



# St Mary's Old Boys' Newsletter



November 2017

Dan McErlean  
12 Weron Street  
Sunnybank Qld 4109  
Dear Old Boys

Bryan McSweeney  
email:julieandb@iprimus.com.au

Our Pre-Christmas meeting of the Brisbane T.B.O.B.A Sub Branch will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017, at the Central Station Queensland Railway Institute rooms beside the “Deck on Edward Café”.

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.

On Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> December there will be another of the popular luncheons on the Sunshine Coast at the Headland Golf Club on Golf Links Road, Buderim.

As 2017 draws to a close we wish to pay special tribute to our **Patron, Brother Kevin Dwyer** and our TBOBA **President Joe Guerrini** and his Executive, **James Dixon (Yr12 – 2004) Vice President, Greg Butler (1990 – 1994) Secretary, Matthew Booth (Yr12 2006) Treasurer, Committee Members Paul Canning (1968 – 1975), Greg Manthey (Yr12 1984), Tom Vonhoff (Yr12 2012), and Wayne Peters.**

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

Life Members, **Bernard Murphy, Kevin Jewell, Robert Kane, and Bryan Lynch. Simon Alroe, Des Franklin, John Gagen, Barry Loch, Peter McGregor, Kevin Rowland, Claude Stevenson, Michael Ward, Nancy (Martin) Kimlin,** mother of John and Michael, and **Joan Coyer.**

There are also a number unwell or recovering from surgery:

**Tim Coonan, Colin Green, Lyle Dornbusch, Brian Marks, Trevor Muller, Joe Short, Bob Sullivan, Philip Stephens, Eric Howe, Kevin Garrett, and Sandra Garrett, wife of Michael.**

Birthday wishes are extended to **Dan Davis, Dan Reilly, Jim Madden, Noel Muller, Leo McMahon, Terry Purcell, Tim McSweeney** (Uncle of Bryan), and **Elaine O’Brien,** (wife of the Late Bill O’Brien)

## “Coming Events”

17 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	<b>Brisbane TBOBA Sub Branch Meeting</b> at 12 noon – Queensland Rail Institute, cnr. Edward and Turbot Streets beside the “ <b>Deck on Edward Café</b> ”
18 <sup>th</sup> November 2017, 11am – 3pm	<b>Year 2 1948 to Year 12 1957 60 th Year Reunion</b> at the Wilsonton Hotel, Richmond Drive Toowoomba. <b>Contacts:- Fr Kerry Costigan 4634 1102, Jack Parker 0419 726 914, Ron Smith 4630 3058, Brian Fagan 0418 747 623, Glen Thompson 0468 800 849, Robin Murphy 0403 382 436</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	<b>1950/1959 Class Reunion</b> at the Federal Hotel/Motel, James Street, Toowoomba. <b>Contact Michael Quinlan 0418 465 159</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 12 noon	<b>TBOBA Sunshine Coast meeting</b> at Headland Golf Club, Buderim. <b>Contacts:- Terry Murphy 54564340, Redmond Byrne 54776705</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	<b>Brisbane TBOBA Sub Branch Meeting</b> – Queensland Rail Institute, cnr. Edward and Turbot Streets beside the “ <b>Deck on Edward Café</b> ”

Bryan McSweeney  
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Secretary  
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Dan Reilly  
Co-Ordinator  
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**T.B.O.B.A. (Brisbane Sub-Branch) Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Present**

**Apologies**

Br Barry Buckley AM Bryan McSweeney (TBOBA Brisbane Sub-branch President) Laurie Atzeni (Hon) John Bagget Carl Betros Nev Card Nat Chandler Noel Cronin Frank Deighton Les Duncan Terry Gesch Gene Green Rolly Griffin John Hagan Tim Hagan Tom Hutchinson Peter Kennedy Doug Lee Fred Lincoln	Jim Long Dan McErlean Reg Oliver John O'Neill Jack Parker Errol Ryan Pat Stringer Kerry Taylor Glen Wiedman Gerry Williams	Fr Paul Chandler Fr Tyrone Deere Bro Gary Ferguson Frank Adamson Darryl Baker Robert Beckwith Greg Butler Bernie Collins Jack Davis (Hon) John Drew Maurie Drew Allan Duncan Brien Dunne Graham Ehler Brian Fagan Barry Gordon Peter Kenny Barry Kuhnemann Phil Long Dick Lynch	Dinny Madden Jim Mullins Pat Mullins Robin Murphy OAM Terry Murphy Chris McMahon Denis McClure Ron McElwaine Justin McErlean Lee Nightingale Wayne Nuss John Noonan Martin O'Sullivan Keith Pickels Paul Reynolds Philip Simpson John Stephen Grahame Swenson Trevor Taylor Peter Upton
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**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 received.

