



St Mary's Old Boys' Newsletter

~ May 2018 ~



Dan McErlean
12 Werona Street
Sunnybank Qld 4109
Dear Old Boys

Bryan McSweeney
email:julieandb@iprimus.com.au

The next T.B.O.B.A. Brisbane Sub-Branch meeting in 2018 will be held on Friday 18th May at the Central Station Queensland Railway Institute rooms beside the “Deck on Edward” Café, 309 Edward Street, at 12 noon. 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 the Café Staff can be advised prior to our arrival. Tentative dates for future Brisbane meetings for 2018 are **20th July, 21st September, 23rd November**, so please reserve these dates on your calendars as Claimer Dates.

At our TBOBA Annual General Meeting in Toowoomba on Monday 26th March 2018, **Rev Brother Kevin Dwyer** cfc was re-elected Patron, **Joe Guerrini**, President, **James Dixon** (Yr12–2004) Vice President, and **Greg Butler** (1990-1994) Secretary. **Tom Vonhoff** (Yr12-2012) was elected Treasurer, while the Committee members are **Paul Canning** (1968-1975), **Greg Manthey** (Yr12-1984), **David Fitzpatrick**, and **Wayne Peters**. The Auditors are Robertson Scannell, Chartered Accountants. Extracts from the President’s Annual Report appear on page 8.

Our Brisbane Sub-Branch President, Bryan McSweeney, was pleased to welcome **Bro Barry Buckley** and **Bro Gary Ferguson** to our first meeting of 2018 on the 9th March. Brother Gary, now retired, moved back to Queensland about two years ago after spending many years as a Lay Christian Brother in NSW and is now living in the Christian Brothers’ “Viridian” Complex at Boondall. He attended St Mary’s College from 1951 to 1956 and is a classmate of **Bernie Collins**, **Tim Hagan**, **John Noonan**, **Paul Reynolds** and **Kerry Taylor**. Bernie, Tim, and Paul were present at the 9/3/18 meeting. Brother Buckley was Principal of St Mary’s College from 1970-1972 and again in 1990/1991.

Please remember in your prayers the Old Boys and Friends of the College recently deceased:

- **Neville John Coonan**, (1940’s) husband of Val, father of Tom, Phil, Ken, Karen (Harper), and Colin and brother of Ann (Thompson),
- **Neville Fraser**, late of Peregrian Beach, younger brother of Ken (RIP) and brother-in-law of Lorraine (Muller).
- **Frank Anthony Vidgen** (1940’s),
- **Alan Irwin**, (1955-1963), Husband of Bev, father of Darren, Jason, and Kylie; Father-in-Law of Michelle and Emily, Grandfather of Corey, Jasmyn, Zac, Charlotte, Micaela and Matthew; Brother and Uncle to Peter, Marie and Helen and their families,
- **Janet Thygesen**, wife of Life Member Frank of Blackall and mother of Norman, Karen, and Sonya, step-mother of Ann (Kelly) and Paul,
- **Joyce May Sommerfield**, wife of Graham, mother of Judith, Barbara and Tony,
- **Brodie Ramsey**, accidental death,
- **John McGovern** (1940’s), husband of Maureen, father of David and Paul (dec), grandfather of Tom and Samuel, brother of Bernard (dec), Terrence, Peter, Brian (dec), Sister Patricia and Frances (Swenson) and their families,
- **Cecily Mary Cantwell**, (McInnerney) wife of Dan and mother of John, Denis, Danelle, Damien, Alice, Peter, Christopher & Philip, 22 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren,
- **Patrick Anthony Long**, (1943-1949), husband of Joan (dec’d), father and father-in-law of Gary and Kere, Karen, Tracy and Tony, Joanne and Richard. Brother of Frances, Jim, Tom, and deceased siblings John & Kevin, Maree, Agnes, Molly & Patricia.

There are also a number unwell or recovering from surgery: Tim Coonan, Lyle Dornbusch, Colin Green, John Heeney, Kevin Killoran, Tom and Gail (Rosenthal) Mahon, Trevor Muller, Joe Short, Jim Stokes, Bob Sullivan, Philip Stephens, Kevin Garrett, Sandra Garret, wife of Michael, Ted Gill, Greg Keen, and Bevan Zeller.

