



St Mary's Old Boys' Newsletter



~ May 2013 ~

Dan McErlean
12 Werona Street
Sunnybank Qld 4109

Dear Old Boys

Our new Executive of the Toowoomba (St Mary's) Old Boys' Association was elected at the AGM on Monday 25/3/13. **Joe Guerrini** was re-elected President. He is a past student of St James' Christian Brothers, Fortitude Valley, a kindred College and before accepting his current position at the University of Southern Queensland was St Mary's College Business Manager. His son **David** completed Year 12 in 2012 and now is coach of the Year 8 College Basketball Team.

Other Officers elected were **Peter Walters** (Year 12, 2006) Vice President, **Matthew Booth** (Year 12, 2006) Secretary, **Don Stephens** (Year 12, 2007) Treasurer. Committeemen are **Paul Canning** (1968-1975), **Greg Manthey** (Year 12, 1984) and **Jeremy Cotter** (Year 12, 2007).

Please remember in your prayers Friends of the College recently deceased: **Mary Brennan** (wife of **Frank** RIP), **Frank Kilmister** (husband of **Joan** and brother of **Bob** and **Bill** RIP). **Des McGovern**, **Ted Neale**, husband of **Sandra (Scully)** and father of **Jeff**, **Suzy (O'Brien)**, **Maria (Toohey)** and **Leanne (McClure)** and brother and brother-in-law of **Reg** and **Pris** and **Des** (all deceased) and **Fr Jeff Scully**, and **Harold Kirwin**, father of Year 12, 1971 **Russell** who predeceased him in September 2010. A number are also ill or recovering from surgery – **Dr Kevin Everding**, **Kevin** and **Tim Coonan**, **Ian Meibusch**, **Justin Kingsford**, **Barry Lysaght**, **Don Vallye**, **Trevor Muller**, **Ron Shelvey**, **Pat Seymour**, **Kevin O'Neill**, **John Keightley**, **Gloria Chandler** and **Annette Gilbert**.

Brothers' Ball Yes! It is being held again this year in the TP O'Brien Function Centre on Saturday 18 May 2013. Arrive at 6.00pm and enjoy wine and savouries, then a 2 Course Meal for Dinner at 7.00pm and dance the night away with the "Still Kickin' band. For more details and tickets (\$50 per head) contact **Greg Manthey (0457 791 278)** or **Paul Canning (0429 059 016)**,

The Annual TBOBA Luncheon will be held in the North Toowoomba Bowls Club on Friday 12 July 2013. For reservations please contact Eric Howe on 07-4632 2191.

Our next meeting will be held at 'The Public Service Club', Level 1 Function Room, 84 William Street (cnr Stephens Lane), Brisbane on Friday 10th May 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. Other 'Claimer Dates' for our meetings this year are 19/7/13, 20/9/13 and 22/11/13.

Old Boys coming by train to the Central Railway Station, can catch 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.

Toowoomba (St Mary's) Old Boys' Association Inc - President's Report for 2012:

Our Association completed another successful year in 2012. The predominant activity of the Association continues to be the operation and maintenance of the Clive Berghofer Arena (CBA). We have operated the CBA since the commencement of 2005. It was funded by the State Government \$1,000,000 (Sport and Recreation Queensland), Toowoomba Regional Council \$412,500 and our Association (via Community donation \$80,000 and a Commercial Loan from Clive Berghofer \$1,010,000). The Association continues to operate three business units which contribute to the overall revenue generated. These three business units are:

- **Clive Berghofer Arena Business Unit**, which generates income from the operation of the CBA
- **Function Centre Business Unit**, which runs functions from the TP O'Brien Function Centre. (The Centre was constructed by the Association and handed over to the Diocese for College use, with the Association being able to continue to use income from the TP O'Brien Function Centre to support the Association's operations).
- **Association Business Unit**, this business unit runs other activities, which support the operations of the Association which includes a rent property, sponsorships arrangements, TP O'Brien Function Centre rentals and vending machines.

Each Business Unit has contributed to the overall operating result of the Association for 2012. Surpluses from the operation of the three Business Units are used to make Loan repayments on the CBA. (*Continued on Pages 7 and 8*)

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 – 8/3/2013

Present

Apologies

Bro Brian Saward	Rolly Griffin	Fr Paul Chandler	Doug Lee
John Bagget	John Hagan	Bro Barry Buckley	AE (Mick) Moloney
Darryl Baker	Merv Henson	Bro Kevin Dwyer	Bryan McSweeney (President)
Bernie Collins	Fred Lincoln	Frank Adamson	Bernie Murphy
John Coyer	Pat Mullins	Greg Butler	Terry Murphy
Noel Cronin	Dan McErlean	Nat Chandler	Justin McErlean
Jack Davis (Hon)	John O'Neill	Des Franklin	John Noonan
Frank Deighton	Errol Ryan	Joe Hanna	Reg Oliver
John Drew	Kerry Taylor	Merv Johnstone	Martin O'Sullivan
Brien Dunne	Graham Swenson	Peter Kennedy	Keith Pickels
Brian Gagen		Jim Long	Andy Purcell
Terry Gesch		John Morris	Dan Reilly
		Deacon Peter Devenish-Meaes	Ron Shelvey
		Jim Mullins	Peter Sheridan
		Trevor Muller	Ron Smith
		Bob Grundy	Reg Taylor
		John Hutchinson	Glen Wiedman
		Tom Hutchinson	Jim Wiedman

