



St Mary's Old Boys' Newsletter



September 2013

Dan McErlean
12 Werona Street
Sunnybank Qld 4109

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 20th September 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 travelling by train to the Central Railway Station, you can catch 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 22nd November 2012. This is a Claimer meeting, so please make a special effort to keep this date free.

About 30 members were welcomed to our July meeting by our Brisbane Sub-Branch President, Bryan McSweeney. First timers included **Rod McDonald** (1957 - 1964) and **Pat Walsh** (1956 - 1965). **Glen Thompson** (1949 - 1957) a Hervey Bay resident these days was also amongst those present.

Our Year 2003 Seniors who gathered on the 31st August 2013 at the College to celebrate their 10 year Reunion, raised funds for 'Beyond Blue' which were then matched dollar for dollar by the College Principal **Mr Newman**. This organisation endeavours to reduce the impact of anxiety and depression amongst men in the Community. **Paul Guffrida** and **Craig Sleeman** organised this event.

Laurie Blacka would welcome a phone call from any Old Boys interested in a social game of Lawn Bowls on Sunday 13th October 2013 in the Inter City Brisbane v Toowoomba match at the Toowoomba North Bowls Club for the 'Kevin Lee Memorial Trophy'. Please take note of Laurie's new phone number - it is: 3861 0828.

Please remember Old Boys and Friends of the College recently deceased: **Bro. Denis Hernon, Jaydon Andrews, Barry Lysaght, Barry Murphy, Ian Meibusch, Frank Mead, Barney Roberts** (brother of **Kevin, Des, Brian and Michael**), **Margaret Denzin, Lillian Lynch, May Wiedman** (sister of **Key, Leo and Greg, Ann (Just) and Elsie (Sister Jacinta) Maureen Freer OAM** (wife of **Gerard**) and **Clare (Bowdler) Quinn**, wife of **Frank (RIP)**. A number are unwell or recovering from surgery: **Kevin and Tim Coonan, Justin Kingsford, Don Vallely, Trevor Muller, Eric Howe, Kev Killoran, Pat Seymour, Kevin O'Neill, John Keightley and Annette Gilbert**.

Our Special Thanks are extended to **Ashley Coonan** (1980 - 1986), **Peter Kenny** (1949 - 1958), **Rod McDonald** (1957 - 1964) and **Brother Michael Dredge** (1960 - 1968) who have taken up our Life Memberships recently.

We offer our Congratulations too, to College **Principal, Michael Newman** and his wife **Lauren**, on the birth of their son, **Noah James**, and a brother for **Gabriel**.

Bryan McSweeney
President
(07) 3278 9682

Dan McErlean
Secretary
(07) 3345 4404

Dan Reilly
Co-Ordinator
(07) 3395 1813



TBOBA Meetings – Brisbane 19/7/13

<u>Present</u>		<u>Apologies</u>	
John Bagget Laurie Atzeni (Hon) Nat Chandler Jack Davis (Hon) Frank Deighton John Drew Brian Gagen Terry Gesch Rolly Griffin John Hagan Merv Henson John Hutchinson Peter Kennedy Fred Lincoln Doug Lee	Jim Long Rod McDonald Dan McErlean Paul McErlean Bryan McSweeney (Pres) Dinny Madden Pat Mullins Terry Murphy John Noonan Reg Oliver Jack Parker Kerry Taylor Glen Thompson Pat Walsh	Fr Paul Chandler Bernie Collins John Coyer Allan Duncan Les Duncan Bob Grundy Tom Hutchinson John Keightley Jim Mullins Bernie Murphy Mick Moloney Justin McErlean Peter McMahon John O'Neill Martin O'Sullivan	John H Pobar Ron Smith Graham Swenson Glen Wiedman Jim Wiedman

TBOBA Meetings – Buderim 26/7/13

<u>Present</u>		<u>Apologies</u>	
Redmond Byrne John Crotty Graeme Dornbusch Bob Grundy Pat Long Tom Long Brian Lynam Pat Mullins Bernie Murphy Terry Murphy Dan McErlean John Noonan Martin O'Sullivan	Pat Roache Ron Roney Darel Stirling Jim & Carmel Stokes Glen & Adrienne Thompson Laurie Walsh Dr Keith Wilkinson David Wilkinson Lance Wilson Brad Wilson	Fr Tyrone Deere Rod Anderson John Cantwell Les Duncan Tim Fitzpatrick Bill Fechner Peter Gillis John Heeney Denis Kearney John McElwaine Denis McGuin Gerard McMahon	Merv Paddison Robert Trapp

