



# St Mary's Old Boys' Newsletter



March 2013

Dan McErlean  
12 Werona Street  
Sunnybank Qld 4109

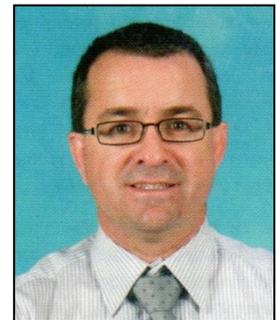
Dear Old Boys

Our next meeting will be held at 'The Public Service Club', Level 1 Function Room, 84 William Street (cnr Stephens Lane), Brisbane on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013 from 12 noon through until about 2.00 pm; but feel free to drop in anytime from 11.00 am on, as your commitments dictate and join Old Boy mates in convivial fellowship.

If travelling by train to the Central Railway Station, there is a free City Loop bus from Stop 8 opposite Central Station in Ann Street which allows you to alight at Stop 103 in the Government Precinct, just outside 'The Public Service Club' at 84 William Street. The bus services on this route are every 10-15 minutes.

Tentative dates have been booked for our meetings in 2013, so please reserve them as 'Claimer Dates'. As well as 8/3/13, the dates for other meetings are 10/5/13, 19/7/13 and 22/11/13.

At our Christmas function on 23/11/12, **Terry Gesch**, in the absence of our Sub-Branch President, **Bryan McSweeney**, due to work commitments, welcomed 42 members and **Brother Barry Buckley OAM**, about to celebrate 60 years as a Christian Brother, and St Mary's College Deputy Principal, **Kort Goodman** (pictured at right). Kort, who has just completed his second year as the College Deputy Principal, acknowledged the ongoing support given to the College by Old Boys and reported on the continued implementation of the National Curriculum for English, Mathematics and Science into the College curriculum.



Our Special Thanks go to Old Boys **Lindsay Reis** (1945 – 1949) and **Joe Short** (1938-1944) of Toowoomba and **Darryl Baker** (Senior 1965) of Redcliffe, who have taken out Life Membership of our Association recently.

The organisers of the TBOBA Lawn bowls Day are in need of more players for the Brisbane team which will meet the Toowoomba lads in the Inter City Game at the Stafford Lawn Bowls Club on Sunday 7 April 2013. A great day is assured. Contacts are **Laurie Blacka** (3633 0499), **Terry Gesch** (3359 9228) and **Eric Howe** (4632 2191).

The Sydney Old Boys' luncheon on Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 was a very successful function and Old Boys **Mike Quinlan, Fr Richard Leonard SJ, Philip and Rod Anderson, Kerry Byrne, Brendan Crotty, Peter Auricchio, John Arndell, Justin Dwyer, Michael Ledbury and Bill Sullivan** send on their Best Wishes to Old Boys and our Association.

**Mike Quinlan** would like to hear from Old Boys who are Sydney residents so he can keep in touch with them. His phone numbers are (02-9997 2397) or (0418 465 159).

A reminder too that our Toowoomba Brothers Old Boys' Association Annual General Meeting will be held at 7pm on 25 March 2013 in the Clive Berghofer, Arena at the College. A good Roll Up of Old Boys, particularly those living in Toowoomba, is requested to show your support for our Association's Executive led by **Joe Guerrini**.

