



# St Mary's Old Boys' Newsletter



September 2012

Dear Old Boys

Our next meeting will be held at 'The Public Service Club', Level 1 Function Room, 84 William Street (cnr Stephens Lane), Brisbane on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012** 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 travelling 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 Christmas break up meeting will be held on Friday **23rd November 2012**. This is a claimer meeting, so please make a Special effort to keep this date free.

On 15/8/2012, St Mary's College celebrated the Feast of the Assumption with a College Mass in the Clive Berghofer Arena. The celebrant was the **Most Rev Robert McGuckin DD MCL JCL**, Bishop of Toowoomba. At the conclusion of Mass, Bishop McGuckin officially blessed and opened the College refurbished Science Laboratories, Brothers' House (now Administration) and Car Park on West Street. The presentation of Academic Awards based on Semester One results followed.

Our Special Thanks go to a number of Old Boys who have taken out Life Memberships of our Association recently: **Patrick Arnell** (Scholarship 1945), **Geoff Anderson** (1946 – 1953), **Jim Dredge** (1950 – 1959), **Peter Green** (Senior 1974) and **Martin Green** (Senior 1978).

In recent weeks a number of Old Boys and Friends of the College have passed to Eternal Life: **Rev Fr Colin Kenway OFM, Tom Leahy, Bill Green and Mrs Joyce (Gabbett) Bryant**. Please remember them in your prayers and also a number who are unwell or recovering from surgery: **Fr Peter Murphy, Kevin and Tim Coonan, Dr Kevin Everding, Justin Kingsford, Barry Lysaght, Don Vallely, Trevor Muller, Bill Lunney, Ron Shelvey, Ron Peut, Pat Seymour, John Keightley, Pat McErlean and Annette Gilbert**.

**Rev Fr Colin Kenway OFM (19/4/35 – 16/8/12) ....** Fr Colin Edward Kenway was raised in Toowoomba, and loved his hometown. He was the eldest of the three children born to **Ted and Molly (Anderson) Kenway**. His younger siblings were **Brian and Merle**. He was taught by the Sisters of Mercy at the Holy Name Convent and then by the Christian Brothers at St Mary's College in Toowoomba from 1943 to 1949. After leaving the College he attended Toowoomba State High School for 9 months before joining the Queensland Railway Department as a Dispatch Clerk and later as a Train Traffic Controller, a very responsible position for a young man. Colin undertook National Service Training at Wacol in 1953 and served with the then CMF for several years in RAEME at the 100 Infantry Workshop in Harristown. Colin was very active in the Young Christian Workers movement and its principles guided his life. In 1960 he and Neville Dredge volunteered to go to Papua New Guinea as lay missionaries and were sent to the Franciscan Mission in Aitape travelling on the MV Bulolo from Brisbane on 17/12/1960. After two years Neville returned home after his assigned term while Colin agreed to come back to Aitape.

He began his life as a missionary teaching and building the high school at Wati near Nuku. Years later he was to return there as Parish Priest. After teaching in the bush, Colin was appointed by Bishop Doggett as the Manager of the Boys' boarding school. This school later grew into St Ignatius Secondary School when Fr Matthias Conway OFM brought the High School to the present site in Aitape, Col's work was done. The Bishop then asked him to become a dispatcher of goods once again, this time for the Franciscan small mission planes operating as 'Franair' and working closely with their Procurator Bro Steve Marshall.

In 1967 when a Cessna 180 was badly damaged on the Yilui airstrip it was decided that it would be flown in pieces to Port Moresby and rebuilt. The engine was removed and flown to Wewak in the bigger Wewak Mission plane. Then the wings were removed from the fuselage and Bishop Doggett asked Colin and Fr Greg Bourke OFM to go to Yilui and walk the fuselage and the two wings to Nuku where they could be loaded into a Skyvan Aircraft which was too big to land in Yilui. They were young and fit and recruited 24 carriers from Yilui to carry the fuselage and wings to Nuku. Stick beds had to be made and the parts secured to them and then men with bush knives had to go ahead to widen the track which was only wide enough for single file walking. The journey took four weeks of hard slog with most nights spent in the bush with no shelter from frequent rain and food dropped at certain villages. The task took four weeks and Bishop Doggett awarded the team 9 out of 10. They wondered where they lost the one point. *(Continued on Page 3)....*

**Bryan McSweeney**  
President  
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**Dan McErlean**  
Secretary  
(07) 3345 4404

**Dan Reilly**  
Co-Ordinator  
(07) 3395 1813



**T.B.O.B.A. (Brisbane Sub-Branch) Meeting – 27/7/2012**

**Present**

John Bagget  
 Ted Bowling  
 Frank Deighton  
 Jack Davis (Hon)  
 Brian Gagen  
 Rolly Griffin  
 John Hutchinson  
 Peter Kennedy  
 Doug Lee  
 Fred Lincoln  
 Jim Long  
 John Morris

