



St Mary's Old Boys' Newsletter



~ March 2017 ~

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Dear Old Boys

Both of our pre-Christmas meetings, on the 18/11/2016 at the “Deck on Edward” Café in Brisbane, and on 2/12/2016 at the Buderim Golf Club, were particularly enjoyable as Old Boys extended Seasonal Greetings to former schoolmates.

Our first TBOBA Brisbane Branch meeting will be held at noon on **Friday 10th March 2017** at the Queensland Rail Institute rooms located beside the “**Deck on Edward**” Café which can be found on the corner of **Edward and Turbot Streets** beside Central Station. There will be the opportunity to join Old Boy mates from 11am on, as your travel and other commitments dictate.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To assist with CATERING could you please advise Dan McErlean if you intend to come and provide your luncheon preference. We have a limited menu of Fish & Chips, Beef Burger & Chips, or Toasted Sandwiches & Chips, with a few other options. Please advise Dan of your preference so we can advise the Café staff prior to our arrival.

Tentative dates for our future Brisbane meetings for 2017 are **12th May, 14th July, 15th September, and 17th November**, so please reserve them as Claimer Dates. Two meetings will also be held at Buderim again this year, around mid-year and early December. The firm dates for these gatherings will be advised in due course.

Old Boys who have taken up Life Membership of our association recently include **Michael Murphy (1953 – 1955)**, brother of **Bernie (1947-53)**, and **Terry (1947-56)**, also Life Members, and **Philip Simpson (1976-77)**, son of **Des Simpson** and nephew of **Evan, Dr. John, and Pat**.

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| 10 th March 2017 | Brisbane TBOBA Sub Branch Meeting at 12 noon – Queensland Rail Institute, cnr. Edward and Turbot Streets beside the “ Deck on Edward Café ” |
| 27 th March 2017 7:00pm | TBOBA Annual General Meeting – Clive Berghofer Arena – St. Mary’s College, Herries Street, Toowoomba. |
| 9 th April 2017 9:00am | TBOBA Lawn Bowls Day for Kevin Lee Memorial Trophy at Aspley Bowls Club . Contact Laurie Blacka (0409348849), Terry Gesch (33599228), or Eric Howe (46322191). |
| Date to be confirmed | TBOBA Sunshine Coast meeting at the Headland Golf Club, Buderim at 12 noon. Contacts: Bernie Murphy (54780742), Terry Murphy (54564340), or Redmond Byrne (54776705) |
| 24 th April 2017 8:45am | St. Mary’s ANZAC Commemoration Ceremony at the College. |
| Date to be confirmed | 1946 – 1955 Class Reunion , Contact Jim Madden (46968856) or Paul McNally OAM (46322286). Possible dates 24/6/2017 or 1/7/2017 |

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Secretary
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Dan Reilly
Co-Ordinator
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T.B.O.B.A. (Brisbane Sub-Branch) Meeting – 18th November 2016

Present

Apologies

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Fr Tyrone Deere Br Barry Buckley Bryan McSweeney (Brisbane Sub-branch President) Laurie Atzeni (Hon) John Bagget Carl Betros Greg Butler Nat Chandler Bernie Collins Noel Cronin Frank Deighton Maurie Drew Brien Dunne Bob Frost Noel Frost Gene Green Rolly Griffin John Hagan Daphne Hutchinson Tom Hutchinson Barry Kuhnemann | Doug Lee Fred Lincoln Jim Long Dick Lynch Dinny Madden Pat Mullins Michael Murphy Denis McClure Dan McErlean Justin McErlean Peter McMahan Reg Oliver John O'Neill Martin O'Sullivan Jack Parker Paul Reynolds John Stephen Pat Stringer Graham Swenson Kerry Taylor Trevor Taylor | Fr Paul Chandler Frank Adamson Darryl Baker Nev Card Jack Davis (Hon) John Drew Allan Duncan Les Duncan Graham Ehler Des Franklin Brian Gagen Terry Gesch Barry Gordon Tim Hagan | Peter Kennedy Justin Lunney Jim Mullins Bernie Murphy Terry Murphy Rod McDonald John Noonan Lindsay Reis Reg Taylor Glen Wiedman David Wilkinson |
|---|--|---|--|