‘Coming Events’

20/9/13 12 Noon	Brisbane TBOBA Sub Branch Meeting – 1 st Floor, Function Room, ‘The Public Service Club’, 84 William Street (cnr Stephens Lane), Brisbane
13/10/13 9.00 am	TBOBA Lawn Bowls Day at Toowoomba North Bowls Club for ‘Kevin Lee Memorial Trophy’. To nominate please contact Laurie Blacka (3861 0828), Terry Gesch (3359 8228), John Murphy (4634 2284) or Eric Howe (4632 2191)
2/11/13	1950/1959 Class Reunion – Contacts Pat Costigan (0432 583 498), Justin Lunney (4634 4756), Michael Quinlan (02-9997 2397) or Graham Swenson (5561 1753)
16/11/13 2.00 pm 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm	1955–1963 Class Reunion in TP O’Brien Function Centre Tour of College Dinner (\$35.00 per person for two course meal with nibbles) Contact Merv Paddison (07-5444 6716 or 0427 631 620)
6/12/13	TBOBA Sunshine Coast Meeting at Headland Golf Club on Golf Links Road, Buderim. Contacts: Bernie Murphy (5478 0742), Terry Murphy (5456 4340), Redmond Byrne (5477 6705)

<p>Annual Membership Fee</p> <p>(\$10.00) for Calendar Year 2013 is now due / or</p> <p>Life Memberships are available (Fee \$100.00) * * *</p> <p>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.</p>
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‘Please consider giving generously to the Building Fund to assist with the Debt Reduction Program for our Indoor Sports Complex.’



- Since our last newsletter was printed, we have had gatherings of about 130 Old Boys at four venues in Sydney, Toowoomba, Brisbane and Buderim. On Thursday 20th June, a number of Old Boys held a luncheon at the Castlereagh (former Catholic Club) in Sydney organised by **Michael Quinlan** (1950 – 1959).

Amongst those present were **Geoff Anderson** (1946-1953), **Peter Auricchio** and **Justin Dwyer** (retired dentists), **Brendan Crotty** (1957-1963) and former Managing Director of Australand Holdings, **Mike Ledbury** (1947-1954), **Brian Mallon** (1957-1960), **Kerry Carmichael** (1951-1957) up from Wagga, **Dr Peter Solomon** who gained a Master of Science at the Queensland University in 1959 and a PhD in Earth Sciences from Harvard in 1963, **Bill Sullivan** (1936–1942) and All Whites, Toowoomba and Queensland Rugby League Full Back in the late forties and early fifties and **Brother Michael Dredge** (1960–1968) and a Teacher at St Mary's in 1982 and now attached to the Broken Bay Diocese.

Dan McErlean who attended as a special guest noted the cheerful demeanour of each Old Boy as they reflected on life at the College, the Christian Brothers and lifelong friendships.

The luncheon in Toowoomba on the 19th July, gave Old Boys the opportunity to join with **Fr E'Brian O'Dwyer** in the celebration of the 65th Anniversary of his Ordination. In his address Fr E'Brian's theme was that 'we all have to face, honestly, the reality that we want to reach Heaven'.

Function Chairman, **Peter Kenny**, welcomed **Fathers Pat Hall, Michael McClure, Hal Ranger and Ray Crowley, Principal Michael Newman, Joe Guerrini** (TBOBA President), **Peter Walters** (TBOBA Vice President), **Paul Canning and Jeremy Cotter** (TBOBA Committeemen), **Frank Adamson, Greg Anderson, Pat Arnell, John Bagget, Bill and Irene Blacka, Ashley, Barry and Ros Coonan, Paddy Dilleen, Kev Dixon, Tim Erbacher, Mick Fitzgerald, Terry Ford, John Forde, Bob Frost, Kev Garrett, John Gilbert, Ted Gill, Denis and June Healy, Brian and Yvonne Jones, Peter and Paul Hardwick, Bill and Pat Kamler, Vince Lester OAM, Doug Lee, Justin and Leo Lunney, Phyllis Lynch, Bob Mackinlay, Jim Madden, Dan and Bill McErlean, Justin and Yvonne McErlean, Ian and Helen McQuillan, Kev McSweeney, John Mullen, John Murphy, Reg and Leonie Murphy, Wayne Nuss, Andrew O'Dwyer, John F Pobar, Lindsay Reis, Paul Reynolds, Peter and Betty Sheridan, Glen Thompson, Bill Thygesen, Vince Rosenthal, Max Winter and John Wilson.**

