GUYS AND DOLLS ON SHOW

The 150 or so students from St. Augustine’s and St. Monica’s Colleges presented the much loved Broadway musical “Guys and Dolls” to appreciative and enthusiastic audiences over four wonderful performances at the Cairns Civic Theatre in mid May. Students were on stage, in the orchestra, backstage, in the technical box, in the front of house and had been involved in set design and construction as well.

A record number of St. Augustine’s students were involved this year with a boys’ chorus of 45 singers, dancers and actors. The leading cast members were all accomplished actors, singers and dancers and held the enthralled audiences with great comic and romantic timing. The orchestra was comprised mostly of students and performed the difficult score to great effect. Students were also responsible for the choreography of some dances.

In a trial of a new rehearsal format, the cast and orchestra attended a three day residential camp devoted entirely to rehearsing the musical; this was in addition to the customary Monday and Wednesday afternoon rehearsals along with selected Sundays.

Staff directors Mrs. Narelle Hunt and Mr. Malcolm Cole were thrilled with the production citing very high production values, great acting, dancing and singing from the cast backed up by a tight, disciplined stage crew and pit orchestra being responsible for such a wonderful show. They also noted that the positive work ethic and attitude of the students made the task for everyone reachable.

Feedback from those lucky enough to see the show has been consistently enthusiastic.

Thanks and congratulations go to all those involved in the production. This production of “Guys and Dolls” continues a 20 year history of combined musicals between the two Colleges.

Top Right: Mac Talbutt and Thomas Morrey
President’s Note

Hi all,

Woohoo we have made “the number two” Newsletter for the year. This task is the result of two main people in particular which probably don’t receive the praise they deserve. Br Barry at the College does an amazing job scouning around trying to find articles of interest and provides them to the wonderful Jean Lendon who weaves her magic and makes this all come together. I would like to invite people to forward in any articles or suggestions that would assist these wonder folks in compiling the newsletter for us all. One thing we can always do with is a good joke, so if you have any that are good for a laugh and one that you could tell your mother without making her raise an eyebrow in disapproval, then share it with the rest of us.

On a personal note, I am rather looking forward to my own visit back to the College for the Seniors of 1991 reunion that is happening. It will be a stroll down memory lane trying to remember those youthful faces of all that fire and spark, and match them to their older versions that will turn up. It will be 20 years since seeing some of my class mates faces, but there are others who are not as fortunate and have seen my ugly mug recently.

I do hope you enjoy the latest version of the newsletter.

Bests Wishes

Brad Hutchinson
President

Who Remembers Pom?

Pom Lesina’s colourful life came to an end early in 2011. Baptised Vincent Bernard Joseph Lesina, but universally known in the Cairns district as “Pom”, he died, aged 88, in March this year. For a short while he was resident at Holy Spirit Bethlehem Home, Cairns.

Many hundreds, if not thousands, of St. Augustine’s boys would remember Pom barracking vociferously for (or sometimes against) Saints on the sports field here, there and everywhere around Cairns. Some would remember being chased by Pom in response to a taunt given. The Brothers, too, were not excluded from his attentions. He might call out a Brother’s nick name, “Darby” or “The Bird” as he passed by the College.

There is difference of opinion as to whether he was an Old Boy, but nevertheless Pom has his place in the history and folklore of the school. May he rest in peace.

[Br. Barry would appreciate any Pom stories that Old Boys may treasure]

WEARING THE SCAPULAR

At the time of printing this Old Boys’ Newsletter the present boys of the College were told (on the College Intranet Homepage) of the scapular and the devotion to the scapular in years gone by. It was remarked that most boys presently at St. Augustine’s would most probably never have heard of “the scapular”, much less have seen one. In earlier years, it was explained, at the College many boys wore the scapular. It was a devotional practice common in the Catholic Church at the time.

The scapular was explained with reference to medieval monks and nuns wearing a large cloth both front and back, but that modern folk retained the idea with the small rectangles of cloth.

The only thing similar today would be the wearing of a cross, crucifix or religious medal on a chain around the neck.”

Many Old Boys would recall this devotion. Some may have kept their scapular. But while this devotion may have virtually disappeared, it may be well to reflect what we may have beneficially replaced it with. Maybe a special daily prayer, or the daily carrying of a pair of rosary beads, or a painting of Mary in a prominent place in the home. Worth thinking about.
Dear Old Boys of Saints,

Welcome to the second edition of our ‘Old Boys’ newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading the material in this edition. My intention and hope is to rebuild the connection with our many Old Boys and to give you news about what is happening at the College.