‘Coming Events’

10/5/13 12 Noon	Brisbane TBOBA Sub Branch Meeting – 1 st Floor, Function Room, ‘The Public Service Club’, 84 William Street (cnr Stephens Lane), Brisbane
12/7/13 Noon	Annual TBOBA Luncheon at North Toowoomba Bowls Club. For reservations please contact Eric Howe on 07 4632 2191.
18/5/13 6.00 pm	Brothers’ Ball in TP O’Brien Function Centre Ticket purchases (\$50 per person) from Greg Manthey (0457 791 278) or Paul Canning (0429 059 016)
16/11/13 2.00pm	1955–1963 Class Reunion in TP O’Brien Function Centre * * * * * Tour of College * * * * *
6.00 pm for 6.30 pm	Dinner (\$35.00 per person for two course meal with nibbles) Contact Merv Paddison (0427 631 620) or Kevin Bowden (0404 471 349)

Annual Membership Fee
(\$10.00) for Calendar Year
2013 is now due / or
Life Memberships are
available
(Fee \$100.00)
* * *

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.’**



- **Brother Barry Buckley AM** has joined **Brother Bill Tynan** currently Principal of St Bernard's College in Herberton, a small North Queensland town of about 1000 people. This is a new community location for the Christian Brothers, as the Congregation has not been involved in a school in the Cairns diocese previously. There are 165 pupils, two thirds are indigenous, mostly from the Torres Strait islands. It is a day and boarding school enrolling years 8-12 students, both boys and girls.
- Life Member, **Merv Henson**, recently made contact with one of his College mates, **Bernie Kavney**, now living in Booval, Ipswich. They were both member of College Athletics teams. Merv was placed 3rd in the Under 14 – 100 yards event at the 1950 Metropolitan Catholic Schools Association Athletic Carnival. Bernie has worked at a TAB agency in Booval for some years and if his legs can carry him, he could make one of our Brisbane gatherings with Merv.
- During March we had a note from **Bob Neal** now living in Hoppers Crossing, Victoria. We know he would support the Maroons in the Rugby League State of Origin games; but is it the Storms or Broncos he barracks for in the NRL competition? Bob was noted for the masterly way he filled the fullback position in the 1950 six stone College Rugby League team which was captained by **John O'Neill**. For many of the team it was the first season they had attempted to play competitive Rugby League. Most of our colour competition games in those days were played on the Bridge Street Reserve, down from the Gowrie Road Hotel.
- **Dr Peter Solomon** is hoping to attend the next Old Boys meeting in Sydney, organised by Coordinator **Michael Quinlan**, as he has decreased his work load more recently. Peter gained a Master of Science from the Queensland University in 1959 and a PhD in Earth Sciences from Harvard in 1963. From 1989 – 1992 Dr Peter was the sole international member of the Post Graduate Advisory Council of the Harvard University in America. He has published and lectured widely and has been involved in the development of trade, professional services and international project procurement.

- Recently **Brian and Fay (Rasby) Beauchamp** celebrated the 54th Anniversary of their Wedding on the 30th March 1959 with their daughter, **Kelli** and son, **Anthony**, their partners and 5 grandchildren. The couple were married at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Rosalie by Fr McSweeney; the wedding cake was made by **Mrs Dinny Dunne**, mother of Old Boy Brien Dunne who lives at Emu Park, Central Queensland. They have lived at Gordon Park for about 53 years of their married life. Brian and Fay met just after Brian had completed his National Service with the Air Force and had just accepted a Cadet Engineering position with the Railway Department. He later transferred to the Main Roads Department, before having a lengthy period of service as an Engineer with the Department of Public Works completing his Public Service Career as that Department's Director, Services Division, with responsibility for the 10 Queensland Regional Construction Offices undertaking works from the New South Wales border to the Torres Strait. Brian also served on the Queensland Board of Engineers. Some of Brian's Junior 1950 Classmates were **Phil Egan, Noel Griffin, Dudley Morgan** (now living



in England), **Noel Stenzel and Fr Hal Ranger**. Fr Hal was ordained in June 1959 after their wedding.

'Year 1955 – 1963 Class Reunion'

- On Saturday 16th 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 2pm and dinner at 6pm for a 6.30pm start. Past students and their partners are welcome to attend both activities. **Merv Paddison** is the contact for further details email [a mpaddison1@bigpond.com](mailto:mpaddison1@bigpond.com) or telephone (07) 5444 6716 or 0427 631 620. It will be great for them to reminisce about days at the College under Principals, **Brothers Carroll, Gygar and Wynne** and their Scholarship year teacher, **Brother Brian Saward**, now living at Nudgee.