As November is the month of the Holy Souls please remember deceased Old Boys, Christian Brothers, Priests, Friends of the College and Milne Bay Veterans, this being the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of that battle. A Reflection on that event at Milne Bay appears below;

75 years ago the 1000 strong 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion, formed on the Downs, and which included many (20) year old former St Mary's students had to face battle hardened Japanese marines as they defended the strategically significant Allied base, with (3) airstrips at Milne Bay on the eastern tip of Papua New Guinea, during World War II.

Some of the Old Boys in the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion, to name a few, included Roy Childs, Frank Bowdler, Frank Heeney, Eddie McKee, Len Rosenthal and Stephen Sullivan (later a MM winner in Bougainville on 5/3/1945). Old Boy Fr, Later Monsignor, Stan Skehan was a Chaplain during the Milne Bay action; he had been ordained in Rome in 1937. Pat Hayes, Keven Healy and Leo Denzin were members of the 101 Workshop Unit. A Crows Nest lad, Jack French earned a Victoria Cross for his heroism at Milne Bay on 4/9/1942 becoming the first Australian soldier to be gazetted a VC on Australian Territory, New Guinea, then an Australian protectorate.

We owe a great debt to the veterans of Milne Bay and to every man and woman who serves or has served in the Defence of our nation. Please Remember Them – Lest We Forget.

## Members Stories

Thanks to **Jim Wiedman** who has taken out Life Membership of our association recently.

James (Jim) Wiedman is the eldest of five boys who, like their father Greg and uncles, attended St. Mary's CBC Toowoomba. After completing Prep to Grade 3 at St. Saviour's College, Jim progressed to St. Mary's where he completed Senior in 1969. Class sizes in the younger grades were in excess of 60 boys, and by Grade 12 there were two senior classes each with 30 plus students. Rugby league was the primary sport and he was a member of premiership winning teams in all of his nine years at the College.

At that time you could only play rugby league for the College and therefore he didn't play club football until moving to Brisbane to attend Kelvin Grove Teacher's College. After three years of study Jim's first appointment was to Wallangarra State School. During his two years there he met and married **Rose**. They have three sons, the eldest **Simon** lives and works in Florida whilst **Tim** and **Ben** live in Brisbane.

Jim remained with the Education Department for 36 years until his retirement in 2008. During this time he was Principal of a number of State Schools, namely Mount Gordon (outside Warwick), Moffatdale (outside Murgon), Jimna (outside Kilcoy), Nebo, Injune, Tara, Gatton and finally the Roma Middle School.

Following his career as a school principal, Jim held the positions of Senior Review Officer and Assistant Executive Director (South West Queensland) before moving to Toowoomba as the Darling Downs District Director. His working career finished in Brisbane where as Principal Adviser, Facilities Planning he led a team that was responsible for prioritising the location and timeframe for all new state primary and secondary schools for a rolling 50 year projection. Jim now lives with his wife Rose in Maleny where he enjoys gardening, lawn bowls and regularly visiting his two young grandchildren who live in Brisbane.

In 1965 when the galvanised iron fence around the College pool needed replacement, Jim's Dad, **Greg**, a bricklayer, stepped forward and erected a fine brick fence on the Margaret and West Street corner. To this day it stands as a testament to his workmanship.



Did you know that Life Member **John Wilson** (1964/65) played 101 A Grade games for the All Whites Rugby League Club in the Toowoomba local competition, scoring 31 tries over his career from

1968 to 1979. He also represented Toowoomba in Bulimba Cup Teams in 1968, 1969, and 1971, in the Carlton Cup competition in 1975 and 1976, and the Fourx Cup in 1978. In 1975 he captained the Toowoomba side in the International match against England, going down to the visitors 16 v 25. John and his wife **Anne** (Hede) now live in Middle Ridge and these days John is a keen Lawn Bowler.



A past student who is currently caretaking a variety of Multi-sites as Group Manager is an old boy who never passed a maths exam and was better known as the class clown. **Michael Morris** graduated in 1990 after five years of far from being a model student and spending much of his time focussing on how to fool the teacher.

