletter.

With Best Wishes

Br Bill Sullivan FMS



"Around the same table" - Champagnat Day Mass

June 6th marks the Feast of Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Brothers. To celebrate this feast the College gathered on Friday June 3rd for a whole College Mass presided over by our College Chaplain Fr. Laurie Timms. The theme of the Mass was "Around the same table – a place for all", highlighting the place that we all share around our "Marist table" as well as around the altar, the "table of the Lord".

In the little house at Lavalla, in France, where the very first community of Marist Brothers learned to live, read, write, teach and pray, stands the table that Marcellin built with his own hands so that the young Brothers could share meals, conversation, study and laugh just like a family.



Fr Laurie leads the Eucharist on the table modelled after the Champagnat table

The table at Lavalla is a strong symbol of family and service, not just for the first Brothers in the early years of the Institute, but for all Marists today. A replica of the Champagnat table was built as a focal point for our College Mass and then during the liturgy this table became the altar. The table served as a symbol of the link that we share not only with Marists throughout the ages and with Marists throughout the world, but with all people whom we are called to love and serve.

A highlight of any Saints Mass is the splendid music and singing lead by Mr. Malcolm Cole and Mr. Andrew Dorahy. The Saints "spirit" is seen at its best when our 617 young men, together with staff and parents, gather to sing hymns within a liturgy. The Mass also gave opportunity for Br Bill, Br John and Br Matthew to make their annual renewal of vows, a powerful witness to the young men of Saints of lives of dedication and service.

As he was dying, Marcellin gathered his Brothers around him and challenged them to do for people what Jesus asked of his disciples: "Love one another" and to "be of one heart and one mind". As we gathered for our Champagnat Mass, "around the table", we prayed that we may be open to receive the gift of one another and to serve God through the love that we show for one another.



Br Matthew, Br John and Br Bill renew their vows wearing their black habits

Mini-fete

Champagnat Day continued with a mini-fete that was put on for all students and staff. The fete was another way of developing the relationship between staff and students, a relationship that Marcellin Champagnat deemed as essential in Marist pedagogy. For Marcellin, in order to teach, the teacher must first love the students and love them all equally. The relationship of staff to student, in the vision of Marcellin, was to be one that modeled an older sibling nurturing the growth of the students.



Anthony Zecchinati, Year 11, prepares for battle.

The mini-fete incorporated many stalls that were planned and operated by the various Tutor groups. These varied in activity, however, mostly included some aspect of sport, destruction or staff embarrassment. In addition to this, Br Bill hired the use of blow-up sumo suits, bucking bull, oversized blow-up boxing ring and bungee racing. These provided the opportunity for students to test their physicality against one another and against staff in a jovial environment.

Champagnat Day remains a focal point in the life of the College and celebrates our tradition, values and relationships which are both unique and highly valued aspects of St Augustine's College.



Br John demonstrating his prowess on the bucking bull.

2011 Immersion to the East Sepik



Mac Talbutt, Gilbert Ori (95) Ian Soweni (91), Zahl Creswell, William Darveniza, Jesse Priddle, Stuart Doig, Rhys Kasper, Timothy Apae (95),

Meeting With Ex-Saints Boys in Port Moresby



Jesse in headdress during a traditional singsing.

Ian Soweni (91) contacted the College following the last Old Boys' Newsletter inquiring about the 2011 Immersion to the East Sepik Province in Papua New Guinea.

He was a most gracious host meeting the **2011 Immersion group** on our arrival at the airport, gathering with **Gilbert Ori (95)** and **Timothy Apae (95)** for a bar-be-que with the Marist Brothers community at Korobosea and guiding us around Boroko markets before our departure for Wewak. Ian was also at the airport to farewell us on our return from Wewak for the flight to Cairns.

This was the first of many gatherings between the College and the Ex-Students in Papua New Guinea. All three have fond memories of their time at the College and they inquired of past classmates and teachers.

The success of the immersion owes much to the numerous people who welcomed us into their communities. To Sister Maria, Martin and Abraham Parawafi and the Nungori Village community who again welcomed us into their homes. Abraham is a very loyal ex-student of the Marist Brothers at St Xavier's High School on Kairiru Island. To Liam, Franz and their family for their hospitality during our stay with them at Winjuon in the Yangoru area where they are members of the local Marcellin Champagnat Marist group.