T.B.O.B.A. (Buderim) Meeting – 22nd July 2016

Present

Apologies

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Rod Anderson Redmond Byrne Bernie Collins Grahame Dornbusch Bill Fechner Bob Grundy Kevin Leadbetter Jim Long Michael Long Tom Long Bernie Murphy | Terry Murphy John McClure Dan McErlean Martin O'Sullivan Merv Paddison Ron Roney Dave Robson Errol Ryan Laurie Walsh Brad Wilson Lance Wilson | Pat Long Pat Mullins John Noonan Jim Stokes | |
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Annual Membership Fee (\$10.00) for Calendar Year 2017 is now due / or
Life Memberships are available (Fee \$100.00)

Cheques for Membership should be made payable to the "Toowoomba Brothers Old Boy's Association"

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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 remember in your prayers some of our Old Boys' and Friends of the College recently deceased:

- **Dr. John Simpson** (1934-1943) Life Member No 86, husband of Marie and brother to Des, Evan, and Pat, all deceased.
- **Ted Coonan** (1937-1942), Life Member and husband of Bernadette, and father of Michael, Julianne, John, and Geraldine.
- **Darcy Howe** (1934-1939), Life Member No 91, husband of Kelly (RIP), father of Christine and brother of John, Molly (Walsh), Tom and Colin all deceased, and Keith and Eric.
- **William Joseph Jarrett** (88years), husband of Pat and brother of Merv and Peter all deceased and father of Michael, Peter, Christopher, Terrence, Kathleen, and Therese.
- **Terence Michael Gawthorn** (1940's), husband of Helen and father of Michael, Lenore, Angela and William.
- **John (Jack) McGregor** (1951-1960), husband of June Anne (Scott Hunter), brother of Mary, Malcolm (Catherine), and Carmel.
- **Brian Martin** (Junior 1947), husband of Pat (Trapp), father of Greg, Brian, Michael, Mary Ann and Tricia, and brother-in-law of Robert Trapp, and brother of Daphne (Quinn) and Nancy (Kimlin).
- **Graham Sweeney** (1947-1956), Life Member and brother of Jack and Dell (Garrett) both deceased. Classmate of Dr. John Frawley AM, Dr Colin Owen AO, and Terry Murphy.
- **David Wilkinson** (1964-1972), Life Member No 124 and husband of Cathy (Gehrmann), and father of Lisa and Anna, son of Dr. Keith Wilkinson.
- **Margaret Anne (Gretta) Watson.** Passed away 5th November. Wife of old boy Bob, mother of old boys Peter, John and Tony Watson, Grandmother of old boys James, Joseph, Michael, Paul, Steve and Dan Watson and Auntie of many old boys from the Booshand, Hopper, Chandler, Liebke and Ahearn families. Mother-in-law of old boy Graham Healy.
- **Patricia Mary Parsons**, wife of Reg and mother of Denis (1984) and Anthony (1987).
- **Pam (Wilkie) Griffin**, wife of Noel (1943-1950).

- **Kathleen Therese Horne**, wife of Brad, mother of Bridget and Clare, daughter of Vera and Dan McErlean.
- **Bill McErlean**, (1943-1952), Life Member No. 30, husband of Marg, father of Kerrie, Jeff, Gary, and Joanne, brother of Dan, Justin, Teresa (Sgalippa), and Kev & Pat both deceased.
- **Terry Royal**, passed away on 1st February aged 67 years, (from **Joe Coorey**).
- **Owen Darcy**, 1940's husband of Gwen, father of Michael, Andrew, Christine, and Cathy.
- **Jim Hayes** 1940's Husband of Gloria.
- **Michael Fitzpatrick**, Life Member, (1945 Scholarship class) husband of Marie, father of Pauline, Dennis, Terry, Judy, Ray, Adele, Vivienne (deceased), Sharon and Owen.

