



St Mary's Old Boys' Newsletter



November 2013

Dan McErlean
12 Werona Street
Sunnybank Qld 4109

Dear Old Boys

Our Pre-Christmas meeting will be held at 'The Public Service Club', Level 1 Function Room, 84 William Street (cnr Stephens Lane), Brisbane on Friday 22nd November 2013 from 12 noon through until about 2.00 pm; but feel free to drop in anytime from 11.00 am on, as your commitments dictate and join Old Boy mates in convivial fellowship.

If Old Boys are coming by train to the Central Railway Station, there is a free City Loop bus from Stop 8 opposite Central Station in Ann Street which allows you to alight at Stop 103 in the Government Precinct, just outside 'The Public Service Club' at 84 William Street. The bus services on this route are every 10-15 minutes. Our thanks go to Old Boy **Peter Betros**, who was elected Queensland Rugby League Chairman last December, for his interesting address at the September 2013 TBOBA meeting here in Brisbane.

As the 2013 Calendar Year draws to a close, Old Boys wish to pay a special tribute to the TBOBA President, **Joe Guerrini** and his Executive, **Peter Walters, Matthew Booth, Donald Stephens, Paul Canning, Greg Manthey** and **Jeremy Cotter** who have so tirelessly committed considerable time driving fund raising for the redemption of our Loan on the Clive Berghofer Sports Complex. It would help the Committee greatly if Old Boys would please consider giving generously to the Bro Baptiste O'Sullivan School Building Fund to assist with the Debt Reduction Program on our Indoor Sports Complex. Donations which are fully Tax Deductible will be receipted.

The St Mary's College Prize Presentation Night was held in the Empire Theatre on Wednesday 30th October 2013.

As November is the month of the 'Holy Souls' please remember our deceased Old Boys, Christian Brothers and Friends of the College. Recently deceased have been **Lyle Potts** (husband of **Loti** and son of **Ted and Kay**), **Jessie May (Walters) Williams** (100 years) wife of **Edwin** (dec'd) and father of **Valerie, Grahame, Bill and Tony, Rose Lee** (wife of **Doug**), **Graham Ziser, Maureen** Molloy sister of **Dan Reilly, Lois (Bauer) Bretz** wife of **Arthur, Loretto (Copas) Meares** (97 years) wife of **Colin** (RIP). A number are also unwell or recovering from surgery: **Kevin and Tim Coonan, Justin Kingsford, Don Vallely, Trevor Muller, Kev Killoran, Pat Seymour, Kevin O'Neill, John Keightley and Annette Gilbert.**

Engineers Australia (Queensland Division) Excellence Awards



Brisbane Branch president, Bryan McSweeney, was recently awarded the Engineering Associate of the Year Queensland award from Engineers Australia Queensland Division. The annual awards were held at Brisbane City Hall on Friday 6th September. Bryan is now automatically a finalist for the National Engineering Associate of the Year, and will attend the National Engineers Australia Excellence Awards in Canberra on 20 November 2013. The award recognises Bryan's engineering capability, creativity, communication and leadership, as well as his contribution to industry over a career spanning more than forty years with Transport and Main Roads.

Please Note: Our first Brisbane meeting in 2014 will be on Friday 14th March.



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 – 20/09/13

Present

Apologies

John Bagget	Pat Mullins	Fr Paul Chandler	Bob Grundy
Peter Betros	Dan McErlean	Fr Tyrone Deere	John Hutchinson
Ted Bowling	Paul McErlean	Frank Adamson	Peter Kennedy
Rosemary Bowling	Peter McMahon	Nat Chandler	Jim Long
Noel Cronin	Bryan McSweeney	Bernie Collins	Dick Lynch
Terry Gesch	John O’Neill	John Coyer	Deacon Peter Meares
Barry Gordon	Martin O’Sullivan	Jack Davis	Bernie Murphy
Rolly Griffin	Graham Swenson	John Drew	Terry Murphy
Doug Lee	Kerry Taylor	Frank Deighton	Justin McErlean
Fred Lincoln	Reg Taylor	Allan Duncan	John Noonan
Mick Moloney	Glen Wiedman	Les Duncan	Reg Oliver
Jim Mullins	Gerry Williams	Des Franklin	Jack Parker
		Brian Gagen	Ron Smith
			Kerry Zeller

‘Coming Events’