Bryan McSweeney
President
(07) 3278 9872

Dan McErlean
Secretary
(07) 3345 4404

Dan Reilly
Co-Ordinator
(07) 3395 1813

T.B.O.B.A. (Brisbane Sub-Branch) Meeting – 9th March 2018

Present

Apologies

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Br Barry Buckley cfc AM Br Garry Ferguson cfc Bryan McSweeney (TBOBA Brisbane Sub-branch President) John Bagget Carl Betros Leigh Brady Bernie Collins Noel Cronin Jack Davis (Hon) Terry Gesch Gene Green Rolly Griffin John Hagan Tim Hagan Tom Hutchinson Daphne Hutchinson Fred Lincoln Jim Long Phil Long | Pat Mullins Michael Murphy Denis McClure Paul McClure Dan McErlean Greg McErlean Justin McErlean Peter McMahan Jack Parker Lindsay Reis Paul Reynolds Errol Ryan Pat Stringer | Fr Tyrone Deere Fr Paul Chandler Laurie Atzeni (Hon) Frank Adamson Greg Butler Nev Card Nat Chandler Frank Deighton John Drew Allan Duncan Les Duncan Brien Dunne Brian Fagan Brian Gagen Barry Gordon Peter Kennedy Barry Kuhnemann Doug Lee Dick Lynch Deacon Peter Devenish Meares | Dinny Madden Jim Mullins Robin Murphy OAM Terry Murphy Rod McDonald Chris McMahan John Noonan Wayne Nuss Reg Oliver John O'Neill Martin O'Sullivan Keith Pickels Allan Roney Philip Simpson Grahame Swenson Kerry Taylor Trevor Taylor Peter Upton Greg Wiedman |
|---|---|---|---|

“Coming Events”

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 18 th May 2018 | Brisbane TBOBA Sub Branch Meeting at 12 noon – Queensland Rail Institute, 309 Edward Street beside the “ Deck on Edward Café ” |
| 16 th June 2018 | 1957 – 1965 Class Reunion Luncheon, Contact Wayne Nuss, 0421 649 671 |
| 29 th June 2018 | Annual Toowoomba Brothers’ Old Boys’ Association Toowoomba Luncheon, contact Eric Howe (46322191), or John Wilson (46381098) |
| 17 th August 2018 | TBOBA Sunshine Coast meeting at the Headland Golf Club, Buderim at 12 noon. Please contact Terry Murphy (54564340) or Redmond Byrne (54776705) |

Annual Membership Fee (\$10.00) for Calendar Year 2018 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.

We express Birthday greeting to a number of Old Boys around this time:- **Fr Michael Gilbert CSSR, Jim Long, Reg Murphy of Clifton, Brother Kevin Dwyer, Doug Lee, and Les Duncan**

Could members please inform our Secretary or President if they change their postal or email addresses. This would be greatly appreciated. **While we are on this subject, can anyone supply the updated address for Michael Creedon, Life Member No 119.**

Joseph Raymond Tanna (4/04/1926 – 28/10/2017)



Joseph Raymond Tanna was born in the village of Kfarsghab Lebanon on April 4th 1926.

Not long after his birth Joe emigrated to Australia with parents **Mellick** and **Ghangghi**, brother **Fred** and sister **Elva**.

The family settled in Toowoomba, could not speak

a word of English and endured significant hardship in adapting to their new environment. The family grew in number when **Esma**, **Reg**, **Ivy** and **Ted** were born.

Joe attended school at St Mary's CBC Toowoomba but his great love of horses often saw him at odds with the Christian Brothers. He was frequently missing or late for school - the reason "he was at the race track".

In his own words:- "Gee I used to cop it across the backside but I fixed it, I tipped the Brother a couple of winners and things improved out of sight".

Joe's desire to be a jockey was fulfilled when his parents agreed to his leaving home to be an apprentice jockey at the Hennessy Stable in Brisbane.

