



St Mary's Old Boys' Newsletter



~ May 2017 ~

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Dear Old Boys

At our T.B.O.B.A Annual General Meeting in Toowoomba on Monday 27th March 2017 Brother Kevin Dwyer was re-elected as Patron, Joe Guerrini President, James Dixon (Yr12 2004) Vice President, Greg Butler (1990-1994) as Secretary and Matthew Booth (Yr12 2006) as Treasurer. The Committee elected was Paul Canning (1968-1975), Greg Manthey (Yr12 1984), Tom Vonhoff (Yr12 2012) and Wayne Peters.

The Key highlights from our President's Report were:

- Our Association produced a cash surplus in 2016 of \$7,105'
- In May 2015 the Association acquired a rental property at 8 Helen Street by borrowing the full purchase price from a commercial lender. This property has strategic importance being located at the end of the current car park for the Clive Berghofer Arena and can provide access directly to Helen Street. The debt on this property has been reduced from \$283,942 on 1/1/2016 to \$248,645 at 31/12/2016. Total repayments of \$51,262, Interest \$15,966 and principle \$35,296.
- The continued successful operation of the Clive Berghofer Arena (CBA) for the benefit of the students of St Mary's College and the wider community.
- Our Association has commenced the process of creating a sinking fund for future capital improvements and has begun investigating potential areas for improvement.
- The Committee is also considering the additional purchase of the property at 6 Helen Street

Another successful meeting of the Brisbane T.B.O.B.A Sub Branch was held at the Queensland Railway Institute rooms beside the "Deck on Edward Café", at the corner of Edward and Turbot Streets, in the Central Railway Station on the 10th March 2017. Our President **Joe Guerrini**, who had travelled down from Toowoomba, addressed the gathering.

Our next meeting on the **12th May 2017** will also be held at the QRI/Deck on Edward Café venue. Please reserve this date and those for the future Brisbane meetings this year on the **14th July, 15th September** and the **17th November**.

"Coming Events"

12 th May 2017	Brisbane TBOBA Sub Branch Meeting at 12 noon – Queensland Rail Institute, cnr. Edward and Turbot Streets beside the " Deck on Edward Café "
23 rd June 2017	Annual Toowoomba Brothers Old Boy's Association Toowoomba Luncheon contact Eric Howe (46322191)
1 st July 2017	1946 – 1955 Class Reunion , Contact Jim Madden (46968856) or Paul McNally OAM (46322286).
22 nd July 2017	1956 – 1965 Class "Long Lazy Lunch" Reunion , Contact John Drew (jedrew@powerup.com.au , 0417 246 641), Graham Ehler (gehler@optusnet.com.au , 0412 871 604) or Ross Fallon (rossfallon@bigpond.com , 0402 024 809)
28 th July 2017	TBOBA Sunshine Coast meeting at the Headland Golf Club, Buderim at 12 noon. Contacts: Bernie Murphy (54780742), Terry Murphy (54564340), or Redmond Byrne (54776705)

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T.B.O.B.A. (Brisbane Sub-Branch) Meeting – 10th March 2017

Present

Apologies

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

As usual, to assist with **CATERING** could you please advise Dan McErlean if you intend to come to the next meeting 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.

There are a number of our members who are presently unwell:

Tim Coonan, Colin Green, Trevor Muller, Michael Ward, Reg Taylor, Joe Short, Philip Stephens, Bob Sullivan, Kevin Garrett and Sandra Garrett wife of Michael.

Celebrating their birthdays around this time of year are:

Gordon Robertson (6/2/2017), Ron McElwaine (12/2/2017), Br Fergus Gagen (18/2/2017), Jim Long (12/4/2017), Des Franklin (23/4/2017), Reg Murphy of Clifton (8/5/2017), Br Kevin Dwyer (14/5/2017), Doug Lee (20/5/2017), Les Duncan (24/5/2017), and Justin McErlean (7/6/2017)

Please remember in your prayers: **Tracey Leonard** sister of **Peter & Fr Richard Leonard S.J.**

• **Dr. Keith Francis Wilkinson (27/5/1927 – 18/2/2017)**



Keith was born in Toowoomba to **Albert Victor and Gladys Maureen Wilkinson** on the 27th May 1927. His two sisters, **Margaret and Jan** died at an early age. He attended Holy Name Primary School with his cousins. His mother followed them to school to ensure he attended, as his

early school days were not enjoyable.