2/11/13	1950/1959 Class Reunion – Contacts: Pat Costigan (0432 583 498), Justin Lunney (4634 4756), Michael Quinlan (02-9997 2397), Graham Swenson (5561 1753)
16/11/13 4.00pm (Tour) 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm (Dinner)	1955 – 1963 Class Reunion in TP O’Brien Function Centre Tour of College Dinner (\$35 per person for 2 Course Meal with Nibbles plus a cash bar) Contact Merv Paddison (07) 5444 6716, 0427 631 620 or Kevin Bowden (0404 471 349)
22/11/13 (11am – 2pm)	Brisbane TBOBA Sub Branch Meeting – 1 st Floor, Function Room, ‘The Public Service Club’, 84 William Street (cnr Stephens Lane), Brisbane
6/12/13	TBOBA Sunshine Coast Meeting at Headland Golf Club on Golf Links, Buderim Contacts: Bernie Murphy (5478 0742), Terry Murphy (5456 4340), Redmond Byrne (5477 6705)
14/3/14 11.00 am – 2.00 pm	Brisbane TBOBA Sub Branch Meeting – 1 st Floor, Function Room, ‘The Public Service Club’, 84 William Street (cnr Stephens Lane), Brisbane

Annual Membership Fee (\$10.00) for Calendar Year 2014 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.’

NEW LIFE MEMBERS!!!

Our Special Thanks are extended to **Gordon John Leis** (1947-1948), Randwick, NSW, and **Kerry M Zeller** (1956-1964), Ashgrove, for taking up Life Memberships recently.





Reunions

- 25th Year Reunion for (Year 12s – 1988) was held in the TP O'Brien Function Centre on Saturday 5th October 2013. Paul Canning reports on the event:

It was an honour and a privilege to look after the 1988 class reunion. These poor fellows survived me as a teacher in yr 5 and later in their secondary years. As with any class there was a mixture of personalities that makes the class unique. Past teachers **Peter Moloney** and **Tom Denham** attended and were appreciated by the returning class.

Organisers **Fred Betros** and **Jamie Cooper** did a great job to get the group assembled. Thirty- five of the class attended. Some of the former students who attended included **Fred Betros**, now a doctor in Western Sydney, **Jamie Cooper** (Aubigny Meat Works), **Damien Cogill** (Solicitor Noosa), **Peter Coorey** (owner Plumbing Company Toowoomba), **Shaun Reardon** (Owner Toll Transport Toowoomba), **Damien Van Brunshot** (Solicitor Brisbane), **Scott McGovern** (Teacher Toowoomba), **Laurie Cooper** (Paramedic Toowoomba), **Mark Mahony** (Accountant Toowoomba).

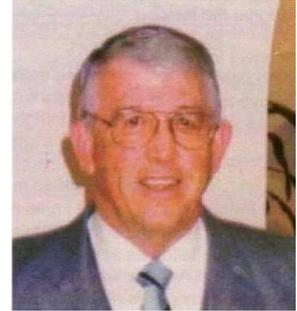
The gathering celebrated well and really in many cases seemed as though 25years was only yesterday. Some must have felt safe enough to fess up to some of the "crimes" they committed at school. Gentlemen your secrets are safe with me as long as you promise to get together before another 25 years pass. **Paul Canning**.

- The 1950 – 1959 Class Reunion will be held on Saturday 2nd November 2013. The organisers recognises they are all in the twilight of their years and encourage all their classmates to come along and join them. Previous class reunions of this group have been great get-together with lots of laughs and old school stories. Contacts are **Graham Swenson** (0417 776 832), **Pat Costigan** (0432 583 498), **Justin Lunney** (07 4634 4756) or **Michael Quinlan** (02 9997 2397).
- A great deal of interest has been shown by past students and their partners in the 50th Reunion of the 'Year 1955 – 1963' Class to be held at St Mary's College on Saturday 16th November 2013. Some who have expressed their interest to attend include **Ray Valley** (Taree) NSW, **Robert O'Callaghan** (Wannera, WA), **Peter Upton** (Sunshine Coast) and **Terry Hilder** (Mackay).
- There will be a Tour of the College at 4pm on 16/11/13 and Dinner is scheduled at 6.00 for 6.30pm in the TP O'Brien Function Centre, cost \$35.00 per person for a 2-course meal with nibbles (plus Cash Bar). Contact details for coordinators: Merv Paddison (07 5444 6716 or (0427 631 620) email: a_mpaddison1@bigpond.com and Kevin Bowden (0404 471 349) email: kevin.bowden@optusnet.com.au

Andrew Gerard Purcell

- Andrew was born on 21/2/1930, the eldest son of Andrew, the Chief and **Bridget (Logan) Purcell** at St Benedict's Hospital, Cory St, Toowoomba. The couple had been living at 18 Felix St, Woolloowin from November 1928 but Bridget had gone to Toowoomba to be with The Chief's family during the later part of her pregnancy.