It was here where Joe became great friends with another apprentice jockey who was to become a famous Australian, the late **George Moore**.

In 1939 the family moved to Warwick and opened a humble fruit shop at 149 Palmerin Street.

The family lived their life preparing meals and sleeping in the back section of the shop. These were difficult times. Soon after, Joe's life hung in the balance following a serious racing accident. He was a tough little bloke and defied the odds recovering from his injuries and eventually getting back in the saddle. With the outbreak of the 2nd World War and the threat of a foreign invasion of Australia, Fred was called to serve in the Army. At this time Joe made the choice to return to Warwick to assist in the Fruit Shop business. It was here that Joe spent his entire working life.

He continued to ride early morning track work in Warwick but his services were terminated. A certain Mr Collins arrived late to the training track and insisted that Joe had to ride his horse. Joe refused, he

said "You're late, I have to help mum open the shop". He later recounted "That so and so Mister Collins reported me to the stewards. They gave me the sack. It's the only time in my life I've been given the sack." No more track work for Joe. Many years later Mrs Nolan from the Warwick district whose family are well known for their association with horse racing called into the fruit shop and said to Joe "I was in Melbourne for the Cup and was talking to George Moore. He asked me how is Joe Tanna going." Joe felt so honoured that George remembered him.

He loved to talk of days gone by – memories of family returning to Warwick at Christmas to assist in this busy time at the shop and filling orders for gallons of fruit salad cut by hand at which Joe was at the helm. Recollections of the wonderful characters and families who frequented the fruit shop. So much laughter was shared. There was always a free apple or banana for the kids.

He was saddened at the loss of his parents, the premature passing of his brothers Fred, Ted and Reg and more recently his nephews Christopher and Raymond. On reaching the age of 90 years his pace began to slow.

So we say farewell to Joe "Champion" Tanna. He was a hard worker who loved his family and friends, the fruit shop, his game of bowls, race day and rugby league. Joe was a great halfback. He loved his meat pies, he loved his Bundaberg Rum which he said contributed to the colour of his skin.

He did it all his way. Joe never married. He told one of the nurses at John Flynn Hospital that he had a couple of girlfriends in the past but was too busy in the fruit shop to get married.

His life was a simple one - he never owned a car, he never learned to drive, no jewellery except a silver ring origin unknown. I was highly amused when my wife **Beryl** received a phone message from one of Joe's carer's at Opal Aged Care. The message was "Tell Peter that we found his father's wedding ring. We have locked it in the safe."

I give thanks to God for Joseph Tanna – brother, uncle and friend to all. May he rest in peace.

Written by Joe's brother **Peter Tanna**.

Philip Egan (8/2/1935 – 26/1/2018)



Philip was born in Sydney, the only child of **William** and **Rose Egan**. His early life was spent in the Bondi, Kings Cross area. It's recalled that on his first day at school someone stole his lunch, so he decided that he did not like school and walked home. He often spoke fondly of his time in Urunga, near Kempsey, with his horse Dobbin and dog Fido.

He was enrolled in a boarding school in Campbelltown, Sydney, after his father died when he was eight years old. The nuns were very strict and he remembered once being at the end of the soup line and receiving a bowl of wet barley without any soup. The nuns removed all pot plants from the dining room and patrolled the windows to ensure the "delicious food" could not be disposed of.

Phil and his mother moved to Toowoomba and he was enrolled at St Mary's College. Rose took up the lease of the Spring Hill Hotel (now the Royal Hotel) on Ruthven Street. He met up with **Kevin Killoran** who became his partner in mischief. They fed the chickens the dregs from the beer bottles and watched the resulting hilarious antics.

Like numerous young men of his era, Phil took up an electrical trade apprenticeship with the Toowoomba Electric Light Co after finishing 3rd in the 1950 Junior Class of 24 students. After completing his apprenticeship he worked for a number of electrical firms before establishing his own firm, Egan's Electrical Service, which proudly served a very loyal Toowoomba customer base due to his honest work ethic. One customer was the legendary R M Williams.

