



# The Old Virgilian

Magazine of the Old Virgilians Association  
Volume 23 No.36

## OVA Website

To keep up to date with all OVA news and events, in particular details of the Centenary celebrations, please mark [www.oldvirgilians.org.au](http://www.oldvirgilians.org.au) as one of your favourites.

[www.oldvirgilians.org.au](http://www.oldvirgilians.org.au)

## Coming Events

### OVA Luncheons

Tuesday June 27, 12.30pm at Austins Ferry

Tuesday September 26, 12.30pm at Austins Ferry

Tuesday November 28, 12.30pm at Junior School, Hobart.

### SVC Community Football Luncheon

Friday July 28, 12 noon at Blundstone Arena

### OVA Centenary Golf Day

Friday November 10, 11am at Royal Hobart Golf Club.

### OVA Annual Mass

featuring welcoming of the Class of 2017 to the OVA. Tuesday November 28,  
11.30am, St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart

Ticket Details for all events are available from the OVA website – [www.oldvirgilians.org.au](http://www.oldvirgilians.org.au)

## Office Bearers

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Sincere thanks to the hard working committee who continue to manage the OVA in a professional and highly effective manner. All contributions to The Old Virgilian are greatly appreciated.

**The deadline for the next edition is  
Friday September 29, 2017.**

# OVA Centenary... A Weekend of Celebrations

On the weekend of May 20 and 21, Old Scholars from across the nation gathered in Hobart for a weekend of events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Old Virgilians' Association (OVA). Just six years after the formation of St Virgil's College in 1911, a committee led by former State Premier Albert Ogilvie was formed and the Association was born.

Over its 100 years it has provided social, networking and sporting opportunities to generations of old scholars and their friends. The Association has been a part of sporting groups that still exist today including cricket, football and athletics clubs. The OVA have supported old scholars in need and also conduct an annual dinner to recognise and celebrate the achievements of famous alumni who are inducted into the Heritage Roll of Honour. Some famous names on the Honour Roll include Harold Gatty, Albert Ogilvie, Michael Di Venuto, Archbishop Adrian Doyle, Geoff Hook, Simon Hollingsworth, Dr Scott Brennan, Doug Lowe, William Cox, Paul Lennon and John Kelly to name but a few of its decorated alumni.

The OVA Centenary Weekend celebrated the achievements of the Association and the generations of young men who have attended the College and gone on to make significant contributions to community and their families.

Key events for the weekend included:

- OVA Centenary Mass at the St Virgil's Chapel at Barrack St which was celebrated by Emeritus Archbishop Adrian Doyle.
- OVA Centenary Dinner at Wrest Point Hotel. Guest speakers on the night included His Grace Archbishop Julian Porteous, Br Bill Wilding and James Henderson who delivered a stirring address about what it means to be a man of 'deeds and not words alone'.

- OVA Open Day and Book Launch at the Austins Ferry campus. A highlight was the launch of the OVA History book authored by Christine Woods and the unveiling of the Centenary plaque.

On Wednesday June 21, old scholars will again gather at a reception at Government House to celebrate the centenary of the Association and the contribution that Old Virgilians have made to the Tasmanian community.

The final event for the Centenary year will be the OVA Centenary Golf Day on Friday November 10 at the Royal Hobart Golf Club. An entry form is included with this edition of Words and Deeds and is also available at [www.oldvirgilians.org.au](http://www.oldvirgilians.org.au)





- 1-2. Guests at the OVA Centenary Dinner
3. Unveiling of the OVA Centenary Plaque
4. OVA centenary Dinner at Wrest Point Hotel



## Old Virgilians Cricket



After a successful 2016/17 season in terms of numbers, the Club is set to re-load and improve its on-field performance. Important information is highlighted below, so please round up your mates and get on board the Saints!

### FREE CRICKET AGAIN

4th Grade - Training Wednesday Nights  
Coached by Ken Allanby  
Free Shirt and Cap to all new players  
Family Club – A great opportunity for Father and Son duos!

Any extra information contact  
Stephen Bourke 0409450044 or  
[bourkey111@gmail.com](mailto:bourkey111@gmail.com)





# Old Boys News

It is always pleasing to hear from Old Virgilians and learn about their wonderful achievements. It reinforces the depth of our partnership with boys as they continue their learning journey and the efforts of our amazing staff. Robert Scott recently contacted the College to advise, "that I have finally graduated from engineering (first class honours) and business, and I am now working for TasNetworks as an electrical engineer. Firstly, thank you Mr Thomson for making me think about a career in engineering. Your guidance and discussions were a big factor in my eventual career decision".

Robert also kindly offered to visit the College to "talk to classes about doing engineering, or applying some of the mathematics fundamentals that they are learning about to real world problems". This reinforces the strength of community and the deep connections our Old Virgilians have to the College, its staff and students.

## SOLO17

On Sunday May 14 it was take off time for Ollie O'Halloran (SVC 2013-2016), left, in his endeavour to become the youngest person to fly solo around Australia.

Ollie's story is a remarkable tale of skill, endeavour and commitment. He shared these traits with a number of schools at stop offs around the country, in the process inspiring students to follow their own dreams!

1-3. OVA March Luncheon at Austins Ferry campus



Ollie's daily flight schedule was:

Start	End
Hobart (Cambridge)	Traralgon
Traralgon	Merimbula
Merimbula	Coffs Harbour
Coffs Harbour	Gold Coast
Gold Coast	Rockhampton
Rockhampton	Cairns
Cairns	Normanton
Normanton	Darwin
Darwin	Broome
Broome	Karratha/ Port Headland
Karratha / Port Headland	Geraldton
Geraldton	Jandakot
Jandakot	Esperance
Esperance	Ceduna
Ceduna	Parafield
Parafield	Devonport
Devonport	Hobart (Cambridge)

## From the Archives

Graeme Rainbow and Bruce Woods College Archivists

In this the Centenary year of the Old Virgilians Association it is indeed a wonderful example of what our old scholars can achieve if they match their big dreams and talents with hard work and perseverance.

Robert Scanlon contacted the Development Office to share his findings from a detailed read of 'Tasmania 40 Degrees South'. On a cold and wet Sunday afternoon, I read the weekend papers and was catching up on a few magazines. In "Tasmania 40 Degrees South" Issue 71 the current issue, there were two articles worthy of mention in the Old Virgilian.