A number of apologies were offered including those from **Gary Brady, Kerry Betros, John Drew, Graham Hurst, John and Maria Keightley, Noel Hannant OAM, Mick Fitzpatrick, Eric Howe, Tom Lincoln, Allan Lynch, Paul McNally, Leno Morosini.**

President, **Joe Guerini**, thanked the organisers of these events: **Michael Quinlan** (Sydney), **Bernie and Terry Murphy, Redmond Byrne** and **Tim Fitzpatrick** (Sunshine Coast) and **Eric Howe, John Murphy and John Wilson** (Toowoomba).

Brother Denis Ivan Hernon (20/10/36 – 10/7/13)

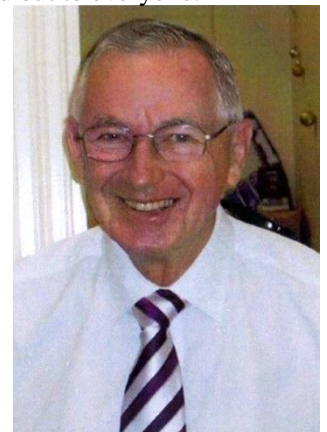
- Brother Denis was the youngest of the five children born to **Charles and May Hernon**. He was raised at Stones Corner and began school at St Joseph's Coorparoo and then went on to St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace.

He joined the Christian Brothers in 1952 and started teaching in Ingham, North Queensland in 1957. His ministry took him to many Colleges over the following years such as St Laurence's, Maryborough, Yeppoon, Canberra, Dalby, Charters Towers, St James, St Mary's Toowoomba (1977 and 1978), Balmain and Ignatius Park (Townsville). In 1982 he was called to be the Vocations Director for the Christian Brothers in Queensland.

He was an extraordinary man who reached out to many people when he saw a need and shared his gifts with all. He was a person of the people and for all people. His life was full of colour, music, creativity, laughter and, very importantly, it was lived in the gospel message.

His own family were important to him – sisters **Maureen** and **Mel** and his brothers, **Leo** (also a Christian Brother) and **Fr Ivan**. He loved his time with the family for holidays or a family celebration and especially watching State of Origin or Bronco's games. His extended family of past students and families from the schools were also important to him. He reached out to everyone.

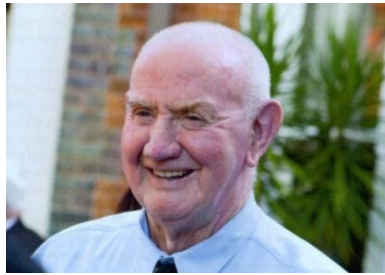
Brother Denis entered Eternal Life on 10 July 2013 and was buried at the Nudgee Cemetery after a Concelebrated Mass of Resurrection offered by his brother, Fr Ivan Hernon, **Frs Tyrone Deere and Rex Woolnough. Brother Damien Price** delivered the Eulogy.





Barry Edmund Lysaght (11/7/43 – 28/7/13)

- Barry was born in Warwick, the second child of **Bill and Dominica Lysaght**. His siblings were **John (RIP), Paul, Doug, Margaret (Kee), Bill and Gavin**. Barry grew up in Toowoomba attending the Holy Name Convent and then St Mary's Christian Brothers College. He retained his connection with former classmates in the 1951 – 1960 Group like **Paul Collins, Paul Reynolds, Geoff Brown and Kev Corcoran**, all his life.



His biggest win was courting and marrying **Ann (Stapleton)**. They were blessed with five children **Jan, Steven, Pamela, Ben and Bronwyn** and faced life's obstacles together, particularly the tragic loss of Ben, in September 1994, as he had given Barry so much joy with his efforts on the football field. Some of Ben's Cronulla team mates remain family friends to this day.

Barry commenced work as a Clerk in the Railway Department and then followed a career as a Cost Clerk with the Main Roads Department and later the Albert Shire Council. The couple's first home was in Quelch St, Rockville before moving to Smith St, Southport in 1975.

Although their Smith St home had a pool, Barry loved the beach and took the boys and sometimes the girls to Main Beach for a 'dive in the saltwater' before school followed by a bakery stop on the way home. Sundays saw the family board the Nissan Urvan for Mass with the inspiration being an ice cream later, as Barry's treat.