However, one of Michael's strong points was his singing and this saw him playing key roles in school musicals which included his all time favourite Viva Mexico staged at the Town Hall in 1988. He remembers old class mates including Peter Betros. Michael left school at age 16 years when Australia was in recession (the one Paul Keating said we had to have) and there was little work available in Toowoomba, but his married sister Joanne, who lived in Innisfail, said there was work going at Coles. He stayed for a year doing various jobs before heading back to Toowoomba to continue working at Coles and later moving to Brisbane where he undertook Management Training In 1994. Over the years he has managed 10 Coles Supermarkets from Melbourne to Eagleby. Michael met up with some 30 class mates for a 20 year reunion and they are now planning a 30 year reunion. Look him up on Facebook.



### **Bernard Joseph Murphy (4/5/1936 – 9/9/2017)**



Bernard, also affectionately known a B.J, Bernie, or Bern, was born in Toowoomba to **Joe** and **Marjorie Murphy**. When Bernie turned eight his parents decided, for the benefit of his education, that he be enrolled at the Freneau Park Boarding

School, conducted by the Sisters known as the "Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart", and located on the outskirts of Toowoomba. In 1947 the family relocated into Toowoomba to enable Bernard (1947/53) and his younger brothers,

**Terry** (1947/56), and **Michael** (1953/55), to be educated at St Mary's Christian Brothers College. On leaving St Mary's, Bernie became the very first apprentice to Angus Donaldson who had branched out to establish Donaldson Electrical Works. It led to a lifetime job with the firm which is still a leading electrical firm on the Darling Downs today.

In the early 1960's Bernie made several weekend trips in his old Ford Prefect all the way to Sydney courting Margaret McGarry who he had met a few years before. After the couple married Margaret undertook midwifery training at St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba. They were blessed with five children – **Carrie, Tracey, Linda, Johann, and Mark**. Sadly Johann passed away with cancer in 2014. When Mark started school, Margaret recommenced her nursing career and Bernie became "Mr Mum" attending to homework, organising dinner, baths, and bedtime stories.

Bernie became a Volunteer with many organisations such as Parents & Friends Committees, St Vincent De Paul, University of the Third Age and Parish Groups. Margaret and Bernie moved to the Sunshine Coast when he retired and it did not take long for him to become involved in the coastal community.

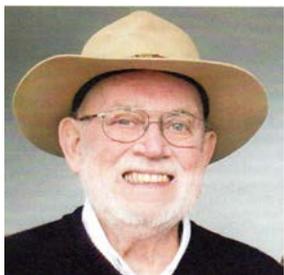
As a Life Member of the Toowoomba Brothers Old Boys' Association he recognised there was an opportunity to have meetings of our members living on the Sunshine Coast. With the support of the local members, he and his brother Terry, along with **Redmond Byrne**, achieved their goal and there are now two meetings held annually at Buderim.

He was a true gentleman in every sense of the word, generous, patient and hardworking.

A Requiem Mass was offered at St Mary's Catholic Church, Buderim, on 15/09/2017 by Rev Fr Kevin Smith as a "Celebration of the Life of Bernard Joseph Murphy".



### **John Michael Gagen (21/8/1941 – 11/9/2017)**



John was the youngest of four sons born to **Vince** and **Docky Gagen**. His siblings were **Glen**, (Br Furgus), **Brian** and **Peter**.

The following is an extract from the eulogy delivered by **Peter Kenny** sharing

memories of mutual favourite brothers-in-law following John's marriage to Peter's sister, an event which took place on Saturday 8th January, 1966.

Clearly do I remember that day when I was given the task of 'giving away' my little sister, given that our father had prematurely left this life some 7 years previously. Calm as a cucumber, my sister duly set off for the short journey to Holy Name Church, with a composed big brother by her side – composed that is until he placed his hand in the holy water font when the enormity of what was to unfold hit him – and the tears flowed all the way up the aisle. There waiting to receive my sister as his bride was former classmate, John Gagen. I knew she was going to be in good hands from then on.

As expected, the two former classmates got on famously both before and after the wedding day. For me, he was the brother I had never had. For John, it was a 4th brother – and one who wasn't in a religious habit!