One of the spiritual writers I enjoy reading is Ronald Rolheiser. I often quote some of his writings with staff, parents and, at times, with our students. As a Catholic school it is important that we reflect on what distinguishes us from other schools and institutions. St Augustine’s is not only Catholic but Marist. We therefore share the history and tradition that goes with the Marist network and the legacy left us by our founder Marcellin Champagnat.

At Saints we try to live out the Gospel message in a practical and dynamic fashion. It calls us to action, not just rhetoric. I believe it is important for our students to see what this means and that we go out of our way to give witness to these examples.

In his book ‘The Holy Longing’, Ronald Rolheiser describes the message the following way:

When Israel’s great prophets are called, God initiates them through an interesting ritual. They are asked to physically eat the scroll of the law, to eat their scriptures. What a powerful symbolism! The idea is that they should digest the word and turn it into their own flesh so that people will be able to see the word of God in a living body rather than on a dead parchment. The task of taking God to others is not that of handing somebody a Bible or some religious literature, but of transubstantiating God, the way we do with the food we eat. We have to digest something and turn it, physically, into the flesh of our own bodies so it becomes part of what we look like. If we would do this with the word of God, others would not have to read the Bible to see what God is like; they would need only to look at our faces and our lives to see God.

What he speaks of in this article presents quite a challenge, especially if you take it seriously. We need to continue looking for ways to bring the Gospel alive in our families, communities, and in our workplaces. That is what we are being challenged to do.

At Saints, we provide many opportunities for this to happen, and I am pleased to say our boys respond with overwhelming generosity. As long as we remain authentic to this message, and witness to the Gospel ideals earnestly and generously, I have no doubt our school will flourish and our wider community will be all the better for it.

Please mark in your diary our Cerise & Blue Open Evening on Tuesday 16 August from 5.30pm - 8.00pm where you are welcome to visit our College and meet our staff and students. I hope you can join us on the night.

With best wishes to you all, and I hope you enjoy reading our second edition of our ‘Old Boys’ newsletter.

Br Bill Sullivan
Principal

Satisfaction Survey Years 11 and 12

During the first two terms I have interviewed all our senior boys (230 all up). As part of these interviews, I always ask the boys to give a mark out of 10 that indicates their happiness here and their overall satisfaction with the school. I thought you might be interested in seeing how the current senior boys view their experience of school at St Augustine’s. Their feedback is overwhelmingly positive, which is pleasing indeed.

I include the summary below for your interest.
The Way We Were
A look back at St. Augustine’s in years gone by

“SCHOOL BUS” 1948

There was NO school bus in 1948. But there was a College truck and it served as transport for the boys, either to sport or for Boarders’ picnics etc.

Trucks were also used (with boys assisting) to get waste from the brewery to spread on sports fields that the school used in Lyons St. and also to bring in sand and soil from Kamerunga Crossing to build up the school yard which would easily go under water in heavy rain, especially when associated with a high tide.

The building in the background is now part of the Gildas Centre.

The truck driver is probably Brother Faber.

NEW INFIRMARY, 1975

Things change! 36 years ago this was “new”.

This photo appears in the 1975 Tolle Lege and the caption says: “Matron attending ill in the new Infirmary Block”

The boys are G. Kirk and G. Richardson and the Matron is Mrs. Aileen Ferguson.

Mrs. Ferguson was Matron for about 30 years, though she did numerous other things as well. One was superintending the purchases for the boarders’ dining room and another was to run the Craft Stall at the Fete where she not only served at the stall but made many items for sale as well.

And in the year of the photo, 1975, there is mention that “epidemics’ have been a feature of 1975!”

OLD DORM

This photo is from 1956. The stairs lead to what is now “Ambrose”. This building has been totally replaced. It was a timber building and was believed to be a fire hazard.

The section to the left, however, was a solid brick building and it was kept. The bottom floor was toilets and showers. In recent times it was a storeroom for camping and other gear. Now it is Mr. Morriss’ (Director of Boarding) spanning new suite of offices and rooms.

Boys who know their cars will be able to name and date the stationwagon.

KHAKI FOR BOARDERS

For a number of years the BOARDERS wore KHAKI shirt and shorts and sandals while the rest of the boys wore blue shirt and dark blue shorts and shoes and socks!