One of the members of this class hoping to attend this Reunion is **Pat McErlean**. A career broadcaster, he has covered many sports including Rugby on a tour of the UK with legend Stan Pilecki and with a reporting role to Channel 9. He had a foot amputated following complications with an ulcer in 2012 but still kept his weekly Lawn Bowls World programme on schedule each Sunday morning from the Greenslopes Hospital. He broadcasted his last show on 4TAB on December 29th, so the timeslot could be reallocated to the Station's core business, sports betting.



We continue our... "Where are they now" series ...

- At 89 years, Old Boy **Jim Barron**, is too busy getting on with the job to even think about retirement. Each morning he wakes at dawn to take his 3km walk to Picnic Point and then prepares for the day ahead. His body is beginning to show the wear of time; but is controlled by a meticulous mind that enables him to take on his tasks as a full time sales representative at Cracker Print and Paper, Toowoomba. He—feels incredibly grateful that he can still rise every morning and head for work as a sales representative. He has worked with Cracker Print & Paper for 12 years and previously was employed with Harrison's Printing Company for 20 years, before the McDonald family purchased the business. After 32 years in the printing business and 36 years in automotive and transport organisations, he still takes pride in his job and 'customer satisfaction' is his catch-phrase.



Cracker Print and Paper manager and Toowoomba Regional Councillor, Geoff McDonald, says Mr Barron was a central part of the business, he is an enigma. 'He is one of those people you only meet once in your lifetime and he is an inspiration to our staff through his vibrancy for life and his willingness to learn. I was told 5 years ago he was the oldest full-time employee in Queensland, so I am guessing he still holds the title.' Jim Barron lives with prostate cancer and has strong convictions on health issues and has studied the disease since his diagnosis in 1993. His home study is full of urological oncology books which he sources from across the globe. These keep him occupied after he knocks off – 'you have to keep the brain working, it has to be exercised, just like the body.' There is no talk of retirement for our Jim!



- Life Member, **Shane McSweeney** has plans to retire on 13th September 2013 when he will be 65 and intends to visit Europe to check out the breweries. In 1956 his parents moved to Toowoomba from Victoria with Shane and his brother **Marcus**. He first attended the Holy Name Convent and then St Mary's College until 1963 when the family moved to Redcliffe. Shane passed Junior in 1964 and joined the Bank of New South Wales where one of the Training Officers was Terry Gesch. After 7 years he changed to more 'blue collar' jobs, before starting in the Cab Industry on 11/12/1981 with the Redcliffe Taxi Co, now part of the Black & White Company; but still working for the same owner for all those 30 odd years, except for a 2 year break back in the factories.

Shane's father died in 1998 and he became his mother's career until her death on the 20th March 2012. He never married and has no dependents; but has a thousand Taxi Stories, all believable. 'Facing the 'ferals' on the night shift is always tricky', he says.

- Ron McElwaine** (1947 – 1951) has resigned as President of the Sherwood / Indooroopilly RSL based at Corinda in February after a 13 year term to take a more active role as Queensland Chairman of the National Boer War Memorial Committee.

The memorial to honour and commemorate the 23,000 Australian soldiers and nurses who served in South Africa between 1899 and 1902 is to be built on a dedicated site on Anzac Parade in our national capital, Canberra. Some 16,000 men, 60 nurses and 43,000 horses were sent in formed units and 7,000 additional Australians served with regular units or the British Army. Nearly 1000 Australians paid the ultimate sacrifice in South Africa, more than the numbers lost in other conflicts, including Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. 6 were awarded Victoria Crosses. Donations to the Memorial Appeal, all Tax Deductable, can be made through Ron McElwaine at 16 Ruth St, Corinda 4075, or direct to the National Boer War Memorial Association, Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington, NSW, 2021. An estimated \$3.5 million is needed to complete the memorial.

Ron was a member of the 1st XV, Under 15A Cricket Team and the Athletic Squad in his final year at St Mary's College. Then he undertook an Electrical Apprenticeship with the Queensland Railway Department while studying at night for his Electrical Engineering Degree. He then moved to the Commonwealth Works Department working on a variety of projects at Airports, CSIRO and Darwin Hospital.

- On the 24th April, St Mary's College celebrated a moving Anzac Day Liturgy led by **Bishop Robert McGuckin DD MCL JCL**. College Year 12 students facilitated the Ceremony admirably and welcomed a number of Returned Serviceman, Old Boys and Official Guests at the Old Brothers' House (Administration Block) for the March of Veterans and Official Party to the Brother Frank Rodgers Oval on Hill Street. The Ode to the Fallen was recited Old Boy Vince McDonald who had 2 tours of Vietnam with the 6th Battalion.
- Old Boy **Deacon Peter Devenish-Meares** (1976 – 1980), son of **David Meares** and nephew of **Donald** and grand-nephew of **John** and **Vernon Copas** who enrolled at the College on 2nd February 1920 and **Archbishop Virgil Copas MSC** also a student at St Mary's in the late 1920s, was Guest Correspondent for 'The Catholic Leader' in its Easter issue. His grandmother **Loretto (Copas) Meares**, now 96 years, is a resident in Salem Rest Home, Toowoomba.