**Bryan McSweeney**  
President  
(07) 3278 9682

**Dan McErlean**  
Secretary  
(07) 3345 4404

**Dan Reilly**  
Co-Ordinator  
(07) 3395 1813



**T.B.O.B.A. (Brisbane Sub-Branch) Meeting – 23/11/12**

**Present**

**Apologies**

Kort Goodman	Justin Lunney	Fr Paul Chandler	Peter McGregor
Rev Br Barry Buckley	Dick Lynch	Fr Tyrone Deere	Bryan McSweeney
Frank Adamson	Bob Mackinlay	Bro Kevin Dwyer	Shane McSweeney
John Bagget	Dinny Madden	Greg Butler	Martin O'Sullivan
Paul Canning	A E (Mick) Moloney	Nat Chandler	Ron Peut
Bernie Collins	Bernie Murphy	Pat Costigan	Keith Pickels
John Coyer	Dan McErlean	Noel Cronin	Andy Purcell
Leo Cruise	Justin McErlean	Les Duncan	Dan Reilly
Jack Davis (Hon)	Paul McErlean	Brian Fagan	Ron Shelvey
Frank Deighton	Peter McMahan	Des Franklin	Peter Sheridan
John Drew	John Noonan	Paul Hardwick	Jim Wiedman
Graham Ehber	Wayne Nuss	Tom Hutchinson	
Brian Gagen	Reg Oliver	Merv Johnstone	
Terry Gesch	John O'Neill	Peter Kennedy	
Barry Gordon	Jack Parker	Jim Long	
Rolly Griffin	John F Pobar	Pat Long	
Bob Grundy	Lindsay Reis	John Morris	
John Hagan	Kerry Taylor	Jim Mullins	
John Hutchinson	Reg Taylor	Trev Muller	
Doug Lee	Glen Wiedman	Robin Murphy	
Fred Lincoln	Gerry Williams	Terry Murphy	
	Graham Swenson	Paul McClure	

**'Coming Events'**

8/3/12 12 Noon	Brisbane TBOBA Sub Branch Meeting – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Function Room, 'The Public Service Club', 84 William Street (cnr Stephens Lane), Brisbane
7.00 pm 25/3/13	TBOBA Annual General Meeting – Clive Berghofer Arena – St Mary's College, Toowoomba
7/4/13 9.00 am	TBOBA Lawn Bowls Day at Stafford for Kevin Lee Memorial Trophy. To nominate contact: Laurie Blacka (3633 0499), Terry Gesch (3359 9228) or Eric Howe (4632 2191)
16/11/13 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm	1955 – 1963 Class Reunion in TP O'Brien Function Centre – Contact Merv Paddison (07) 5444 6716 or 0427 631 620.

**Annual Membership Fee**

(\$10.00) for Calendar Year

2013 is now due / or

**Life Memberships** are

available

(Fee \$100.00)

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**Cheques** as donations towards

the Indoor Sports Complex

should be made payable to

**'Br. Baptiste O'Sullivan**

**Building Fund'**.

They are fully Tax Deductible

and will be receipted.

**'Please consider giving generously to the Building Fund to assist with the Debt Reduction Program for our Indoor Sports Complex.'**



- In this Issue we record our Congratulations to a number of Old Boys and Friends of the College who have reached significant Milestones in their lives and to **Fr Tyson Doneley MSC and Noel Hannant** who were recognised for their Community Service in the 2013 Australia Day honours list with Medals of the Order of Australia in the General Division.

- The Holy Name Parish Hall was packed to capacity on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2013 for a luncheon as a Combined Celebrations for **Fr Tom Keegan** and **Sister Joan Norris** who have faithfully served the Parish for many years. Fr Tom will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Ordination in June, while Sister Joan celebrated the Golden Jubilee of her entry into the Sisters of Mercy Congregation on 7/1/13.



- **Brother Garry Ferguson cfc** attended St Mary's College from 1951 to 1958 and in December reached the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of his entry into the Christian Brothers Congregation. Some of his St Mary's classmates were **Bernie Collins, John Noonan, Kerry Taylor and John Herbert (RIP)**. He is now stationed at Mulgoa, NSW and we thank him for his years of service to the Order.

- **Fr Tyson Doneley MSC**, who was ordained in Melbourne in 1946, was recognised as an outstanding sportsman playing cricket and rugby at St Joseph's College, Sydney, in his youth. His ministry has seen him undertake missionary, teaching and formation roles in PNG, Japan, Fiji, India and Indonesia.