The support of the Marist Communities in Wewak and at Yangoru was appreciated by the 2011 Immersion group. They coordinated our transport and accommodation in the East Sepik. As well as acted as tour guides around Wewak and the Sepik.

Another group from Saints will be immersed in the East Sepik again in 2012.



Zahl and Max on the Sassoya Nungori Road.



Volleyball in Nungori



Stuart, Mac and William working in the garden with Joanne from Nungori Village.

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 disappointment to see young men unable to access our College because of financial hardship. Any arrangements to support such families is 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.

Br Bill Sullivan FMS

College Developments

We continue to look for ways to improve the learning environment for our students. Recent improvements include:



New Lockers



New Tiling outside the Health and Well-Being Centre



Renovation of the Year 8 Dorm



New Icons for the College Chapel

Is this Saint Augustine's signature?

Saint Augustine, who died in 430, "wrote" thousands of pages of letters and sermons and guidelines for Christian living. He dictated these "writings" to scribes who wrote down what he said. The writings are in Latin.

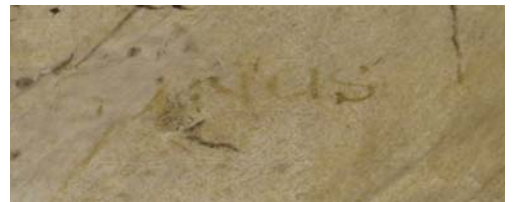
The facsimile below is of the last pages of a "book" of writings that Augustine had prepared as a gift for a friend. *Some believe he signed it at the bottom of the last column.* (Other scholars do not believe this.)

The neat handwriting here is by a scribe ... a professional handwriter.



See the enlargement of the pale letters at the bottom of the last column. They look like **NUS** and could be the last letters of Augustine's name in Latin, **AUGUSTINUS**. They are clearly in a different hand to the rest of the manuscript.

Signature or not, this manuscript is widely believed to have been written during Augustine's lifetime and is held in the National Library of Russia in St. Petersburg, whence St. Augustine's College acquired this facsimile.



1940 May Grotto



The accompanying photo was in a collection of photos that Brother John Mullins had and shows the special altar to Our Lady set up in "Grotto" form in 1940. It was common in the 1930s and 1940s for a special altar to be built during May, the special month of Our Lady.

If there are any other photos of such altars "out there" it would be great to have copies. This may be the only photo found so far.

Down South Br. Barry remembers that the boys were encouraged to bring bunches of flowers from home to decorate the altars. He remembers bringing bunches of flowers in the bus! Was this the custom at St. Augustine's?

The Way We Were

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

CLEANING UP AFTER THE SHOW



A money-raising activity in years gone by was gaining the contract to clean up after the Cairns Show. Maybe it was more a Boarders' activity with boarders being drafted in to fill bins and bags with the rubbish from the Show.

Modern day Occupational Health and Safety people would be horrified. Were gloves issued?

The reward for the boys was probably a pie and a can of drink. The reward for the College was several thousand dollars.

It's believed that the health and safety issues ended this money raising opportunity.





The Way We Were

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

1970 FOOTBALL JERSEY

Over the Easter Break **Frank Burkett** called in to the College to present his Football jersey from 1970. He had been tidying up and found it and wondered if the College would like it. The answer was Yes!



Frank was only at the College for that one year – 1970. He had left school but realized he needed to gain his “Senior” to be able to get anywhere in life. So he applied to Brother Roger to be able to join the College as an older student while staying in a boarding house in Cairns and cycling to school each day. Frank also pedalled back to school each evening to join the boarders for evening study.

Mr. Martorella remembers him as an inspiration to the other boys by his great dedication to study.

Frank has spent much of his life writing for newspapers and in his semi-retirement continues with his writing by contributing to a Community Newspaper.



UNDER-AGE DRIVER CHAUFFEUR FOR THE SISTERS

The Sisters who taught at St. Joseph's in 1930 walked each morning from St. Monica's where they lived. Then someone kindly gave them a car but none of the Sisters could drive.