His parents enrolled Keith at St Mary's College in 1935 where he did enjoy the rest of his schooling. He was an outstanding athlete and set records which stood for many years. In 1944 he established himself as a College athletic icon with a leap of about 21ft in the Open broad jump in front of nearly 400 students. During term holidays Keith travelled out to Eromanga in South West Queensland to enjoy the break with his cousins **John, Don and Francis**. His did not enjoy the snakes however, he was never fond of snakes!

After completing his Senior in 1944 Keith went to the University of Queensland to study Medicine. Two other Seniors from that year – **Vince Barron and Bill Hutchinson** also progressed to study Medicine and Arts. Each week Keith forwarded a bag of washing home, by rail, to be returned washed and ironed for him. During semester breaks he would work with his father who was a Railway Clerk, gaining business experience.

When he graduated Keith became a resident doctor at the Mater Hospital where a young nurse, **Cath**, caught his eye. Following their wedding the couple moved to Gympie. One of his early experiences there followed an accident involving a horse-drawn night cart, and Dr Keith and the driver had to be vigorously hosed off before treatment at the hospital could commence.

Cath and Keith then spent a brief time in Toowoomba, where **David** was born. Then Keith set up practice at Toowong in Brisbane for a few years before moving to Camp Hill. Three daughters, **Anne (Barton), Jane (Splatt), and Paula (Reed)** were born in Brisbane.

Keith was always a dedicated son and as he felt responsible for his parent's welfare, moved his family back to Toowoomba in 1963 to be on hand to support them. He joined a practice in Little Street before the group of doctors relocated to larger premises on Margaret Street. **Mark** was born and the Wilkinson family was complete. He enjoyed a busy schedule, from administering anaesthetics to delivering babies, sometimes both on the same day. An experience no doctors in Australia would get today unless they were remote GP's. Keith attended to boarders at St Ursula's and Downlands, travelled to Cabarlah Barracks as a visiting Medical Officer and ministered to residents of Lourdes Home. He truly enjoyed

his life as a doctor and he delighted in the variety of skills he developed and the people he met.

In 1995 Keith sold his practice so he could travel with Cath; but also took up some agency work on the Gold Coast. In the late 1990's he suffered a stroke affecting his right side and speech. With Cath's help he worked hard at his rehabilitation and regained mobility and speech. Then he retired fully and the couple moved to Maroochydore. When Cath passed away at the end of 2005, Keith again showed his inner strength, becoming self-reliant, driving again and managing all his domestic concerns. In 2016 he moved to Lourdes Home, now St Vincent's Care, in Toowoomba. This was a difficult time as he came to terms with his diminishing physical ability and loss of much of his independence, and he was diagnosed with lung cancer. At Christmas Keith registered for a placement at the new St Vincent's Care Stella Maris (Maroochydore) Aged Care facility and was due to transfer on 23/02/2017.

Always a loyal supporter of the Christian Brothers and St Mary's College, he became Life Member No. 7 of our Toowoomba Brothers Old Boy's Association and assisted our activities through his generous contributions to the Bro. J B O'Sullivan School Building Fund. Keith was always full of praise for the tuition Brother O'Sullivan gave him for two years.

Dr. Keith passed to Eternal Life on the 18th February 2017 and was remembered by family, friends and Old Boys at a Requiem Mass offered by **Fr Joe Duffy**, assisted by Keith's cousin **Fr Don Murray** at the Stella Maris Catholic Church, Maroochydore on 24/2/2017.

• **David Wilkinson (18/08/1955 – 25/1/2017)**



It is with great sadness that we also report the passing of Dr Keith's son David, Life Member No 124.

The following words are an extract from the eulogy delivered by **Peter Betros**, a mate who had known Wilko for 53 years and who found it a privilege to be asked to deliver the eulogy.

In his last few days, Wilko carried on as he had his whole life – organising everyone and everything. He organised this church, me and, of course, the wake. What else would you expect?