Deacon Peter is attached to the Jubilee Parish here in Brisbane and is in his 5th year of service as the Reserve Chaplain attached to the 8/9th RAR Battalion at Enoggera.

Vernon Copas was killed in an aircraft training accident in England on 4th April 1942 while serving in the RAAF. He is buried in the Brandisburton Churchyard, Dreffield, Yorkshire, England. Other Old Boys who paid the supreme sacrifice of their lives while serving in the English War Theatre during World War II as members of the RAAF included: **Maurice Duggan, Robert Dobbyn, Glen Beattie, William Moloney, John MacLean, John Piggot, Peter Hickey**. Please remember them! William Moloney's life and death as a Pilot Officer is outlined in a fine book 'Flightpath to Murder' by British Author Steve Darlow.

- The photo below is of a 1955 Toowoomba 6 Stone Rugby League Team in Rockhampton. Their coaches were (L to R) **Bernie Grünke** and **Mr James**. Bernie passed away on 27/2/08 and was Life Member No. 2 of our Association. Others shown include **Keve Lingard** (later a Queensland fullback) on the right of Mr Grünke, **Allan Selman** (the 6th lad from right), **Bernie Collins** Next to Mr James – all standing and of those sitting **John McDonald** (Rugby League International and until 2012, President of Queensland Rugby League), 4th on right and **Denis Garvey** (Toowoomba Bulimba Cup representative), 8th on right. Allan, Bernie and Denis attended St Mary's College; Allan playing 'A' grade later for Souths' and Bernie and Denis 'A' grade for Newtown.



Lawn Bowls Day – 7th April 2013

- The first of our Old Boys Inter City series Lawn Bowls Day for 2013, for the 'Kevin Lee Memorial Shield' was held at the Stafford Bowls Club on Sunday 7/4/2013 –

Toowoomba Team:

G Anderson	S Barnes	T Connolly	P Dilleen
L Dornbusch	C Gray	E Howe	Bob Jones
Ron Jones	Justin McErlean	L Mitchell	J Mullen
J Murphy	J Nolan	A Ogilvie	M Otto
J Rowen	D Schultz	A Thomas	K Walker
J Wilson			

Brisbane Team:

M Aitken	G Blacka	K Blacka	L Blacka
N Blacka	W Corcoran	J Davis	F Doherty
M Doherty	M Felton	L Fitzgerald	G Flynn
J Gardner	T Gesch	M Honney	R Jendra
Dom Jones	Leo Jones	P Long	D Madden
L Mulhall	Jack McErlean	Jan McErlean	C Peek
G Robertson	J Wiedman		

On the bell, Brisbane led Toowoomba by 22 shots – 123 to 101. The successful winners on the day were L Dornbusch, Leo Jones, K Walker and G Flynn (Toowoomba) and L Fitzgerald, M Aitkin and T Gesch (Brisbane).

Special thanks go to the organisers of the event, **Eric Howe, John Murphy, Laurie Blacka, Gordon Robertson** and



Terry Gesch and to the Stafford Lawn Bowls Club and the sponsors of the day, Holy Cross Funerals. We are also grateful to Paul Canning for coordinating transport for the Toowoomba lads. Grace before lunch was recited by Old Boy Deacon Peter Devenish-Mearns (1976 – 1980).

- College Year 11 student, **Broderick Gaggi**, travelled to Canberra in March as one of just two Darling Downs student delegates to the 2013 National Constitution Convention, first established (18) years ago to provide young people with a voice in the political process. While there he found the portrait of a leading Old Boy, **Frank Forde**, hanging in Parliament House, as he was Australia's 15th Prime Minister.



Francis Forde was born in Mitchell and educated at St Mary's College, remaining there as a junior teacher before accepting a position with the Postmaster General's Department. He won the seat of Rockhampton for the Labor Party at age 27 in 1917, and after holding this State seat for six years, he switched to federal Politics winning the Capricornia seat which he held for 24 years.

He became Deputy Prime Minister for 14 years, between 1932 and 1946 and Minister for the Army during World War II from 1941 – 1946. Following the death of John Curtin, Frank Forde was elected the country's 15th Prime Minister on 8th July 1945, holding that office for just 8 days for the shortest time in Australia's history.

Frank Forde strongly resisted the Brisbane Line concept proposed during World War II by Australian generals to temporarily abandon the north of Australia to the Japanese forces in order to strengthen defences in the south. He recommended 'that the policy of the Government should be defined as a determination to defend the whole of the populated areas of Australia to the utmost of their ability and to prevent the enemy by every means within our power from obtaining a foothold on our shores.'