Phil undertook his National Service and while on a CMF training manoeuvre a helicopter landed and a young VRD Army Volunteer alighted who was to change his life. She was **Shirley Scott**, a sister of the Scott brothers he knew living in Campbell Street and a romance began. The sweethearts parted for 10 months when he took a job at the Mary Kathleen

uranium mine to save money for the wedding in September 1957. The couple were blessed with three children, **Mark**, **Jennifer**, and **Ann**.

One of Phil's greatest joys was his annual trip away with **Ted Luck**, **Lyle Dornbusch** and **Keith Bradshaw** to Far North Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia. He passed on his love of the outdoors, taking the family on camping trips every Easter and a special highlight was his final road trip with Shirley to the tip of Cape York.

Putting on his farmer's hat, he could be seen working his acreage lot on Hume Street on his Massey Ferguson tractor and as a member of the Toowoomba Rifle Club he would boast his wife and daughters prowess at the yearly Christmas Competition Shoot.

He had a lifelong dream of having a boat and retiring to the Gold Coast. This was achieved when the couple settled in Runaway Bay and he had the opportunity to take the grandchildren fishing before treating them to an ice cream at McDonalds afterward. In retirement he also enjoyed overseas travel with Shirley and he especially loved cruising.

After fighting the good fight: leukaemia, a stroke, and being hit by a car while on his mobility scooter, Philip passed to Eternal Life on 26th January 2018 and was buried after a Requiem Mass celebrated by Rev Fr John Maher in his Holy Family Parish Church, Runaway Bay. He will be sadly missed by his wife of sixty years, Shirley, his children and their partners and eleven grandchildren.

Harold William Leis (23/8/1937 – 28/1/2018)



A Life Member of our Toowoomba Brothers Old Boys Association, Harold was born in Toowoomba, the eldest child of **Gordon** and **Dehlia** (Henson) **Leis**.

His siblings were **Gordon John** (John), **June** (Mrs Blinco), **Helen** (Mrs Brown), and **Maree** (Mrs Hilderson).

His education took place at a number of schools; Toowoomba South Girls & Infants, then St Mary's College (1948-1949), and later at the Pittsworth Convent and Drayton State School when his father managed hotels in these centres.

He was pleased to attend the reunion of his St Mary's Class on 1/7/2017 and the Pittsworth Convent reunion more recently.

Harold joined the Queensland Railways Department at the age of 14 as an apprentice wagon builder, and served in the railway workshop for the next 48 years with never a complaint, understanding the value of hard work.

He was called up for the first intake of National Servicemen in 1956, serving in 5 Platoon, "B" Company of the 11th National Service Battalion at Wacol. After 13 weeks training he was posted to the 25th Infantry Battalion Daring Downs Regiment for two years part time compulsory service.

On the 9th January 1965 Harold married **Rosalie Ranger** and built their home himself. The family garage was his workshop where he showed that anything is possible if you try. He made a wood lathe first, building it from a washing machine motor, welding it together himself. This enabled Harold to turn out beautiful dinner table chairs out of cedar. Even when stricken with a second bout of cancer he turned to his engineering skills to make and fit a heavy duty tow bar to his first and only new car.

Harold gave freely of his time to the Community through the Drayton Scout Group over many years, and as a handyman at St Anthony's Harristown, where you would be surprised at the things he built around the church. Then there was Drug Arm, always respectfully helping others, and of course making friends.

He was always there for his sons, **John, Gregory, Andrew** and **Karl** taking them to the library to enrich their minds or show how to fix their cars or to make something that was needed, never forceful, always supportive too as their careers developed.

Harold loved music, playing the piano himself or CDs and he lived long enough to hear his grand-daughters, **Kate** and **Amy**, play beautiful music.

His wish was granted thirteen days before his death when his seven grandchildren were able to visit him together:- **Kate, Amy, Joshua, Kiara, Jennifer, Violet** and **Hazel**.

Harold passed to Eternal Life on 28/1/2018 and was buried after a Thanksgiving Mass at St Anthony's Catholic Church, Harristown, celebrated by Fr Herni on 1/2/1018. Fr Peter Dorfield preached the homily.