There are a number unwell or recovering from surgery including **Dr Keith Wilkinson, Tim Coonan, Colin Green, Trevor Muller, Tom & Daphne Hutchinson, Reg Taylor, Joe Short, Philip Stephens, Bob Sullivan, Kevin Garrett, and Sandra Garrett, wife of Michael.**

- **Dr. R S John Simpson (2/10/1926 – 11/11/2016)** (extracts from the eulogy delivered by his son Steve)



The clocks have not stopped ticking and our mobile phones continue to command obedience, No dogs have ceased to bark and each fresh dawn is followed by the sun's brilliance. But something very important has happened and our lives will never be the same again.

For we, fortunate few, whose lives were touched by the greatest man I have known, **Dr. Roy Stewart John Simpson**, we have paused.

I believe that the highest tribute to the death of John Simpson surely must be gratitude and thanks for the life he lived. We have all been enriched and our lives greatly improved through the influence of John Simpson.

I am **Steve Simpson**, one of his 8 children. It is my privilege and honour to share a few words with you about the man, John Simpson, who I knew as Dad.

As a father, Dad led from the front by example. He did not say one thing and do the opposite himself. He held strong opinions, on most subjects, and was always willing and extremely capable of defending his opinions with well-researched logical academic rationale. He encouraged all

his children to do likewise. He encouraged us to refrain from expressing contempt prior to investigation and to attempt to keep an open mind, searching for the truth wherever that may be found, even, God forbid, from the contrary position to our own.

He was born into a modest Irish Catholic family in Toowoomba, the third of four sons of **Roy and Josephine**. He attended the Christian Brothers School of St. Mary's and was always grateful to the Christian Brothers for the financial support they provided to the family so that all the boys could receive an education.

All of John's brothers were very successful in their own way, but it very soon became clear to his teachers that John was gifted academically. He did exceptionally well in the State-Wide Junior (grade 10) examination, so the Christian Brothers pleaded with John's parents to allow him to stay on at school and do years 11 and 12.

This was not an easy task as his Mum, Josephine, wanted him to join the Public Service where he would have a job for life, so long as he was not caught thieving or drunk on duty. I suspect Josephine's concerns were strongly influenced by her relationship with Roy, her husband, who had a tendency to commit both these indiscretions on a regular basis. The Church won out and John was the first boy ever to do year 11 and 12 at St. Mary's. He was literately in a Class of his own. He was an exceptional student and achieved first place in the QLD State-Wide Senior examinations of 1943.

Very briefly, having been awarded an academic scholarship, John moved to Brisbane to study Medicine at QLD University. During the latter years of his university training, and following much soul-searching and prayer, he developed a very deep fully committed faith in the Catholic doctrine and seriously contemplated a religious vocation.

Then, he met Marie and everything changed. He spoke about the first thing that he noticed about Marie, which was a large, exceedingly generous hat. Marie shared John's religious commitment and the rest is history. They were married in 1952 and have spent the past 65 years together, rarely being parted.

Dad often said that Marie taught him how to love. Mum did not just love him back. Dad once told me that Marie's love saved him. She gave him strength and purpose, joy and friendship and always stood by him. Marie has been the love of his life and I believe that he was still "in love" with her and will remain so forever.

I cannot talk about John without speaking about his Medical career. John was essentially a man of science,

with a passion for knowledge and truth. He continued his study of Medicine, achieving Fellowship into the specialty of the College of Physicians in both Australia and Great Britton. In other words, he was like "Dr. House" in the TV series. When other doctors did not know what was wrong with a patient, they referred the patients to John. My early memories of my Dad were of him studying in his library. He didn't have a study, he had a library. This was the only room in the house where we children were not allowed to enter without an adult. This was Dad's "Man Cave".

Most people are completely unaware of his generosity to charitable institutions. On occasions, this would amount to 30% of his earnings. He kept this very quiet because he was not looking for approval or plaudits, but simply and anonymously helping his fellow human beings who needed support.

John began working at this very hospital in 1966. It was called Mt Olivet Hospital then and John worked as a Honorary VMO. That means he worked for free. His desire was to help people, to help in their recovery or, with terminal cases, to ease their pain and assist them in their death. John was strongly involved in the development of the Specialist Palliative Care Unit and was the Chairman of the Ethics Committee. He continued his work at St Vincent's for 40 years and finally retired in 2006.

Some people find it odd that a man of such supreme intellectual ability had no difficulty in also being a man of unwavering faith in God and Catholicism.