**Apologies**

Pat Mullins  
 Terry Murphy  
 John McClure  
 Dan McErlean  
 Peter McMahon  
 Bryan McSweeney  
 John O'Neill  
 Kerry Taylor  
 Reg Taylor  
 Graham Swenson  
 Glen Wiedman

Fr Paul Chandler  
 Fr Tyrone Deere  
 Bro Barry Buckley  
 Bro Fergus Gagen  
 Frank Adamson  
 Nat Chandler  
 Bernie Collins  
 Pat Costigan  
 John Coyer  
 Noel Cronin  
 Les Duncan  
 Brien Dunne  
 Des Franklin  
 Terry Gesch

Bob Grundy  
 Cliff Lee  
 Bill Lunney  
 Dick Lynch  
 AE (Mick) Moloney  
 Jim Mullins  
 Bernie Murphy  
 Justin McErlean  
 Lee Nightingale  
 John Noonan  
 Martin O'Sullivan  
 Jack Parker  
 Ron Peut  
 Errol Ryan  
 Ron Smith

**‘Coming Events’**

28/9/12 12 Noon	Brisbane TBOBA Sub Branch Meeting 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Function Room, ‘The Public Service Club’ 84 William St (cnr Stephens Lane) Brisbane
30/9/12	Past YCW/NCGM Members’ Reunion, starts with 11am Mass – Our Lady of Lourdes, Newtown To register phone: (07) 4634 1453
7/10/12 9.00 am	TBOBA Lawn Bowls Day at Toowoomba North Bowls Club for Kevin Lee Memorial Trophy. To nominate please contact Laurie Blacka (3633 0499), Terry Gesch (3359 9228) or Eric Howe (4632 2191)
16/11/13 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm	1955 – 1963 Class Reunion in TP O’Brien Function Centre – Contact Darryl Brennan on (07) 5577 5578

**‘Membership’**

**Annual Membership Fee**  
 (\$10.00) for Calendar Year  
 2012 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.

- Congratulations to the Old Boys, particularly Jonathan Betros and Jeremy Cotter on the success of the TBOBA Ball on Saturday 21/7/2012.
- We would appreciate hearing of / or from Old Boys living in or near Sydney as it is likely St Mary’s Old Boys there will have a gathering before Christmas. Contacts:  
  
 Mick Quinlan (02) 9998 2397, Mick Ledbury (02) 9488 8354 or Mike Fitzpatrick (02) 9977 5051.

**‘Please consider giving generously to the Building Fund to assist with the Debt Reduction Program for our Indoor Sports Complex.’**



(Continued from Page 1...) In 1975 Colin asked to join the Franciscan Order at the age of 41 years and to do his training in Papua New Guinea. He was by now a PNG Citizen. After completing his novitiate he began studies for the priesthood at the National Seminary and was ordained on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1982 by Bishop Rowell in Aitape. His First Mass was offered at St Anna's, Aitape, the next day.

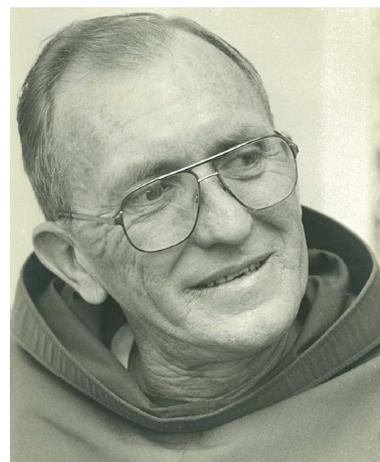
Fr Colin was a very good pastor, always friendly and giving special care to the elderly and feeble, spending his longest terms at Wati in the bush and Lemsieng on the coast. The Bishop appointed him to the Finance board and eventually he was transferred to Kimbe in the West New Britain Province. He went to New Mexico for a spirituality course and on his return, was appointed Director of the San Domiano Retreat Centre in West New Britain. It was a ministry he enjoyed very much and one which suited his physical condition, as Fr Col had sustained an ankle injury during his CMF training and as a result of the past-trauma arthritic conditioning limited his movement considerably.

Over the last decade Fr Colin was plagued with illness. In 2005 he broke his leg in a fall at Banaule; but it was not set properly and he came to Brisbane and had a surgical plate fitted and the leg reset. In June 2006 he was back again to have the plate removed and the wound scoured; but the injury proved difficult to heal completely and it was 3 months before Fr Col could return to PNG. Then after a heart attack which doctors said was his last warning, he was moved across to the Friary at 16 Mile, Port Moresby, and suffered a botched eye operation when a cataract was being removed. It was painful; but he refused to come to Brisbane. On questions like this Fr Colin could be very stubborn.