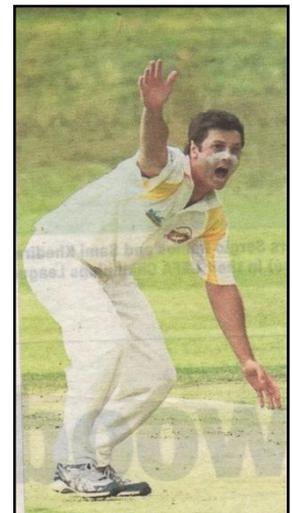
In 1946 he lost the Seat of Capricornia and was then appointed High Commissioner to Canada, a post he served with distinction until 1953. When Frank Forde returned to Australia he became the ALPs Queensland organiser and was elected Member for Flinders to the Queensland Parliament in 1955; but when the Government was defeated in 1957, he was one of the members that lost his seat, effectively ending his political life. Prime Minister Menzies honoured Frank Forde in 1964 when he brought him out of retirement to attend the funeral of General McArthur in America.

During his retirement the Right Honourable Francis Forde was a very active participant at gatherings of the Toowoomba Brothers Old Boys Association at the Irish Club in Brisbane and their significant functions in Toowoomba. At the College's 75th Anniversary Dinner on 5th October 1974, the official guests welcomed by our then President,

Henry Wagner and Brother W Spillane, included the Honourable Frank Forde. During his address he paid tribute to his 'Alma Mater' and particularly the early Christian Brothers who migrated to Australia to provide a service to youth. He cited **Brothers Xavier Butler** (1905–1909) and **Francis Jordan** (1914-1919), men full of energy and zest, who were so saintly and inspiring. In retrospect, no one who had anything to do with the College in its early days would have dared to envisage the growth that occurred, especially during the past two decades. He praised the unselfish generosity of students who became priests, the outstanding scholastic and sporting records. So many men have won success in adult life after being taught the rudiments and principles of responsibility at St Mary's College.

Broderick Gaggi says his research shows Frank's footsteps are formidable ones to follow; but St Mary's boys reckon they might have it covered – because the personal qualities that matter most have not changed in all the 100 years. The College really encourages individuality and respect and there are lots of opportunities for leadership! He died on 28th January 1983. Frank Forde's daughter-in-law **Mrs Leneen Forde** was the Queensland Governor from 29/7/1992 to 29/7/1997.

- It is great to acknowledge that younger Old Boys from our College continue to provide both leadership in sports administration and on the sporting field in Toowoomba and in the wider community like **Peter Betros**, now Queensland Rugby League Chairman.
- **Joshua Klein**, a Year 12 student in 2001, is now President of Souths Club and **James Dixon**, Year 12 in 2004, has been elected President of the Brothers Club in the Toowoomba Rugby League competition. James, the son of **Kevin** and nephew of **Ray** (RIP), knows there is a challenge ahead for Brothers in 2013 as their captain/ coach **Sam Hannant**, an inspirational back rower is still recovering from surgery. Sam is the son of **Laurie** and grandson of **Noel** who was awarded an OAM in the 2013 Australia Day honours list.
- There were seven Old Boys on the field for Northern Brothers Diggers winners of the Toowoomba 'A' grade Cricket premiership. **Shaun Cartwright, Louis Reen, Craig Smith, Chris Hall, Cameron and Kris Glass** (below) and **Blake Anderson**. For their opponents, Metropolitan-East, the side included **Paul Toohey, Peter Reimers** and **Captain Troy Gurski**. Paul was the College 1st XI Cricket Captain in 1990 and 4 of the others had that same honour – Troy (1995), **Craig Smith** (2005), Chris Hall (2008) and **Blake Anderson** (2009). Blake was also captain of the Australian Under 16 Indoor Cricket Team in 2009. All rounder Kris Glass (Year 12 – 2005), was also an Australian Hockey representative. Michael O'Neill (Year 12 – 1981) is probably the doyen of Sporting Administrators having been President of the Metropolitan-Easts Cricket Club for the past 18 years, a Club he also represented until recently.





- Two time interim World Boxing Champ Old Boy, **Michael Katsidis**, scrapped his scheduled February fight on medical advice after reported MRI scans and is getting further opinions on his condition. Michael has won 28 of his 34 bouts with 23 victories coming by way of knockouts.
- Young Old Boy, **Ben Currie** (Year 12 – 2008) trained ‘Margins’, a promising 4 year old stayer, to win the 2100 metre ‘Mount Franklin Tails’ Stakes at Doomben on Saturday 27/4/2013.

Vale ‘Desmond John McGovern’

- Talented International Rugby League Winger and Sports Broadcaster, **Des McGovern**, passed to Eternal Life on 8th February 2013. Those of us who saw Des play in what was the Golden Post World War II era of Rugby League in Toowoomba during the 1950s, had heard old timers say ‘what good wingers **Snow Spencer** and **Jack Lindsay** were in the 1920s; but our generation regard Des and **Pat ‘Cocky’ McMahon** as certainly amongst the best wingers to play for Toowoomba, Queensland and Australia.