Dave was born in Toowoomba on the 18th August, 1955 (exactly 1 week prior to me). He was the eldest of 5 children to **Dr Keith and Cath** (a nurse). Not long after his birth, Keith and Cath moved to Brisbane where, over the next 8 years, 3 sisters (**Anne, Jane and Paula**) arrived. At this time, the family moved back to Toowoomba where **Mark** was born in 1966. (Just an aside, but I found it interesting that the boys, even including Keith, were born

in Toowoomba and the girls, including Cath, in Brisbane – must have been the water.)

In Brisbane, the family lived at Toowong where Keith had his surgery under the family house. From there, they moved to Camp Hill before returning to Toowoomba. Wilko attended a few schools in Brisbane and Toowoomba before arriving at St Mary's CBC in Toowoomba in Year 4.

David had asked Peter to do one particular thing during the ceremony, he wanted anyone who had any link to St Mary's College in Toowoomba, or any link to Marist Brothers Rosalie, to stand and have a look around. These two places played a very important part in shaping who David became and he wanted these people to recognise they were a part of these times in his life.

When Wilko finished school, it was off to the University of Queensland to study medicine. I am not sure but I think this lasted just 2 terms. Living away from home and perhaps too many distractions led to a change of direction for Dave. Back to Toowoomba he went where he joined NAB after a short stint in the Commonwealth Employment Service.

Wilko found his way back to Brisbane and began studies at the Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education where he studied from 1978 – 1981. He kept himself fed and watered as a Yellow Cabs driver until he graduated as a science/maths teacher. He also completed a Graduate Diploma in Education specialising in computer education. Dave taught at Gregory Terrace from 1982 – 1986 before moving to Marist College Rosalie in 1987. Wilko stayed at Rosalie until its closure in 2008. This was a sad time for Dave and many others as he had made many friends there. From there, Wilko did supply teaching at St Laurence's and Villanova before taking a position at International Education Services at Spring Hill from 2012 – 2015, after which he retired.

Now, along the journey, Wilko caught the eye of a pretty uni student named **Cathy Gehrmann**, living at Grace College at the University of Qld. After a few amateur attempts to woo her, he finally got it right and their first date was to the engagement party of another life-time friend, **Peter and Michelle Drew**. After that a certain Yellow Cab seemed to be often seen around University and later parked in the driveway at Cathy's parents' house at Aspley on a Friday or Saturday night.

They married on the 13th June 1981 and a solid partnership developed around good food, good wine, travel and good friends. In 1987, Dave and Cathy were blessed by the arrival of **Lisa**, followed by **Anna** in 1989. David was a very proud father with a perpetual smile whenever talking about his girls.

Life was very busy as all families are. For a while they lived in Herston before moving to Moy St, Kelvin Grove, where the girls were born. In 2005, they moved to Red Hill, just around the corner from Wilko's beloved Broncos.

The weekly barbecue for the FFAAA meeting (Food, footy and alcohol appreciation) during the footy season just happened to include pre and post games as well, **Karen, Peter and John Ward** being life time members. He even had to put a TV on the deck for convenience (and to keep up with the Staatses.)

State of Origin nights were always popular at the Wilkinson's house for many, many years, enjoyed with many of the old St. Mary's boys and other friends as well, except when Dave had the cheek to actually attend a few games. He also had a season ticket for the Broncos for several years and was the organiser for the group – can you imagine! His strong support showed when he went to games with his chemo bag during the last 2 seasons. When you ask other friends to describe Wilko, you get many descriptions. He could often be brash, grumpy, inappropriate and painful but he was a lovable royal pain in the arse who will be greatly missed.

Byrnsie always said Wilko loved being with people and had made his life better. **Gerard Bradley** said that Wilko was the glue that held everyone together.

You always got what you saw with Dave. A terrific organiser, social butterfly and convenor of a good time. He was the best friend maker I have ever known but his greatest skill was that he was a friend keeper.

We remember that friendship. But it will get harder. Down the track on many occasions, our grief will come back and trip us up....If only Wilko was here.

Then we will think....if he was here he would just say "get on with it!"