Early on the morning on Thursday 16 August, Brother Pius Teke of the St Mary of the Angels Friary in Port Moresby, found Fr Colin on the floor of the kitchen, dead from an apparent heart attack. It was Fr Colin's custom to enjoy a cup of coffee first thing in the morning; but his time he missed out. The Friary is the same one where Fr Fabian Thom OFM was murdered on the 16/8/2001 – Yes on the same day in August when Fr Colin was called to Eternal Life.

Over the years Fr Kenway kept in touch with many priests, religious, lay missionaries and former classmates from his days at St Mary's College, through his Newsletter titled 'Kokopelli's Flute' – Kohopelli is a Spirit God of the Navaho Indians. A number of the lads were known as the 'Budgerigar Club' as they spent hours together in their youth catching those wild native parakeets – These were Neville Dredge, Vince Rosenthal, Bill McErlean, Dan Turnbull (RIP) and Kerry Blain (RIP), just to name a few.

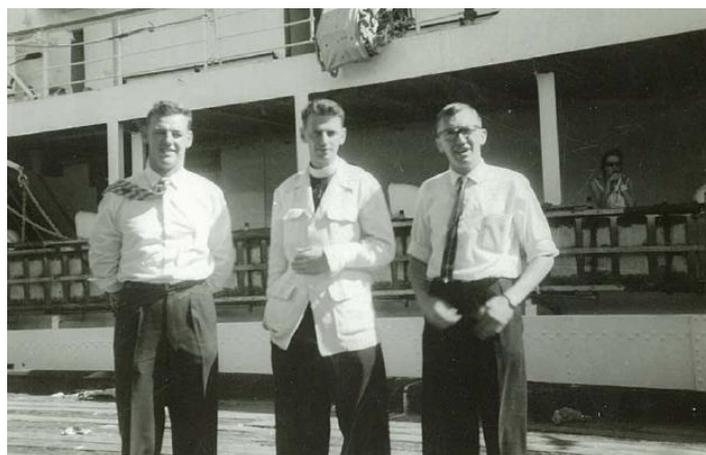
Fr Colin Kenway's funeral Requiem Mass was celebrated at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Boroka, 10 miles from Port Moresby and he was laid to rest in the Bomana Cemetery. A Memorial Mass was offered at the Little Flower Church, Kedron, on 22/8/12 and there family and friends gathered to give thanks for his Life!



Fr Colin Kenway at Kedron - 1983



(Back from left): Bill McErlean, Col Kenway and Dan Turnbull with (Front from left): Neville Dredge, Vince Rosenthal and Kerry Blain



Neville Dredge, Fr Casimir OFM, Colin Kenway – Departure on "Bulolo" to PNG – 17/12/1960



**‘Spirit of Catholic Education Week Address’  
by Dan McErlean on 26/7/12**

- Mr Newman, Staff and students, it is an honour to be asked by your Principal to address you fine young men of St Mary’s College.

As a student myself, and then as a young Old Boy, I was inspired by many fine men, some first day students, under **Brother Hurley**, who had the College Spirit throughout their lives. I will just mention two of them – **TP O’Brien and J J Gabbett**.

When my grandparents arrived from Ireland in the 1880s, the State of Queensland could almost be described as an ‘immigration colony’ with thousands arriving during the decade for a better life. Many could neither read nor write, having been deprived of Educational opportunities, particularly the women unless they had a smattering of tuition at hedge schools.

They came very willing to work, with their No. 1 goal – better Education – Catholic Education, and they were ready to make significant sacrifices to achieve this. It was no easy task to establish schools, any schools, as the population was scattered – some taking up small farms in the Greenmount, Westbrook, Highfields and Crows Nest Districts. Others followed the Railway Camps as the rail networks were extended through Helidon and Toowoomba onto Warwick, Dalby and Chinchilla.

Fortunately with the drive of **Fr Denis Fouhy**, the Toowoomba Parish Priest and with the support of **Brother Patrick Ambrose Tracey**, Provincial Superior of the Christian Brothers, the establishment of our College was approved. It was erected in just 7 months – that is the Brothers’ House/School. Remarkable and it opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1899.

For the past 113 years, clergy, religious, teachers, support staff, parents and volunteers have supported Catholic Education here at St Mary’s. It is that commitment that we recognise this week. I have had the honour to be selected for the ‘Spirit of Catholic Education Award this year for the Service/Support of the College through our Toowoomba Brothers Old Boys’ Association.