Young Andrew attended the Holy Cross Convent in Woolloowin in grades one and two in 1936-37 and then St Columbian's CBC at Albion Heights from grade 3 to his junior year (1938-1944). The War years were an exciting and a terrifying time for the Purcell brothers – **Andrew, Terry and Des**.



In early 1942, schools had been closed after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour and the boys enjoyed an extended Christmas break cycling and swimming. On one occasion while riding to Nudgee Beach, Andrew viewed the magnificent site of the arrival of the American Pensacola fleet anchored in Moreton Bay. It was a great thrill for the twelve year old Andrew who rushed home to announce his discovery and it caused a mild panic, as a Japanese invasion was feared by most adults.

In April 1944 his father was transferred with IOA and North British Insurance to Toowoomba and the Purcell brothers were enrolled at St Mary's Christian Brothers' College in West Street. Andrew's cousin, **Jim Clancy**, **Tony Dietz** and **Peter Sheridan** were some of his classmates. He was a tower of strength in the Dramatic Society, a Cadet Lieutenant in the College Cadet Corps and a member of the First XV Rugby Union and First XI Cricket teams. He matriculated in his 1946 Senior Year and in 1947 was accepted into the Faculty of Dentistry, which was founded in 1911, residing at St Leo's then located on Wickham Terrace. His sons **Desmond** and **Michael** and grandson **David** also attended St Leo's, a resident college for young Catholic men studying at the University; but in their time on another location.

Andrew was one of 105 students accepted in to the Faculty's four year course in 1947 and graduated in 1951. Only 13 students passed through the course without any posts (having to re-sit an examination) – Andrew was the thirteenth. The number of students enrolled had been increased to cater for the State's expanding Post War population. Upon graduating, Andrew joined the Queensland Health Department working in Brisbane in February and March 1951 before being transferred to Thursday Island. He resigned and went into private practice in Millmerran; but on 14/8/1951 tragedy struck and his practice was burnt to the ground with the loss of all his books, instruments and his Degree. Undeterred he continued to service as the town dentist until he sold out in 1956.



Applications for a staff dentist at the Toowoomba General Hospital were invited and Andrew was successful, working in that position from the end of 1956 to 1961. During this time he met and courted his future wife, **Barbara Geitz** who began work at the Hospital Dental Clinic as a Dental Assistant and Receptionist. Both the Geitz and Purcell families had been neighbours in earlier times at their Ramsay and Hodgson Vale farms. Barbara and Andrew married in St Patrick's Cathedral on 7/4/1958 and built their own home at 2 Hennessy St, Harristown and lived there until 1967 when they purchased a larger house at 21 Helen St, so as to be nearer to St Mary's College for their children's future education.

In 1961 Andrew was appointed Dental Superintendent at the Toowoomba General Hospital; the staff consisted of 4 Dentists, 4 Technicians, 4 Assistants and a Receptionist. In 1978 the family moved to Brisbane and 15 Brooklands Street, Eight Mile Plains when Andrew was appointed as a Regional Dental Officer with the newly formed School Dental Service with his Region covering all South East Queensland, west to Charleville. The position involved management of staff and facilities but little Dentistry, which he found restricting.

Andrew was always involved with Rugby Union Football, either as player, referee, coach or administrator. He played in the First XV at St Mary's College, then in the Inter College Competition at St Leo's and for 4 years with the University side. When in Millmerran after graduation, he travelled into Toowoomba to play with the GPS Old Boys. In 1956 he was chosen to play for Queensland, receiving four caps – two against New South Wales – lost both, one against the Springboks – lost too, and New South Wales Country – won.

Football was in his blood and in 1963 Andrew took up refereeing and continued in that role until 1969 controlling three Risdon Cup Finals during that time. In 1971 he became a Queensland Country Selector and in 1972 the Darling Downs Coach. He was Queensland Country Coach in 1974 and 1975 and again from 1982 to 1986, Queensland Country Selector from 1976 to 1988 and a Queensland State Selector from 1984 into the 1990s. In 1986 Andrew Purcell was given 'Life Membership of the Queensland Rugby Union' for his services to Rugby Football, one of the greatest honours of his life. During the 1990s and up to his retirement from football politics, Andrew was President of the Queensland Country Rugby Union and the Senior Vice-President of the Queensland Rugby Union.

Rugby wasn't Andrew's only sporting interest. He was a keen social squash player and a good tennis player. He and Barbara enjoyed Sunday Fixtures at the Holy Name Tennis Association Courts and in 1973 and 1974, the couple won the Over 25s Mixed Doubles in the Toowoomba Tennis Association Championships.