Members Stories

The Queensland Bulls cricket team scored a dominant win in the 2017/2018 Sheffield Shield competition with a 9 wicket win over Tasmania in the five day final at Border Field at the end of March. It was Queensland's 8th win since joining the competition in 1926 and the first win since the 2011/2012 season.



For skipper **Jimmy Pearson** it fulfilled a childhood dream. The wicketkeeper/batsman, who was elevated to the captaincy in the absence of Test star Usman Khawaja, had led Queensland to finish on top of the season points table meaning Tasmania needed an outright win to gain the Shield.

On the final day Queensland were set a modest 128 runs to win in the final session and scored victory with the loss of one wicket.

Jimmy (on left in photo) is the grandson of Life Member **Jim Long** and a grand-nephew of **Patrick** (RIP) and **Tom Long**.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Michael and Margo Quinlan

Old Boys also extend their congratulations to Margo and Michael Quinlan (1950-1959) who have just celebrated the Golden Anniversary of their wedding in St Monica's Catholic Church, Moonie Ponds, Melbourne on the 2nd May 1968.

Following a short trip to Tasmania early in May, the couple are looking forward to three months or so overseas visiting Hong Kong, London, Germany, Scandinavia and Namibia in South Africa.

Michael undertakes great work as Co-coordinator of our Sydney based Old Boys and during his absence Mick Fitzpatrick (1952-55 & 1958-61) has agreed to fill the role. Mick can be contacted on 0407 294 006.

Barry and Roslyn Coonan

These photos depict the everlasting, loving bond shared between **Barry** and **Roslyn Coonan** (nee Gleeson) of Wellcamp. The first photo was taken at a Bachelor Girls Black & Gold Ball on July 9, 1966 during their courtship.

With Barry being a popular bookmaker at Clifford Park for many years, a Saturday was out of the running for their nuptials, consequently as both of them were devout Catholics they had to get special dispensation from Bishop William Brennan to be married on Sunday, March 17, 1968 (St Patrick's Day) at St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba by Father Pat Doyle (the second photo).



1966

1968



2018

The third photo is from a surprise lunch at Toowoomba's Irish Club on St Patrick's Day 2018 to celebrate Barry and Ros's 50th Wedding Anniversary. An article appeared in the Toowoomba Chronicle on the 17/3/2018 to mark the occasion.

Many congratulations to Barry & Ros on the memorable occasion of your golden wedding anniversary.

Sons **Ashley** & **Jason**, daughter-in-law **Sherron** and five grandchildren, Val & Jimmy and other family members and friends were on hand to celebrate.

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WEDDING BELLS rang out at St Stephen's Cathedral at 3pm on Saturday 14th April when **Dr Kristyn Sharee Deen**, daughter of **Dr Vincent** and **Catherine Deen** married **Dr Thomas Patrick Moloney**, son of **Greg** and **Nicole Moloney**. In the bridal party were Bridemaids **Jacqueline Deen** and **Dr Lucy Wilson**, Best Man **Dr James Booth** and Groomsman **Vincent Deen**. The Celebrant was Cleveland Parish Priest, Rev Fr Ashley Warbrooke. The couple will honeymoon in Paris and then Spain. The wedding had particular significance for the couples grandparents **James** and the late **Maureen Dymphna (Hammill) Long** and the late **Arthur E (Mick) and Edna (Jackson) Moloney**, as both Kristyn and Thomas's grandfathers, **Jim** and **Mick**, were classmates at St Mary's College in the 1940's.

#####

1987 St Mary's Toowoomba Year 12, 30 Year reunion



Chris Biggin has kindly provided the following information on the 1987, Year 12 Class Reunion that was held at Gold Park Toowoomba on 21st Oct 2017. 24 attended in the photo (22 from the Year 12 with 2 from the Grade 10 class that didn't continue but were happy for them to participate). Sadly I believe 4 have passed on since finishing in 1987, a few missing in action or unaccounted for (whereabouts unknown). Great night out & good to catch up on careers, family & friendships long passed. Big thanks to **Mick Tighe** for organising & hosting the event.