Our Old Boys’ Association was initially formed in 1921 under the guidance of **Brother J M Cotter** who thought the time was favourable for the foundation of an Association with the pending opening of the new building, currently your Junior School. The three main aims were:

- Equip the Science Laboratory on the ground floor
- Generate beneficial links with present day students
- Promotion of Intellectual & Social Development of Old Boys

Reformed in the post World War II era, at the time of the Golden Jubilee of the College in 1949, the aims were much the same:

- Spirit of Unity amongst ourselves
- Promotion of religious, charitable, civic, educational and social development of Members
- To assist the College with sporting facilities and an Assembly Hall.

You cannot deny the great achievements evident on the College Campus today, they speak for themselves. The Bro Frank Rodgers Sports Field (1978), the TP O’Brien Function Centre (1983) and the Clive Berghofer Area (2005) – We were committed!

What a History our College has!

Old Boys have been great Ambassadors for the College and what Spirit they showed. To name a few:

Clergy:	Archbishop Virgil Copas MSC, 90 Priests and 40 Brothers
Government:	Right Hon Frank Forde, Sir Walter Campbell and Hon Vince Lester OAM
Armed Services:	Rear Admiral Patrick Perry, Major General John Cantwell, Brigadier Damien Cantwell, Colonel Keith O’Neill
Sport:	Tom Gorman, Joe & Ian (Ripper) Doyle, Walker Bros, Johnathan Thurston, Dr John O’Neill (Rugby League International), Jockey Neil McGrowdie, Katsidis Bros
Medicine:	Dr John Simpson, Dr John Frawley AM, Dr Colin Owen OAM, Dr Keith Wilkinson
Education:	Paul McNally OAM, Peter Green, Joe Hardwick, and Bro J.B.O’Sullivan
Others:	T P O’Brien Brian Carter AM, Gerard Bradley, Henry Wagner, Tom and Sir Daniel Leahy, Geoff Murphy, Michael McNab, Maurice Drew, Simon Morrison, John Mulheron, Frank Bowdler

The spirit and courage of many Old Boys was tested 70 years ago at Milne Bay when they were part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion that turned back the Japanese Forces. Then the likes of RAAF Airman – Vernon Copas, Robert Dobbyn, John McLean, John Pigott, Maurice Duggan, Peter Hickey, Glen Beattie, Harold Wagner and Billy Moloney lost their lives in the air war over the European theatre.

It would be remiss of me not to recognise today the part played by our Christian Brothers in developing our Special Spirit. Those men gave their all, daily, walking down to morning Mass at Holy Name and after, just a light breakfast. They were supported by our generous Parents, as yours do today, to give us that Catholic Education – a Special Gift: it gives you the edge, sets you apart as General Cosgrove said this week of Colonel Keith O’Neill, Commander of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion in Vietnam – “I knew he was someone special”.

Take pride in yourself and your College. It is not a case of being ‘proud/cocky’ to wear your full uniform, it is self respect, do not degrade yourself, College or your classmates – they will still be your best friends in 50/60 years time. I can recall lining up for a uniform and shoe inspection each morning in Grade 3 – it is a good habit, I have grown up with it, and as you can see, I still wear the College tie with pride and keep my shirt



tail in. I served in Human Resources Branch for a time and know you will realise the importance of having a neat and tidy mindset when you line up for that job interview; it might just make a difference. I wish you and St Mary's College continued success. God Bless you all!

- Amongst the guests at the College for the Awards Ceremony on 26/7/12, as part of Catholic Education Week in Toowoomba, was **Retired Brigadier General Ian Meibusch**. He had the opportunity to meet three students – **Matthew Janke, Ben Cronk and Thomas Weir**, who had received their prestigious Defence Force Technical Scholarships that day from **Warrant Officer Scott Towner**.

Ian was up from Canberra to visit his sister **Barbara** and son, **Chris**, a Toowoomba Solicitor. He attended St Mary's College from 1945 to 1950, so it was no surprise when he was selected to attend Duntroon College, rising to the rank of Brigadier General. Ian was also a member of the First XV Football Team, a wicketkeeper in the College First Eleven and a member of the College Athletic Squad.

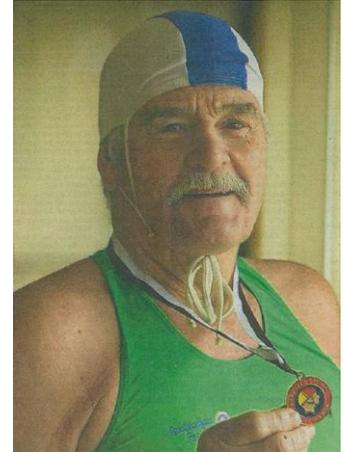
He played Junior Rugby League with the Valleys Football Club. That Club having been formed at a meeting of breakaway Rugby Union members and supporters, led by Ian's uncle, **Bob Meibusch** in March 1919. Bob was half back and captain of the Valley Club and Toowoomba teams in 1919, 1920 and 1921 in games against New Zealand and England. Ian's father, **Lou**, was a winger in these sides. Ian has been living in Canberra now for some years where he is a keen supporter of the Brumbies Rugby Union Team.