In 1998 Ann, Barry, Steven, Ben and Bronwyn relocated to Perth and so began the adventures and misadventures at their BP Service Station in Church Avenue. It was hard work for the 'team'; but a good business and Barry loved it as it was a family business. Steven was voted the best worker, because he charmed everyone who came through the door and this time really cemented the bond between the inseparable pair – Barry and Steven, they were best mates, but Ben's sudden death prompted a move back to Toowoomba and Kearney St.

Barry and Ann loved travel and they truly embraced and enjoyed the beauty of the country, they were experts at camping as family holidays always involved camping and swimming. There was a convoy trip across to Perth and a 3½ months trip around Australia just to name a few of their adventures. They loved friends dropping in, their doors were always open to welcome you with a cold one or a cuppa.

Racing and betting played a big part in Barry's life and he and Steven enjoyed the time spent each Saturday researching form and placing their bets. Barry's mathematical prowess and love of racing saw him pencilling for Bookmaker, Henry Smith for a time.

On Thursday 11 July, Barry celebrated his 70th birthday, surrounded by his family and friends. As he hoped and prayed to Saint Mary MacKillop, he wanted to have a quality life and when the time was to come, he wanted it to be fast. Obviously his prayers were answered as he passed away peacefully with Ann by his side on 28/7/2013, only two weeks after going into hospital. Barry had fought a good fight with courage over the past few years as he faced his battle with cancer and in the later stages of his illness, had received a surprise visit from his nephew, **Andrew Blomeley**, who came across from America.

His good friend, **Fr John Quinlan**, offered the Requiem Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, Newtown, in Thanksgiving for Barry's Life, on 2/8/13.

- Three women who played significant roles in the support of the Christian Brothers and the College have passed to Eternal Life since our last Newsletter:

Pauline Alroe passed away peacefully on 23/6/13, aged 89 years. She was the wife of the late **Jack Alroe** (RIP 15/4/2010), a popular Toowoomba dentist and a Past President of our Association and the College Parents and Friends Association.

When the Wells Scheme was introduced into Parishes in the early 1960s Fund Raising, apart from our Annual Ball were not permitted in order to free parents to contribute to their Parish Scheme. Some parents and the College administrative staff realised that the Brothers' upkeep and College maintenance simply could not function without help. After much diplomatic manoeuvring Mesdames **Pauline Alroe** and **Gwen Betros** obtained permission to have a 'Hoy Party Luncheon' – akin to housie, and the function was a great success financially and socially.

Pauline spent 18 years as an alderman of the Toowoomba City Council and was the only woman representative for many years and set an example which **Sue Englart (O'Connor)** and **Regina Albion (Plant)** followed, always championing the new City Library and the City's Parks and Gardens. Four of her sons, **Michael, Damien, Christopher** and **Simon** attended St Mary's College and daughter **Philippa** is a current member of the College Staff.

After a Requiem Mass to Celebrate Pauline's life held in the Lourdes Home Chapel, her interment followed at the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery.



- **Margaret Mary Denzin** was the wife of late **Leo Denzin** (Life Member No. 45) who was Dux of the College in his Senior Year (1940). Margaret who was the sister of **Joyce (Inwood), Mary (Lester)** and the late **Patricia (Sedl)** and **Ron Smith**, passed away on 13/8/13. She is survived by son **John** (who attended St Mary's in the 1950s), daughter **Anne-Maree, Roslyn and Marita** and their families.

Lillian (Outen) Lynch who turned 101 on 24/7/2013 was born in Charleville and married a local lad, **Matt Lynch**. The couple later settled in Toowoomba where Matt established himself as a popular local barber and they both actively supported the Brothers and the College when their 3 lads enrolled. Lillian was always to the fore assisting at the Tuckshop and on the Ladies Auxiliary Committee, helping at Balls, Fetes and Sporting events.

The family were keen supporters of students at Athletic Carnivals, with Lillian always concerned that Matt could get too excited when the finishes were close. As a young woman she was a good Netball and Tennis player; but her favourite recreation was fishing – for yellow belly, something she learnt in her early days fishing on the banks of the Warrego River at Charleville.

Lillian is survived by sons, **Neil** who cared for her in her later years, **Allan** and daughter **Julie (Junkiewicz)**. **Ray** her eldest son predeceased her in January 2011. A large congregation gathered in St Patrick's Cathedral on the Feast of the Assumption, 15/8/13, to Celebrate Lillian's Life.