The glue Gerard described is now a permanent cement bond that will remain with us. It cannot be dissolved.

The young uni dropout from Toowoomba turned into a teacher of young minds, a husband, a father and a friend to many.

We will miss him greatly.

To **Cathy, Lisa and Matt, Anna and Aaron, Keith, Anne, Jane, Paula and Mark**, all his relatives and friends --- we all feel the pain but we will all be stronger for having shared our lives with Wilko.

Peter Betros

- **William "Bill" McErlean (19/6/1935 – 4/2/2017)**



Bill was the third son of **Frank and Annie (Henry) McErlean** and was born at Sandgate. His siblings were **Dan, Kevin (deceased), Justin, Teresa (Sgalippa) and Patrick (deceased)**. He grew up at Rockville, opposite the Ranger Family and so a lifelong friendship with **Fr Hal and Terry Ranger** began. They attended Holy

Name Convent before enrolling at St Mary's College in 1943.

The College was a whole new boy's world for Bill – the Clash of the Titans – St. Pats v Holy Name kids, marbles,

swimming, cricket, football and later, boxing. Bill was known in those days as “Buck” McErlean and even in his later years this title stuck.

It was an era in which it was not uncommon to find local youths looking to trap the native budgerigars. This interested Bill and other school mates like **(Fr) Colin Kenway, Danny Turnbull, Vince Rosenthal** and others as the lads undertook a certain amount of trading of some of their catch.

Bill learnt to swim well in the still functioning College 25 yard pool, and in later years swam for St Mary’s at the Metropolitan Catholic Schools Carnival and in 1952 he was the College Open Swimming Champion. Although he was not a top athlete Bill also represented St Mary’s in a mile race at the Darling Downs Colleges Athletic Carnival. In this immediate post-war period it was tough financially for the Christian Brothers and they decided to hold an Eisteddfod and Boxing Tournaments in the Town Hall to raise funds. Bill completed well in both these cultural pursuits. He was the 7 stone 7 lbs Boxing Champion in 1950 and a member of the First XV Rugby team and First Eleven Cricket team in 1951 and 1952.

On leaving College Bill gained a plumbing apprenticeship with **Vince O’Neill** and later worked for J M Kelly and Hogan & Moore before going into business with **Rees Edwards** and then **Rod Ford**. An opportunity then came for him to acquire the Sand & Gravel business of **Jack Canning** and he operated this venture until his retirement. On the 5/01/1956 Bill and a thousand other young men began a 98 day National Service Intake. Some of the other boys –**Tony Head, Brian Griffin and Peter Kennedy** were part of 5 Platoon “B” Company at Wacol. It was a life changing experience where they learnt the value of discipline, respect and an awakening of responsibility and mateship. For the next two years they gave 28 days service as part of the 25th Battalion (CMF) based at the Drill Hall in Toowoomba.

Bill joined the Newtown Rugby League Club’s Under 18 side where other members were Old Boys John Pobar and Nev Parker. Senior players were **Duncan Hall, Cyril Connell and Bob Banks**. He played some “A” grade games as hooker with front rowers **Leo Johnson and Ron Proudfoot** and scored his first “A” grade try on his 21st birthday. His quick striking technique often earned the referee’s displeasure.

He had great pleasure to be coached by international forward **Mick Madsen** when he made a transfer to the All Whites Club for the 1959 /1961 seasons. He was a member of the All Whites Reserve Grade Premiership side in 1960 and made the Toowoomba Reserve Grade Trades & Labour Team which played at the G’abba ground. Bill served as All Whites Rugby League Club President from 1981 to 1984.

Around the time Bill left the College, YCW Groups had been formed in each of the Parishes and Inter-Group events were held regularly. Sunday night Socials in the Holy Name Hall were popular with the music provided by

Erin O’Loughlin and Colin Zimmerlie. Bill McErlean was the MC.

Bill was married in St Patrick’s Cathedral by his uncle **Fr W Henry** of Laidley to **Margery Raymer** on 5/5/1962.

The couple built a new home in Rowbotham Street, before moving to Handley Street and then to Kingfisher Street until ill health necessitated a move to Lourdes Home.