- Catching up with former classmates and family friends on a visit to Toowoomba in August were **Don and Margery Jago** from Hawthorn East, Victoria.
- Celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary in May were the Toowoomba couple, **Ron and Colleen (Reis) Lewis**. They were married at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Holberton Street, Toowoomba on 26 May 1962. Their sons **Greg and Peter** are College Old Boys, as are their Uncles **Lindsay and Doug**. Colleen's father **Wally Reis**, played the saxophone and with Lindsay on drums and Doug on the piano, made popular dance music all around the Darling Downs for a number of years with their 'Yale Blues' band.
- Life Member, **Fred Lincoln** (1942-1947) celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the 9<sup>th</sup> August. Friends and Family gathered at his home in Wavell Heights to join his wife, **Carmel**, daughter **Marie** and son-in-law **Russell Brooks**, son **Peter** and daughter-in-law **Lynne**, three grand daughters and eight great grand children to toast this special occasion.
- In the 10km Bridge to Brisbane Marathon on 2/9/12, Solicitor & Soccer Referee **Trent Sleeman** (Year 12-2005) finished a credible 94<sup>th</sup> in 37.44 minutes.

- Another Life Member, **Martin O'Sullivan**, spent June and July in Scotland and Ireland visiting the family relatives of his late wife, Moira (McGill) who passed away in July 2011 on the Sunshine Coast. Martin flew home directly from Dublin via Dubai and Singapore with Emirates Airlines. Apparently a very wet summer was being experienced during the 7 weeks' stay.

### 'Where Are They Now?'

- **Bob Edwards** attended St Mary's College between 1949 & 1958 and became a plumber, serving his apprenticeship with E P Kimmins. In 1961 he decided to join the Nobby's Beach Surf Lifesaving Club but living in Toowoomba and competing on the Gold Coast became too much to ask and he gave up life saving for the best part of 45 years. "The idea of surf lifesaving fascinated me when I was younger; but other things occupy your mind and you do not have time. Of course, it is pretty hard to keep up when you cannot train in the surf," Bob said.



Bob maintained his fitness through swimming, even competing at the World Masters in New Zealand in 2002; but he still had a passion for surf lifesaving and after a conversation with an old clubmate five years ago, he decided on a comeback. Those grand plans however, were put on hold when he underwent quadruple bypass surgery in 2008.

With determination he came back even better, culminating in his fantastic medal haul this year winning two gold and two silver medals at the Gold Coast Surf Lifesaving Championships recently and also two silver and two bronze medals at the Qld titles.

Bob says 'all my children reckon I am mad; but when it gets in your blood you cannot get rid of it', so the evergreen surfer hopes to keep competing as long as his body will let him.

- **Kevin Bianchi** (Senior 1976) and the son of **Darcy** (RIP) and **Clare (Fitzgerald) Bianchi** graduated as a Teacher. He taught at Clifton, Oakey & Ipswich and was recently appointed Principal of St Brigid's Catholic Primary School at Nerang. Kevin was President of our Toowoomba Brothers Old Boys' Association in 1980 & 1981. He is the brother of **Judith (Mrs Allan Smythe)**, **Mick** (Police Inspector) and **Brian** (Year 12-1980) a TAFE Teacher.
- **Ben & Shane Walker** received the 'Men of League 2012 Coach of the Year' Award for their efforts with the Ipswich RL Team in the Intrust Super Cup Competition.



## 'Thomas Joseph Leahy'

- Tom passed away on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2012, aged 83 years. He was the son of **Tom and Jean (Liebke)** and the eldest of their 9 children, his siblings were **Sir Daniel (RIP)**, **Denise (Kennedy)**, **James, Patrick**, Ellen (Cleary), Michael (RIP), Margaret (Gill) and John, Tom and Dan attended St Mary's College in the early 1940s before completing their education at Downlands College.

Tom Senior and his brothers **Patrick, Michael, Daniel** and **James Leahy** were also educated at St Mary's College. Pat, Mick, Dan and James went to Papua New Guinea in the 1930s where their exploits are synonymous with the development of PNG and valuable assistance rendered there during World War II. Tom Senior elected to become one of the first haulage contractors between Brisbane and Toowoomba and later was one of the biggest wheat growers on the Darling Downs.