The first article was titled, "Tassie TV's Half Century" an article on the first 50 years of television in Hobart, that focused on TVT 6 and all the photos in the article were attributed to Bruce Woods, and "The Woods Collection". Bruce was quoted on several occasions in the article, on his historical recollections of TV's Hobart History. There were several photos of Bruce himself in the article.

The second article was titled "Sheffield's Festival of Steam" and was a collaborative effort between John Redeker and his wife Judy. John is a photographer of note, and can be seen exhibiting his photos and cards at markets such as the Sorell Market. There were a good collection of photos of steam tractors and other steam driven machinery, taken by John, and his wife was the writer who wrote the article.

## The Refurbishment of the Galvin Wing at Austins Ferry

In the latter part of 2016, there was an official opening of the refurbishment of the original classroom block at Austins Ferry. The block is called the Galvin Wing. Little mention was made during the various addresses as to the man whose name the building bears.

So who was John Galvin?

**Sir John Galvin MBE**  
(1908-1994) (SVC 1921-26)



John Galvin was born in 1908 and was one of seven children whose father was an odd-jobs man at His Majesty's Theatre which was located in the upper end of Liverpool St between Murray and Harrington Streets.

What follows has been gleaned from various newspaper clippings contained in the College's archives and from Tim Jetson's 'St Virgil's College (1911-94)'. It is extraordinary that no biography appears to have been written on this 'larger than life' character.

From the Sun-Herald (16/12/62):  
*A Mr Alan Watt was quoted thus: John*



# Hooker

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**SVC 88-93**



*Galvin went to the same school – St Virgil’s Christian Brothers in Barrack St – as I had gone to 10 years earlier. I remember at one time, things got so tough for the father that it looked as though he would have to take John and his other boys from the College because he could not afford the fees. But the Brothers told him to keep sending the boys and forget the fees for the time being,” said Mr Watt.*

*Mr Watt said that John Galvin apparently never forgot the generosity of his old school. Some years ago Galvin was said to have bestowed £50 000 on the school and more recently £100 000 towards the cost of new classrooms for St Virgil’s at Austins Ferry.*

*Watt also recalled that as a boy Galvin was something of a local hero – he won a Royal Humane Society award for rescuing a boy from drowning. Records still held by the Society show that on 15 February 1921, a group of boys were swimming in the Derwent River when one of them got out of his depth. Galvin, only twelve years old and a poor swimmer, didn’t hesitate when he heard the boy’s cries for help. He went out to him and dragged him into shallow water.*

The same John Galvin became a multi-millionaire and was reported “to have a fortune that equals, if not exceeds, that of J Paul Getty, said to be worth £50 million, and listed as the richest man in America.” (People Magazine - 24/05/61)

John Galvin worked initially in the newspaper industry in Australia, New Zealand and England. In 1937 he moved to South East Asia where his fortune grew through his further involvement with newspapers, and, later on, with tin and iron ore mining and associated shipping ventures.

He was one of the very few to interview the Chinese dictator, Mao Tse-tung.

In 1944 Galvin returned to Australia. Soon after the British government appointed him second-in-charge of a wartime information service to be set up in New Delhi and aimed at directing Allied propaganda all over Asia and the Middle East.

In the mid-1950s, the Galvins – now a family of seven with three daughters and two sons – moved to the United States where he moved into property in a very big way. Among other things, he acquired ranches totalling 50,000 acres, plus grazing rights to a further 60 000 acres of national forest land. His land acquisition, made Galvin the greatest cattle baron in California, rivalling the earliest great landowners in California 150 years earlier, when California was under Spanish rule.

In 1964 John Galvin received a knighthood for his services to Malaya. He was appointed a Hospitaller of the Knights of Malta (the first English speaker to hold office since the Order’s foundation in the 11th century).

He served as a member of the committee that advises the Pope on charitable activities. In 1971 Sir John was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by the National University of Ireland for his academic interest and his role in the Sisters of Charity teaching hospital at University College, Dublin.

Following his death in 1994, John’s son, Sean, granted permission for the magnificent contribution made by his father to the College to be publicly recognised.

The actual bank cheque was made out to Brother E. D. Joyce, whom Galvin described as ‘mighty religious who served God well’.

One wonders, what may have eventuated at the Austins Ferry property had not the College received an extraordinary donation?

With the opening of the Austins Ferry campus £225,000 had been expended of which £110,000 had been received from John Galvin.

John Galvin was inducted posthumously onto the St Virgil’s College Heritage Roll of Honour in 2009.

## An extra ordinary set of academic results

The extract from the Hobart Mercury ‘Scholarships, Prize List’ (p.23 January 14, 1956) was recently sent to the Archives Office. It stated that as a outcome of the 1955 Matriculation Examinations, St Virgil’s students gained five of the top 25 places listed, most notably:

- Peter Heerey, Brian Doyle and James Kelly (=5th)
- David Hawkes and Barry Jones (=19th).

Furthermore, students from the College won four of the subject prizes for which they were eligible:

- English Literature (Brian Doyle)
- Physics and Chemistry (James Kelly)
- Latin (Peter Heerey)
- Andrew Ingliss Clark Scholarship for English Literature and Modern History
- Ancient History, Economic Geography - Brian Doyle (1st), Peter Heerey (2nd), Bruce Poulson (3rd) and David Hawkes (5th).

In addition:

- 10 members of the class were awarded Commonwealth Scholarships.
- 10 were awarded senior bursaries - Jim Kelly, Graham Fish, Peter Heerey, Bernard Gillon, Peter Howell, Barry Jones and John O’Loughlin.
- Four were awarded Education Department Studentships - Graham Fish, Bernard Gillon, Graham Harrington and Bruce Poulson.
- Two received Tasmanian Government Scholarships to assist with their University studies – John O’Loughlin (Agricultural Science) and Peter Howell (Medicine).

A shining example of why the College has long had an outstanding culture of academic excellence.