Old Boys will recall Fr Doneley being station at Downlands College and being a member of the All Whites 'A' Grade Cricket Team which won four consecutive premierships in the Toowoomba Cricket Association Club Championships from 1952 to 1956 (Father was a top leg break spinner).

- Old Boy, **Noel Hannant** and seven other 'older men' met in July 2001 to create a network with the aim of reconnecting isolated men with the Community. This resulted in the birth of an organisation titled 'TOMNET' and a decade later, some 250 members enjoy each other's company at their meetings in 18 branches across the Darling Downs.

Noel now 80, still President, was recognised in the Australia Day honours list with the Medal of the Order of Australia for his tireless work with TOMNET. A retired Railways Driver, Noel married his wife, Joan, in 1956 and they have 5 children and 10 grandchildren. His brothers **John and Jim** also attended St Mary's College.

- Best Wishes to **John Bagget, Brian Benson, Frank Deighton, Brother Fergus Gagen and John Wilson** who have celebrated Birthdays over recent weeks.

- Over Christmas/New Year, numerous good wishes were received from Old Boys who can't usually attend our gatherings:

**Fr Michael Gilbert CSsR** (1947-1954) still working on as the Editor of the Majellan publication from his base in Brighton, Victoria.

**Fr Tyrone Deere** (1950-1959) has been living at Golden Beach since his retirement from the Diocese of Cairns and assists with local Masses on the Sunshine Coast.

**Brother Michael Dredge cfc** (1960-1968) who taught at the College in 1982 lives in Mansfield, NSW and is attached to the Broken Bay Diocese. A brother of Life Members, **Nev** (Toowoomba) and **James** (Hervey Bay).

Our Old Boys' Patron **Brother Kevin Dwyer** (1934-1939) enjoyed a short break with his brother **Justin** and sister-in-law **Patti** at Saratoga, NSW, during the Christmas holidays.

**Ian Gilligan** (1949-1958) living at Ashmore and brother of **Brian** (Chinchilla) and **Eric** (RIP).

**Noel Stenzel** (1942-1950) and his wife, **Colleen (Paterson)** have recently moved into a Palm Lake Resort Villa in Hogg Street, Cranley on the northern outskirts of Toowoomba.

Life Member **Ted Bowling** (1941-1947) and his wife **Roslyn** have just returned to their Yarra Glen (Victoria) home after a holiday in South Australia. Fortunately they have missed the bushfires, so far, this year.

Another Life Member, **Michael Fitzpatrick** and wife **Roslyn** have just enjoyed Christmas at Disneyland in Anaheim, New Year in Las Vegas, a flight over the Grand Canyon, a cruise from Long Beach to Puerto Vallarta in Mexico and a three day stopover in Hawaii on the way home.

- **Dudley Morgan**, Junior 1950 sends his best wishes to former classmates Brian Beauchamp, Allan Duncan, Noel Griffin, Fr Hal Ranger, Phil Egan and Noel Stenzel from Norfolk in the United Kingdom where he has been living for some years.

- **Pat Costigan** (1950 -1957) and his wife **Sioban**, relocated back to Warwick at the end of January from Bahrs Scrub. Pat ceased his professional life on 30/11/12 after a fifty year career in education – as a teacher (having taught all year levels from Year 1 to Year 12), primary principal, system consultant and tertiary teacher and researcher at both undergraduate and post graduate levels. Now the couple plan to be grey nomads enjoying life on the road in their Avan Cruiselineer.



- **Wayne Nuss** (1956-1966) has just retired as Director of Radiography at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, South Brisbane, after over 30 years working as a radiographer. He started his career at the Toowoomba Base Hospital and served at the Royal Brisbane and Prince Charles Hospitals before being appointed to his position at the PA Hospital.

Wayne was given a fitting farewell at the East Rugby League Club, Coorparoo, which was attended by a large number of professional colleagues and interstate guests. He has been a great advocate of radiographer education and has had a significant input to the profession nationally.