Dad had no difficulty. His bookshelves were filled with Medical Journals and also religious and spiritual works.

The first 6 of his 8 children were born with in an 8 or 9 year timeframe. What an incredible load on Marie. 6 kids in 8 years.

It must be remembered that at this time and as the kids were still young but heading into adolescence, John was extremely busy in establishing his Medical career and also in his work for the Right to Life movement.

John Simpson was a leading public voice for the "Right to Life" movement. This role was one John did not want, but, when called to act, he went into to bat as best as he could. This placed enormous strain on Marie as John was virtually absent from the family for a period of time. Working, writing, doing interviews – it must have been an extraordinary difficult period for both John and Marie. By the time the twins arrived, that battle was over. Dad could now spend more time with them and participate more in their lives. He loved watching them play tennis and we also formed a Men's tennis night on a Thursday.

It was my privilege to be included in that group and Dad and I were able to redefine our relationship. He will always be my father but he was also my very close friend. A quality possessed by John was the ability to accept and to love with joy. The partners of John's children have expressed to me the gratitude they feel to John for always making them feel loved and accepted into the Simpson Family. He has been described as having a "Bear" like hug. He was a big man with a big presence and an even bigger heart. He knew exactly who he was so pretense was completely absent from his character.

In my experience it is common that as people age, often they become more fixed in their ways, less flexible, possibly grumpy, short tempered and irritable. However, not so with John. John became even more grateful for the smallest kindness or for the company of a son, daughter or friend.

He became even more gentle, loving and kind. He loved Marie passionately to the very end of his life and he lived each day with the absolute, unwavering faith in his God.

• **Edward John Coonan (Ted) 17/05/1929 – 21/11/2016**
Ted was born in Toowoomba, the second son of three boys to **James** and **Clare Coonan**. **Noel** and **Bill** have predeceased him.

Ted was educated at St. Saviour's Convent and from 1937-42 at St Mary's Christian Brothers College.

Ted's parents sold their garage in Toowoomba and purchased a stud farm at Cambooya. Ted helped with milking cows and farm duties. By age 16 he had had enough of that life and took up an apprenticeship as a mechanic in Toowoomba.

In 1953 he applied for a position with the Commonwealth Department of Works in Papua New Guinea as a mechanic. This position was short lived because of boredom and he returned home to share farm with brother Bill on their father's farm "Nanooc" at Cecil Plains.

On the 22/08/1959 Ted married local girl **Bernadette Ryan**. They had four children, **Michael, Julianne, John, and Geraldine** and became very proud grandparents of seven grandchildren.

In 1960 Ted purchased "Nanooc" from his father and spent the next 19 years farming there.

Ted was very community minded and while living at Cecil Plains was involved with the Golf Club and Swimming Club. He was a committee member of the golf club and President of the Swimming Club. He taught swimming to the children on Saturday mornings.

On moving to Tallai on the Gold Coast in 1979 Ted joined the Mudgeeraba Swimming Club and taught swimming from home. Being a keen golfer he also joined the Helensvale Golf Club and played regularly, sometimes 3 days a week. Fishing was another interest and he made several trips to 1770.

His great interest was the Rotary Club of Mudgeeraba which he joined in 1980 as a Charter Member. In his later years he became The Bulletin editor, a position he delighted in doing.

His family and grandchildren were the light of his life and he always looked forward to their visits.

Ted's funeral was held at the Shrine of "Our Lady Help of Christians", Marian Valley, Canungra on the 25/11/2016. His Ashes were placed in the Columbarium at Marian Valley on 21/01/2017. Ted will be greatly missed. May he Rest in Peace.

• **Jack McGregor (1943 – 2016)**

Jack McGregor was born on 18th March 1943, the second child of **Jack** and **Dorothy McGregor**.

He attended both Our Lady of Lourdes and Holy Name Convents before he was enrolled in **Brother Canty's** Grade 2 Class at St. Mary's Toowoomba in 1951, graduating in 1960. Some of his peers include **Peter Byrnes, Mick O'Connor, Bob Denny, John Kruger** among others.