## Two Old Virgilian giants... lifelong friends

### J.A.G (Gavin) O'Dea



### R.J (Jim) Howard



Few, if any, would have had as much influence on the North West and West Coasts of Tasmania as Gavin O'Dea and Jim Howard. What follows is a brief synopsis of the biographies provided – the full versions are on the College's intranet and can be accessed by visitors to the Centenary History Centre. Our thanks go to the O'Dea family and to Pat Howard for their provision of the biographies.

Ronald James Howard (Jim) was born on August 30 1906 at Zeehan - Jim was the grandson of an Irish couple, Stephen and Ellen Howard, and had been transported to our island in the 1840s. Jim's father, John, and his Uncle James

travelled to Zeehan via Trial Harbour 1889 and soon made a name for themselves as firewood contractors cutting wood for the mine furnaces. John married Annie Foley in 1903 and they had three children – John, Ronald James (Jim) and Isla.

John Alfred Gavin O'Dea, known as Gavin, was born in Devonport in Tasmania on July 9, 1906. He was the middle child of Michael Patrick and Mabel O'Dea who had recently arrived in Devonport from Victoria. His father, known as Paddy, was interested in becoming involved in mining in Tasmania and he became involved with some of the mines at Renison Bell which was to play an important part of his life.

Both Gavin and Jim were sent to board at St Virgil's College in the early 1920s and they became close friends – lifelong friends.

It was mainly through the Renison Bell mine that the association developed. In 1934 Paddy O'Dea was able to start a company with the backing of friends - the Renison Associated Tin Mines (RATM). Jim Howard was a great supporter of this mining venture. Gavin worked with his father there till 1940.

In 1938 Gavin married Jessie Sutherland and they lived in Zeehan for a couple of years. In 1940 Gavin moved to Launceston where he became an insurance agent for AMP. Their first child, Brian (SVC 1953-57) was born. (He was to become a commercial airline pilot).

In 1942, Gavin's mother died and Gavin was called back to the mine to help manage it as Paddy was not coping well with her death. The family lived at Renison Bell and during this time Maureen and Gerald (SVC 1956-62) were born.

In 1946 Gavin settled in the Devonport area and returned to AMP - an association he was to maintain among a myriad of interests till 1963.

Following the War, Gavin joined the Board of Renison Associated Tin Mines which now controlled the entire Renison Bell field. In 1953 he became Chairman and in 1958 this company which did not have the capital to develop the mine, formed a new company in partnership with Mt Lyell. From then on, step by step RATM was to become by far the biggest tin mine in Australia and the biggest hard rock underground tin mine in the world. Gavin and Jim Howard stayed on the Board of this company until 1964 when it was taken over by RGC (Renison Goldfields Consolidated) which once owned and operated mines in Western Australia, Queensland, Northern Territory, Florida, West Virginia, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. Gavin resigned from the venture at that time but Jim remained involved with the new company until his death in 1968.

Gavin was elected to the Devonport Marine Board in 1947 until served on it

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until 1953. He enjoyed an interest in the port but for the rest of the 1950s he had many other interests especially the Renison mine to keep him occupied. However, when the Marine Board was in a rather difficult position in 1959 trying to get the new ferry terminal completed in time for the arrival of the Princess of Tasmania, Gavin was persuaded to put his name forward again. He was re-elected and immediately given the responsibility of getting this job finished.

In 1961 Gavin was made Master Warden (Chairman) of the Marine Board and held this position until his death in 1973. During the fifties and sixties the port took on the shape it is today.

The port was Gavin's life and he championed the Devonport region and its trade wherever he could. The terminals in Devonport and Melbourne were the first roll-on, roll-off ones built in Australia and Gavin maintained a good working relationship with the Port of Melbourne Authority.

In 2005 Gavin O'Dea was one of the initial inductees onto the Tasmanian AFL Hall of Fame in 2005. This was in

recognition of his involvement with the North West Football Union (NWFU) 1946 – 61 - for most of the time as its President.

Gavin made a great contribution to the Catholic Church. He was Chair of the committee that built the current Catholic Church at Devonport, and helped set up and chair the P&F for Our Lady of Lourdes School and aided in the Federation of Parents' & Friends for Catholic Schools. He supported the development of Catholic Secondary Education in the Devonport area which eventuated in the 1960s, a few years after he had educated his own children at St Virgil's and St Mary's in Hobart. He supported the Christian Brothers establishment of St Brendan's and was the first chairman of its School Board. He also supported Archbishop Young's push for co-education and was influential in ensuring that the girls' school was built adjacent to St Brendan's. This was at a time when the Christian Brothers were not in favour of co-education. He was the inaugural Chairman of Shaw College's Board of Management. In tribute to his work for both schools, when they became one,

the library at St Brendan's Shaw College was named after him. He was a member of the Knights of the Southern Cross and played a key role in the establishment of the Schools' Provident Fund.

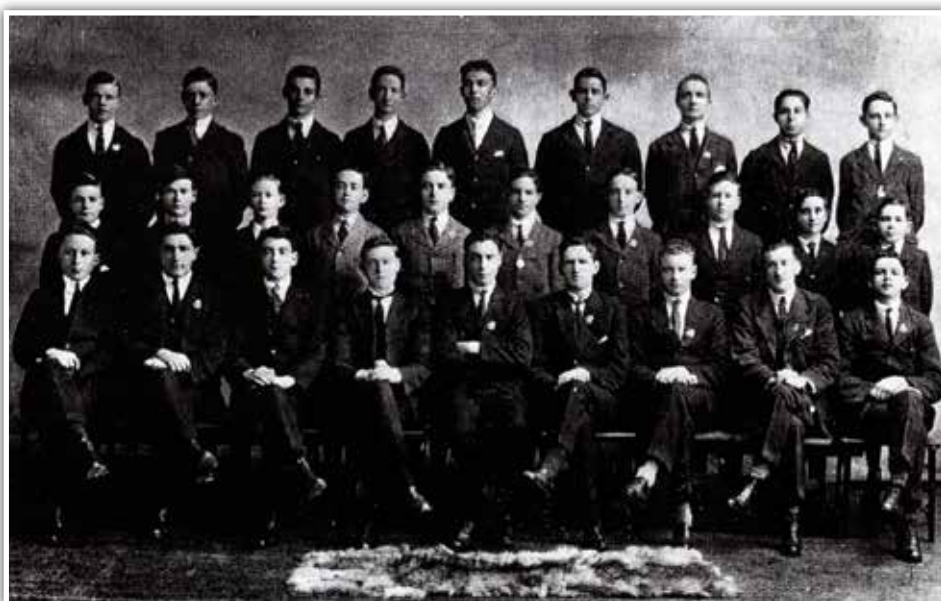
His other contributions included an association with Devonport Rotary 1953-73 during which time he served as President. He was also President of the Devonport Racing Club.