But nearby to St. Monica's lived 14 year-old St. Augustine's student, **Dan McGuinness**, who was able to drive. His parents owned a transport company.

Could **he** drive the Sisters to school each morning? Father Phelan talked the local police into allowing Dan to drive the Sisters, under strict instruction to only travel on certain roads.

As thanks, at the end of 1930, the Sisters gave Dan a small purse with a gold sovereign, and at the end of 1931 (when Dan was 15) he was given two gold sovereigns.

In the enormous photo in the College foyer (2011) Dan is the fifth student to the right of the three Brothers.



RATION BOOKS

During and after the Second World War (1939-1945) lots of foods were hard to get. You could not go to the shop and get as much meat or butter as you liked. Every man, woman and child (including SAC boarders) were given a “Ration Book” which had coupons that allowed you to buy a limited amount of food (in the case of the attached, Meat).

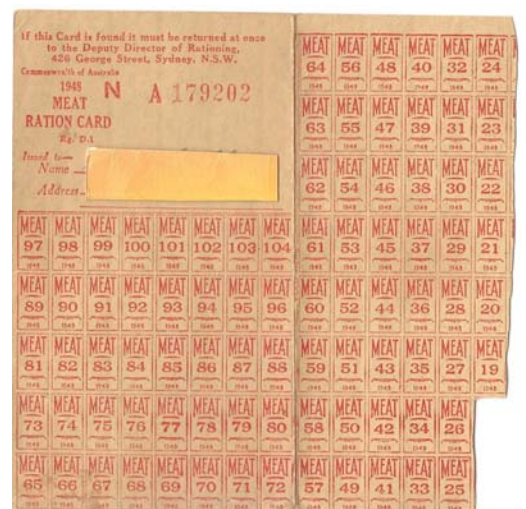
So the Brothers had to collect all the boarders' ration books and each week tear out so many coupons and paste them onto a sheet of paper and take them all to the grocer or butcher to be able to purchase the supplies.

There are lots of people around who remember this. An old boy from 1943-46, Kevin Hanley, recently wrote to Br. Barry, saying: “We handed our coupon books in and the brothers looked after them. The food during the war was very basic and not very plentiful.” So today's boarders filling their plates with as much food as they like might think back to harsher times!

All boys had to hand in their ration books to Brother and he had to stick hundreds of them onto a sheet to take to the butcher or the grocer before he was allowed to buy the supplies for meals.

This system began in 1942 (when the boarders were at the Lake Barrine Guesthouse) and you can see that this sheet of coupons is dated 1948.

Things were not easy for parents and boys in the 1940s. (Ask some old timers for their memories.)



Kerry Cullinane (1955-1959)



The Honourable Justice Kerry Cullinane, AM, stepped down from the Bench in July, 2011, having completed a distinguished nineteen years as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland.

Originally from Hughenden, he was a boarder at SAC from 1955, completing Senior in 1959.

Justice Cullinane practised as a barrister in North Queensland prior to his appointment to the Bench, and was the first North Queenslander to take Silk.

He was awarded Member of the Order of Australia in 2009.

Justice Cullinane has had a close association with James Cook University which he will maintain in retirement.

In 2006, the Moot Court at James Cook was named in his honour.



Kerry Cullinane
(Teaching Fellow-
ship Arts)

At his valedictory dinner held on the 22nd of July, some old boys in attendance included John Reynolds (1955-59), Barry Tognola (1959-60), John Joseph (1956-59), Ron Brennan (1954-61), and the MC for the evening was Mr Michael Drew, Barrister-at law, President of the North Queensland Bar Association.

Michael too was a student at SAC from Grade Five through to Senior.

*The school photo is
from the Annual Speech
Night Programme and
Prize List for 1960*

Stan Carswell, MBE



Stan is pictured here wearing the insignia of a Member of the British Empire awarded to him in the Queen's Birthday honours in 2009. The award was for service in nurturing Australian-Papua New Guinea relations over many years.

The other photo is of Stan in the SAC tennis squad in 1947. Stan is in the centre.