Born on the 13/2/1928 in Toowoomba, Des was the youngest son of **Pat and Margaret McGovern** and a brother to **Vince** and **Ray**. His father was a baker and while the family was running the bakery at Rathdowney Des went off to board at Nudgee College for three years. There he developed his hard running skill that took him to the highest level in Rugby League. On leaving school he commenced an Electrical Apprenticeship in Laidley and played in the Ipswich competition before being enticed up to All Whites in Toowoomba by Club stalwarts **Jack Lee** and **Vince Carroll** in 1947 and he boarded with his cousins, the O’Neill Family in Campbell Street.

The move proved fortuitous in more ways than one as before long, Des was courting **Maureen Carroll**, Vince’s daughter and the couple married in 1953. They were blessed with three children, **Barbara, Desmond Jnr and Margaret**. Tragically, Maureen died in 1981, just 49 years.

Des McGovern played 69 games for All Whites, scoring 260 points, represented Toowoomba against the England International Touring Team in 1950 and in 17 Inter City Bulimba Cup matches from 1949 to 1953. He was a member of the All Whites Premiership Teams in 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1953.

At the TBOBA Annual Luncheon in July 2006, Des gave attendees an insight into the highlights of his career which included 21 matches for Queensland between 1949 and 1956 and 3 overseas tours – the 1952/53 and 1956/57 Kangaroo Tours of Great Britain and the 1953 Australian Team tour of New Zealand. Des played in 6 Test matches – 3 against New Zealand, 2 against Great Britain and 1 against France.

Probably the highlights of his career were his game at the Brisbane Cricket Ground in the Interstate match on the 13/6/1953 when Des scored 3 tries in Queensland’s win over New South Wales (32 v 23) and his further 2 tries in the match under floodlights at the Exhibition grounds in the last match of the series on 15/6/1953 with Queensland again

victorious (23 v 13). **Clive Churchill** was captain of the New South Wales teams.

Des McGovern then coached Country sides in Charleville and Rockhampton before returning to Toowoomba, coaching the Newtown ‘A’ grade side, captained by **Noel Hazzard** to a Premiership victory in 1958. Old Boys **Brian Marks** and **John Pobar** were members of this team.

Following his playing days, Des established himself in the successful Caltex Service Station on the corner of Ruthven and James Sts for the next 25 years – one of the first garages to open 24 hours a day. Then he worked for the Wheat Board and later served behind the bar at the Federal Hotel where he could chat to all about footy and could enjoy a punt and a beer.

He enjoyed Lawn Bowls and played regularly in Our Old Boys Inter City competition for the Kev Lee Trophy and was a sterling supporter of our Association, the College, the Christian Brothers and a Friend to so many.

After passing away in St Andrew’s Hospital after a short illness, Des was remembered by a large congregation at a con-celebrated Requiem Mass offered by **Frs Mick Carroll, Hal Ranger and John Quinlan** at his Parish Church, Our Lady of Lourdes, Newtown, on the 13th February which would have been his 85th Birthday.

The Eulogy was shared by son, Desmond Jnr, and Pat O’Shea who recalled his 37 year radio partnership, as well as friendship with Des McGovern, as expert Rugby League match commentator. He became a well known sporting voice on the ‘Pat and Des’ broadcasts that began on 4AK, then 4GR, 4WK and finally 102.7 FM and ran until Des was 82 in 2010.

Brothers Celebrating their 50th Anniversaries

- Two Christian brothers with Toowoomba connections were Jubilarians in 2012. Brother Max Flannery celebrated his 60th year Anniversary and Brother Gary Ferguson his 50th Anniversary.
- Brother Flannery came to St Mary’s for 6 years from 1962 to 1967 taught junior and secondary classes and made a significant contribution in coaching sport especially rugby league and athletics. He later taught at Goulburn, Chatswood, Burwood and Lewisham and at Goroka, PNG from 1995 to 1997 and then in the rural communities of Tamworth and Wagga Wagga.
- Brother Ferguson was a student at the College from 1951 to 1956 and has attended Class Reunions in recent years.

Gary Ferguson

- Gary was born in 1941 at Surat, a town south west of Roma, Queensland, to **Veda May and Colin Peter Ferguson**. He was the sixth of their 9 children. His father was a shearing contractor who eventually purchased a supermarket. Gary was schooled first at Surat Public and completed his Scholarship exam from St Mary’s Toowoomba. On leaving school in 1956 Gary trained as a chef and worked first in a cafe in Surat and then as a shearer’s cook which occasioned a lot of travel and working in basic conditions. It was seasonal work





so he took on other work too, such as managing his father's business. In the early 60s, Gary's Faith and desire to serve the Church directed his thinking towards Religious life and a conversation with a priest helped with his discernment.