Huge excitement was experienced in both families when it was discovered that **Marg** was 'with child' – a first grandchild on both sides. When **Bryan Vincent** was born in November that year, I, as a single man, moved in with my brother-in-law to care for his needs.

In 1966, John was employed by the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, which at the time of marriage, had him posted to a branch in Brisbane. Over the next 4 years prior to my own marriage to **Norma**, I would spend much time visiting the young Gagen family and was always made to feel warmly welcome, no matter what time of day or night I arrived. John, in all sincerity, had that uncanny knack of making one feel cordially received in his home, hospitality being one of his major traits.

Although he had many honourable and great characteristics, he wasn't beyond being party to a little deceit once in a while. For instance, when they were living at Cochrane St. Red Hill, he and I were often called out on a St. Vincent de Paul call. It took Marg many years to finally realise that the only recipient of our solicitations was the licensee of the Paddington Pub!

He was always acutely aware of the importance of family roots. Family history / family trees were a passion for him, even when it meant his going outside the Patricks and Gagens. The Kenny family tree has much to thank him for. Rarely did a visit to Toowoomba miss an opportunity to drive past or visit the original family home in Godfrey St.

Today we remember the many things that John was. Could I dwell for a second or two on what he was NOT? Gardening and handy-man tasks simply didn't enter his sphere of concern. He was NOT one to hold

a grudge. And he was NOT afraid of technology, embracing it whole heartedly since it enabled him to 'connect' with a wide range of people. Even in the minutes before his God called him home, he was looking at an on-line Christmas gift for **Patrick**, one of the 4 grandchildren he simply adored, to say nothing of his pride in his own 4 offspring. Even eleven hours before his death, he was s-m-s-ing me and then ringing to say how happy he was in his new quarters. Three times in that short conversation, he used the words – 'when you visit me'. And that was not an unreal expectation for him. After all, hadn't we dropped everything to pay a final visit numerous times over the past year when he was at death's door, only for him to pull back from the brink and continue with life, helter skelter? So, Bro, we say these formal words of farewell. We give thanks for your life so well and most fully lived, and for your wonderful company which we will all miss so much. To the God, who 76 years and three weeks ago first breathed life into your tiny body, who last week deeply inhaled and took back your final breath unto Himself, and who sustained you all your days, we give our humble and heartfelt thanks.



**Bryan Michael Lynch (20/11/1930 – 13/9/2017)**



Bryan was the 6th child of **Puha and Patrick Lynch**. He was born on Thursday 20th November 1930, the year of two other notable events – Phar Lap won the Melbourne Cup and Sir Don Bradman scored 452 not out in one innings. Sadly two of Bryan's siblings, a brother and sister passed away as young children.

His early education was at St Saviours like elder brother Patrick, then on to St Mary's College in 1939 along with class mates and lifelong friends (**Fr**) **Pat Hall, Dan Reilly, Kevin Garrett, Vince Jewell, and Kevin Bartenstein**. Being the proverbial bean pole he earned the title of "Skinny" and later "Splinter". He completed Junior in 1946, but he remained connected to the College and the Toowoomba Brothers Old Boys' Association and then as an active Life Member (No 97) often travelling up from the Gold Coast to Brisbane for meetings. He commenced work as an apprentice panel beater at Faulkner Motors, Toowoomba, after leaving the College. Bryan later changed careers to become an

Insurance Assessor, finishing as a Chartered Loss Adjuster. He could recall storms on the Downs with hail reportedly as large as cricket balls.

In December 1954, as a 24 year old, he married 22 year old **Aileen Mary Littleton**. Their social life at that time was filled with dances, going to Balls and movies, playing night tennis and table tennis. During his effort to woo Aileen, Bryan assisted her younger sister **Barbara** study Latin. He spent good times on fishing trips with his father-in-law Alf Littleton and future brother-in-law **Bill Butler**. The Littleton home at 8A Bothwell Street was the focus for family gatherings.

Bryan and Eileen lived firstly in McCaffery Street and then Payne Street, Toowoomba and were blessed with children **David** and then **Karen**. Their world changed in 1974/75 with a move to Southport, but the excitement was short lived when the owner of the company he was to work at died and the office plans for the Gold Coast were shelved. Luckily he found other work on the Coast, as an Insurance Assessor, and life continued with the door of their Virginia Grove home always having the "Welcome" sign showing.