Names of those attending included:

Dom Bartkus, Mal Angus, Greg Cavanagh, Mick Tighe, Damian Purcell, Chris Biggin, Steve Betros, Tracey Brown, John Card, Craig Hobbins, Brendan Hohn, John McGahan, Brendon Mahon, Paul Mahon, Darren Mahoney, Wayne Morley, Trevor Mortimer, David O'Brien, Darren Quade, Paul Reedy, Chris Smith, James Thygesen, John Underwood, Liam Francesco, Jason Ahern.

Thanks to **John Heeney** who has taken out Life Membership of our association recently. John was a member of the 1953 St Mary's College Junior Class and now lives in Sunshine Beach, near Noosa with his wife **Connie** (Wilson). John was the third generation member of the Heeney family to attend St Mary's College. His grandfather Jim possibly was a first day College student in 1899 as College records show him as a 6th Class prize winner at the 19/12/1900 Speech Night and as one of six students to pass the Sydney University Examination from the College in 1902. John's father, **Jack**, and his brother **Frank** attended St Mary's in the 1920's and 1930's. John himself was enrolled in 1947. John's great uncle **Bill Heeney** and grandfather of another Old Boy, **Bill Fechner**, was a Toowoomba Chronicle Sporting journalist for 59 years (1893 – 1952) writing under the nom de plume "The Critic" from 1911.

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The spotlight was turned on Life Member **Terry Gesh** at the March Brisbane Branch meeting to tell the assembled crowd a little about himself since leaving the College in 1953. It is hoped that other members will follow Terry's lead and take the opportunity to share some stories with the rest of the group at the luncheons.

This is Terry's story:

My final year at St Mary's College was 1953. I had been enrolled there since Grade 2 in 1944. Life was about to change.

My proudest moment at St Mary's was being a member of the undefeated First XV Premiers in my final year under captain **Mick Fitzgerald**, later a regular All Whites and Toowoomba centre.

The Victory Banquet organised was a great function with many dignitaries present.

My career started as a Junior Bank Officer at the Bank of New South Wales (later Westpac) in Toowoomba and after some initial training I commenced my country service at Chinchilla and Dalby.

Next I undertook my National Service training before being posted to the relief staff in Mackay.

I was working in Innisfail when **Margaret** and I were engaged, and in Cloncurry prior to our wedding on the 27th February 1960.

Fortunately for my young wife, even though she was a country lass, a transfer came through and we were able to settle in Ipswich.

It had been an exciting few years with the wider opportunities and experiences and great camaraderie, as the new lad in town for the local tennis, cricket or football clubs. The rugby league team in Chinchilla had included **John Gleeson**, the Mackay side was coached by **Paul Pyers**, and it was tennis in Cloncurry. Other transfers created opportunities to be a Referee or even to join the Girl Guides Association while in Sarina.

Next I was selected to open a new Branch at Ashgrove, before joining the Training Centre in Brisbane. More Country Service followed when the nation moved to decimal currency early in 1966 and I was sent to Townsville to assist with the implementation of the new systems in the vast Mackay/Mount Isa/Cairns Region.

Then followed appointments as Accountant to the Leichhardt Street and Dalby Branches before being made Branch Manager at Sarina, then Caboolture, and finally Redcliffe, where I retired in 1989/1990.

In retirement I have enjoyed Lawn Bowls and have had various Local and District Committee roles. I became a Life Member of the TBOBA on the 28th of November 2003 and am an active Member and play in our Intercity Lawn Bowls competition.

Margaret and I have lived in Stafford Heights since 1985 and have been blessed with four children and nine grandchildren.

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Old boys will recall Show Week in Toowoomba in the old days. There was the mid-week Show holiday, a half day Bank holiday for the Weetwood Handicap and then the Toowoomba Cup on the Saturday.