He was also a good furniture craftsman and carpenter of note, good rifleman and fisherman. He was a man who lived life by a strict code of honour; his word was

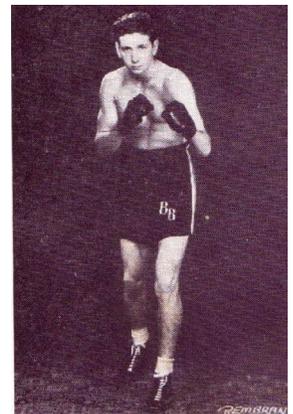
his bond. A loving and loved husband of Barbara, father, grandfather and mate who will be sadly missed. Andrew had been in indifferent health for a short time and passed away in the QEII Hospital on Tuesday 15/10/13. He is survived by **Barbara, Des and Christine, Michael and Cathy, Tony and Denise, Greg and Marie**, 9 cherished grandchildren and his brother Terry. His brother, Brother Des Purcell cfc, predeceased him in November 2006.

A Mass of Thanksgiving was offered by **Fr Augustine Obi** for Andrew at Our Lady of Lourdes, Sunnybank on Monday 21/10/2013 and his internment followed that day at the Toowoomba Gardens of Remembrance Cemetery.

Rev Fr Jack Rosenskjar, aged 96 years, passed to Eternal Life on 16/10/13 at Archbishop Duhig Court Home, Brisbane. He was the popular Chaplain with the 25th Battalion when they saw action at Milne Bay (PNG) in August 1942 defending the airstrip against the Japanese amphibious forces. Later in 1944/45 he served with the Battalion in both the Central and Southern sectors in Bougainville. Numerous Old Boys like **Len Rosenthal, Bill O'Connor, Frank Bowdler, Frank Heeney, Kevin Healy, Leo Denzin and Pat Hayes** served with the 25th Battalion. A Requiem Mass to celebrate Fr Jack's life was celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge in St Stephen's Cathedral on 22/10/2013.

Vale Brian Brady

- Brian was the son of **Philip and Vera (Delaney) Brady** and his siblings were **Terry, Philip, Brian, Bernie, Noel and Peggy**. A good sportsman, he attended the College until the end of his Sub-Scholarship year in 1943. The College janitor at the time was **Joe Brady** the eldest brother of Brian's father, Philip. Another brother of Philip's, **John** was the grandfather of Old Boys' **John** (1960 – 1965) and **Gary** (1973 – 1980).



Brian initially commenced work as a bellboy at Lennons Hotel and then moved to the Gresham Hotel. He became a deckhand on the 'Cape Leeuwen' a small vessel servicing lighthouses up the Queensland coast and later joined the Australian National Line as a steward on their regular coastal tourist and freight trips to Cairns and return. He also gained employment at the Tattersall's Club and had the honour of serving Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her Royal visit to Queensland.

It was as a boxer that Brian and then his brother Bernie made their marks. His trainer was the veteran, **Dick Cullen**. Queensland at the time had some excellent lightweight boxers and in November 1949, Brady had



covered himself with glory in a fight with **Jacky Ryan** when he pluckily rose from the floor after the count of 'eight' had been applied over him, midway through the first round, but his abnormal fighting spirit saw him see out the round and comeback to win the State Lightweight Title on a TKO in the 6th round.

For this mighty effort against Jacky Ryan, Brady earned himself pride of place in the Queensland lightweight division, as well as the greatest admiration from the 4,000 spectators who witnessed his grand achievement. However in a slashing non-title 12 three minute round rematch fight at the Stadium on 10/2/1950 Ryan outpointed Brady, who broke his lethal laden right hand causing a layoff of about 9 months with Brian having to relinquish his Title. In a return Title bout between Ryan and Brady on 9/3/1951, Brian staged a rattling good fight until a badly damaged eye caused the referee to halt the fight. Brian who is survived by his wife Wanda, son Stephen and brother Noel, passed away on 27 April 2013.

Bernard Joseph 'Barney' Roberts
(15/1/1940 – 27/7/2013)

- Loyal, caring, reliable, brave, determined, dependable; a true gentleman, these are just a few words to describe Barney. He was born in St George on 15/1/1940, the second eldest of the five boys in the Roberts household **Kevin, Barney, Des, Brian and Michael**. He began his schooling at St Patrick's convent in St George; but at the age of eleven, his parents decided to send Barney and Kevin to Toowoomba to board with an Aunt so they could be educated at St Mary's College.



At the age of 15 years, he was diagnosed with TB and spent 18 months in Brisbane for treatment. His father would visit him every weekend. He met his future wife through friends and they married on 7th August 1964 and were blessed with two daughters, **Fiona and Donna**, Barney had been an apprentice plumber with CJR Plumbing; but the couple began their own business 'Roberts Plumbing' which they ran for 47 years often attending to the College plumbing for many of those years.