Old Boys who remember this please tell Br. Barry (at school on 4051 5555 or email lambba@sac.qld.edu.au).

So sitting in class it was clear who were boarders and who were day boys.

Was this because it was easy for laundry?

The last year for Khaki was 1965. In the Brothers’ Annals for 1965 we read: “Notice given to parents that khaki for boarders will not be worn in 1966. All boys will wear the College Uniform of blue shirt and blue shorts on class days.”

And if anyone has any photos of boarders in khaki, Br. Barry would love to copy the photos.
College Developments

President of the P & F, Mr Mick Petre, presents the keys of the new College bus to Br Bill Sullivan

Repainting of Classrooms in D & E Block

New Seating and Shade Cover around the Pool

New Entrance for Tolle’s

New Awning for D Block Classrooms

New Health & Well-Being Centre

Ambrose Residence TV Room (Senior Students)

Year 8 Boarding House - Geaney Residence
Champagnat Award Winners 2011

Each year the College recognises some students in our community who live out the qualities of our founder Marcellin Champagnat, in an overt and meaningful way. These awards are most prestigious and are an integral part of our College calendar. The students nominated for 2011 are shown below. The boys at Saints are full of energy, spirit and enthusiasm for their College. The recipients of our 2011 Champagnat Awards are great examples of the quality of young men being educated at St Augustine’s in 2011.

Year 8 Award Winners: James Lay, Ashley Amos, Patrick Jones, Lee Depa and Oscar Perry

Year 9 Award Winners: Max Fitzsimmons, Brandon Morrison, Daniel McNae, Andrew Martin and William McCarthy

Year 10 Award Winners: Blake Huggett, Taylor Jones, Jak Williams, Matt Hancock and Liam Duncan

Year 11 Award Winners: Tom Riches, Anthony Stewart, Jarrod Eastwood and Andrew Collins

Year 12 Award Winners: Tyler Lim, Andrew Hannay and Alex Stallman. Absent: Mitchell Driver

Marcellin Medallion Winners: Aaron MacSweeney and Alex Stallman

Marist Service Awards

10 Years Service: Liana Sorensen and Margaret Lock

20 Years Service: Sally Hansen

25 Years Service: David Lawrence

10 Years Service: Duncan Angus
1946 College Chronicle sought

Student newspapers in schools are rare and precious things. They come and go like willy-willys depending on the enthusiasm of a few students. Occasionally they meet up with problems of censorship when “authorities” deem something inappropriate.

The “College Chronicle” is a celebrated St. Augustine’s College student newsletter and it was published intermittently between 1946 and 1954. Happily, thanks to former enthusiastic editor and contributor John Lizzio, the College has an almost complete set. However any published in 1946 are missing.

If anyone has a copy of a 1946 College Chronicle, it would be a treasure much sought by the College Archives. It could be scanned and returned to the proud owner.

FOUNDED, Tolle Lege, 1946

Not only found, but donated to the College! An appeal went out in the previous Newsletter for anyone with an original (not photocopied) Tolle Lege for 1946. The College only possessed a poor photocopy. Then there arrived in a firm Post Office envelope a genuine copy of the sought after Magazine.

Kevin Hanley had held on to his final year Magazine – the first ever the College printed – for 65 years! Kevin, now in Brisbane and passing 81 years of age, still had his copy even after spending some years with his family in Canada! Kevin was born within the first month of the College’s existence, hailing originally from Millaa Millaa. With Kevin’s permission we are reproducing part of his letter that accompanied his sending of the “Tolle Lege”.

Many thanks, Kevin. And when you’re next in Cairns you must call in and see the changes and what has remained the same in the old College.

Above Left: Kevin Hanley at school.
Above Right: Kevin, today
Ex-SAC PNG Students Meeting, Easter 2011

For some years now the Papua New Guinea men have been trying to establish an Association here in PNG for those of us who were privileged to attend St. Augustine’s College.

Two years ago we started collecting names and created a spreadsheet with all our contact details and the master register is maintained by me. To date we have about fifty (50) men listed on the spreadsheet and growing. The oldest old boy graduated in 1975 with the latest in 2000 as per our list.

We are still sending messages and trying to contact other men to join the network.

The main aim back then was to establish communication with other Ex-students of St. Augustine’s College here in PNG to see where men are and to assist each other where possible in the different fields that each of us have ventured into since graduating from Saints.