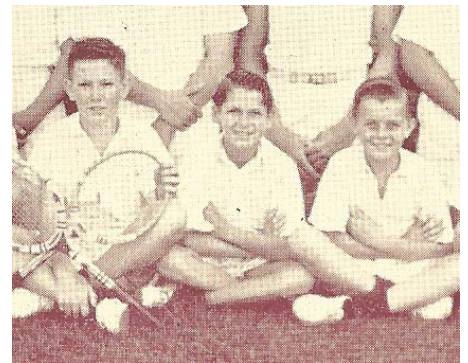
Stan began his working career at the age of 15 with the Queensland Railways but a set of interesting circumstances, and his background in spare parts, led to his heading to Papua New Guinea for work. As it turned out Papua New Guinea was to become his home.

Hockey and the Apex and Rotary Clubs formed a large part of Stan's life, as well as participation in local government.

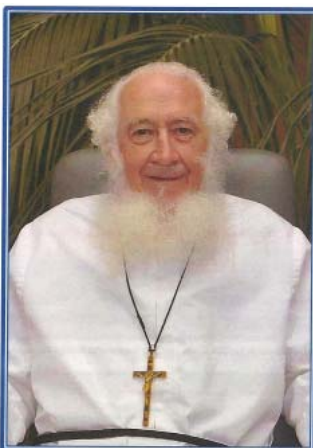


Finally settling in Cairns Stan is active in the Cairns Chapter of the Australia-Papua New Guinea Society.

Stan has three grown sons, one of whom, Bryan, is currently the Indigenous Liaison Officer at St. Augustine's.



Brother Gregory Moran



Those who remember Brother Gregory Moran (and he is easy to remember) will be surprised and saddened to hear that he died suddenly in July this year.

Brother Greg spent some time with the CTC boys and is remembered for his most gentle and kindly manner. Teaching various technical subjects Br. Greg had an unflappable manner and even if boys were less than cooperative or easily distracted his patience and calm manner remained unaltered.

He was always encouraging with never the faintest hint of an unkind word ... a calm and peaceful centre of a sometimes turbulent world around him.

He accompanied the boys to camps and activities off campus and is remembered for taking with him everything that might ever be needed. When appointed to Cairns he brought with him on the train: an anvil!

Somewhat eccentric in appearance and manner, Br. Greg is universally remembered with great affection and appreciation.

Dr. William Venables (1954-1961)

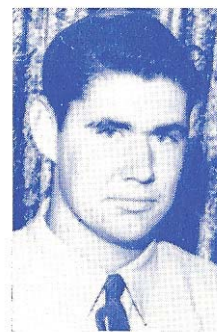


The retirement of Dr William N Venables, a statistical mathematician of international standing, was celebrated in late July.

Bill, from a well known Cairns family, was at SAC from Grade Five in 1954 through to finishing in Senior in 1961.

He attended the University of Queensland, graduating with First Class Honours in Mathematics & Statistics, and obtained his PhD in Statistics from the University of Adelaide in 1973.

From his base as Head of Statistics at the University of Adelaide, Bill has lectured, taught, tutored and advised at universities and institutions all over the world; in addition, throughout his career, he has been a much sought after speaker at international conferences on statistical mathematics.



William Venables
(Engineering)

His book, Modern Applied Statistics with S, written with Prof. Brian Ripley of Oxford University, has gone to four editions and has become a modern classic in its discipline.

Since 1999, he has been Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO Division of Mathematics, Informatics, and Statistics in Brisbane.

A luncheon was held in Brisbane on the 6th July for Bill, the occasion attended by some old friends from the SAC class of '61.

Report by Ron Brennan

*The school photo
is from the Annual
Speech Night
brochure for 1962*

Bob Dunbar (1935-36)

Bob began at SAC, according to our records, in 1935. He recently wrote to the College from a Retirement Village in Ingham:

"I'm locked up in this "Home" somewhat akin to being a Boarder at St. Augustine's. I spent 2 years – Sub-Junior and Junior -- at the College way back in 1932-33 I think ... from Innisfail. In fact I'm a bit famous for being the oldest student still living. It would be somewhat wonderful to stroll along over the College Grounds – Cricket Pitch – Foot Ball Grounds – Tennis Courts, Hockey Grounds. I slept on the College front verandah – 1st storey.