- In recent weeks a number of Old Boys and Friends of the College have passed to Eternal Life: **Rev Fr Peter Murphy, Ron Peut, Rohan Kejewski, Des McGovern, Leith Guymer, William (Bill) Coyer** (pictured below), **Fred Mispelhorn, Brian O'Connell, Alan Reiken, Laurie Trapp** (brother of **Robert** and **Patricia** (Mrs **Brian Martin**), **John Thomas Leahy** husband of **Penny** and brother of **Tom** (dec'd), **Sir Daniel** (dec'd), **Denise** (Kennedy), **Jim, Patrick, Ellen** (Cleary), **Michael** (dec'd) and **Margaret** (Gill). Also, **Kaye** (Costigan) sister of **Fr Kerry, Pat, Barry, Rody** and **Carmel**.

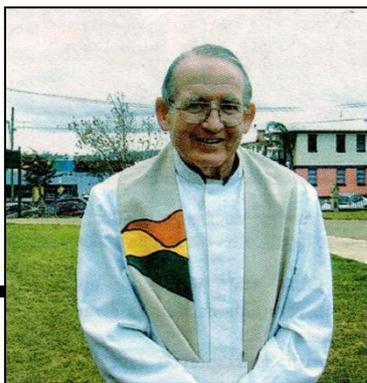


Please remember them and a number who are unwell or recovering from surgery: **Kevin and Tim Coonan, Dr Kevin Everding, Ian Meibusch, Justin Kingsford, Barry Lysaght, Don Vallely, Trevor Muller, Ron Shelvey, Pat Seymour, Kevin O'Neill, John Keightley, Gloria Chandler** and **Annette Gilbert**.

**Rev Fr Peter James Murphy 26/5/1931 – 18/11/2012**

- Peter Murphy was born in Maryborough, one of five children to **Peter** and **Mary Josephine (O'Brien) Murphy**. His siblings are **Christa (Marie), Thomas, Gerald** and **Veronica**.

Peter's early education was at the Convent of Mercy and Christian Brothers in Maryborough, Capella State School, St Mary's Christian Brothers Toowoomba (1942-1945) and St Joseph's Nudgee (1946-1948). Mrs Murphy moved the family to Toowoomba after the death of her husband in an Army Training accident when his Unit was preparing for service in Papua New Guinea.



On leaving school, Peter, studied for the priesthood at Pius XII Seminary, Brisbane, and was ordained on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1955 in St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane by Coadjutor Archbishop P.M. O'Donnell. One of his former St Mary's and Seminary classmates, Fr J P (Pat) Hall was also ordained then.

Fr Murphy's first appointment as a curate was at Holy Name, Toowoomba, 1956 -1959 and later Warwick 1960-1961. He then went on Loan on YCW activities to Melbourne in 1962. On his return to the Toowoomba diocese, Fr Peter worked full time with Youth, Vocations and Propagation of the Faith Ministries for 7 years, living in Warwick for 2 years and at Holy Name for 5 years. His appointments to St Finbarr's Quilpie as Parish Priest (1971 and 1972) and as Administrator Saints James and John, Clifton from January 1973 to May 1976 followed.

After study leave at the Maynooth Seminary in Ireland, Fr Murphy was appointed the Diocese's first Director of Religious Education in July 1977 and later Diocesan Director of Education from January 1981 to January 1985 when he became Parish Priest at St Joseph's Dalby, a post he held until the 30/6/1977 when he retired to St Thomas More's presbytery after suffering ill health in Ireland in 1995 while on sabbatical leave.

In his retirement, Fr Murphy recognised his gift for writing and started researching information on priests who had served in the Toowoomba Diocese from 1929 and especially those who had served in the Outback under trying conditions. He put together the profiles of 25 priests in a book called 'Outback Priests' published in June 2004 and which sold 1000 copies within 2 weeks. He then started work on a book titled 'Warwick and the Irish' which was launched in Warwick in March 2005 at a celebration to mark several parish milestones.