On the Show holiday, visits to Jimmy Sharman's Boxing Tent, and the Cattle Pavilion to inspect the livestock entered by the "Navillus" Stud run by Brother O'Sullivan's brother Con were mandatory. While school classes were held on the Bank Holiday it was folklore that some lads, very familiar with the racehorses stabled in the back yards of the homes in the Newtown area, were absent and often caught as they entered the Racecourse by a Brother from the school doing a check.

It can be seen that St Mary's Old Boys have had an interest for years in the Weetwood/Toowoomba Cup

Carnival, highlighted when Old Boy the late **Stathi Katsidis** rode 5 Weetwood Handicap winners in his short career. This year top Brisbane trainer, Old Boy **Tony Gollan** (Yr12-1996) saddled up the first winner of the day, 2yr old filly Shamurt and had second placegetters Just Orm in race 5 and Hi Im Back in the Weetwood Handicap.

Life Member **Joe O'Neill** (1966-1974), these days a leading syndicator of racehorses through his business 'Prime Thoroughbreds', had Raido unplaced in the Weetwood Handicap.

SMOBA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Toowoomba (St Mary's) Brothers Old Boys' Association was held on Monday 26th March 2018, below are extracts from President Joe Guerrini's report.

The St Mary's Old Boys' Association (SMOBA) completed another successful year in 2017 with 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. The Association has commenced the process of creating a sinking fund for the future capital expenditure. The CBA continues to have three major users, St Mary's College, Toowoomba Basketball Association, and Hall Thorpe Sports (Vacation Care Providers) and during 2017 the CBA was utilised by eight other sporting organisations or schools.

In June 2017 the SMOBA acquired another rental property, 6 Helen Street, to add to the existing portfolio of 8 Helen Street, and 80 Hill Street. The acquisition of rental properties has been undertaken for two reasons, it provides direct support to the College in owning property of strategic importance to future planning and it does provide the SMOBA (once the debt is retired) with an additional source of revenue.

Following a lump sum payment of \$30,000 on the loans for the rental properties at the end of March 2018, the estimated debt will be \$477,559, approximately \$70,000 ahead of schedule, with these funds effectively making up a sinking fund for the SMOBA. In regards to the loans on rental properties all of the mortgages are secured over the three rental properties and no mortgage is held over the CBA which is owned by the SMOBA freehold since the debt was retired in late 2015.

The assets, valued in excess of \$4 million, accumulated by SMOBA since 1949 for the benefit of

the students of St Mary's College, are a testament to the generous efforts of dedicated Old Boys and SMOBA Committees over nearly seventy years. The achievements of the current SMOBA Committee are an extension of that work done by those who have preceded them.

The Association's main challenge lies in addressing the reduction of the revenue streams that had been available during the period of time the loan repayments were being made for the CBA i.e. the cessation of the Function Centre Business Unit from April 2014 and the College vending machines. The reliance is now on the CBA as the main source of revenue and the rental incomes as a secondary source. In conclusion the President thanked the College for the \$18,000 operational support grant to offset the spiralling increases in Council charges and electricity costs. Joe also referred to the support given by the College with various auxiliary services such as the weekly cleaning of the wooden floors during most of the school terms.

He also thanked **Mr Clive Berghofer** who gave the Association the opportunity to undertake the construction of the Arena, and Committee members **Paul Canning, Greg Manthey, James Dixon, Greg Butler, and Tom Vonhoff** for their invaluable service and the support and understanding of their families.

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College News

- Renowned and highly respected Old Boy **Fr Richard Leonard S.J.** celebrated the opening Mass for the 2018 College Year in the Clive Berghofer Stadium on Friday 2nd February 2018.
- The College 2018 Swimming Carnival was won by Purcell House, with Bowdler House 2nd, Waterford 3rd, and McGoldrick 4th. Open Champion was **Kahn Asgill**.
- The **St Mary's College 2018 ANZAC Day Liturgy** ceremony was held on 24/4/2018. Guest speakers were Old Boys **Fr Hal Ranger**, 1943-52, and **Colonel Darcy Rawlinson** Yr 12 – 1990.
- St Mary's College rugby league "A" side will play in the Brisbane Rugby League Schools Competition during Terms 2 and 3 in 2018.