After starting his life as a panel beater Bryan had an interest in cars over the years – his old blue Ford Zepher, a Volkswagen Beetle, a Morris Mini K, a purple Valiant and The Kingswood. He followed the performance of his beloved Bronco Rugby League side and was contemplating a possible Grand Final berth for the club.

Bryan Lynch was a quiet natured, gentle, honourable man, very caring and supportive of his family and they recall many memories of a man who lived life well and a bloke you could easily talk to. They look back with great affection on a man who donated his "O" negative blood every month of his adult life until age prevented him from continuing the tradition. Rev Fr John Maher celebrated the Requiem Mass at St Monica's Catholic Church Tugun on Thursday 21/9/2017 for Bryan. His wife Eileen predeceased him but he is survived by David and Karen, four grandchildren and a great grandchild and his brother Patrick.



**Desmond Arthur Franklin (23/4/1933 – 26/9/2017)**



Des was born in Toowoomba to **Collins and Ellen (Fitzgerald) Franklin**, his siblings were his brother **Patty** and sister **Maree** (McErlean). He attended St Mary's College from 1945 to 1949 and

undertook his National Service training in 1951 in the Royal Australian Air Force. Then he commenced an electrical apprenticeship and after ten years in the trade became a Sales Representative for various Electrical companies.

In 1957 he married **Rita Gibbon** and the couple lived in Toowoomba. Moves to Bundaberg, then to Townsville and back to Bundaberg followed, until they settled in Runcorn allowing their children **Brett, Paul, and Tanya** to complete their education.

The family grew up with a great love of sport thanks to Des. It started in Bundaberg where the lads played league on a Sunday morning and followed the local league competition in the afternoon. When they moved to Brisbane most weekends involved watching and playing sport all over the city. Des enjoyed the whole Rugby League programme starting with the "C" grade at noon through to the "A" grade – Mal Meninga at Davies Park or Wally Lewis at Newman Oval. Sometimes it could be Ballymore to watch Queensland or the Wallabies (in better form than currently). One year it was the QRL grand final, the Rugby grand final the next weekend and to cap it off the AFL grand final the following weekend.

In the summer season of sport Des took the family to watch Shield Cricket & Test Matches at the Gabba.

In 1977 Des and Rita moved to Springsure Street, Eight Mile Plains, where Des enjoyed his gardening, always with an obsession with his grass. He watered, fertilised, sprayed, top dressed mowed with his many roller mowers. Lack of rain and declining health made it hard for him to enjoy one of his passions in life during the recent years. It was here that the seven grandchildren, **Harry, Kate, Matthew, Josh, Daniel, Ed and Lachlan**, enjoyed their parties, backyard cricket, and Christmas & Boxing Day lunches.

Des enjoyed undertaking handyman jobs, especially electrical ones, for the family. He enjoyed the company of family or friends for breakfast, lunch or dinner. He especially enjoyed the friendships associated with the National Service, RAAF, and Toowoomba Brothers Old Boys' Association events as well as travelling around the State to follow the grandchildren's participation in various sporting events.

The Requiem Mass for the Soul of Des Franklin was offered by Fr Stephen Kumyangi at St Bernard's Catholic Church, Mt Gravatt on the 4/10/2017.

A Poppy Ceremony was conducted by members of the National Servicemen Association of Australia.



## **Robert John Kane (15/5/1935 – 25/8/2017)**



Bob, Life Member No 68, was born in Roma on the 15th May 1935 to **Leslie and Edna Kane**, with siblings **Pat, Lorraine, Peter, and Danny**.

After leaving school at 16 Bob became an apprentice carpenter but took time away from the

apprenticeship to complete his National Service before returning to Toowoomba to work for builder **Paddy Gabbett**. A lifelong friendship ensued. When Bob's son **Michael** first moved to Dalby, Bob went out to help install an air conditioner and he thought there was something familiar about the house. On closer inspection it turned out that Bob had helped build the house during his time with Paddy.

In 1957, Bob chose to follow another calling, so after a whole six weeks training he became a Manual Arts teacher where he travelled the Outback on the railcar with other Manual Arts and Home Economics teachers. Julia Creek was one of his favourite towns and his constant companion was his BSA motorcycle. Bob eventually settled in Stanthorpe where in 1960 he met the other love of his life, **Margaret Cody**. Not being one to let a good thing slide, Bob and Margaret got engaged in 1961 and married on the 11th August 1962. Their first child **Teresa** was born in 1963, and son **Michael** in 1965.