Francis Mead – 26/5/19 – 25/6/2013

- Frank was born to **William & Elizabeth Mead** on 26th May 1919 in Toowoomba. His early childhood was spent with his Dad opening railway stations along the Gore Highway, between Toowoomba and Goondiwindi, while his mother raised goats, chooks and sheep while caring for a very hard working husband.

The family returned to Toowoomba where Frank attended St Mary's College in 1928 and 1929, coming under the influence of **Rev Brother J P Lacey**. The Meads then relocated to Dalby where he attended the Convent School giving him the opportunity to learn music which he was to enjoy throughout his life. Between 1933 and 1935 he was enrolled at Downlands College, passing his sub-junior and junior, before gaining a position with the Queensland National Bank in Dalby. He took an active interest in the Theatre and Music, loved horse riding and once was caught speeding down the main street of Dalby on his push bike.

Frank was a member of the Citizens Military Force and played drums in the pipe band. Always a man of the Empire he enlisted in the Australian Army with his best mate when war broke out and trained at Redbank and Singleton, NSW.

He set off on what he and his Dalby mates believed was 'great adventure', celebrating his 21st birthday in Cape Town on their way to Scotland. They were stationed at Salisbury Plains and once on leave in London, they watched the 'best fireworks display' you could ever witness during the Blitz from the rooftop of the Savoy Hotel.

Then they were off again on a ship to the Middle East to be stationed at Gizrah near the pyramids, before embarking at Alexandria bound for Crete, only to be diverted to Tobruk where the Australian 29th Battalion earned the name 'Rats of Tobruk'. Repatriated from Tobruk, the troops spent Christmas 1941 in Aleppo, Syria, before heading back to Australia for rehabilitation and further training for their action at Milne Bay.

After four troop train trips, Cairns to Brisbane and back and three DC3 plane flights over the Owen Stanley Ranges he married Joan Gallagher, the lass he had met in Sydney when doing his early training at Singleton, on 6th June 1944. Post War the Meads settled in Toowoomba, before Frank purchased a property at Jimbour to grow wheat. In 1957 the family relocated to Sandgate where Frank worked for **Charles Hope**, Hills Hoists and finally at the Audit Office, GPO in Queen Street, until retirement in 1979. Sadly Joan passed away in 1987, but Frank enjoyed his main interests in life after retirement, his music, playing the violin and photography and two visits to China in 1996 and 1999.

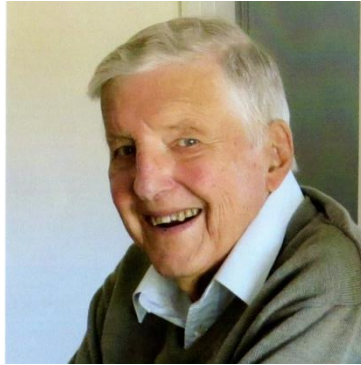
Frank regularly attended our TBOBA gatherings at the Irish Club until March 2009 enjoying particular rapport with **Jack Fallon and Kevin Healy** who had seen action in PNG. He died at the Star Nursing Home in Beaudesert on 25 June 2013, aged 94 years and 1 month old and is survived by his daughter **Frances (Taylor)** and son **William**.





Brigadier Ian James Meibusch AM (Retired)

- Ian was born on 8th January 1933 to **Margaret and Lou Meibusch**. Lou worked in the Post Office all his working life, rising to be the Superintendent of Mails for South West Queensland. Margaret had been Deputy Matron of the Toowoomba General Hospital before her marriage.



A good sportsman, Lou had earned his Wallaby Cap No. 119 before World War II and then was a winger in the Toowoomba Rugby League Team captained by his brother, **Bob**, a half back in 1919, 1920 and 1921 and was a member of the 1920 and 1922 Toowoomba Valley's R.L. premierships sides.

The Meibusch family had arrived in Brisbane in 1866, after walking from a village outside Potsdam, near Berlin, to Hamburg, the year before. The maternal and paternal parents of Margaret's family were Polish; but had come from West Prussia, not too far from Potsdam, and they, too, came through Brisbane, arriving over the course of the 1880's.

Lou and Margaret settled into their new home in Bridge St, Toowoomba, erected by Lou's brother Bill and Ian began his Primary Education at the Holy Angels' Convent School on the Range. In grade 4 he was enrolled at St Mary's College, meeting up with lifelong friends **Brian Gagen, John Mulheron, Brian Hodgen** and others. He enjoyed participating in interschool sports, mostly Rugby and Cricket.