Fr Peter made life-long friends through his work which had involved much travelling around such a large Diocese and elsewhere. Early in 2005 he moved in Lourdes Home, Toowoomba, where he was well cared for by the staff and enjoyed visits from family and friends. He passed away in St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba, at 6.30pm on Sunday 18/11/2013 happy that the Reunion of Past YCW/NCGM Members on the 30/9/2012 had been so successful.

**Bishop Robert McGuckin, Archbishop Emeritus John Bathesby and Bishop William Morris** and priests (below) from the Toowoomba Diocese concelebrated Fr Murphy's Requiem Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba on 22/11/2012.





### William James Coyer (28/5/1936-8/1/2013)

- Bill was born in Toowoomba, the sixth child of **Arthur William and Bridget (nee McCarthy) Coyer** on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 1936. He had the one elder brother, **John**, and six sisters. His early life was spent around the family home in Gray Street, Toowoomba and he attended St Saviour's Convent for his early education. Then in 1945 he went with John to St Mary's College where he made a number of life-long friends with whom he was still very close despite the impact distance makes on relationships.

On leaving the College he began a radio apprenticeship at Electric Shop in Russell Street and after undertaking his National Service elected to join the Air Force on a permanent basis. For the next 22 years he served as a radio/radar technician and was posted to Richmond from Ballarat and then to Amberley. Then came a two and a half years posting for Bill and the family to Malaya and he served a year in Vietnam, before he and the family moved back to Amberley.

Bill had met his future wife, Winifred Timms, at a Church social event in Toowoomba in 1957 and they married in 1958. The three children **Bill, Wendy and Sue** who were all raised in Darwin where they were transferred to in 1971. Retiring from the Air Force, Bill joined Transport and Works and travelled the Territory installing radios until this position was made redundant in 1989. Then he took to fixing radios and TVs in his workshop under their Osborne Street home which afforded him the opportunity to spoil his grandchildren.

He was a founding member of the Darwin North RSL and worked tirelessly to get the Club in the northern suburbs started. He served as President and Committeeman. He participated in Anzac Day activities – the Dawn Service and March before catching up with old mates for a yarn and a drink. His other loves were Slim Dusty songs, State of Origin matches and lawn bowls (where he earned the nickname Last Bowl Billy), as more times than not that last bowl was the winner of the day.

Bill's hard exterior fooled no one, as he was a compassionate man showering his family with love and support over the 54 years happy life, Win and Bill spent raising their children and grandchildren. Sadly his health started to fail a couple of years ago and he passed away in the Darwin Hospital on 8/1/2013.

### Ronald Henry Peut (4/8/1926-28/11/2012)

- Ron was the eldest child of **Claude and Angela Peut** and was born in Charters Towers on 4th August 1926. The family then moved west to Julia Creek where Ron attended Primary School. However, the Depression brought about another move, this time to Toowoomba where Ron enrolled at St Mary's



College in 1938. In 1941, at the end of his scholarship year, he took up an apprenticeship as a Fitter & Turner with the Queensland Railways.

Like many former St Mary's students, Ron Peut joined the Young Christian Workers' Movement and took a very active role when elected President, working with the President of the National Catholic Girls Movement, **Patricia Moloney** and their Chaplain Rev Fr Ron Walton on activities for these Groups. One memorable combined activity was the presentation of the operetta 'Castles in Spain' for a number of nights in the Toowoomba City Hall. Patricia Moloney who had moved to Toowoomba from Goondiwindi was one of the stars in the production and she caught the eye of Ron and as they say the rest is history – they married in 1951 and were blessed with 4 daughters who they encouraged in their pursuits of academic qualifications.