The transfer system in the Education Department was an interesting beast at that time, and Bob was advised that to get the transfer to your preferred location you should put it second behind somewhere really remote because most people didn't get their first preference. New Guinea was a really interesting choice to put down first, and of course, Bob got it - and the family was off to Keravat.

In anticipation of their return to Australia in 1972, and not taking any chances or listening to bad advice this time Bob bought a property in Bundaberg which was his first preference. In its wisdom the Department transferred him to Richlands State High School where he taught from 1973 through to the early 1980's. Further postings to Inala and Redbank Plains followed before retirement.

Bob's son Michael remembers some good advice he got from Bob when he visited him at Richlands – the most important people to get to know are the cleaners, the groundsman and the office ladies.

Bob taught his children to be the best they could possibly be and never to compromise their integrity.

Bob's love for Margaret and the children never wavered and he has left a legacy that will be long remembered by those who knew him. His cheeky grin and loving, warm personality will not be forgotten. (Our thanks to **Michael** for sharing these memories).

### **Kevin Thomas Jewell (6/9/2017)**

Kevin entered Eternal Life on the 6th September 2017 aged 90 years. He was the son of **Tom** and **Mary Jewell** and his siblings were **Vincent, Monica, Teresa, and Jennifer**. Kevin married **Dulcie Borghardt** on the 23th April 1952 and they were blessed with four children, **Madonna, Patrick, Kathy and John** and ten grandchildren.

Kevin and younger brother Vince completed their education at St Mary's College in the 1940's. He studied Geography under the late **Brother Kevin Street** in Junior, and that knowledge served him well as he later crossed Australia for North to South and East to West across the Nullarbor Plain with the family furniture removal business.

Past students of the 1940's era can recall Kevin driving Cadets loaded on the back of a Jewell's flat top truck up to the rifle range for rifle and bren gun practice. **Brother G Ryall** sat alongside Kevin in the cab to ensure that the lads made the journey safely. Kevin became a mechanic serving his apprenticeship at Redman Motors. His brother Vince became a truck body builder after an apprenticeship at Bill Becker's and Emmerson Bodyworks. Later they would become the 3rd generation family members of "T Jewell's Removals" founded in 1895 by their grandfather Alf Jewell when he returned to Toowoomba after failing to make his fortune at Kalgoorlie on the West Australian goldfields.



When Kevin and Vince joined the business the trucks were mostly Internationals and Leyland Comets. The chassis were modified

and bodywork on their fleet of pantechicons was built by themselves at their James Street depot.

Vince passed away in 2001 and Kev's son **Pat** and his grandson **Ben**, both mechanics, joined the business. Kevin was a Life Member of our Association. His father **Tom** is well remembered as one of the founding forces behind the first Carnival of Flowers procession in 1950.

Sadly Kevin's wife Dulcie pre-deceased him. More recently Kevin was a resident at Lourdes Home,

Toowoomba. A Thanksgiving Service was held at the Lourdes Home Chapel on the 13th September 2017.

### **Claude Anthony Stevenson (31/12/1929 – 9/8/2017)**



Claude Anthony Stevenson was born in Mitchell on the 31st of December 1929. Claude was the second of 7 children to parents **Ernest Claude Stevenson**, and **Mary Elizabeth Wotton**. They married in Mitchell in 1927.

His siblings were, **Tom, (dec), Philip, Mary, Margaret, Ted and Mick**.

He was an excellent scholar and finished school after completing Junior at St Mary's in Toowoomba. He moved to Brisbane in 1946 to take up work and boarded here. The rest of the family followed in 1947 and squatted in the ex-World War 2 Army Hospital at Yeronga. In 1950 the Housing Commission settled the family in their home at Foxton St Morningside. By then Claude, at 17, had already met his wife to be **Mary (nee McKey)** who was 16. Mary's uncle was **Fr Joseph McKey**, very well-known Priest and scholar from Warwick

Claude boasted that he walked between the tram depot at Buranda and Yeronga just to see Mary, or from Bulimba to Yeronga if he missed the last tram. They spent their days at Coolangatta and their evenings at Cloudland. Mary and Claude were married on Exhibition Wednesday in 1953. They raised 8 children, **Anthony, Paul, Anne, Christine, Loretta, Mark, Michelle and Greg** and have 18 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

Together with Mary, he set a remarkable example of a work ethic that has guided his family.