It was the later years of World War II and with the company of these lads, he rode his bike across town to the College and enjoyed mucking around the Range escarpment and the Toowoomba Quarry on weekends. On one occasion **Brian Gagen** and Ian rode their bikes the 50 miles out to **Uncle Jack Meibusch's** at Dalby, returning the next day. Fortunately there were no westerly winds blowing on the outward journey. On Saturdays he attended the movie matinee at the Strand picture theatre, rather than the Empire theatre where the other tribe of his class went.

Ian contracted osteomyelitis and his recovery was enhanced with the availability of the new wonder drug penicillin and the nursing care of his mother. He had to defer playing Rugby and took up tennis and became a valued member of the College Athletic Squad, as some of his father's pace became evident. Returning to Rugby in his Sub-Senior and Senior years he joined **Des Purcell** as the second breakaway in the First XV and it is recorded

how they were both always in the 'thick of things' during matches. Ian was also the wicket keeper in the First XI Cricket squad.

It was in the College Cadet Corps that Ian Meibusch excelled. The Federal Government had introduced compulsory military training in 1950 with the advantage for a member of a cadet unit being that his period of training would be shorter after leaving school. That year the College Cadet Company was divided into four platoons under 2IC Cdt-Lieut Ian Meibusch, assisted by **Cdt Lieuts John Mulheron, Neil Purcell, Kev McErlean and Kev Everding**. Ian did a remarkably efficient job and frequently visiting instructors commented on how fortunate the College was to have such a leader.

Applications for Duntroon were called later in 1950 and Ian was selected for entry, after satisfying a Brisbane Specialist about his osteo recovery. He travelled by steam train from Toowoomba to Sydney on his way to Royal Military College in Canberra with **Brian Gagen** who was taking up his vocation to become a Missionary of the Sacred Heart (MSC) Priest at Douglas Park NSW. Ian was Cadet No. 1324 in the 1951 January intake.

Ian graduated in December 1954 into the Royal Australian Artillery and then completed a regional officers' gunnery course at the School of Artillery at North Head, undertaking the Air Defence element of the course. He was then posted to the National Service Training Battalion in Holsworthy and later as Adjutant, 24 Heavy Ack Ack Regiment, a CMF Unit in Western Australia and then in the same role with 3 Field Regiment, also in Western Australia.

On returning from the West in 1959 and after further regimental experience with 1 Field Regiment at Holsworthy, Ian was chosen to attend the 2½ year long Technical Staff Officers' Course at the Royal Military College of Science at Shirvenham in the United Kingdom, followed by a six month attachment to relevant British Army establishments.

Having completed the Course and with qualifications 'PTSC', Ian's future career, as expected, was redirected towards the areas of military technical application and material support which was to benefit the Army and Defence during the rest of his service. His postings from the rank of Major to Brigadier all related to either manpower employment and training or technical and scientific development. Highlights were:

- Operational Research with the Office of the Scientific Adviser to the Military Board
- Field Operational Research at HQ Australian Forces, Vietnam, including post operational research carried out after the battle of Long Tan



- Commander Australia Guided Weapons Trials Unit, Woomera
- Senior Technical Staff Officer, Washington DC
- Director Armaments and Electronic Materials
- Defence Science Representative Australia Defence Staff, London
- Director General, Army Quality Assurance
- Director General, Material Army

In 1979, while on the Staff in London, Ian was presented with the 'Order of Australia' by Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace. The citation reads, 'For professional ability and dedication to duty in the field of Acquisition at the national and international level'.

Ian retired from the Army in 1985 and worked for the Metal Trades Industries Association, running, as part of his work, the Australian Aerospace Industries Association, and also having a key role in the Defence Manufacturers Council. Running the Aerospace Association took him, most years to Air Shows overseas. In 1987 Ian and his wife **Helen** attended the Paris Air Show and afterwards visited the Holy Land and Egypt. The Aerospace work was something he took with him when he moved to aircraft manufacturer, Hawker de Havilland, to run their Canberra office, until he retired in 1998. In that role, he was on a committee advising then Defence Minister, Kim Beasley, on defence industry issues.