He wrote to the postulators of various Orders indicating his interest in some non-teaching ministries. Br Ephrem replied and visited him. As a result in January 1962 Gary arrived at Strathfield and joined his group heading for Minto for their Postulancy and Novitiate year. After making first vows in 1963 a second novitiate year at Mulgoa followed and then a year in the Scholasticate – he did selected courses but instead of the teacher training component he sampled various tasks undertaken at Mt St Mary's Strathfield which in those times housed not only the local Brothers' community but also the Provincial Council, the Juniorate students and the Brothers attending university or teacher training (the Scholasticate).

Gary stayed on at Strathfield for two years and joined two other lay Brothers in the kitchen. During the following two years at Minto he was responsible for catering for the novices and Brothers' community. At the end of that time, Gary made Final Profession of vows, Christmas Day in 1968. He returned to Strathfield in 1969 where he was to remain for the next 21 years as an indispensable part of the many changes to that place occurring over that time. He was the first to hire employees to the Strathfield kitchen which formerly had been staffed by Brothers. Gary became responsible not only for catering for all the groups there but also jubilee celebrations, profession ceremonies and other Liturgies. As Mt St Mary gradually expanded as part of the Catholic Teacher's College, accepting lay students in increasing numbers, Gary had to open and manage a canteen to cater for students' needs. In addition he was bursar of the community and in that capacity was one of the first Brothers to computerise managing accounts and wages – Br Brendan Duggan wrote a computer programme for him to do this. Maintenance was another area that involved him as well as changeover of cars, and so on.

Pursuing his interest in Cricket, Gary became an accomplished cricket umpire and for some years umpired grade games around Sydney. In 1980 Gary undertook some spiritual renewal through the Kairos programme and he relates how this changed his spirituality. Continuing at Strathfield he became a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society involved with ministering to the homeless through Night Patrol; he was on the founding committee of Ozanam Youth Lodge; a member of the NSW State Homeless Committee and various other initiatives assisting homeless youth.

By the end of 1989, he accepted an invitation from the very pastorally-minded Bishop Bede Heather to take up prison chaplaincy. This was a ministry in which Blessed Edmund himself had been much involved. Gary lived at communities at Castle Hill and Penrith while ministering to inmates of Parramatta Gaol, and after 1997, he lived with Br Pat Lynch, also a prison chaplain, at Parklea Caravan Park while being full time Catholic chaplain for young offenders and their families. He attended to prisoners' spiritual needs, offered counselling, arranged many funerals for prisoners who died in prison or took their own lives, consoled their families and visited prisoners in hospital. In 1998 he received A Commissioner's Commendation for his "outstanding dedication to duty at the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre in providing compassion and assistance to bereaved families of inmates who had committed or attempted suicide."

In 1999 he had a well earned sabbatical at Sangre De Cristo in New Mexico and completed their Human Development &

Personal Spirituality Programme. He was interested in taking up an offer to work in New York with homeless youth but was needed back in Sydney where a similar ministry engaged him – The Brothers' refuge at Bidwell and Eddy's Place in Wollongong. While continuing to work in this ministry, he was asked in 2004 to take over as manager of "Billow View" at Gerringong which was being used more and more as a retreat centre for various small groups. Gary had a hand in two major renovations of this place.

2010 saw him appointed manager of "Winbourne" at Mulgoa, the Christian Brothers' Retreat and Conference Centre. There he has been assiduous in maintaining its beautiful setting for the great range of adult and student groups, many of whom come for spiritual development through retreats. He is always looking for new ways to enhance its facilities.

Gary's fifty years have been preoccupied with the service of others, a service given with dedication, cheerfulness and compassion. He brings his deep, practical spirituality and care for others to community life too, his Brothers appreciate his sense of humour, zest for life and almost weekly demonstrations of his culinary skills.



L to R:
John Clifford,
Barry Andrews,
Peter McGregor,
Br. Garry
Ferguson

President's Report for 2012 (Continued from Page 1):

At the conclusion of 2012, Mr Clive Berghofer was owed \$306,492. The original drawdown of the loan was \$1,010,000 as at 30th April 2005. Our Association has just completed its 8th year operating the CBA, making in total Loan repayments of \$996,500, which comprise interest of \$292,992 and principal of \$703,508.

Since the commencement of 2013, the Association has repaid a further \$37,500 having a current balance at the end of March 2013 of approximately \$274,512. Based on current revenue streams and projections, it is predicted that the loan will be repaid by the conclusion of 2015.

In 2012 the Association generated \$374,403 in total revenue, compared to the record high in 2011 of \$406,767. There were a number of factors that together resulted in this fall; but the predominant one was the reduction in Function Centre revenue, which fell by \$36,000. There were however some positive outcomes with the CBA Business Unit increasing revenue by \$14,631.