In 1947, Tom Leahy and his brother Dan, were the first of a generation of nephews to join their uncles in New Guinea. Early in the 1950s, the PNG Lands Department awarded Tom a farm block in the Markham Valley. He secured a bank loan enabling him to plant copra, cocoa, peanuts and sorghum and raise cattle. Over time he prospered, married and supported a family of three children. He also discovered a vocation in politics and was elected to the first Local Government Council in his area, serving 15 years. Then he nominated for the first general election in 1964, but was defeated. Four years later he stood again, won and within a year, was Leader of Government Business ensuring the passage of Government Bills through Parliament. He also served on the Parliament's Constitutional Planning Committee and undertook a study tour of newly independent African nations and was posted for three months to New York as an official observer to the United Nations.

Narrowly losing his seat in the 1972 election, he returned to farming before selling his farm in the late 1970s. He returned to Australia deciding to visit Ireland to research his forebears. Tom had been there previously and found himself tremendously at ease living in the mountains of Wicklow and having contact with the marvellous Irish people. His stay lasted almost 2 years. In 1981 he settled on 'Corowa' near Dalby and over the next 16 years developed the property, clearing 500 acres and building a dam to irrigate lucerne and fruit trees. Sadly the mining rights were awarded to a giant American Coal Company and Tom had to move on to a smaller block 'Corowa II' on the Moonie Highway. Politics was still in his blood and he served from 1994 to 2008 on the Wambo Shire Council.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence (in the Year 2000), PNG honoured Thomas Joseph Leahy with a citation commending him for his contribution to that country and its people for whom he had great affection. Tom, the loving husband of **Pamela** (dec'd) and **Heather**, mother of **Peter, Anne and Neil**, was buried on 4/8/2012 after a Graveside Service at the Myall Remembrance Park, Dalby.

## William Henry Green (22/10/28 – 6/7/12)

- **Bill Green**, a well respected and Honorary member of our TBOBA passed to Eternal Life on the 6/7/2012. He was born on 22/10/1928 in Blackall, the 5th child of **Alice and Harry Green**. They were Depression Years and it was no easy task for his father raising his family by working with pick and shovel for the Railway. Money was tight and for two years in his youth the family lived in a tent at Benliddie.

Even though times were tough, Bill loved the outback sense of community, he found something similar during his many stays on Norfolk Island which he visited later in life after his daughter Colleen settled there.



Bill left school after Year 6 and a few years later became an apprentice mechanic at Smith's Garage in Blackall. The firm serviced both GMH and Ford Vehicles.

As Blackall was a tight-knit small community, sport was an integral part of life. Bill was good at most sports including tennis and athletics; but it was rugby league at which he most excelled, representing Blackall and Central West on many occasions in his teens and early 20's.

It was rugby league that brought Bill and his life long mate **Mick Hauff** to Toowoomba in 1953. The lads had been travelling around Australia fruit-picking when they were invited to come to Toowoomba, the 'Mecca' of rugby league in Queensland in those days, to join the All Whites Club. The playing strength at the Club then included Kangaroo Tourists **Pat McMahan, Des McGovern and Jack Rooney** and future Kangaroos **Ian Doyle and Tom Payne** who toured in 1956, so it was a tough call for **Bill and Mick**; but they represented the All Whites 'A' grade side in 18 and 15 games that year helping to make the team 1953 First Grade Premiers.

Altogether Bill Green was a member of four consecutive winning All Whites Premiership First Grade sides (1953/54/55 and 56). Two were won outright. He played 66 games for the Club and scored 15 tries and represented Toowoomba in a match against the America All Star in 1953 and in 2 Bulimba Cup matches in 1954.

Bill became good friends with a young policeman, Tom Pointing, who was also playing for All Whites and who was courting and then married **Kathleen Dowling**. Through the couple, Bill met Kath's sister, Denise, and so began a relationship that lasted 60 years. Bill and Denise married in St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba, on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1956.

Son, **Peter**, was born in January 1958, **Martin** in 1960 and the 'apple of Bill's eye', **Colleen** in 1963. When Peter arrived **Denise** decided the family needed to move out of their flat to 132 Stephens Street. Bill was



earning seven pound (\$14) as a mechanic with Eagers; but as more money was needed he applied to become a Used Car appraiser, not knowing what appraising cars really meant. It was a real challenge for someone with a year six education; but he was determined to provide well and support his family. These traits he displayed on so many occasions over the rest of his life.

The family remember the wonderful years growing up in Toowoomba, the beach and surf on their happy fun filled holidays at the Gold Coast and their father's support at school and various sporting events and functions. Bill was a member of All Whites Junior Foundation Committee.

Bill and Denise were blessed with a great bunch of friends in Toowoomba, mainly due to their involvement with the Sergeant's Mass at the 7 Stores Depot and happy and joyous events at their family home. Weekends and holidays involved visits to family members and the Pointings in places like Brisbane, Dalby, Charleville, Gympie and Bundaberg.