Jack was a scallywag, lots of fun and a generosity of spirit. In looking through his school photos it can be seen that he was involved in cadets, rugby league (a passion he continued all his life, though mostly as an observer. The most one eyed QLDer in the State of Origin ever!!), and cricket. After school he joined Caltex and then 4AK Radio Toowoomba and later Backstage Productions while on the Gold Coast.

Jack embraced our Old Boy's Association and joined the Committee preparing for the successful (1951-1960) Reunion in 2000. Other members of this committee included **Bernie Collins, John Noonan, Kerry Taylor, and John Herbert**.

He succeeded in the many things he undertook, and on the early death of his father in 1964, Jack gave great support to his mother helping to hold the family together at that time.

Jack married **June Ann Scott Hunter** in 1973 and they lived in Brisbane, Toowoomba, and recently on the Gold Coast. He died there with June by his side as ever the stalwart support on 16th August 2016.

Consistent with his wishes, his funeral arrangements were very private and low key, hence not many people from St. Mary's would be alert to his passing.

Our thanks to **Carmel** for passing on the sad news and giving us the opportunity to remember Jack in the newsletter.

- **Darcy John Howe (13/10/1925 – 1/12/2016)**



A Life member, **Darcy** was born in Blackall on 13/10/1925. His siblings were **John, Molly (Walsh), Tom and Colin** (all deceased), and **Keith and Eric**, grandchildren of the famous Jackie Howe.

He was a student at St Mary's College from 1934 to 1939.

On leaving school Darcy worked for Rosentengels for a short time and then joined the Railway Department as a porter and then fireman and signalman.

While working at the Corinda Railway Station he commenced University studies for his Teaching Degree which led to his teaching career at Bundamba. After a serious heart attack Darcy taught students at the Education Department's School of Dance. He also taught English in Germany for a period. He married **Kelly Jones** and the couple had one daughter, **Christine**.

For a considerable period Darcy was the Brisbane Secretary of our Toowoomba Brothers Old Boys' Association, serving with **Tom Gorman** and then **Mick Moloney**. He was also a volunteer at the Jondaryan Woolshed and St. Andrew's Hospital in Brisbane.

About 2014 Darcy was presented with the "Moderator's Community Service Medal" from St. Andrew's, for visiting and helping patients having cardiac surgery and rehabilitation, pre and post-operation, on over 12,000 visits for about 20 years.

Shortly after he broke his hip, then suffered a stroke and moved into Pine Lodge Home for the Aged. He passed to Eternal Life on 1/12/2016 and was buried from his Parish Church, St Joseph's at Corinda on 9/12/2016.

- **Rev. Michael McClure CSSR**



Old Boy **Fr Michael McClure** was recently named "Citizen of the Year" by the Helidon Community. This annual award from the Helidon and District Progress Association goes to a member of the local community who generously donates their time and effort to building up the Community of Helidon.

A community spokesperson said Fr McClure worked tirelessly providing support and friendship to anyone who needed it. The St Joseph's parish Helidon, where Fr Michael is the retired priest in residence congratulated him on receipt of this award. A spokesperson said 'It is a wonderful achievement for someone who is so very generous of time and spirit. We are truly blessed to have him in our community'.

Fr Michael was ordained in St Patrick's Cathedral by **Bishop William Brennan** on the 29th June 1962 and from 1963 to 1976 he served in the parishes of Stanthorpe,

Dalby, and Holy Name – Wilsonton. Between 1976 and 1981 Fr McClure undertook his Masters and Doctoral Studies at the Redemptorist's Alphonsian Academy (Lateran University, Rome). Then from 1981 to 1988 he was Professor of Moral Theology at Pius XII Provincial Seminary, Banyo. In 1999 he was appointed Associate Pastor at Warwick and then succeeded Fr John Ryan in the Helidon Parish.

To make the award presentation even more special, some of Fr Michael's family made a surprise journey to help him celebrate the event. Fr Michael's brothers, **Paul (1945-51), John (1950-57), Brendan (1951-60), and Denis (1955 and 1962/63)** are all active members of our Toowoomba (St Mary's) Brothers Old Boys' Association.

- **Fr Brian Noonan – 40years as a Priest**



On July 10th 2016 **Fr Brian Noonan** celebrated 40 years of dedicated service to the Priesthood at his Highfields Parish in Toowoomba.