Barney loved sport and horse racing and it is recorded that his daughter was married at 3pm on the 20th October 2001 just when the Caulfield Cup was to be run. He asked the driver of the bridal car to pull over outside the church until the race was run and the correct weight signal given. The winner by the way was 'Ethereal'. He followed his daughters sporting achievements and debrief them on their games. He was fair; but strict with his house rules – Home by midnight on Friday night and by 3am on Sunday morning.

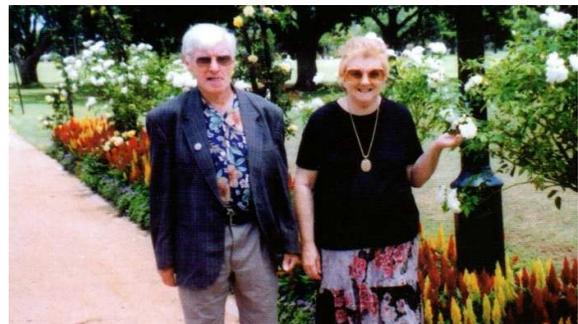
Barney's world was rocked on the 12th July, 2004 when his wife, **Nancy (Yarrow)** passed away; but once again his strength and determination came through and for the next nine years he carried himself with the same loyalty and dignity he always had. He spent weekends in Brisbane with his daughter **Fiona** and son-in-law **Mark** and his two granddaughters **Amelia** and **Madeline**, spoiling them with lollies and ice creams and trips to the Ekka and Brookfield Show.

In a tribute to Barney for his services to the College and Christian Brothers, refreshments with the family were held in the Clive Berghoffer Arena at St Mary's College after the funeral.

- Life Member, **John Henry Orford**, the eldest son of **Eric George and Catherine Jean Orford**, was born on the 31st August 1933 and celebrated his 80th Birthday at the Toowoomba City Golf Club on 31/8/2013 with his wife, **Glenda**, children **Natalie, Mark, Paul** and **Grant** and their families and friends.

He attended Our Lady of Lourdes School as a first day pupil in 1939, before moving on to St Mary's College where he was a member of the Cadet Corps and enjoyed tennis and swimming. He left school after Junior (Year 10) and took up an apprenticeship at the Toowoomba Foundry which he completed before undertaking his National Service and then joining RAEME.

John had an ambition to migrate to Canada, as many young Australians were doing at the time; but he had met a lovely girl, **Glenda Carroll**. He pursued his dream and moved to Canada; but became a great letter writer. The couple were engaged on 31/8/1958 and then married at Our Lady of Lourdes on 14/2/1959 where Glenda was educated.



Through **Frank Geddes** he joined the Lions Club and progressed through various roles – Secretary, President, Zone Chairman and then was inducted as District Governor from 1982 to 1983 in Atlanta in the USA.

Meanwhile, John had joined the Orford's factory and after undertaking a course, became the Chief Syrup Maker. He worked alongside his brother **Eric Neil 'Nick'** and his father who had acquired sole ownership from his remaining brothers.



In the next few years, it became Orford's Refrigeration with the first products going to school tuck shops and workshops where Orford's soft drinks were sold. At its peak, Orford Refrigeration employed 300 workers.

In 1999 John underwent heart surgery and unfortunately suffered a major stroke which forced his early retirement in 2008. His brother **Ian**, took over management of the business; but due to duties as a Local Government Councillor, handed the business over to his daughter and the business closed in 2011.

One project John has been involved in has been the development of the Newtown Park Rose Garden which is now a significant Tourist attraction in Toowoomba. He headed a 'not for profit' group to raise funds for the continued development of the Rose Garden and to assist Council staff where required. St Mary's College students have built two gazebos under direction of Council to enhance the Garden area.

- Canstruct Pty Ltd is a Queensland firm founded by Civil Engineer, Robin Murphy, a College student from 1948 to 1957. It has been recently awarded a \$60M design and construct contract to erect 4 new bridges in the Oro Province for the PNG Government between the historic Kokoda Track and the coast. It is a big project, as the bridges are being constructed over some quite treacherous rivers, wider than the Brisbane River.

Generally there is a huge amount of water flowing through; but when the floods come, the flow rushes down at an enormous rate and bowls everything over.

Robin (pictured right) hopes the structures honour soldiers who fought in World War II in PNG. Many St Mary's Old Boys like **Frank Bowdler, Frank Heeney, Jack and Peter Hall, Kevin Healy, Pat Hayes** & others were member of the 25th Battalion which held the Japanese advance at Milne Bay in August 1942. Robin Murphy has a photograph taken in 1942 showing soldiers crossing a makeshift river bridge; by that stage the Australians had forced the Japanese back from Kokoda. Unfortunately for the Japanese the river which is in mountainous country flooded on one occasion at the wrong moment drowning the Japanese General who was controlling all their forces in the Kokoda campaign.