For many years he was Vice-President and Chairman of Committees for the Devonport Show Society and for a period was President of the Tasmanian Show Council.

In 1961, Gavin was honoured in the New Year's Honours listing with an MBE (an Ordinary Member of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire) for his service to the community.

Gavin died on August 24 1973 while attending a dinner in Burnie.

Upon leaving St Virgil's Jim Howard worked with his father at Zeehan for a



**1922 Intermediate Class**

Gavin O'Dea: Front Row 3rd from left. Jim Howard: Front Row 6th from left.

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SVC, 1978 - 1987



brief period. A disagreement between the two resulted in Jim spending a couple of years on the Mainland. He returned to Zeehan when his father became ill. John Howard died on 7th August 1928. Jim at the tender age of 22 now found himself responsible for some 40 workers – these men became difficult to handle at first but later became unusually loyal employees.

Once he had stabilised his father's business Jim decided to go into sawmilling and in the 1930s, he had sawmills on Confidence Saddle at Mt Dundas and by the late 1930s and early 1940s two sawmills cutting Huon Pine at Strahan. In order to keep the Strahan mills supplied with timber he had to maintain large gangs of men up the Gordon River. In order to get the best results he paid good men good wages.

In 1943 Jim closed the Strahan sawmills and opened an all new electric mill at Zeehan. In later years he also had some contract sawmills operating for him at Princess River and the Bushy Park area. These he found to be lucrative as he did not have to worry about operating or supplying the mill. Business could all be done by the occasional visit or over the telephone.

Jim spread his wings beyond the timber industry. His involvement with the Renison Bell mine has already been mentioned. He operated hardware stores in Zeehan, Rosebery and Queenstown, a drapery store in Zeehan and also established a Launceston to Queenstown Transport Service.

In 1934 he married Kathleen Sarah Reynolds in the Zeehan Catholic Church. Kathleen's father had been a leading Zeehan identity both as a business man and as a councillor for many years.

Her brother Frank had also been a St Virgil's boy. Four sons, Patrick, Graeme, Julian and Paul were born to the marriage. Patrick and Graeme attended St Virgil's - Graeme later became a Priest.

In 1934 the Zeehan Council (which administered Zeehan, Rosebery, Tullah, Renison Bell and Williamsford) failed and in accordance with Section 13 of the Local Government Act it was replaced by a Commission. In 1939 Jim Howard was approached by two commissioners to fill a vacant position as commissioner. He was pleased to accept and later went on to set a record on the Zeehan local government scene serving in the office of commissioner for 29 years with no fewer than fourteen of them as Chairman.

Jim Howard was a Justice of the Peace, Chairman of the Court, Chairman of the Zeehan Hospital Board and Medical Union and was patron of nearly all of the Zeehan sporting bodies.

On September 21 1968, Jim suffered a fatal heart attack in Melbourne while preparing to return from a Director's meeting. His death was reported in the Hobart Mercury and the Advocate as the death of the unofficial 'King of Zeehan'!

## Two Major Anniversaries in 2017

### The Bombing of Darwin 75 years on

Two of our former students have a particular association with this event.

### Air Vice Marshal Alan Morehouse Charlesworth CBE

(1903-78) (SVC 1916-19)

Heritage Roll Induction: 2010.



Alan rose to the rank of Air Commodore and was posted to Darwin as air officer commanding the north western area.

His squadrons carried out strikes in support of the allied drive from New Guinea to the Philippines.

Alan was awarded a CBE for his skilful conduct of these operations.



## Andrew Jones

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## Dr Tom Lewis OAM (SVC 1971-74)



Tom is an Australian author, military historian, editor, teacher, and former naval officer. An author since 1989, Lewis worked as a high school teacher, and served as naval officer for 20 years, seeing active service in Baghdad during the Iraq war, and working in East Timor.

After reconstituting the Royal Australian Naval College Historical Collection, with which his Order of Australia is largely connected, Lewis was the Director of the Darwin Military Museum from 2009 until April 2014, following which he took up full-time research on several World War I and II projects.

## Black Tuesday Bushfires 1967

The following is taken from St Virgil's College 1911-1994 (Jetson 1994) and from Br Sean McManus from the Brothers Annals of the day.

Fire reached the school with extraordinary speed. A line of fire could be seen running moving down the hills from the Northwest but we felt confident that they could not cross the highway and that the school was safe. Then the fires broke out in the timber on the river side. Within minutes the school was enveloped in a pall of smoke and the boys who had been praying the Rosary in the classrooms were taken

out on to the lawn beside the hall where they were supplied with drinks and ice-cream from the tuck shop.

It was felt that there was sufficient clear space around the buildings to ensure their safety and no attempt was made to stop the progress of the fire through the property because it was considered too dangerous to have the boys fight the fires.

The Cresswell home (recently purchased) was destroyed by the fire but the 'scout hut' was saved by the heroic efforts of the tenant, Alan Tilyard, and his wife who used the hose as long as they considered it safe to stay. Finally they were forced to leave and as they drove off their car caught alight and they fled on foot carrying their baby. The car was burnt completely.

The train was unable to get through to collect the boys and late in the afternoon the staff hailed buses and private cars to take the boys to town.

Whilst Austins Ferry was facing the onslaught of the bushfires, the Brothers at the Senior School at Barrack St in the City had finished school at lunchtime. A number of them, realising the worsening situation, and perhaps receiving a phone call, gathered mops, sacks and containers filled with water, and headed out in a vehicle to help at Austins Ferry. However they didn't get there! The Brooker Highway was blocked by fire at Claremont. Brothers including John Sullivan John Virgin and John Webb got out and fought with vigour to save homes and furniture. They were seen carrying elderly and infirm people out of houses to safety.