As Life Member No,30 of our Association, Bill found scope, despite his very busy working & home life, to foster and encourage Old Boys to support and assist their former College in its various activities. His efforts as the Bingo Coordinator was one of the more successful ventures that has helped the TBOBA provide improved College student facilities.

On 12/1/2017 Bill was admitted to St Vincent’s Hospital seriously ill and passed to eternal life on 4/2/2017. A Requiem Mass to celebrate his life was offered by **Fr Hal Ranger**, assisted by **Frs Pat Hall and John Quinlan** in St Patrick’s Cathedral on Friday 10/2/2017. Bill is survived by his wife **Margery**, children **Kerrie, Jeff, Garry and Joanne (Geissler)** and 7 grandchildren.

• **Michael Joseph Fitzpatrick (24/07/1930 – 1/2/2017)**

Life Member of our association, Mick was born



prematurely in 1930 along with his twin sister **Mavis** in Gordon Street North Toowoomba. Life was precarious for both of them in those unstable first days and weeks of their life. It took the finely honed skills of his grandmother, **Julia Guley**, a renowned mid-wife, to navigate them safely through these

hazardous days. They were both very tiny and were raised in two separate shoeboxes on diluted condensed milk. And so began his lifelong addiction to sugar and the early loss of his teeth.

On surviving they were quickly baptised into the Roman Catholic Religion in the Holy Angles Church not far from where he grew up at 19 Edward Street in the shadow of the Old Showgrounds. In Edward Street he was surrounded by relatives and in particular his matriarchal grandmother, **Mary Fitzpatrick**. She lived around the corner in Kennedy Street where as kids, upon paying their weekly rent, were invited to kneel and recite the Rosary.

They lived in a house that she had built from the hard earned wages sent back from the war of those family members who had fought in the First World War. Among them Dad’s father **Luke** who 100 years ago today would have been fighting on the Western Front in Northern France.

He returned from the war a shell of a man with damaged lungs from being severely gassed and with Post Traumatic Stress. PTS had not being named let alone discussed in these early shame filled post-war years. Many of the

veterans gathered regularly at pubs to drink in order to cope and feel supported.

Sadly he and his mates were heavy drinkers, much to Dad's regular embarrassment and hence Dad's vow not to have much to do with this dangerous and treacherous habit.

The regular visit to his Irish grandmother and the reciting of the rosary began a relationship with the rosary which was lifelong. In Dad's dying days I think I recited more rosaries with Dad that would certainly have retrieved multitudes of languishing souls from purgatory. Seriously I found reciting the rosary a calming experience for myself and for Dad and for Mum who often joined us. Memories were evoked of reciting the rosary as a family every night after Tea in the lounge room. Life can be hectic in a small house with nine kids and the reciting of the rosary often brought a welcome calm midst the unsettling storms of family and business life.

Dad went to Mater Dei School, where most of us were to attend, and where Dad had been baptised in the school church and later received his First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation Sacraments. Later he proudly attended the school his own father Luke had attended in the early 1900s, St Marys Christian Brothers in West Street. Here among many things especially competing on the sporting field he completed his sacramental initiations with Confirmation.

Dad's love for school beyond the sporting field was limited and hence he took an early opportunity to leave and work as an Office Boy in the big furniture manufacturing Business of Rosenstengels in Ruthven Street next to the Old Shrine. After working as an Office Boy for three years he seized a chance to do his apprenticeship as a Cabinet Maker under the watchful eye of skilled tradesmen such as **Charlie Ollier** who not only trained Dad to be a Cabinet Maker but acted as a kindly father figure, something that his traumatised father, Luke, found difficult to provide.

Outside of work Dad could pursue his passion for sport, his favourites being swimming, rugby league and rugby union, cricket and of course Table Tennis.

In playing Table Tennis in the Old Town Hall dance floor in the winter of 1952 he met his future wife and my mother **Marie Williams**. They married one early December morning 18 months later in 1954 in this very church, St Patrick's Cathedral. And hence began a wonderful partnership of 62 years, with 9 children, 24 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Many of whom are here today.