As the siblings moved on with their families, Bill and Denise became an integral part of the extended families, particularly as grandchildren arrived. After his retirement from Eagers after 32 years service in 1987, covering such roles as used car manager, new area manager and finally service manager, the couple took the opportunity to be on hand for the births of grandson Elliott on Norfolk Island in 1989 and for Madeleine in England in 1991.

They managed visits to England and Norfolk Island several times. Bill loved Norfolk Island and related well to the feeling of closeness between members of the Island Community. Their relocation to Brisbane from Toowoomba in 1996 was not an easy call for Bill to make; but it gave them easier access to the grandchildren and for their later years. They settled in Fitzgibbon near Carseldine. Bill made many new friends and established and maintained a nice yard and garden. He played golf and in particular, Lawn Bowls at the Aspley Bowls Club. However, they were hard years as well. Colleen's cancer treatments were ongoing and frequent until her death in 2004. Denise was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2002. Through it all, Bill was constant and strong in his love and support; but took the opportunity to enjoy Toowoomba Brothers' Old Boys' Association functions and Lawn Bowls days when he could.

After Colleen's death in 2004, Bill and Denise moved into an independent living unit at the Holy Spirit Home at Carseldine; but in 2005, Denise had to move into the dementia hostel at Holy Spirit and later Bill himself went into the Pines Hostel Unit there. Each day he would travel on his scooter to visit Denise who has suffered chronic renal failure for the past seven years.

William (Bill) Henry Green passed away on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012. He is survived by Denise and sons Peter (Dux and College Captain in 1974) and Martin (Year 12 – 1978) and their families and Colleen's family (Evans) on Norfolk Island.

- Old Boy, **Jim Long** (1943 – 1947) and wife Maureen were pleased to learn of their grandson, James Peirson's selection in the Australian Under 19 World Cup Cricket team that played in Queensland from 11<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August. It is the 9<sup>th</sup> such tournament held since its inception during Australia's Bicentenary Celebrations in 1988. The tournament encompasses 16 teams – the full 10 member countries plus Scotland, Nepal, Ireland, Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea and Namibia from the qualifying tournaments.
- **James Peirson** has come through the ranks of the Redlands Cricket Club here in Brisbane where he took an early interest in wicket keeping. His batting talent has also progressed well during these years and as a wicketkeeper batsman offers the Under 19 squad variety and balance. He is a contracted rookie with the Queensland Bulls and has his sights on a career with the State team and Australian representation. James also has two Old Boy uncles, Pat and Tom, both living on the Sunshine Coast who follow his career with interest.
- Over the weekend (17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> August) three of our Old Boys were members of successful Rugby League sides. In the NRL competition **Johnathan Thurston** (Year 12, 2000) managed a try and 6 goals in the Cowboys victory over St George Illawarra (32 v 22) and Jaiman Lowe (Year 12, 2002) came off the bench in the Storm's win over the Broncos (19 v 18). **Ethan Lowe** (Year 12, 2008), scored a try for the Northern Pride in their 44 v 10 win over Easts in the Intrust Super Cup. Ethan has since been named 'Carbine Club Rookie of the Year' in that competition. **Sean Loxley** (Year 12 – 2008) managed a try for Wynnum Manly too that weekend; but his Club lost to Burleigh 32 v 26.
- Congratulations to Old Boy **Johnathan Thurston** on his 'Man of the Match' performance in Queensland's State of *Origin* 3 victory 21 v 20 against New South Wales. He was playing in his 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive game in Origin series and it was his 4<sup>th</sup> Man of the Match Award. When something was needed in this decider Johnathan responded, as champions do, with one of his finest displays – a try, two line breaks, one linebreak assist and a try assist. Since, Johnathan has been named 2012 Dally M Medal Five Eight of the Year.

Often comparisons are made between Rugby League players of different eras and with the pending retirement of Petero Civoniceva, it is timely to compare his career with that Toowoomba Champion and Brothers Captain for many years – **Mick Madsen**.

Petero (45) Tests and (33) Origin Games – total (78) and heralded in some quarters, as a record for a forward in the 104 year history of Rugby League.

Mick Madsen (9) Tests, (41) Interstate Games for Queensland and (36) Tour Games with the 1929/30 and 1933/34 Kangaroo Teams – total (86).

Both were late bloomers, Petero at 25 years and Mick at 26 years, when selected. What do you think?