Robin's first job was in PNG, 47 years ago. He says 'the firm compete on the basis of meeting the need for the toughest engineering standards to withstand conditions experienced in cyclones, hurricanes and tornados'. His three sons now run the family business – **Rory** is the Group Executive, **Adrian** (Force 10) and **Dan** (Canstruct). Their Force 10 transportable steel accommodation structures are fabricated and packed for shipment from Brisbane. Some of the projects undertaken by the firm over the past year are – The Bermuda Street bridge at Burleigh Waters, the

Regional Processing Centre on Nauru, Stage 1 and 2 of the Drumsite Village on Christmas Island and Accommodation Units at Phosphate Hill near Mount Isa for Incited Pivot Ltd and at Tabubil in PNG for the OK Tedi Mining Company.

Where are they now?

- Three generations of the Leis Family have attended St Mary's College. **Gordon, Clement and Clifford** in the 1920s after their parents moved from Tenterfield, NSW to reside at 190 Hume Street, Toowoomba, close to where the Hooper Centre is now located.

Gordon's sons, **Harold and Gordon John**, attended St Mary's College for 2 years (1947 – 1948) before the family moved to Pittsworth. On leaving school, Harold became an apprentice wagon builder and worked at the Toowoomba Railway Workshops with two other Old Boys' Life Member, **Justin Kingsford and Jack Sweeney** (RIP). Harold built his own home in Brose Street, Drayton in 1965 and **Rosalie** and Harold have 4 sons, all past students of the College – **John** (1977 – 1983), **Gregory** (1980 – 1986), **Andrew** (1983 – 1989) and **Karl** (1988 – 1992). John, Andrew and Karl all attended the University.

Dr John Leis lives in Toowoomba with his wife **Debbie** and they have twin daughters – **Amy and Kate**. Dr John is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Southern Queensland.

Gregory lives on the New England Highway in Toowoomba while Andrew lives in Drysdale, Victoria. Dr Andrew Leis is a Scientist with the CSIRO in Geelong.

Karl is a Detective Sergeant with the New South Wales Police Service. He and his wife **Rachel** have five children and they live at Flinders, Shell Harbour, NSW.

Harold's younger brother, Gordon John lives at Randwick, NSW and he is in touch with Old Boys, **Eric Michael and Fr Tony O'Brien** who also reside in that area. Gordon John spent about 12 years in the Navy as a Radio Operator and served on the HMAS Melbourne while it was an active service. He then joined the Dept of Civil Aviation and had postings at Mascot, Dubbo and Lord Howe Island. In retirement Gordon John and his wife **Ann** undertake Foster care works.

RAAF Pilot Officer **Glen Beattie**, the cousin of Harold and Gordon John, lost his life during air operations over Berlin on 29 December 1943.

- Old Boy, **Sylvester Stower** (1940-1946), was in touch with us recently to pass on a change of address. He has relocated just a suburb away after selling his McDowall home and moving to a unit in Chermside.

Along with the late **Pat Nash**, Syl was probably one of the best cricketers at the College in the 1940s. He captained the First XI in 1946 and was also the College Tennis Champion that year. While attached to the



Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Toowoomba between 1947 and 1959 Syl played Club 'A' grade cricket with All Whites and it is officially recorded that during that period, he made 2,973 runs (av. 25-85), took 219 wickets (av 16.09) and took 56 catches. As well he was the leading run getter in the Toowoomba 'A' grade cricket competition in 1957/58 with 661 runs (av. 38.88) and again in 1958/59 with 734 runs (av 40.78).

Under the leadership of their captain, **Jack Fox**, All Whites won four 'A' grade Cricket Premierhips from 1952/53 to 1955/56. Their strength lay in a formidable batting line up which included Jack Fox, Syl Stower, **Charlie Cocks**, **Curt Fisher**, **Fr Tyson Donnelly**, **Barry Finn**, **Sid Downes** and a young **Pat Nash**. This was supported by a fine and varied bowling attack with Syl Stower and a young Downlands' paceman, **Vince Hogan**, sharing the new ball before the very talented Fr Donnelly played his leg spinners. Further bowling support came from Charlie Cocks, Barry Finn, Jack Fox and a teenage off spinner from Downlands, **Tom Viewers**. Tom later played in 21 Tests for Australia as an allrounder, batting left handed and bowling right arm off spin. When he retired, Syl was with the CBA Development Bank. He has had two knee reconstructions; but still manages to enjoy his golf. His son, **Simon**, is a Vice Rector at Padua College, Kedron.