Big swamp in the middle of the Sporting Grounds. The College held a 75 Year (I think) a couple of years ago. I was the oldest ex-pupil there. My old legs wouldn't allow me to walk all over the buildings and grounds – very sad – old age buggers up a lot of things to do.

It's good travelling by car all over the "Tableland" – you always meet some old joker at the bar of one of the old pupils from the College. The Atherton Tableland is just as beautiful now as it was back so many years. Being 93 now, I might make it to 100 – you'd have to invite me as 'A Special Guest'.

Thanks for remembering me.

Bob Dunbar

REUNIONS

Seniors 1991 - 20 Year Reunion

The date is set and planning is underway for the reunion.

The main events are planned for the 26th November.

There will also be other activities from the 25th to 27th of November, so get in touch with Brad Hutchinson and find out the details.

Keep this weekend free and see you in November.

Contact Brad Hutchinson on email

Bullwinkle@bigpond.com

2001 OLD BOYS REUNION

Friday the 21st of October 2011
7:00pm until 11pm

Lilo Bar
Rydges Plaza Cairns
Cnr Spence & Grafton Streets (Opposite Gilligans)

Contact Brian Walsh: 0438 545 128

brianwalsh@hotmail.com

Facebook Group: "Saints 2001 Old Boys Reunion"

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 email address to get your details included in the next newsletter and placed on the Old Boys Website at

www.sac.qld.edu.au

SAINTS STARS SCORCH THE TRACK

The Saints Athletics Team has again successfully defended their TCN Athletics title in a convincing display of both athleticism and teamwork. In combining with St Monica's, Saints assembled a formidable team that eventually ran out 758 point victors, over our nearest rival St Andrew's College.

The Carnival, held at Barlow Park in fine conditions, was again testament to the high level of teamwork and spirit that Saints Boys display while participating and representing their school. This was particularly evident throughout the day where the boys must be commended not only on their strong performances but more importantly the way in which they conducted themselves whilst competing.

There were many fine performances on the day, with both personal best times and distances achieved by many of the boys. However, particular mention must go to Theo Watson (13 Years Javelin and Shot put), Sandy Dalton (14 Years Shot Put) and Liam Spannenburg (15 Years Javelin) for their record breaking performances. At the completion of the day's events, Saints athletes also featured prominently in the Age Champions. Well done to Aidan Taylor (14 Years), John Sillah (17 Years) and James Lawson (18 Years) who were awarded Age Champions for their respective age groups and Runner-up Age Champions Theo Watson (13 Years), Liam Spannenburg (15 Years), Nicolas Cooper (16 Years) and Thomas Walker (18 Years).

Congratulations also to all the students who have been selected in the 2011 TCN Athletics team based on their individual performances. I would like to wish all boys the best of luck as they now vie for a spot on the Peninsula Athletics team.

Special thanks must also go to Mr Evans and Mr Williamson for their valuable assistance on the day.

Mr John Brimstone



2011 TCN Record Breakers: Theo Watson, Sandy Dalton and Liam Spannenburg with Br Bill

College Records Broken this year

Theo Watson 13 Years Javelin 45.22m. Previous Record was held by L Spannenburg 38.11m in 2009.

Theo Watson 13 Years Shot Put 13.62m. Previous Record was held by M Grimes 13.29m in 2007.

Sandy Dalton 14 Years Discus 49.62m. Previous Record was held by R Galligan 47.50m in 1997.

Sandy Dalton 14 Year Shot Put 14.28m. Previous Record was held by R Saunders 14.09m in 2004.

Liam Spannenburg 15 Years Javelin 45.41m. Previous Record was held by R James 44.96m in 1981.

Application for Membership of the Old Boys Association

Life Membership - \$110.00. Annual Membership - \$15.00.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile No. _____

Email: _____ Years at the College: 19____ to _____

I enclose a cheque / money order for _____ Cheques to be made out to St Augustine's College.

Please charge my credit card for this amount: \$_____ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐

Card No. _____/_____/_____/_____ Expiry date: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Current Financial Old Boys can choose to have the newsletter delivered by mail or through email.

Please circle your preference: Mail / Email Please ensure the address you provide is a postal address for delivery.

If you have any stories to be submitted for our next edition please email us at oldboys@sac.qld.edu.au

Tolle Lege, Take Up and Read