Further away at Southport, the 'Big House' built in 1875, which had in the 1960s become the Brothers Holiday House, was the only building to survive the destruction of the town on that day, and it served as a refuge for the locals.

Given the damage across the south of Tasmania it was somewhat ironic that the next day was Ash Wednesday.

## 2017 Australia Day Awards

### Mitch McPherson (SVC 2000-03)



Mitch was the Young Tasmanian of the Year nominee at the 2017 National Australia Day Awards in Canberra.

Mitch established the Speak Up! Stay ChatTY organisation after his younger brother Ty took his own life in 2013. The organisation is a registered not for profit charity that works to help prevent suicide by spreading the message that nothing is so bad that you can't talk about it.

Mitch and a group of friends recently completed a 360 kilometre run from Burnie to Hobart as a major fundraising event.



## 2017 Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) Recipients

**Alan William Robertson CSM, RDF**  
(SVC 1954-60)

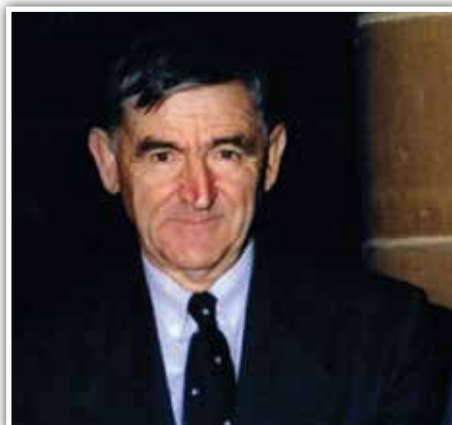


Squadron Leader Alan Robertson served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Tasmanian divisions of the Royal Australian Air Force Association (since 2011) and the Royal United Services Institute of Australia (since 1982).

He was also state president of the RUSIA from 1980-81 and has been a member since 1970.

The squadron leader was also chair of the Training Information Programme at the Department of Veterans' Affairs from 2010 to 2016.

**Robert John McManus**  
(SVC 1949-56)



Robert McManus has served the community through a range of social welfare organisations including St John Ambulance, St Vincent de Paul Society, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hobart, the Bible Society of Australia, the Seven Mile Beach Volunteer Fire Brigade and Lifeline.

Previously a list of former students who had been the recipients of civic awards was published. Two additional names have come to light since then:

**Gavin O'Dea**

Gavin was honoured with an MBE in 1961 for his service to the community.

**Geoff Hook**

Geoff awarded an OAM in 2012 for, "service to the print media as a political and social commentator, and as a cartoonist".

## Old Boys in the News

**Mark Beck**



Above: Mark (far left) with the Hobart FC Leadership Group which includes Captain Sam Reeves (further right), Vice Captain Tim Langdale (front left) and Deputy Vice Captain Rosco Hugo (second from right)

Mark has taken over the helm at the Hobart Football Club. After a few years in the wilderness Mark has worked hard to create a culture for sustainable success. This has involved the club being active within the community and making a conscious effort to recruit good people. Not surprisingly this approach has attracted many Old Virgilains to the club, as evidenced by the photo featuring the Hobart Leadership Group undertaking volunteer work at Ronald McDonald House.

**Fr Peter Woodruff**  
(Boarder 1957-60)

**Dan Rogers**  
(Boarder 57-59)

Just prior to Christmas Fr Peter Woodruff (boarder 1957-60 and a Priest in Peru for 40 years) and Dan Rogers (boarder 57-59) visited former Christian Brother Brendan Delahunt who resides at Rose Adult Care Hospice in Rose St, Highett in Melbourne. Brendan was a Science teacher and noted for his football prowess playing for the Old Virgilians. He was also a red-hot handball player. Brendan has been in a wheelchair permanently for some years and would love a visitor or two!

## Hayden Ransley

(SVC 2012-2015)

Congratulations to Hayden who has been accepted into the Tasmanian Police Academy 2017 intake. Hayden was one of a number of GYC students who attended the Tasmanian Police Career Development Program (CDP) in 2016. This is a four-day live-in program held at the Rokeby Police Academy for Year 12 students.

## Ian Reynolds

John Shaw recently visited the home of Ian Reynolds an old Virgilian who lives in Chifley, ACT. Ian turned 90 this month. He was in the same class in 1937 as Mark Cook and Ashton Shirley.

## Ben Kluss (Jamin)

(SVC 1988-93)



Jamin is an Australian artist, who lives and works in Hobart. Jamin's artistic practice extends from gallery-based paintings and installations to street art, murals and commissioned interiors – exploring process based painting, masks and masking, and political and social concerns.



Jamin has exhibited widely across Australia over ten years and his work is held in private and public collections, including the interiors of the two MONA ferries that patrol the Derwent River.

He was selected for 'Contemporary Australia: Optimism' at the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) in 2008 and a recipient of the Rosamund McCulloch Studio Residency at the Cité International des Arts in Paris in 2011.

Jamin is currently a PhD candidate at the Tasmanian College of the Arts, UTAS, and is represented by Despard Gallery, Hobart.

Jamin is currently completing a cat mural for the Cat Clinic in New Town (above) and also did the highly acclaimed 'Born in Brunswick' café façade in North Hobart.

Some of Jamin's other work can be viewed by accessing: [www.jamin.com.au](http://www.jamin.com.au)

## Dr Ben Arthur

(SVC1999-2002)



Dr Ben Arthur is an ecologist working for the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies.

He is investigating the foraging habits of fur seals in the Southern Ocean. The accompanying photo is of Ben on Marion Island about halfway between Africa and Antarctica.

## Nathan Earle

(SVC 2013-04)



2017 has started well for 28 year old cyclist Nathan Earle despite being left without a ride for this season following the merger of his Drapac team with Cannondale to form the Cannondale-Drapac team. Fortunately he was able to secure a late contract with the Team Ukyo from Japan.



On January 4 Nathan finished 22nd (field of 65) in the National Men's Elite Criterium Championship raced over 44 km at Ballarat. He went clear of the peloton after 16 laps and led the race solo for the ensuing 12 laps. As a consequence of he won the Jayco Sprint Competition.