Well at the start of 2011 some of the men started suggesting we should really meet and take the next steps in forming an Association to link with the Old-Boys Association at the school.

The men suggested dates and eventually all agreed for Easter 2011 and Saturday 23rd April 2011 as the confirmed date.

All planning started and Port Moresby was set as the meeting place as most of the men live and work here. The Port Moresby men planned and funded the meeting for those outside of Port Moresby to fly in and enjoy. Joseph Fabila an old-boy from 1975 organised the venue for the meeting. He is a senior officer of the PNG Defence Force, therefore organised for the meeting to take place at a naval base here in Port Moresby. The meeting eventuated with a total of only sixteen (16) men attending with eight spouses also attending.

A basic program was set where we mainly met and greeted each other and all men spoke individually stating what they were doing, introducing family and future plans. After the meet and greet program, the men shared ideas on how best we can organise ourselves into an Association in PNG and based on seniority of those that attended three men; - Joseph Fabila (75), Keith Markis (89) and myself (91) were chosen to lead an interim committee.

The interim committee is yet to meet and set the ball rolling with plans for the Association.

Basically the Association from views expressed, will look into charitable activities as well as setting up business ventures to self fund the Association and bring benefits to the men, our families and our country as a whole.

The meeting was fun and a lot of catching up for the men and some men have now gone into serious professional discussions.

Ian C Soweni – 1991 graduate of SAC & Papua New Guinea student

From back row standing; L-R: Keith Markis (89), Joseph Fabila (75) & Ian Soweni (91)
Sitting on chairs; L-R: Steven Mase (92), Sam Pun (93), Lawrence Markis (92), Francis Poko (93), Finan Romaso (91) & Edward Sannga (92).
Sitting on the floor; L-R: Molean Kilepak (93), Hassan Romaso (93), Peter Aina (93), Roger Parah (92), Ben Yalehen (92), & Norbert Sariman (93). Absent: Gilbert Ori (95). All men are looking forward to the next meeting and we hope to make it even bigger with more men attending.

Joseph Fabila OBE

In the excitement of the weekly school sport and cadet band practice, few school boys would ever imagine that in future years they would be recognised by the Queen for meritorious service in some field or other.

But that is the happy story springing from the Queen’s Birthday Awards for 2011. These photos of Joseph Fabila from the 1975 magazine may contain hints of future success and service with his happy, bright face, and beret telling of his cadet commitment.

The Award tells of where life has taken Joseph and where he has taken life, with God’s grace, up to this year’s special award.

The Award is: **Order of British Empire for his service to PNG Defence - Colonel Joseph Fabila OBE.**
When asked what he learnt about himself on the 2010 Immersion to Papua New Guinea, David Kennedy, a present Year 12 student responded: “It gives you an indication on how well you can cope with change and embrace difference and culture.”

In September 2010 six students and two staff members headed to the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea to be immersed in culture and life of our hosts in Wewak, Nungori Village (Sassoya) and Yangoru.

Returning from the Marist Student Leaders’ gathering at Rosalie (Brisbane) in February 2010, Rory Nevard (Yr 12 2010) suggested that the College undertake an immersion to the East Sepik Province. The College quickly responded to this request. Contact was made through the Marist Asia Pacific Solidarity Office (Brisbane) with the Marist Brothers in Wewak and the Village community at Nungori.

Leaving Cairns on Friday 17 September to be met in Wewak by the Rosary Sisters and the Marist Brothers. The following morning the group explored Wewak and the surrounding areas before heading for Nungori on a PMV (truck come bus).

Living in bush material huts, using bush toilets, walking to the river for a wash and eating traditional meals was one of the many highlights of our stay in Nungori Village. On the Sunday evening the young men from Nungori were joined by the Saints students to go flying fox hunting. The flying foxes were quite safe as two groups shared stories about life in PNG and in Australia. There was even an attempt to chew ‘betel but’.

We then headed to the Marist Brothers at Yangoru where the Brothers teach in the local high school and work with the Marcellin Youth. Each afternoon a game of football was played with the children from around the Catholic Mission and the neighbouring communities. We walked the worn paths as we climbed the surrounding mountains to view the majestic Sepik Plains. We also had the opportunity to visit the Thursday markets at Maprik, to view the mighty Sepik River and walk around St Marcellin’s High School at Burui.