### ‘College News’



- At the College Formal on Friday 13/7/12, the Year 12 Class had the privilege of listening to an address by **Fr Hal Ranger**. He is an Old Boy, having attended St Mary’s College from Year 2 to Year 12, graduating as Dux of the College in 1952. He was ordained a Catholic Priest in 1959 and is celebrating 53 years in the Priesthood. Fr Hal has undertaken many positions of added responsibility, including School Chaplain, Parish

Priest, Army Chaplain as well as helping and caring for the poor and underprivileged people in St Kilda, Melbourne for 17 years.

- An eight bay Car Park and turning bay has been provided recently in front of the brick 2 storey Junior School with entry and egress via West St, just north of the TP O’Brien Function Centre. It provides easy access to the Administration Office in the recently renovated Brothers’ House.
- The St Mary’s College Primary Development Cup Team played Innisfail in the State Final of this Queensland Rugby League competition on Saturday 25/8/12 at the Dairy Farmers Stadium in Townsville. The team of Year 7 students is coached by **Simon McKeiver** and the game was a curtain raiser to the Cowboys (led by co-captain and Old Boy, **Johnathan Thurston**) v Newcastle (under Wayne Bennett) match. It resulted in a 38 v 20 win to Innisfail.
- At the Toowoomba Secondary Schools Sports Carnival at Harristown High School on 22/8/12, College student **Lawrence Upton**, won the Under 16 year old 100, 200 and 400 metre events. His time for the 400 metres broke the previous race record for this annual Carnival.

### Stop Press!

- Many Old Boys were members of the Young Christian Workers Organisation formed in the Toowoomba Diocese in the early 1940s with Fr Ron Walton as the Chaplain. Some of the Old Boys who attended the YCW Camp at Applethorpe in 1945 were Fr E’Brian O’Dwyer, Ray King, Bill Sullivan, Justin Kingsford, Ron Peut, Dr Pat O’Dwyer, Bill Kamler, Kevin Lynch, Maurice Coman, Frs Michael McClure and Peter Murphy. Later groups were established in each Parish under chaplains like Frs Bernie Kane (RIP), E’Brian O’Dwyer, Peter Murphy, John Quinlan and others. As 2012 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the YCW / NCGM being established in the Toowoomba Diocese, Fr John Quinlan is coordinating a low key gathering to rekindle old friendships formed at that time and in the subsequent years. It is not the intention to have a black tie event. There will be Mass at 11am on Sunday 30/9/12 at our Lady of Lourdes Church, Newtown to be followed by a BBQ luncheon at the School Hall in Goodwood Street. Please disseminate information re this event by word of mouth with people from each generational and geographic grouping contacting those who were in groups in their day. This eases the burden of just a few people being responsible for spreading the news; but we do ask that people indicate their intention to attend close to the day for catering purposes. You can phone (07) 4634 1453 or fax (07) 4634 1940 details to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Office.

### Catholic Education Week 2012

- On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012, the Queensland Governor Penny Wensley, presented the ‘Spirit of Catholic Education’ Awards to seven recipients at the official launch of Catholic Education Week at the Little Flower Church, Kedron. Sixty-one outstanding contributors to Catholic Education were nominated for these awards this year from all spheres of the Statewide Catholic Education Community – clergy, religious, teachers, support staff, parents, volunteers. One of the recipients was **Dan McErlean** (Old Boys’ Association, St Mary’s College, Toowoomba) for ‘Engaging in exceptionally life-giving relationships of Service and Support: Dan attended St Mary’s College from 1939 to 1947 and since that time, has been an active member of the Toowoomba Brothers Old Boys’ Association and has maintained strong links with the College and the Christian Brothers. For the past 13 years Dan has been the editor of the regular Old Boys’ Newsletter, originally commenced by the late Brother Frank Rodgers. He also continues to support Christian Brothers Old Boys and their families, making him an invaluable member of the College Community.

Mr John Borserio, Director, Toowoomba Catholic Education Office said, ‘This year’s Catholic Education Week Theme – Celebrating Community, Family, Parish, School and the work Dan has undertaken make his selection as this year’s award recipient obvious. We are blessed to have him as part of our Diocesan family.’

The Principal of St Mary’s College, Michael Newman, nominator of Dan for the award thanked him for his endless drive, energy and generosity which had been recognised at a Ministerial reception at Parliament House on Tuesday 24/7/12, and arranged for him to address the College Assembly in the TP O’Brien Function Centre on Thursday 26/7/2012. That same afternoon Dan shared afternoon tea at Picnic Point with the leaders of Catholic Education in the Toowoomba Diocese when they received their 2012 Catholic Education Long Service Awards.

### ‘Spirit of Catholic Education Awards 2012’

**At Right:** Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland, Dan McErlean



**Below:** (L to R): Principal Michael Newman, Mike Byrne (Exec Director Old Catholic Education Commission), Dan McErlean, Frank Deighton, Bryan McSweeney