Fr. Brian was born in Toowoomba and went to school at St Mary's College before going

on to study to be a Priest at the Banyo Seminary.

He was ordained on the 8th July 1976 at St Patrick's Cathedral and his first post as a young Priest was to Clifton, still quite close to his home town.

He served in many Parishes including Pittsworth, St Thomas More's in Toowoomba, Mitchell and Chinchilla before his arrival in 2008 at Mary of the Southern Cross Catholic Parish, then located in the James Byrne Centre.

On 22nd June 2014 the move was made to the MacKillop Centre. A lot of changes have come about since 2008 and Fr. Brian has always given his Pastoral Council and any special ministers in the Parish, his full support.

During the 8am Mass on 10/07/2016 **Donagh Shirley** spoke on behalf of herself and the Parish Council giving a very touching tribute to Fr. Brian which was received with acclamation by the large crowd. **Kevin McCormick**, also from the Pastoral Council presented him with a signed Broncos football and also a card signed by all Parishioners to mark the occasion.

An overwhelming crowd turned out for lunch at the Highfields Tavern, which was an indication of the respect the Parishioners have for Fr. Brian. A beautiful cake was made available by Parish Pastoral Council Chair, **Jo Meacle**. This was cut by Fr. Brian after lunch and distributed to all to enjoy with their tea and coffee.

• **Robin Anthony Murphy O.A.M.**



Canstruct Pty Ltd formed by founding Director, Robin Murphy O.A.M and his three sons Rory, Dan and Adrian in 1991, completed the design and construction of four (4) bridges over the Ambogo, Eroro, Girua, and Kumusi Rivers in the Oro Province of Papua New Guinea between August 2014 and September 2016 at a contract price of K139,000,000 (Aus \$65M).

Robin was a student at St Mary's College between 1948 and 1957, going on to complete his engineering degree as a Civil Engineer.

2016 was the 50th anniversary of the award of the first contract to Robin and his wife Margaret for the supply, fabrication, delivery, and erection of three bridges in the Western Highlands of PNG in 1966. Robin and his sons have been constructing bridges in the toughest of places for over fifty years.

In the 2015 Australian Day Honours list, Robin was awarded an O.A.M medal in the General Division "For service to the building and construction industry and the community".

The four bridges in the above mentioned contract, plus two additional bridges, have now been completed and were officially opened by the Acting Prime Minister of PNG, Sir Les Dion, the Australian High Commissioner to PNG, Bruce Davis, and the Governor of Oro Province, the Hon Gary Tuffa MP, and other Ministers on 23/11/2016 in front of numerous local chiefs and dignitaries and a large and boisterous crowd of over 2000 people.

During his speech, the High Commissioner said that this was the largest Australian Aid Project in PNG for many years, and that the 298m long Kumsi River Bridge is the longest two lane bridge in PNG and these bridges will make an incredible difference to the day to day lives of more than 100,000 people.

The site of the opening ceremony was immediately adjacent to the Kumsi River Bridge which also has immense significance to Australia's war-time history. It is the river in which the senior Japanese General, Horii, who commanded the Kokoda campaign, perished with many of his soldiers while being forced to retreat to the north coast under heavy Australian attack in November 1942.



Rory, Dan and Robin Murphy

Other News

Towards the end of 2016 Seasonal Greeting were received from a number of Old Boys or family members:

Dudley Morgan (Junior 1950) – currently lives in Norfolk in the United Kingdom.

Fr Michael Gilbert CSSR (1947-54) – stationed in Kogarah NSW in the St George "Dragons" rugby league heartland.

John Leis (1948-49) – while his address is in Randwick NSW, he spends lots of time at his holiday cottage at Vincentia in Jervis Bay 190km to the south of Sydney.

Michael Quinlan (1950-59), our Sydney Old Boys' Co-ordinator and his wife **Margo** did not venture overseas in 2016, for the first time since 1980, but had a full programme taking in Rugby Tests and the State of Origin first match of 2016, family history research and some Queensland winter sunshine at Emu Park.