After 20 years service with the Railway Department the couple operated a store in Dalby and later moved to the Redcliffe Peninsula where they took up postal franchises at Humpybong and Clontarf. When he was 70 Ron believed it was time to take up Lawn Bowls at the Bramble Bay Bowls Club; but it took him some months to get on the green as he had an accident off his pushbike on the day of his retirement. He then took up bowls with enthusiasm and was a regular bowler in our Old Boys Inter City competition for the 'Kevin Lee Memorial Shield'.

Unfortunately Ron's health deteriorated during 2012 and he was hospitalised for a period. He was called to Eternal Life on 28/11/2012 and Fr Michael McCarthy offered his Requiem Mass in 'Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Woody Point on Monday 3/12/2012. Ron is survived by his wife, **Pat, Ann and Ian, Cathie and John, Jennie and Helen**, 6 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild and sister **Margaret (Mrs Barry Kuhneman)**. Ron's brother, **Len**, predeceased him.

- McNab Construction Australia Pty Ltd, founded by Old Boy, **Michael McNab** (Year 12 – 1981), have just received the inaugural Outstanding Safety Performance Award from Santos for its work on the multi-billion GNLG upstream project and the Company was praised for setting safety benchmarks on the project.

McNab's Chief Executive Officer, **Mark Adamson**, also an Old Boy and son of Greg (RIP) and nephew of Frank, said the Company had learnt an incredible amount from Santos GLNG and Fluor and the ancillary benefit is that we have fed these learnings back into the rest of the Company so that everyone goes home safely.

As part of the safety award, McNab has been given a \$5,000 cheque to hand to a charity of its own choosing, courtesy of Santos GLNG and head contractor, Fluor.

The Roma Cancer Council was selected after McNab heard of its potential closure last year, and the importance of the services they provide to the Maranoa community.



- The Toowoomba Earthmoving Civil Construction and Heavy Haulage Company, MF&PM Sedl Pty Ltd, has been in business over 50 years. The year 2012, marked an historic event in the life of **Mathias Frederick (Max) Sedl**, a Life Member of our Association, as it was in 1952 (60 years ago), that the initial partnership between Max and his wife, **Patty** began.

Max started work as plumber and drainer apprenticed to a well-known firm in those days, O'Brien & Fitzpatrick, located in Margaret Street, close to the 'dry' Canberra hotel. He and Patty then established their own business; but after about 10 years Max realised that drainage had become the core of the business and the Company was formed in 1963.

In the early years he undertook lots of work in country centres – Pittsworth, Brookstead, Cecil Plains and Millmerran. As well Max worked on many Toowoomba landmark projects such as Myer, the Works Department Building (now Q Build), the early stages of the DDIAE (now USQ), Baillie Henderson Hospital and several nursing homes. During the course of these contracts, the first backhoe with a maximum digging width of 18 inches and a depth of 4 feet six inches was purchased. Today they can dig 3 feet wide and 15 feet deep. Later a 203 Massey backhoe and front end loader was bought and it saw a lot of time on the construction of the Moonie Oil pipeline.

In 1980, with son **Michael**, also a College Old Boy, the couple began the Company's heavy haulage section, a significant expansion involving large numbers of earthmoving machinery, tip trucks, prime movers and trailers and a multi disciplinary work force of some 60 employees. The Company is specialising in sealed parking areas, roadworks, sub-divisions, commercial and residential earthworks, earthmoving and heavy haulage. They operate a large workshop and storage yard and in 1995, received its quality assurance certificate.



(L to R: Michael Sedl, Max Sedl, Lynne Sedl)

Max Sedl has enjoyed owning a business in Toowoomba and has learnt some valuable lessons along the way. 'You have to have the ability to review and adapt to the ever changing industry standards and regulations and to diversify within the scope of the business and to find solutions for even the most difficult jobs to achieve favourable outcomes for your clients', he says.

- Old Boy, **John Wagner**, the son of one of our Past Presidents Henry (1970-1974) and his wife **Mary**, is currently Chairman of the Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise with the main concern being the economic development of the Region. The Wagner family company is the driving force proposing a jet-capable airport and industrial park in the Wellcamp / Charlton area on Toowoomba's western outskirts which gained the approval of the Toowoomba Regional Council in December.