Mum and Dads partnership not only worked well in raising so many children, they also ran their own Furniture Business from 114 Jellicoe Street for 34 years. To have survived so long in such a competitive market was a testament to Mum and Dads creative ingenuity. We all contributed in our small way to help the business along, Ray making the biggest commitment by working

alongside Dad as his apprentice and work mate. Ray reminded me the other day of some of the funnier moments of having to deliver furniture by standing in the back of a Ute and holding the furniture so it would not topple over onto the road. Hanging on for grim life trying to save one's own life and hopefully the precious furniture we were trying to deliver.

Similar feats were accomplished on our annual pilgrimage to the coast where all the camping gear was packed into the back of a Ute along with most of the kids, all tied on or hanging on for dear life. They were wonderful days at the beach every year from Boxing Day for a couple of weeks into the New Year. Surrounded by the Camphor Laurel smelling tent and the copious items of camping gear, we survived cyclones and the searing heat of summer by being right on the beach capturing the soothing sea breezes. The erecting of the tent was always an ordeal to survive. Dad with his finely honed camping skills as a Scout Troop leader was always in charge and all was to happen according to the Troop leader's commands. If this did not happen all hell would break loose. Dad's wrath was not something to encounter close up, one always needed to be at a safe distance. Some years later I realised Dad's uncontrolled anger could of been as a result of damage done to a part of the Brain from a head injury he acquired as a 19 year old from a motor cycle accident outside of Withcott. He remained in a coma for 3-4 days recovering from trauma to his head. Dad survived this trauma and went onto live a fruitful and meaningful life.

Sadly Dad was diagnosed with Bowel Cancer on the 28th November 2016 and within the space of little over two months Dad passed away.

For Dad was first of all a man of faith, he liked no better than to begin each day with going to early morning mass. And so consequently and most importantly to the priests here at the Cathedral where Dad went to mass, a heartfelt thank you. In particular to **Fr. Hal Ranger and Fr. Peter Dorfield**, thank you most sincerely for your kindness to Dad over many years and in particular in his last days. The image of Dad kneeling over his bed saying prayers in his bedroom remains as one of my strongest memories of him. His commitment to prayer and a spiritual life was his great legacy to me for which I am most grateful.

And so to the words of the great Persian Mystic poet, Rumi, whose verse is in today's memorial booklet. These sentiments would have made enormous sense to Dad and I will finish with them,

"Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes. Because for those who love with the heart and soul there is no such thing as separation."

Thanks to **Terry Fitzpatrick**, Mick's son, for these words from the eulogy.

• **Brian Stephen John Martin (4/7/1931 – 20/1/2017)**



Brian was the only son of **Johanna and Harry Martin**. He had two older sisters, **Mabel** (Sheedy) deceased, and **Daphne** (Quinn) and a younger sister **Nancy** (Kimlin). His father served as a Station Master for Queensland Rail, so Brian, born in Charters Towers, could recall memories of his earlier

years in Townsville, Charleville, Kingsthorpe and finally Harristown which allowed the family to settle into a new home on Drayton Road.

Brian was able to attend St Mary's College, just along West Street, as did his three sons **Gregory, Brian, and Michael**, and four of his grandsons, **Stephen & Peter Martin** and **Michael & Tom Garrahy** in later years. The only claim to sporting fame Brian made was being a member of the college First XV Rugby Union side.

Fred Lincoln, Jim Long, Jim Mullins, Leo Lunney, Tom Hutchinson, and Ron Smith were all classmates.

On leaving College he completed an apprenticeship as a diesel mechanic with Queensland Rail and continued to work at the Railways Harlaxton quarry site for a number of years. Then he joined Industrial Sales & Service as a field technician and loved working on large earthmoving equipment on farms, stations, and road works sites all over southern and western Queensland, developing a good friendship with sales manager Tom England.

On one occasion he delivered a brand new Gallon Grader from Brisbane to the Tambo Shire Council at full speed – 28 km/hr – taking four days to get there but only one day to get home. It was a great experience for son Greg, then an 18yr old, who was driving Brian's work utility.

When Industrial Sales & Service Toowoomba closed down Brian became Workshop Manager at Neil Mansell Transport and taught the trade to many and was son Michael's boss for 10 years. One employer commented "Brian had forgotten more about the mechanical trade than most people ever knew".