During the years from 2005 to 2012 (8 years of operation), the Association has banked in excess of \$2,300,000 from the combination of all Business Units. Once the Association has repaid the Loan to Mr Clive Berghofer, a period of consolidation will be required to build up a Capital Reserve for the pending upgrades that will be required to the CBA, as it will then be 10 years old. In the meantime, the main focus will remain the repayment of the Loan, which will result in no Capital Reserves being accumulated until the loan is



extinguished, based on current revenue streams being available to the Association.

It is important to acknowledge the very generous support provided to our Association from 2005 by St Mary's Parents & Friends' Association which has granted the Old Boys' Association \$20,000 per annum, a total of \$160,000. These grants have been extremely important to the operation of the Association and are used to reduce the debt on the CBA. The task of our Association would be finally much harder without the generous support.

In addition it is also important to recognise and thank St Mary's College which since 2009, has contributed \$16,000 per annum, totalling \$64,000 which has been used to offset the operational costs of maintaining the CBA. These costs unfortunately continue to spiral upwards with increases to utilities such as Council charges and electricity. The Association also acknowledges and wishes to thank St Mary's College for its support with various auxiliary services, with the main assistance in the weekly cleaning of the wooden floors during the College term.

I wish to thank those Committee members who have undertaken this cleaning during the School Holidays and when the College has been unable to assist. The Association is proud of its achievement in maintaining the playing surface of the CBA and receives many compliments regarding the standard of the playing surface, which is due to the dedication of the College staff and the Committee who continue to maintain the playing surface to the highest level possible.

Our Association catered for 17 functions (6 weddings, 5 sporting club banquets and 5 other general functions) in 2012 and received many favourable comments from participants regarding the quality of meals and the service provided. It is important to acknowledge all those who have participated in the successful running of the Function Centre, particularly the catering staff who have provided a great service to patrons of the TP O'Brien Function Centre.

The Function Centre's total revenue for 2012 was \$95,565 with about 33% of that figure available after expenses to reduce the Loan on the CBA. At this stage it appears that Function Centre revenue will be lower in 2013 with fewer bookings to date, due to a reduced market and increased numbers of outlets offering such services.

The Clive Berghofer Business Unit increased its revenue from \$157,953 to \$172,584, partially due to the increased usage of the CBA by Toowoomba Basketball Association. The CBA has three major clients which alternate their use of the Arena. The Toowoomba Basketball Association use the complex during week nights and during school terms as their prime venue for all competitions, giving our two Associations a strong relationship that is mutually beneficial. Hall Thorpe Sport continue to utilise the CBA during holiday periods for Vacation Care when no other primary user has a need. St Mary's College is the third major user of the Arena with the ability to use the complex for educational activities during term time.

Our Association has made a commitment to improve the profile of the Association within the Community in 2013 through a range of activities, which will include improving communality understanding of the activities of the Association through appropriate signage in the Clive Berghofer Arena. The signage will acknowledge the current work done by the Toowoomba (St Mary's) Brothers Old Boys' Association and will also be aimed at recognising prior committees who have also made significant

contributions to the students of St Mary's College and the Community.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the College Principal, **Michael Newman**, for his support and assistance and a number of people who continue to provide invaluable and dedicated service to our Association:

- **Paul Canning** requires Special thanks for the numerous activities that he has and continues to undertake for the Association, which includes, but is not limited to, the continued operation of the vending machines, the very important and successful operation of the Futsal Competitions in the first and fourth terms each year, the management of the Bar at the Function Centre, the running of the canteen during the first term for Secondary School Basketball and his continued drive to see the project completed with the last repayment.
- **Peter Walters** as Vice President for his continued financial advice and support in many different aspects to the operational and future planning of the Association.
- **Greg Manthey** for his support also in many ways, including canteen and all sorts of various tasks that he has assisted with during his time on the Committee.
- **Jeremy Cotter** for his administration and management of the complex and the Association's general activities, which included the preparation of the work papers for audit and all the other tasks too many to mention.
- **Matthew Booth** for his support as Treasurer and production of Financial Statements on a regular basis which is providing the Association with very important management accounting information, plus other general tasks.
- **Don Stephens** for all his support during his time on the Committee in helping whenever asked.

It is important, as well, to acknowledge donors to the Bro Baptiste School Building Fund and we thank Mr Clive Berghofer for his generous support in providing the original Loan for the CBA. It is not possible to measure the amount of support, flexibility and understanding he has provided regarding the Loan conditions which is of great comfort to the members of our Association.

Likewise, it is also important to acknowledge our families for their support and understanding in allowing us to continue with the Arena project and to see it to its natural conclusion with the final Loan payment, which will allow others to carry the mantle without the encumbrance of the current commitments.

Joe Guerrini,
President,
Toowoomba
(St Mary's)
Brothers Old
Boys' Association,
25/3/2013



Stop Press!

John Hagan (1947-1951) had the pleasure to have a telephone conversation with his former teacher, Brother Vale, recently. Now living at the Edmund Rice Centre in St Kilda, he was the first Brother to teach Geometric Drawing at St Mary's. In his Junior Class were future Engineers, **Rolly Griffin** and **Brian Beauchamp**.