John's former classmates recall him pulling out the hedges in front of the College with a backhoe under the watchful eye of **Brother Frank Rodgers**, while John was still a College student.

- In 1952, as a Year 3 student, **John Hede** rode his bicycle from Baillie Henderson Hospital, where his father was one of the medical staff, to St Mary's College each day joining the McErlean and Ranger brothers at their Rockville homes along the way. On completing his secondary education, he then went on to study medicine and on 9/1/2013, retired as a Surgeon after practicing at St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba, from 1978. Since 1979 he has worked side by side with another surgeon, **Dr Bernie McGuinness**, also retiring, at the SVHT Endoscopy Unit where they pioneered medical advancements including laparoscopic general surgery, surgery access for renal dialysis and the use of epidurals during caesarean section births. Dr John Hede will remain in Toowoomba and continue teaching surgical students through the University of Queensland Clinical School and examining overseas trained doctors.

John's siblings are **David, Andrew, Paul, Damien, Ann (Mrs John Wilson) and Elaine (Mrs Brown)**



Dr John Hede with wife Martine and grandchildren Gisele and Crystal



- **Tadeusz Wlodarczyk**, father of Old Boys **John**, Castle Hill, NSW, **Christopher**, Tennyson and **Mariusz**, Northgate, South Australia, celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2012. Polish born he is one of less than a dozen Second World War Rats of Tobruk veterans still alive in Queensland.



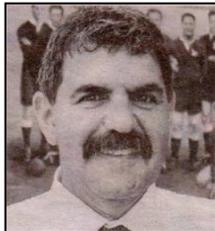
(L) Tadeusz Wlodarczyk in 1988 and  
(R) in 2012 aged 100

During the war he served in the Polish Army's 3<sup>rd</sup> Carpathian Division under British command after escaping Poland with his wife and family, following the German and Russian invasions.

Post war, he and his wife, **Irena**, and five of their seven children, settled in Toowoomba after immigrating to Australia and single-handedly he built a five bedroom, white brick home in the early 1950s. A bricklayer, plasterer and stonemason, Tad worked for local builders A H Hodge & Sons where he developed an exceptional reputation for his work on construction projects.

Ted Wlodarczyk celebrated this special milestone with his family – six children, 14 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren at home, enjoying Polish treats, Pierogi (dumplings filled with meat or potato) and Golabki (minced meat wrapped in cabbage leaves). His wife, Irena, died in 1989 after 55 years of marriage and their eldest daughter, Maria, passed away in 2007. The family were foundation members of St Thomas More's Parish which opened in 1958.

Tad was honoured with Good Wishes from the Queen, the Governor General and the Prime Minister on his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.



- Our congratulations to Old Boy **Peter Betros** who was elected Queensland Rugby League Chairman in December replacing former International John McDonald who announced his retirement from that position after 20 years in September 2012.

Peter is a former Ipswich referee and State of Origin official, having previously served on the Board of the Australia Rugby League. In 2007 he was elected Chairman of the restricted Queensland Rugby League South East Division. Commenting on the loss of the second State of Origin match, earmarked for the Sunshine State in 2013, Peter Betros said while we were disappointed with losing our second game, the game we were meant to have, overall the five year

reworked deal is a good one and may help give players and staff extra motivation.

- Former Toowoomba's Clifford Park Racecourse Deputy Chief Racing Steward, **Rion Hitchiner**, commenced duty as the Chief Racing Steward based in Townsville in November. The new post he accepted covers TAB racing in Mackay and country racing from Laura to Mt Isa. Rion's promotion follows a lengthy stint at Racing Queensland's Toowoomba office where the former St Mary's College student began part-time work when he was 15 years old. For the last four years he has been the region's Deputy Chief Steward and has worked with the Chief Steward, Martin Knibbs, for the past two years. It is a significant move for Rion, his wife Belle and two young daughters, Jasmine & Abbie



and naturally some sacrifices were involved; but his new role was hard to knock back.