He married **Patricia Alice Trapp** on the 2nd June 1956 and the couple purchased a new house at 19 Merritt Street, Harristown where he always had a great veggie garden. He was a talented fabricator and built sheds, trailers, boat trailers, grain silos, gocarts, tandem bicycles and even a greyhound walker.

Brian spent many weekends working on all types of cars but he only owned and drove Australian made Holden cars. He was fiercely supportive of everything Australian and his best car was a HQ model Holden Statesman with a 350 cubic inch V8 motor.

Brian loved fine brass music and would play one of his favourite records by Herb Alpert's Tijuana Brass Band at 6am on Sunday mornings to wake the family up for Mass. Family holidays were first taken at Palm Beach on the Gold Coast and then onto the Sunshine Coast at Caloundra

and Cotton Tree when the Topp and Trapp families moved there from Toowoomba.

Later Brian's old boss, Tom England, introduced Brian to life at Meldale on Elimbah Creek which is part of the Bribie Island passage. Meldale was a great place to holiday, lovely tidal river to swim and fish in and plenty of mud crabs. The couple then purchased 2 blocks of land opposite the boat ramp and in seven days the three sons erected a kit home under the strict supervision of the "boss" - Brian.

On retirement at 60 years of age Brian and Pat took to a life of travel in the caravan, but in 2010, with the onset of Brian's dementia they downsized from Merritt Street into the "Drayton Villas" and as Brian's condition deteriorated rapidly he was admitted to the new Bupa Rangeville Aged Care Facility, passing to Eternal Life at 6:30pm on Friday 20/01/2017, surrounded by his family.

Pat and Brian were a formidable team as parents and their Christian values were the driving force as to why their children have been successful in their lives and with developing their own families. Brian is survived by his wife **Pat**, children **Gregory, Brian, Michael, Mary-Ann, and Patricia**, 9 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

Fr Peter Dorfield offered the Requiem Mass as a celebration of Brian's life and the family thank him for his visitations to Brian during his illness.

Other News

• **"Lawn Bowls"**

The first match for 2017 in our annual Old Boys' Intercity Bowls series for the "Kevin Lee Memorial Shield" was held on Sunday 9th April at the Aspley Memorial Lawn Bowls Club. These events have been held for the past fifteen years between Toowoomba and Brisbane based Old Boys in a true College Sporting Spirit. Credit for the success of the event must go to **Eric Howe, Laurie Blacka, Terry Gesch, Gordon Robertson and Jack McErlean**. Thanks also to **Jan McErlean** for the Aspley Memorial Club's catering arrangements and to the Sponsors for the day, Holy Cross Funerals.

Those participating in the event on the 9/4/2017 were:- **M Aitken, Bryan, Kev & Laurie Blacka, G Bowman, B Collins, T Conley, S Connolly, W Corcoran, F Doherty, P Dilleen, L Fitzgerald, Chris & Greg Flynn, Terry Gesch, M Honey, E Howe, Leo Jones, M Keegan, R Jendra, G Kelly, C King, D Madden, R Murphy, Jack McErlean, Lorraine Mulhall, Jim Nolan, C Peek, L Reis, G Robertson, D Schultz, M Tewes, J Pennisi, and I Paterson.**

On the bell Brisbane led Toowoomba by 12 shots (88v76). Best on the day were **G Kelly, M Keegan and L Reis** for Toowoomba and **L Jones, K Blacka, L Mulhall and F Doherty** for Brisbane.

St Mary's College News

- The Under 15 College Basketball team were runners up to Toowoomba Grammar team in the Grand Final of the Darling Downs Basketball competition on 24/03/2017.

- The Annual College Cross Country Carnival was held on the 27/03/2017 at Kearney Springs.

- The following College students have been selected to represent the Darling Downs; in Hockey - **Nicholas Bidgood**, Rugby League – **Alex Dunemann and Jordan Crocker**, AFL – **Jayden Lawson**, and Touch – **Lachlan Convery**.

- This year's **Confraternity Shield** Rugby League tournament is being hosted by Padua College from the 26th – 30th June with Wednesday 28th being a lay day. The games will be played at the Padua College Ovals on Elliott Road at Banyo.