In retirement, Ian enjoyed Bledisloe Cup Rugby matches and was a keen supporter of the Brumbies. As a Life Member of our Toowoomba Brothers Old Boys' Association, he kept in close contact with the College and former classmates, Brian Gagen and John Mulheron. In 1998 Ian was the Guest of Honour at the St Mary's Graduation Ball, a fitting return to his 'Alma Mater' as he had been presented with the College 'Character and Leadership' Award in his Senior Year, 1950. Twelve months ago he was amongst the guests at the College for the Awards Ceremony on 26/7/12, as part of Catholic Education Week in Toowoomba when 3 students received their prestigious Defence Force Technical Scholarships.

In 2010, accompanied by his son, **Chris**, he revisited Perth where his grand-daughters were playing hockey for their Universities in the Australian University Games there, giving Ian the opportunity to catch up with a couple of National Service mates from his old CMF unit at the local Bowls Club. Well, when he entered the room it was packed with over 100 ex National Servicemen all in their 70s or 80s and there is an announcement from the M.C. over the public address system.

'Gentlemen, please be upstanding for our Guest of Honour, our adjutant from 1955. It has taken him over 50 years to make it back; but please welcome back to the West, Captain **now** Brigadier (retired) Ian Meibusch AM.'

Son, Chris, was stunned; but Ian didn't blink an eyelid and worked the room for 3 hours.

Ian had met his future wife, **Helen (Loof)** at a Duntroon recreational dance and later, when she was nursing at the Royal North Shore Hospital while he was at the gunnery course at the School of Artillery at North Head. They married in 1955 just as Ian was posted to Perth where their sons, Peter and Chris, were born. By the time they returned to Canberra in 1963 they had lived in 18 houses,

But they were exciting years – Ian and Helen saw the world, with postings beyond familiar places, to Perth, Western Australia, England (twice), Woomera, the United States and for Ian, shorter periods in Far North Queensland, Papua New Guinea, with US forces in Hawaii and also two tours to Vietnam.

In retirement Ian devoted himself completely to Helen who had not been well, for quite a few years, while he had some serious health challenges emerging for himself. Helen passed away in 2010 and Ian, after a long battle with lung cancer on 12/7/13. He is survived by **Peter and Margaret, Chris and Janet**, 3 grandsons and 2 granddaughters and sister **Barbara**. His brother **Noel** predeceased him. Ian's full and generous life was one of commitment and hard work with a high value placed on his friendships, whether they be extended family or his mates from St Mary's or Army colleagues.

College News

- As part of his Ruby Jubilee Celebrations, 70 years as a Christian Brother, Old Boy **Rev Brother Matthew McKeon** made a welcomed visit to St Mary's College during July. He is based at St Edmund's College in Canberra.
- On 15th July there was a good roll up for the College Grandparents' Day. Those attending were treated to a tour of facilities, special assembly, music concert and morning tea.
- On Friday 12/7/13 the College Year 12 Formal was held at Rumours. Guest Speaker on that evening was **Mr Brian Carter AM** (1950 – 1959), Past President of the TBOBA (1964 – 1967), who retired as Chairman of the Heritage Bank in June 2012, after 3 decades in that role.
- On Tuesday 23/7/13 the College had a visit from **Mr Anthony Ryan**, the Catholic Education Week Ambassador. Anthony, an ex student of Padua College and Gregory Terrace and teacher at Gregory Terrace and Nudgee College and Assistant Principal at St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe, is now the CEO of the Edmund Rice Foundation working with the Christian Brothers Oceanic Province in their teaching of the poor in Kenya, Tanzania, PNG, East Timor and the Philippines.