1949 Seven Stone Team

- This Rugby Union side commenced the season well, beating even the 8 Stone Team until one day the latter grew tired of being beaten by these 'young upstarts' and claimed to have beaten them. They had many 'friendly' games seeing there were no points at stake. Many were the willing contests between this team and Downlands until at last came the exciting finals for the Fitzpatrick Shield donated by **Mr Dick Byrne** for this grade football. A very distinguished Toowoomba International footballer, standing near the coach on the sideline gave utterance to laudatory remarks 'By Jove, this is great football – the best boys' game I've seen.' What elicited this remark was winger, **Les McKee's** streak along the sideline to score a second try and the one which won the Shield.

Highlight of the season was the trip to Dalby. It was a hard won 3-0 victory, but that was only of third-rate importance to the 'spread' afterwards provided by **Fr Bill Hall**, an Old Boy, and the kind Sisters of Mercy. It was a hectic trip, with the 5 Stone and 7 Stone teams packed like sardines on the back of Mr Mackiehan's truck.

Captain of the 'Red Terrors' was **Mick Fitzgerald** (five eight), **Brian Beauchamp** (half back), **John Mullins**, **John Forde** and **Pat Kelly** (centres), **Les McKee** and **Darel Sterling** (fast wingers), **Colin Goulding** (reliable full-back), **Noel Everding**, **Brian Griffin**, **Kevin Stephen** (front row), **Terry Gesch** and **Noel Adcock** (second row), **Hal Ranger** (lock), **Brian Dwyer**, **Bill McErlean** and **Clarry Greaves** (worrying breakaways). (Mick Fitzgerald went on to represent Toowoomba in seven Bulimba Cup games and in the

match against the Touring French International side in 1960 and he was also a member of the All Whites 'A' grade Rugby League premierships sides in 1959 and 1960. Kevin Stephen was a member of the 1957 and 1961 Southern Suburbs 'A' grade RL premierships sides).



1949 St Mary's CBC Under Seven Stone

- (Back Row) Kevin Stephen, John Forde, Brian Beauchamp
- (Second Row) Brian Dwyer, A Reis, Les McKee, Terry Gesch, Brian Griffin and Clarry Greaves
- (Front Row) Noel Everding, Darel Sterling, John Mullins, Mick Fitzgerald (c), Patrick Kelly, Bill McErlean, Hal Ranger
- (Others) Colin Goulding (reliable fullback) and Noel Adcock (2nd Rower)

- Jack and Dawn (Grundy) Davis** left on a Cruise from Sydney to celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the 24th October, 2013. They were married on 24th October, 1953. The voyage will be via Brisbane, Airlie Beach, Darwin, Bali, Port Headland and Geraldton to Fremantle. The couple will then fly home from Perth.
- Gold Coast couple, **Graham and Francie Swenson** have also been in Perth having a holiday with their son over there. They plan to be back in Queensland by the 2nd November to attend Graham's (1950-1959) Class Reunion.
- Mick and Edna Moloney** have been enjoying two weeks in North Queensland at Cairns and Port Douglas.
- Celebrating their Birthdays in November are former classmates **Bryan Lynch** (Runaway Bay) and Dan Reilly (Carindale).
- Currently overseas is Train Buff, **Peter Kennedy**. It is reported he is at present in Wales riding some of the smaller steam railways through the beautiful countryside.
- Just home after a holiday in Vietnam are **Michael and Lyn McErlean** of Everton Park. Michael, Town Planning Consultant, is one of the Year 12 (1984) Class.
- Lyle Dornbusch** was able to return to Lawn Bowls for our Inter City series on 13/10/13 after having both knees reconstructed. He is very proud of his 8 grandsons, 5 granddaughters and now 4 great-grand children – 3 boys and 1 girl.