Old Boys enjoy this great annual sporting event which attracts hundreds of spectators over the four days. Great credit must go to the convenors, referees, and State Organising Committee for their efforts.

- We congratulate **James Peirson**, grandson of **Jim Long** (1943-1947) and grandnephew of Jim's brothers **Pat and Tom**, on his selection in the Queensland Sheffield Shield cricket team for the last three matches of the 2016/2017 season. A wicketkeeper/batsman he replaced Queensland's regular keeper, Chris Hartley, in the matches against South Australia and Tasmania, and was retained as an opening batsman for the final match against Victoria. He managed to score runs in the first innings of each match, 50 off 120 balls against South Australia, 42 off 67 balls against Tasmania and 46 off 102 balls against Victoria. In the match against Tasmania he also took 5 catches.



- The **Grade 3 (1949) to senior (Year 12) 1957** Class propose a Reunion in Toowoomba during November 2017. Interest in this event is gaining momentum and there are 30 likely 'acceptors' at this stage. It would assist the sub-committee determine the actual Reunion date, time and venue as well as catering arrangements, if those coming could contact either **Jack Parker (3343 1631)** or **Fr Kerry Costigan (4634 1102)**.

- **Daphne & Tom (1942-1947) Hutchinson** celebrated the 60th Anniversary of their Wedding on Saturday 20/4/2017 at the Tingalpa home of their daughter, **Helen** and son-in-law, **Brett Young**. Daphne was the popular Toowoomba music lovers radio presenter on FM 102.7 (4DDB) before the couple relocated to Wynnum in 2016.

- In a flashback to the glory days of the local Brisbane Rugby League football competition the first game for 2017 was played between the Valleys Diehards and the Redcliffe Dolphins.

In 1973 a crowd of 42,000 witnessed one of the greatest grand finals in BRL history between these same two clubs.



The "Man of the Match" winner in the 11/3/2017 match was awarded the inaugural **Gerry Fitzpatrick Medal**, presented to perpetuate the memory of Gerry Fitzpatrick who represented Valleys in their premiership victories in 1971 over Easts (18-10), 1973 over

Redcliffe (15-7), and in 1974 over Brothers (9-2).

The medal was presented by Gerry's wife **Debbie** and son **Huw** to **Liam Hetherington**, a second rower for Valleys.

The skipper of the 1973 Valleys side, **Marty Scanlan**, said "Gerry was one of the finest people you could ever meet and was a highly respected figure in rugby league and beyond". Other players from the 1973 grand final winning team who attended the presentation were **Ross Strudwick** (halfback), **Hugh O'Doherty** (hooker), **Russell Hughes** and **John Crilly** (props) and **John McCabe** (second rower).

Gerry was selected in Queensland sides in 1973 (2 games) and in 1974 (3 games) to play against New South Wales.

He was also named in the Brisbane Rugby League team of the 1970's. In that era, pre State of Origin, it was difficult for Queensland representatives to be selected in Australian sides.

Gerry, like his two brothers **Brian** (Michael), St Mary's College Captain in 1961, and **Tim**, was a Life Member of the Toowoomba Brothers Old Boy's Association. He died suddenly in June 2013. A dedicated secondary school teacher, he was the son of **Frank and Kathleen (Kearney) Fitzpatrick**.

Frank was a member of All Whites (Toowoomba) Rugby League Premiership team in 1945. Gerry's uncle, Old Boy **Frank Kearney** played 60 games, scoring 41 tries for All Whites between 1946 and 1950 and was a Toowoomba Bulimba Cup representative in 1948.

Brian's (Michael) grandson **Oscar Fitzpatrick** is a member of the Illawarra Steelers Harold Matthews Rugby League Cup Under 16 team.

Tim Fitzpatrick, a Chemist in Landsborough, had his 15 year old daughter **Vivienne** competing for Queensland in the Under 17 Netball Carnival in Canberra over Easter, and son **Shaun**, a recently qualified Pharmacist, is playing for a Perth AFL team while he is on 8 weeks duty there as a locum.

Tim says the family genes seem to have jumped a generation for Brian and himself.