- **Campbell Coghlan** has been selected in the Queensland Hockey Team and later in the year will represent the State at the National School Hockey Titles.
- The Under 15 Rugby League side recently lost their semi final match 16 v 10 to Palm Beach Currumbin High School, a very strong League school.
- **Brother Philip Pinto**, the Christian Brothers world leader, was a recent visitor to Queensland to take part in the assembly of more than 260 Christian Brothers from throughout the Oceania Province. The New Delhi born and raised religious is now in his second six year term as Superior General.
- **St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba** – The 150th Anniversary Celebrations of this school will be held on 8, 9 and 10 November 2013. Past pupils and teachers are asked to RSVP by 13 September. Invitation RSVP forms and memorabilia order forms are available on the school website www.sspst.wb.catholic.edu.au
- **TBOBA Class Reunion (Years 1950 – 1959)** – This Class Group are planning their bi-annual Toowoomba get together for November 2, 2013. Classmates please make this a Claimer Date with your Contacts: **Pat Costigan** (0432 583 498), **Justin Lunney** (4634 4756), **Michael Quinlan** (02-9997 2397) or **Graham Swenson** (0417 776 832).
- **TBOBA Class Reunion (Years 1955 – 1963)** – This event is planned for Saturday 16/11/2013 in the College TP O'Brien Function Centre. There will be a tour of the College Facilities at 2.00 pm and dinner at 6.00 pm for a 6.30pm start. Past students and their partners are welcome to attend both functions. Contacts are **Merv Paddison** on (07-5444 6716) or (0427 631 620). Email a_mpaddison1@bigpond.com and Kevin Bowden (0404 471 349).
- Roslyn and Ted Bowling (1941 – 1947) plan to be in Queensland during September for a break from their home in Yarra Glen, Victoria and Ted, a Life Member, hopes to be at our Brisbane TBOBA gathering on 20 September 2013.
- Old Boys celebrating birthdays recently have been **Pat Long** (80), **John Orford** (80), **Ron Roney**, **Fr Hal Ranger**, **Justin Dwyer**, **Fred Lincoln** and **Jim Barron**. Jimmy turned 90 and as usual reported for work at 'Cracker Print and Paper' where he has worked for 30 years saying, 'I don't feel like my real age'.
- **Justin & Yvonne McErlean** returned home from their 4 week overland trip to Normanton and Karumba just in time for the birth of their new grandson, **Samuel** on 7/8/13. He is the son of **Sally and Greg** (Year 12 – 1998). They travelled via Rockhampton and Charters Towers, heading north and by way of Cloncurry and Longreach on the homeward leg.
- **Bernie Collins** is just home too after an extensive trip to Cape York. He managed to visit the Cooktown Museum on the way north, had a game of Lawn Bowls at Weipa and inspected the World War II gunnery emplacements and Japanese Pearl Diver's Cemetery on Thursday Island. Now he is going to Canberra to play in the Masters Squash Tournament over two weeks.
- Back in Toowoomba after 22 months on an overseas backpacking holiday is **Dan Sleeman** (Year 12 – 2007). More recently he worked on drilling rigs in Canada and then visited South America.
- As part of the Toowoomba Vinnies June Community Sleep-out at Gold Park, our St Mary's College Principal, **Michael Newman**, and Old Boys **John Olive** and **Shane Fitzpatrick** joined Regional business community leaders to spend an uncomfortable night under the stars, experiencing what many homeless people face overnight. The event raised \$120,000 with the funds all going directly to the St Vincent de Paul homeless services in Toowoomba.
- Old Boy, **David Goodwin**, will be the fourth candidate on the LNP Senate ticket in the coming Federal Election. He was a Year 12 student in 1995 and the College Chess Champion. David later graduated with a Double Major Commerce Degree and now operates his Inter Port cargo business in Brisbane.
- Life Member **Bryan Blacka** and his wife **Christine** have been in Italy where Christine played in the Hockey Masters Competition. Later they plan visits to England, Ireland and Scotland.
- **John** and **Annette Drew** are off on a visit to Canada, travelling via San Francisco. They will be based at Hamilton on the Great Lakes during September.
- **Terry Shooter** (Senior 1966) and a Beenleigh resident has recently retired from the Correctional Services Department after a lengthy period of service. He plans to attend one of our TBOBA gatherings in Brisbane in the future.
- Attending this year's Confraternity Rugby League Carnival in Townsville was Old Boy **Jason Coonan** who had represented St Mary's College at similar Carnivals in 1987 and 1988. This year he was back as Assistant Coach of the St John's (Roma) side with sons **Alex** and twins **William** and **Joseph**, members of the winning Division 'C' competition team. In their 6 wins at the Carnival, the lads scored 13 tries between them – Alex (6), William (3) and Joe (4). They will play with 'Cities' in their grade final in the Roma Rugby League Competition. They are the grandsons of **Barry** and **Ros Coonan** and nephews of **Ashley** (1980 – 1986) while Jason is a Regional Manager for the National Bank in Roma.
- Good to see Old Boy, **Tony Gollan** leading in a few winners in recent weeks. 'Tornado Miss' and 'The Storeman' gave him a double at Doomben on Saturday 17/8/13 and he managed further winners 'Listen Son' at Eagle Farm on 24/8/13 and 'Rocket to Glory' at Doomben on 31/8/13.