- **Rosemary and Ted Bowling** (1941–1947), who attended our September Brisbane meeting while on holidays from their Yarra Glen home in Victoria are now having a further break in South Australia.
- 18 year old, **Jonico Hardwick**, was a finalist in both 100 and 200 metre events at the State Secondary Schools' Athletic Championship at the Brisbane QE2 Stadium during October. Jonico is the son of **John Hardwick, Nephew of Kevin, Peter, Paul, Joe, Patricia (Sorbello) and Teresa (Woolacott)**, grandson of **Kevin** (RIP) and great-grandson of **Wyllie and Gertrude** (both deceased). Kevin and John were educated at the Cardinal Gilroy College in Ingham and Peter, Paul and Joe at St Mary's College, Toowoomba. Jonico who lives in Townsville had a promising start to a Rugby League Career in 2013, scoring the most tries for the season with the Townsville Brothers Club which helped to gain him a Cowboys Under 20s contract. His father John played junior football with the All Whites Rugby League Club in Toowoomba and while playing in the 'A' grade competition for that club in 1974, scored 2 tries and kicked 16 goals in 7 matches.
- Promising 21 yr old Qld cricketer, Wicketkeeper/Batsman **James Peirson** made his debut for the State in the Ryobi Cup one day side at the North Sydney Oval on 17/10/2013, against New South Wales after regular gloveman **Chris Hartley** injured his finger. He made 52 runs when he opened the innings with U. Khawaja that day and then 85 and the 'Man of the Match' Award on 19/10/13 against South Australia. James is the grandson of Old Boy, **Jim Long** and grandnephew of **Patrick and Tom**.
- Congratulations to **Johnathan Thurston** who triple dead heated for second place in the recent Rugby League Daly M Awards. Good luck Johnathan in the current Rugby League World Cup competition.
- Old Boy **Tony Gollan** (Year 12 – 1996) is building a formidable reputation as a Racehorse Trainer. Recently horses from his stable were placed in events across three States at Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne tracks on the one Saturday afternoon.

He has 40 two year olds on the books this season. His father Darryl who has always had a good record with two year olds, preps them up before they come to Tony. One of Tony's stars 'Spirit of Boom', a 6 Yr old horse by 'Sequalo from Temple Spirit', won the 1100 metre Group 2 'Perri Cutten Caulfield Sprint' on Caulfield Cup day, 19/10/13, making it 7 wins, 9 seconds and 6 thirds from 43 starts and earning \$1,132,300 in prize money.

- Were you aware that the Oval in the century old Newtown Park in Toowoomba, is the 'Doyle Oval' named in honour of two St Mary's Old Boys, **Joe and Ian 'Ripper Doyle'**? Both were playing in the Toowoomba Rugby League competition when selected to represent Queensland and Australia. Joe was a Kangaroo Tourist in 1933/34 and represented Queensland on ten occasions. Ian was a member of the

Kangaroo touring party in 1956/57 and played for Queensland 7 times.

'From the Archives' Ian Meibusch's uncle, Bob Meibusch, captained every Toowoomba Rugby Union side from 1910 to 1918 and it was Bob who rose to his feet at the Toowoomba Rugby Union AGM in March 1919 moving that the Toowoomba Rugby Union adopt the new thirteen-a-side Rugby League Code. The Chairman ruled that he could not accept the motion and Bob moved that the meeting be adjourned. It was carried 49 v 12. He went on to establish the Valley Rugby League Football Club and is regarded as the father of the code in Toowoomba. A halfback, he captained each Toowoomba Rugby League side from 1919 to 1922. Bob was also a member of the first Queensland Rugby League to defeat New South Wales in 1922 and later was Principal of the Ascot State School. His brother Lou, Ian's father, was a winger in Toowoomba sides from 1919 to 1921.

Lawn Bowls Day – 13/10/2013

- The second match in our Old Boys Inter-City series for the Kevin Lee Memorial Shield in 2013, was held on Sunday 13 October 2013 at the North Toowoomba Lawn Bowls Club.

Our special thanks go to the organisers of the event held for the past eleven years between Toowoomba and Brisbane Old Boys in a truly College Sporting spirit. Credit must go to **Eric Howe, John Wilson, Laurie Blacka, Terry Gesch** and to the Bowls Clubs for catering for our events. We thank also our sponsors in Brisbane, Holy Cross Funerals and in Toowoomba, Heritage Funerals and Carlton United. On the bell Toowoomba led Brisbane by 44 shots on the day and after being behind 22 shots from the Stafford match, Toowoomba won by 22 shots over the series of two matches.

Brisbane Players:

B Blacka	G Blacka	K Blacka	L Blacka
N Blacka	W Blacka	W Corcoran	M Felsman
L Fitzgerald	G Flynn	J Gardner	T Gesch
D Madden	B Morris	L Mulhall	C Peek
G Robertson	J Wiedman		

Toowoomba Players:

S Barnes	L Blinco	T Connolly	L Dornbusch
G Elton	G Gainey	C Gray	D Hanrahan
C King	P Leonard	B Marks	L Mitchell
G McCarthy	J McErlean	J Muller	L Neville
J Nolan	M Otto	L Reis	J Rowen
A Thomas	G Tucker	D Schultz	K Walker
J Wilson			

Best were for Brisbane (22 v 19), **T Gesch, W Blacka, B Blacka** and for Toowoomba (30 v 13), **L Mitchell, B Marks, J Rowen and S Barnes**.



Happy & Holy
Christmas to All