Margo, Mick, Michelle

Brian (1944-49) and Meredith Kenway are enjoying retirement at Elanora on the Gold Coast. Their sons **Mark** and **Ben** and their families live at Robina and Bundaberg respectively.

Marie Keen – daughter of Mrs Francis Rohde and sister of Pat, both now deceased.

Kevin (1947-56) and John (1948-57) Mitchell, nephews of that legendary Toowoomba Rugby League forward **Frank Brennan**, also an Old Boy.

Roma Oliver and her daughters **Patty, Wendy, and Jackie** have written expressing their sincere thanks to our Old Boys for the expressions of sympathy extended to the family following **Bill Oliver's** death in October.

Leigh Johnstone has also written expressing her thanks for the remembrance notice for her late husband, **Merv**, that was included in our September 2016 Newsletter.



- **Kev McSweeney** catching up with **Fr. John Quinlan** & **Barry Coonan** on Christmas Eve.



- **1945 – 1954 Class Reunion on 27/08/2016**
Lester Brosnan, Dan McErlean, John Baggett, and Terry Ranger

- Old Boys were particularly pleased to learn of the recent engagement of **Dr. Tom Moloney** to **Dr. Krystin Deen**.
Krystin is the daughter of **Dr. Vincent & Catherine Deen** and grand-daughter of **Jim Long** and his late wife **Maureen**.
Tom is the son of **Gregory & Nicky Moloney** and grandson of **Edna** and the late **Mick Moloney**.

Jim and Mick were classmates at St Mary's College

- **A roundabout trip to Lourdes and Fatima.**

Peter Kennedy and **Lorraine Stallybrass** departed Australia on 30th August 2016 on Korean Air to London with an overnight stopover in a 5 star hotel in Seoul. Next morning they joined a canal trip from Little Venice near Paddington Station to Camden Markets. The rest of the day included Westminster Abbey and a relaxing cruise on the Thames.

Following a night of storms, they flew out of Stansted for a two hour flight to Lourdes. Their first impression there was the huge number of people in the Lourdes domain, yet it seemed uncluttered and peaceful. They attended Mass in the huge underground basilica which seats 25,000 people

and they participated in other Mases and ceremonies in various locations including the grotto itself where the Blessed Virgin appeared.

Thousands of people joined in the nightly candle-lit rosary procession. A new experience for them was the private immersion in the Lourdes spring water. Before leaving Lourdes they enjoyed an afternoon tour into the Pyrenees Mountains over a narrow, winding road. Then it was off to Madrid, Spain, travelling on four connecting trains. Madrid was **HOT** – 38 degrees!

Following Madrid sightseeing, they headed to Lisbon and Fatima on a coach tour stopping along the way at old villages. After a day touring Lisbon it was onward to Fatima and an evening rosary candle-lit procession. Next morning they attended Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, did more sightseeing in Lisbon, then caught the coach for the long trip back to hot Madrid.

From Madrid it was a high speed train ride to Barcelona and an afternoon tour to the monastery at Montserrat, high in the mountains via a cog railway. There they had a few hours to wander around the remarkable buildings including the Basilica.

Following a tour of Barcelona it was a two hour flight back to London for a few days during which they did the usual touristy things like seeing the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, visiting Westminster Cathedral, etc. They also spent a pleasant afternoon in Kensington Gardens meeting Lorraine's niece and her husband, and being introduced to their six month old daughter.

Next day they went by train to York, but the planned sightseeing was abandoned when the weather turned really bad. Instead they moved on to Whitby on the east coast. When the weather improved the next day, Peter was able to enjoy steam train riding on the North Yorkshire moors.

The last two days were spent in and around the city of Bath, visiting Stonehenge, local villages and the Roman Baths.

Finally it was time for the long flight home to Australia via Seoul after a good trip.

- **Big Bash**

In the Big Bash Cricket semi-final at the Gabba on 25/01/2017 the Heat were beaten by the Scorchers in an incredible match in a Super Over finish when the scores were tied at 167 after 20 overs.

James Peirson did his level best for the Heat making 19 off 13 balls, and in his role as wicketkeeper stumping one and catching another.

James is the grandson of **Jim Long (1943-47)** and grand-nephew of **Pat and Tom Long**.