On January 8 in a field of 119 riders, Nathan gained a fifth placing at the National Elite Men's Road Race over 183.6 Km at Buninyong in Victoria.

In the 2017 Santo Tour Down Under Nathan finished 11th in a field of 133 riders representing 28 different countries. The teams' Section was won by UniSA – Nathan was a member of this team and was its highest placed rider.

## Lance Spaulding (SVC 1972-77)



## Aaron Vince (SVC 1991-94)



## Adam Henley (SVC 1989-94)



Congratulations to Lance Spaulding (SVC 1972-77) and Aaron Vince (SVC 1991-94). Lance has been appointed as coach of Under 18 Tassie Mariners. He was an outstanding schoolboy footballer and had a stellar career with Sandy Bay.

He went on to coach Sandy Bay (1995-96) and North Hobart (2011-13) prior to becoming involved with State teams.

Aaron who was previously a development coach at the Kingborough Tigers, was elevated to the senior role early in the season. For the previous eight years, that club had been coached by Adam Henley (SVC 1989-94). For the first five of these years the team was in the Southern Football League (Premiers in 2011) prior to being elevated to the Statewide League.

Previous to joining Kingborough, Adam had played and coached at the Glenorchy Football Club.

## Who was the best footballer to attend SVC?

Brian Viney has written to the Development Office to contribute to the ongoing debate on who was the best footballer to attend SVC? He makes a compelling case for several old scholars, including:

- Eric Huxtable – played for New Town and with Carlton and South Melbourne in the VFL. Eric won a Best and Fairest at New Town as a 15 year old! He played 135 games with the Blues and 22 with the Bloods, finishing his VFL career in 1942.
- Paul Luttrell – once kicked 25 goals in a game for SVC! He played for City South in Launceston, represented Tasmania and spent time at Geelong in the VFL.
- Kerry Wilson – was a boarder from Ulverstone. He went straight from school to Hobart Football Club where he won premierships in 1963, 1966 and 1973. Kerry was in the best players in each premiership and ended his career with 287 games – a Hobart FC record!

Please feel to share your suggestions!

## Ben Bradley (SVC 2008-11)



Mountain bike rider Ben Bradley (SVC 2008-11) is off to Europe to take part in two UCI World Cup cross-country events. Through his performances in these two events, Ben hopes to qualify for the

World Championships to be held in Cairns in September. Ben is the cousin of Olympic mountain biker Sid Taberlay (SVC 1993-96).



1970 OVA 1st XVII

Back row (l-r): I.James, S.Jakins, S.Dean, F.Powell, I.Westell, B.Fisher, A.Blake, C.Denne.

Centre row: J.Parkinson, R.Martin, P.Kelly, C.Poulson, G.O'Dea, G.Treweek, S.Kelly, J.McJannett, P.Gibbons.

Front row: A.Direen, J.Peglar, R.Hays (Dep. VC), B.Viney (Pres), K.Coburn (Coach), M.Corney (VC), M.Fisher (Sec), D.Gregg, M.Quinn (Treas), D.Cleary (Mascot)

Absent: P.Dalton (Capt), B.Speers (Inj), A.Denne (Inj)

The College has recently acquired one of his Australian representative tops for display in its History Centre. Ben is a contemporary of Rio Olympian Scott Bowden. Over the summer, Ben won Tasmanian Criterium Title at Devonport and the Ulverstone criterion.

## 1958 Swimming State Champions Team

It was great to hear from Dan Rogers who responded to the request for photos from the 1950s. Dan (who is busy saying the Rosary to help his beloved Demons in 2017), kindly supplied a copy of the 1958 Swimming State Champions Team photo. It features names such as John Hewitt, Michael Shaw, Chris Hope and John Kelleher. Unfortunately as Annuals were not produced in this time Dan is unsure of the majority the names of the fit looking young men in the photo. If you are in the photo please let the Editor know!

Dan did however provide a photo of the 1970 OVA team with names included. It features some of the great names of SVC.

## Obituaries

### Geoff Grace (SVC 1936-46)

Geoff Grace commenced at the Junior School in 1936 and left the College in 1946. He was a member of the 1st XVIII which won the State premiership against Launceston Grammar. After leaving school Geoff joined the Australian Army and rose to the rank of Lieutenant. In 1953 he joined the British Colonial Service and worked for nine years in Uganda – a dangerous posting as the country moved towards independence. In Uganda he met his wife Joan Townley, a English lady who was working in Uganda at a Catholic Mission Church.

In 1962, he, Joan and sons Bill and Steven, returned to Australia where he worked with ASIO. He spent 13 years in Port Moresby before a stint in South America (Chile and Argentina). In 1983 he retired from ASIO to establish a macadamia plantation near Ballina. He joined his son Bill on a mixed farm near Ballina and remained there until his passing on November 18 2016. Geoff is survived by his wife of 60 years Joan, Bill and Steven and four grandchildren. (Thanks to John Laughlin for obituary details).

### Martin Healy

20.7.1938 – 17.5.2017

(SVC 1951-56)



Martin John Healy was the son of Martin and Nell Healy. He along with his sisters, Marie and Lillian grew up in Rosebery on Tasmania's west coast. (Marie married prominent Old Virgilian – Roger Smart).

As the Rosebery Convent School was not opened until 1958, he was initially educated at the local State School (supplemented by correspondence lessons from the Home Missionary Sisters.) In his final year of primary school he won the Electrolytic Zinc Company Scholarship - open to the children of that company's employees and the most valuable secondary schools' scholarship in Tasmania at the time.

In 1951 Martin arrived at St Virgil's College as a boarder, the beginning of a very proud and close association that would last for the remainder of his life.

Martin was elected Head Prefect in his final year, was stroke of the Head of the River crew, Captained the athletics, swimming, cross country and life saving teams and was a member of the 1st XVIII. It was therefore no surprise when he was awarded the College's 1956 'Leadership, Study and Sport' award.

Martin attended the University of Tasmania in the years that followed and gained a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1962. During this period he played with the Old Virgilians



Football Club. He was to return to UTAS years later and gained an Economics Degree in 1978.