Returning to Wewak we had the day with the Marist Brothers at Wom Beach.

We arrived before sunrise at Wewak Airport for our return journey to Cairns. The late arrival of our flight resulted in an extra day in Port Moresby. Our unplanned stay allowed for a comparison between rural village life and urban life in PNG. It also gave us the opportunity to visit the war cemetery at Bomana, on the outskirts of Port Moresby. We quickly became aware of the sacredness of this place as we walked between the rows of headstones of young Australians who died on the Kokoda Trail during the Second World War.

September 2011 – another group of six students will head for the East Sepik for another marvellous experience PNG hospitality.
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

Data Bases for Records

Data Bases are the way to go with school records including school enrolments. For several years Annette Eastwood has patiently drawn her ruler down the thousands of entries in the handwritten enrolment registers and is at present working through 1972. Jean Lendon has been adapting the records that in recent years had been entered into an earlier data base to a new system the College has adopted. Those familiar with these matters would know that transferring hundreds of entries from one system into another is not a morning’s work.

Happy to relate it is now all systems go with the project to get every boy who has ever been a student at St. Augustine’s College into the data base.

Traditionally entries have had name, date of birth, postal address and phone number. But since the start of emails in the world of communications, the entry of an email address is now a very high priority. Newsletters are able to be sent to everyone (if we have an email address) at the tap of a key.

Bit by bit, with the help of all those who update their details, including current emails, the great Old Boys’ Data Base is being improved daily.

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

Annette Eastwood

Jean Lendon
MEMORIES AND MEMORABILIA WANTED

Brother Barry is seriously collecting memories and memorabilia to gather the history of St Augustine’s for the Centenary in 2030.

Please don’t throw anything out. We are seeking photos, textbooks, programmes, trophies, pennants, certificates etc. If you have anything from your school days at St Augustine’s, we would like to copy this memorabilia and return to you.

Either email to barrylamb@hotmail.com or post to the College.

Many Thanks
Br Barry

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Is this for you?

The Old Boys are desperately looking for an Old Boy who

- Lives in Cairns
- Is retired (or semi-retired) and has time
- Would enjoy coming to the College one or two hours a week
- To keep Old Boys lists up to date etc.

Brother Bill and Brother Barry (Archives) and Jean Lendon (collector of Old Boys’ details) would make sure you’re very welcome and assure you that you would be most appreciated!

Please contact one of the above and chat about whether this might be an activity that would give you satisfaction.

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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

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

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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.
Congratulations Karl Stefanovic

A Gold Logie never entered Karl Stefanovic’s head as his star rose in the world of television. But Karl’s hard work (and engaging personality) did indeed win him the 2011 Gold Logie for his work as Today presenter on Channel 9.

St. Augustine’s College congratulates Karl on this wonderful achievement. He has worked at his chosen career with dedication and hard work and, in a sense, has reached the top.

Coming from Yorke’s Knob, Karl attended St. Augustine’s during 1990 and 1991 and is noticed in the Prize List for 1991 for having come First in Year 12 Geography.

Karl’s achievement might be seen by present boys at St. Augustine’s as an encouragement that any St. Augustine’s boy might set his mind on his chosen life’s work and through perseverance achieve excellence in it.

Mannings Pies and St. Augustine’s College

Many a St. Augustine’s College Old Boy will have eaten a Mannings Pie in his time. Mannings have been going in Cairns almost as long as St. Augustine’s. In the late 30s it may have been possible for a boy with a penny or tuppence to buy a pie from a mobile cart in Draper St. During lunch time.

An idea for a television advertisement celebrating their 75th Birthday Jubilee, Mannings developed the image of an older fellow biting into a pie and then the scene fading to his being a schoolboy (at St. Augustine’s) years before eating the self-same pie all those years ago.

An actor was engaged to be the older fellow while present boys made up the scene in the background (with pies supplied). Nice work if you can get it.

In years gone by the College set up a food outlet at the Show and Mannings brought hot pies in their truck for the College to sell, and when that supply ran out another hot load was delivered.

Congratulations Mannings ... a successful enterprise with an absolutely iconic Australian product.

OLD BOYS’ POLOS NOW IN STOCK

This is a great idea for a graduation gift for your son or perhaps a father’s/grandfather’s day gift? Dark navy blue with trims of gold and maroon.

Priced at $35.00 and selling now

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