- **Bill Sullivan** was visiting Toowoomba in January to catch up with family and friends like cousin **Pat O'Dwyer** and **Ken Edge**, **Des McGovern** and **Brian Jones**.

- **James Peirson**, Australian Under 19 Wicketkeeper/Batsman and grandson of **Maureen** and **James Long**, is taking up a four months contract with the English Club Kent early in March-2013. He plays with the Redlands Club in the Brisbane competition and recently played with the second Queensland Cricket Squad in an Interstate series in Sydney.

#### 'Year 1955 – 1963 Class Reunion'

- On Saturday 16 November 2013 this Class Reunion will be held in the College TP O'Brien Function Centre. There will be a tour of the College Facilities at 2.00pm and dinner at 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start. Past students and their partners are welcome to attend both activities.

Darryl and Dawn Brennan and Merv Paddison have been responsible for contacting classmates to ensure it is a memorable occasion for the Class Group and would like assistance in locating a small number of classmates:

Barry Coleman	John Crowley	Jim Davidson
Noel Edge	Tony Edge	John Foley
Neville Goodhew	John Murphy	

Merv Paddison who has settled into retirement mode, after being Principal of the Golden Beach State School for some years, will take any details on these eight lads 'missing in action' or enquiries on the Reunion. Darryl who has done a fine job contacting former classmates has been unwell so Merv is now the contact point: Email [paddison@netspace.net.au](mailto:paddison@netspace.net.au) or telephone (07-5444 6716) or 0427 631 620.



### ‘College News’

- Various ‘works’ have been undertaken over the Christmas holidays at the College:

Renovations of Senior Student Toilet Block and College ‘Learning Hub’, completion of pavement outside the Brothers’ former residence now the Administration Building, and painting of College fences.

The O P result were solid with 21% receiving an OP (1-6) and 71% an OP QCE (1 and 15). 88% of students received their QCE.

College Captain this year is **Mitch Byrne** and the Vice Captain is **Sam Collins**. Congratulations gentlemen!

The year started with the Interhouse Swimming Carnival won by Purcell House, on Friday 1/2/2013 at the Milne Bay Aquatic Centre and with the Opening Mass and Leadership Induction / Semester 2, 2012 Academic Awards held in the Clive Berghofer Arena on Friday 15/2/2013.

At the Darling Downs Sports Awards Presentation Night on 9/2/2013, St Mary’s College was crowned the Primary School of the Year 2012. Special mention goes to the Development Cup Team who were the No. 1 team in South-East Queensland and second to Innisfail in the State Final at the Dairy Farmers Stadium in Townsville on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

The College opening enrolment for 2013 is 750 students.

### ‘Old Boy Wedding Celebrations’

- **Doug and Joan (Rafter) McKillop** who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 25/1/2013. The couple married in the Holy Cross Catholic Church, Miles. They celebrated with family and friends including children **Robert, Noel, Mary, Ann, Patrick, Catherine, Tony, Carmel and Paul**.



- **Stan and Roslyn (King) McKenzie** celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 26/1/2013. They married in St Mary’s Catholic Church, Maryborough. Their children **Christopher, Gregory, Ronald** and **Antony** enjoyed the celebrations with them at the Toowoomba Sports Club.



- **Justin and Yvonne (Williams) McErlean** celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 16/2/2013, having been married in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Toowoomba by Justin’s Uncle, **Fr W Henry** of Laidley. The milestone celebrations were enjoyed by family and friends at the Blue Mountain Function Centre, Harlaxton. Children **Joseph, Christopher, Michael, Catherine (Upton) and Gregory** joined with family and friends in celebrating the event.



*Old Boys, congratulate these three couples on reaching such significant milestones.*