Following the first of his degrees he worked in England for two years before returning to Tasmania to the EZ Co. at Risdon where he went on to become senior electrical engineer. After 27 years with that company, he joined PACAM as its principal electrical engineer and then Sun Metal Corp. Queensland as the Principal Electrical Engineer for the design of the new zinc plant at Townsville.

In 2002 he returned to Hobart and became specialist engineer for Hydro Tasmania Consulting. Martin continued to work right up until his passing and during his latter years with Endura (an arm of Hydro Tasmania) he demonstrated a commitment to mentoring the younger engineers.

Throughout his life Martin was a tireless worker for the aged and disadvantaged in the community and had generously given himself to a wide range of parish and church-based organisations and activities.

In 2002 he gained a Pastoral Ministry Diploma. He had an association with the St Vincent de Paul's Loui's Van for fourteen years and had actually spent the Monday evening prior to his death on the van.

Martin was extremely proud of his two sons, Paul, an orthodontist, and Matthew, a lawyer, their spouses, Yasmine and Michaela and his ten grandchildren. Paul and Matthew both attended St Peter's School, moving on to St Virgil's College. During the time his boys were at these two schools, Martin was heavily involved in the Parents & Friends and was at one time President of the SVC Parents & Friends Association.

In his latter years, Martin became a 'fun run junkie'! In 2013 he suffered a near death experience during the annual Point to Pinnacle event. In fact he was 'dead' for about twenty minutes, but fortunately skilled assistance was on hand and he made a remarkable recovery.

Such an experience did not deter Martin's yearning to be involved in fun runs. On May 17, 2017, while out training for the upcoming City to Casino

event, he suffered a heart attack and passed away. Martin Healy led a remarkable life and the size of the congregation at his funeral was testament to the love and esteem with which he was held by so many. This was previously acknowledged in 2010 when he was inducted onto the St Virgil's Heritage Roll of Honour.

## Geoffrey Royce Wright 1932-2016 (SVC 1946-48)

Geoff and his two brothers, Rex and Cliff, attended the College during the 1940s. Their three sisters attended St Mary's College. Geoff was proud of his achievements while at SVC and had a close association with it throughout the remainder of his life. Whilst at the College he was the Under 16 athletics championship and a member of the senior football side which defeated Grammar in the State premiership in 1948 – in that game he was listed first among the best players. He was also a member of the losing side in the previous year's grand final – a side captained by older brother, Rex.

Geoff married Margaret Bresnehan in 1954 and they remained inseparable for the ensuing 65 years. They had three children, Chris (SVC 1966-73), Jill, who later became Principal of Sacred Heart College, and Helen. Six grandsons have attended SVC. Chris has been an outstanding servant of the College having been a Board Member since 2005. He has recently been joined on the Board by Geoff's eldest grandson, Daniel Morgan – Jill's son.

Geoff's early post-school years were spent initially with the public service and then onto the Electrolytic Zinc Co. at Risdon. It was during this period that he played over 100 senior games with Clarence Football Club and was awarded a life membership. It was during this period that he established a very close friendship with Stuart Spencer who was to later coach the College's First



1958 Swimming State Champions Team

XVIII (1972-75) during which period three State Premiership's were won.

In 1960 Geoff accepted a transfer to the EZ Rosebery operation and whilst on the coast he won the ABC Best Player award playing on the gravel at Queenstown.

1966 saw the family moved back to Hobart where Geoff took up an offer to join Stuart Spencer at Green's Removals. From there he moved on to manage transport companies Brambles and Seapac. In his later years he and Margaret set up a courier business, Prestige Couriers, which they ran from their home.

Geoff retained a lifelong association with the College and was a regular at OV functions over many years.

## John William Street

**1930-2016**  
(SVC 1943-49)

What an outstanding school resume!

### Leadership

Head Prefect 1949; Prefect 1948

### Academic

Dux of the College 1949

### Sport

Best All-Round Athlete 1949

### Athletics

Won the senior 880 yds and mile races at the State Carnival

### Football

Three years in 1st XVIII - State premierships in '48 & '49. Captain of the side in '49

### Cricket

Senior XI for two years. '48 Southern premiers lost to Grammar in State final. '49 Captain – southern premiers – state final was a washout.

### Cross Country

Three years in senior team. The '48 team won with John gaining 3rd place. The '48 team was victorious gaining the first four places – John coming in second.

John (aka 'Doc') passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on May 22, 2016 aged 85 years. Loved and loving husband of Lyn for 56 years.

Loved father of six children, pop to 15 grandchildren and Opa to 3 great-grandchildren.

The following are extracts taken from the eulogies which hopefully give an insight into this remarkable man.

He was always interested in space and aeronautics, wanting to be a pilot after leaving school. He hoped this would lead to being an astronaut, his ultimate dream.

He was devastated when he failed the eyesight test, making this impossible. Not knowing what to do, he went to UTAS and graduated in electrical engineering.

After university he worked for nine years at the zinc company. In mid 1959 he applied for roles at the South Australian RAAF base, and the Sydney City Council (now Energy Australia). He got the Sydney job, moving there in late 1959. Although he hated his job, he stayed there for 32 years until retiring in 1991 aged 61.

Throughout his life John had a passion for photography, and during his later years he discovered a talent for drawing and painting.

.... Dad was not a giant of business, a famous personality or sports star, but what he was, was an incredible human. A person the world should idealise. A man who lived his life to the fullest, who as you heard had attributes of generosity, humility, faith, patience, passion, caring, loving, humour and loyalty. He spent 56 years caring for our mum and always being there for his 6 children, his 15 grandchildren and his 3 great grandchildren. He managed on a modest salary to raise and educate his children and give us all a great opportunity. He deeply loved, supported and enjoyed life with our mum.

This is a man, our dad that is truly worth celebrating and putting on a pedestal. Dad was an incredible person that lived his life the way many of us would be envious of. His gift and legacy lives on through my

mother, my brothers and sisters, his grandchildren and great grandchildren, and all who were lucky enough to be touched by his soul.

## Terence Mervyn Kelly

**3.6.1930 - 22.12.2016**

Terry Kelly passed away on 22nd December, 2016. Loved father of Charmian, Howard, Grant, Andrew and Jaqueline.

Terry was a great supporter, organiser and worker for Rowing at St Virgil's.