He worked for 20 years on the production line at Marickville Margarine at Murrarie, and 15 years at the RNA. He made the Ekka his life's work. The Ekka was about the kids, and not just his own. He wanted to put on an entertaining and safe show for everyone. Part of his responsibility was to control the showmen. He never let them take an inch, but they befriended and respected him, as did his colleagues. Despite his own lack of opportunity to go on with his education, he was highly intelligent, with a sharp mind and a vocabulary next to none. He had incredible general knowledge. He was versed in Latin, the Greek Classics, history and philosophy. He was a great reader. He loved his books. He didn't care what the kids were reading, the important thing was, that they were reading.

Claude took up golf in his late thirties, and it became his greatest challenge and his life's greatest passion. In 1971 he joined the Queensland Sporting Club and became a founding member of the Bulimba Par 3 Golf Course. He practiced relentlessly. He scored 13 Holes in One, was Club Captain and Club Champion, and his Course Record will never be forgotten. He made sure of that - A game of golf took him 6 hours; 4 hours for the 18 holes and 2 hours to talk the family through the game, shot by shot.

Claude developed poor health in retirement demanding increasing medical intervention and treatment. As he became more unwell, Mary simply responded with more care, more support and more devotion. She was determined to care for him at home. Even with her own health challenges, Mary continued to care for him until the end. She learnt how to manage complex medical procedures so that he could stay at home. Anne, Christine, Loretta and Michelle were there every week to help her.

While he rarely spoke of it, Claude had an unwavering faith.

Claude is remembered with affection and admiration by his children as a man who did what he could for his kids, even in difficult circumstances, and who was proud of all their achievements. He was very much a family man and loved having all the family together. (Extracts from the Eulogy by **Anthony Stevenson**)



### **Simon John Alroe (30/09/2017)**



We very much regret the passing of Simon Alroe, son of the late **Jack and Pauline**, old boy of St. Marys Toowoomba (class of '78) on Friday 30th September at the Sunshine Coast Hospital in the presence of his siblings and two sons, **Max and Dan**. At 55 years he was much too young.

He was part of a proud tradition at the school where his older brothers, **Michael, Damien and Christopher** attended. His sister, **Phillipa**, still teaches at St. Mary's and has done so for many years. His Life celebrated at a service at St. Theresa's conducted by a close family friend **Fr. Ray Crowley** and buried with his beloved grandmother, Nang, at the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery on Friday 6th October.

Simon lived a full and wonderful life beginning with a happy childhood in Toowoomba. In those days there were no borders between catholic families. In the ebb

and flow of children between houses it was common to find a couple of stragglers staying over for Sunday lunch or sleeping over if caught in the home after dark.

After finishing school, he attended Law School at University of Queensland taking four years off to become a nurse, returning to complete his degree. After practicing for a short time, he moved to England to work for the famous Lloyds of London, the great insurance firm, and he eventually returned with his wife, **Diana**, and two children Max and Dan. The boys, who completed their studies at UQ, were his proudest legacy and Dan delivered the eulogy at the final service. Simon returned to law in Brisbane eventually, at the height of his career he became a full partner of Minter Ellison, one of the largest firms in Australia.

Simon had strong artistic passions writing two plays **THE SLIPPERY SLOPE** and **DEAD CATS DON'T BOUNCE** successfully performed on the Brisbane stage. He was a keen guitarist and collector of art, owning two art galleries at one stage. Golf was another passion and he was strong at this sport as well as others.

Unfortunately he was struck by illness beginning with a serious eye infection. One illness after another followed until he became suddenly very unwell at his house in Caloundra in September 2017 passing away shortly after. Throughout all this he retained his quirky sense of humour and close relationship with his sons. He was much loved by a large family and is deeply, deeply missed.

(Eulogy provided by **Chris Alroe**)



### **Mrs Robyn Chandler**

Younger Old Boys who have attended St Mary's College since 1994 will be saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs Robyn Chandler who was teaching her "senior boys" right up to the end of last term.

A dedicated teacher at the College for 23 years she had a Commerce Head of Department leadership role, was a Year 12 Accounting Panel Member for schools in the Toowoomba region, Senior Accounting, Commerce, History, Religious Education and Business teacher, as well as being a dedicated student mentor.

We extend our sympathy to husband **Bevan** and her children **Naomi, Dirk, and Emily**.