In 1973 a new Rowing Master was appointed – Brother Luke Guthrie. Brother enquired of the then Coaches what the needs were to support the crews. The priorities outlined were a co-ordinating and support Committee and the centralising of training and equipment facilities.

Prior to this time the college Crews trained at the Sandy Bay, Buckingham and Lindisfarne Rowing Clubs, with very little contact as a group.

As a result a Committee was appointed who were enthusiastic and very active. The main driver was Terry Kelly and ably assisted by Maurie Picot, Jack Ayers, Doug Crossin, Jock Anderson, Peter Salter, Bob Ikin, and Mary Cox, and new Rowing Master Bro. Bill Wilding.

The Committee then set about organising finance and a site to establish a Rowing Shed for the College. A site was obtained through the Hobart City Council at New Town Bay.

The 1974-75 season was historic in that it was the first time in which St. Virgil's crews rowed from their own shed and carried Boats on their own Boat Trailer. Later a further extension was added to house motor boats and a training area.

Terry Kelly was a man dedicated to the College and a man who made things happen. He was a driving force and a great organiser. He ran many fund raising functions at his home at Sandy Bay and later at his property at Richmond. The

latter included planting of a potato crop to raise funds and ably assisted by Geoff Pullen and Doug Hall. Alas it did not achieve the same result as that of Br James Hession, in the 50s, who used the Boarders to plant a crop at the McShane property at Broadmarsh, with a record result. Terry also organised a summer training camp at St Patrick's College at Ballarat on Lake Wendouree where friendships were renewed with Br Bill Wilding and Br Bill Thomas. Mary Excell gave great support on the trip.

Terry ran his own Real Estate business and was also a member of the Theatre Royal Light Opera Company and appeared in their productions. His son Howard was a member of the First Eight in 1975 and Captain of Boats. A racing Eight was later christened the "Terry Kelly".  
(submitted by Roger Smart)

## Col Peter Robert Patmore (rtd.) AM RDF ED JP (1934-2016) (SVC 1943-51)

Peter spent nine years at the College during the 1940s – the last seven as a boarder.

Upon leaving school Peter became associated with the Australian Army – initially through National Service and later as a 'regular'. By 1966 he had become a battery commander of 16th Field Battery RAA and the following year commenced service in Vietnam. He became commanding officer of 6th Field Regiment in 1970. In 1970 he graduated from the Joint Services Staff College in Canberra in 1974.

Peter returned to Tasmania in 1975 and worked for the State government in a variety of capacities. He initially became involved in the emergency services area, and was appointed Director in 1982. In 1987 Peter became the Organisational Manager for the International Antarctic Mineral Regime Conference. In the

same year Peter was appointed Director of Tasmanian Correctional Services. During his tenure with the State government Peter represented Tasmania internationally on several occasions.

Peter's association with the Army did not finish with his return to his home state. He was Colonel Commandant Artillery from 1997 – 2002 and Honorary Colonel of Cadets in Tasmania 1986-96.

Peter Patmore gave extraordinary service to the Knights of the Southern Cross. He became a member in 1964 and was actively involved for the remainder of his life. He rose to the position of Deputy National President for Australia in 1987 and National President two years later. During the period 1999-2007 he was State Chairman of Southern Cross Care – a body which has provided so much for the people of Tasmania. Peter had long association with the Liberal Party. He was a member of the Federal Council for 13 years, a member of its Federal executive for four years and a member of its Joint Standing Committee on Federal Policy for four years. He received Honorary Life Memberships from the following bodies: - The Knights of the Southern Cross Australia, the Royal Australian Artillery Association Tasmania, Royal United Services Institute, and Tamar Farmers and Fruit growers Association.

In 1993 Peter's service to the community and to the army were recognised with his being awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

Peter was a great supporter of the Old Virgilians Association having served as its Northern Vice-President and later its President. He was inducted onto the St Virgil's College Heritage Roll of Honour in 2009. Peter passed away on December 15, 2016 in his 83rd year. Sadly his wife of 57 years, Barbara had died the previous year. He is survived by his four children – Anthony, Mark, David and Maryanne – and five grandchildren. A large gathering attended his requiem mass at Holy Spirit Church in Sandy Bay.

## Joseph Brereton (Noel) 27.4.2017

Father of Justin (SVC 1989-94).

## Max Bullock 15.2.2017 (SVC 1936-40)

## Laurence Mark Chivers 19.2.2017 (SVC 1945-48)

## Alexander John Gadomski 31.8.1995 - 7.5.2017 (SVC 2008-11)



Loved son of Paul (current Board) and Janet, Brother of Jordan (SVC 2011-14) and Lachlan (SVC 2013-16).

## Anne Dawn Hughes 26.12.2016

Mother of Paul (SVC 1968-76) and David (SVC 1979-84).



## Barbara Jane Kelly (nee Polley)

23.12.2016

Loved mother of Paul (SVC 1979-85), Sam (SVC 1982-87), and Stuart (SVC 1984-89).

## Nitya Nand (Nick) Nandan

5.12.2016

Father of Philip (SVC 1993-94), Vijesh (1994-97) and Chris (SVC 1999-2002).

## Anthony (Tony) William Roach

2.4.2017

(SVC 1954)

Son of Gerald (SVC 1913-17) and brother of Peter (SVC 1942-48).

## Terence Mervyn Kelly

22.12.2016

(SVC 1940 – 45)

Father of Howard (SVC 1969-74), Grant dec. (SVC 1970-74) and Andrew (SVC 1977-82).

## COL Peter Robert Patmore (rtd) AM RFD ED)

15.12.2016

(SVC 1943-51)

## Tony Oswald Sarne

27.2.2017

(SVC 1959-62)

## Henry Langdon

18.05.2017

Father of Jeff (SVC 1964), Alan and Philip (SVC 1973-76).

## Reg Wallace (Tom) Purdon

5.4.2017

(SVC 1945-49)

## Reverend Norma Spaulding

5.4.2017

(SVC staff 1970-73)

## George Stepik

8.4.2017

Father of Julian (SVC 1971-78).

## John Donnelly Munro


20.4.17

(SVC 1949-50)

## Robert John Ryland

25.03.2017

(SVC 1953-58)




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