



**ST VIRGIL'S
COLLEGE**

A Catholic boys school in the Edmund Rice tradition

Incorporating The Old Virgilian

July 2015

Vol. 12 No. 2

WORDS & DEEDS



In the
Service of
Others ...

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Front cover:
ANZAC Parade



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All contributions to Words and Deeds are greatly appreciated. The deadline for the next edition is Friday November 20 2015.

From the Principal

Each academic year brings with it many new challenges as well as the familiarity of events, processes and traditions that are all part of the rhythm of a vibrant Catholic educational community. In our endeavours to remain an authentic Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition, every part of the operation of the College must have this as its touchstone. Our College message each year provides a point of reference from our Strategic Directions Plan to centre these endeavours, ensuring our words and deeds remain faithful as we journey through the year. In 2015 the message is 'Life to the Full', a theme taken from John's Gospel, which provides encouragement to all in our community to make the most of every opportunity that is placed in front of them - and so far this year there has been plenty of amazing opportunities to experience life to the full!

The academic year commenced with the Whole School Commissioning Ceremony for our Captain, Vice-Captain and Student Leaders from both campuses where we were honoured to have the presence of special guest speakers, Br Russell Peters from the Mary Rice Centre in Kenya and also Dr Scott Brennan, an Old Virgilian and Olympic Gold Medallist. Both our visitors have significant connection with our community and their speeches have already provided much motivation for the leaders and other boys. Both Br Russell and Scott have offered their continued support and are excited about their continued re-connection with the

College. Scott's inspirational address is re-produced in this edition of Words and Deeds.

It was a great privilege to welcome Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) Executive Director, Dr Wayne Tinsey, Director of Regional Support, Mr Paul Williams and TCEO Director, Mr John Mula and other invited guests to the EREA Renewal and House Commissioning Assembly.

Dr Tinsey presented College Captain Alec Hastie and myself with our Renewal Certificate which is evidence of our Accreditation as an authentic Catholic School in the Edmund Rice tradition. I am very proud to say that the data which is the foundation for the certificate is on show every day at the College and is the heart of what our Catholic learning community is all about.

Enrolment applications to St Virgil's for 2016 are at a record high providing strong commendation for the College's curricular and co-curricular programmes and our expertise in meeting the holistic educational needs of boys. A key ingredient in this success is the value St Virgil's places on transition experiences at all levels. As in previous years, the New Beginnings programme for our Grade 7 students proved to be invaluable with our younger secondary students receiving a broad understanding of what it is to be a Virgilian. Later this year Mr Cameron Alexander will present at the Adolescent Success conference in Queensland about the content of the

“In 2015 the College message is ‘Life to the Full’, a theme taken from John’s Gospel, which provides encouragement to all in our community to make the most of every opportunity that is placed in front of them...”

programme and its exceptional outcomes. A summary of his paper is presented later in Words and Deeds.

Carrying on the tradition of involvement in ANZAC Day parades, our boys were heavily engaged this year with their participation in a number of parades. In this centenary of the original landing at Gallipoli, the students also attended and participated in the Headstone Project Ceremony at Cornelian Bay Roman Catholic Cemetery.

In celebration of the Feast Day of Edmund Rice, we held our annual Edmund Rice Mass in May at the Derwent Entertainment Centre where over 1600 attended from schools across the State. The day highlights the rich contribution that the Christian Brothers have made, and continue to make, to education in Tasmania and today lives on through Edmund Rice Education Australia.

The enthusiastic participation of all students, the wonderful support of families, and perfect weather ensured that our Halfway Day this year was a tremendous success. The students’ focus on and support of the Mary Rice Centre is greatly appreciated by all in the Centre at Nairobi.

We also welcomed to the Claremont Parish, Fr Suresh the first resident Priest at St Bernard’s for 15 years. I would like to acknowledge the great work he has been doing with our students and staff and sincerely thank him for his work in this integral area of College life.



Caption: Principal Mr Damian Messer with Doyle Sport Leader Tomi Hapka

Through his commitment to teaching and enhancing the understanding of the Catholic faith, staff and students have a greater connection with the church with Masses being celebrated in the Chapel at Senior School on a regular basis and also Father's willing involvement in all that is happening within the College community.

In March this year our Board of Management held their biennial Board Retreat. The two day seminar focussed on induction, renewal and strategic planning for the College. This group of dedicated people really provide some excellent guidance and support to the management of College. Our Board members make significant contribution across many areas including the overseeing of new capital developments. Later this year, we will begin the re-development of the Galvin Wing, through the support of the Building Committee and Capital Projects Group who have provided significant funding to allow the project to progress. We look forward to updating you around further submissions to our continued building plans.

At a curriculum level the College has had a busy start to the academic year with a significant focus on the ongoing literacy development of our boys. This initiative has been complemented with the continued implementation of the Australian Curriculum, the exploration of new models for the delivery of Middle School and the provision of more opportunities for students to choose their vocational pathway through Grade 9 and 10 curriculum. These exciting educational initiatives have ensured that the Learning and Teaching Teams on both campuses have been very busy, working collaboratively with a continued focus on enhanced outcomes for boys' learning.

From June 2 to 5 the College was delighted to host the Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) Principals' Conference. It was a wonderful opportunity to network with 50 other

colleague Principals of Edmund Rice Educational Communities from EREA Schools, Associate Schools and partner schools in New Zealand and to share some of our challenges, triumphs and the common bond we have as schools that take our motivation from our Catholic traditions and the way in which Blessed Edmund Rice interpreted his reading of the Gospels.

The theme for the conference was "Voices Together – Advocacy in Catholic Schools" and we were blessed to have some of the nation's leading social justice advocates in attendance, including Fr Frank Brennan SJ and Br Brian Bond. We were also very privileged to have Sr Helen Prejean, famous for her book 'Dead Man Walking', join us via video link from the United States.

We sincerely thank EREA for the opportunity to host the Principals' Conference and thank God that we are part of a Catholic educational network that values advocacy and the rights of all human beings. The Principals look forward to continuing their great work around these values at the Edmund Rice Beyond Borders Leaders gathering in Kolkata in October 2016.

It is hard to imagine the College could be any busier, but we seem to manage to pack more and more into each and every year, living our theme of 'Life to the Full'. The College could not continue to expand and work on its success without the support of the extended community and it seems appropriate to take this opportunity to thank all members for their continued support and ongoing commitment to our College.

**In the spirit of Blessed Edmund.
Damian Messer
Principal**

2015 House Representatives

Congratulations to the following boys on their appointments as House Representatives for 2015:

Doyle

Grade 9

Tyler Morris

Grade 8

Steven Roach

Junior School House Captain

Ryan Borsboom

Vice-Captain

Baker Smith

Dwyer

Grade 9

Lachlan Gadomski

Grade 8

Liam Watling

Junior School House Captain

Joe McShane

Vice-Captain

Thomas Rasmussen

Hessian

Grade 9

Ben Donnelly

Grade 8

Harry Bodnar

Junior School House Captain

Jake Cresswell

Vice-Captain

Fletcher Loveless

Joyce

Grade 9

Tom Morgan

Grade 8

Thomas Vinen

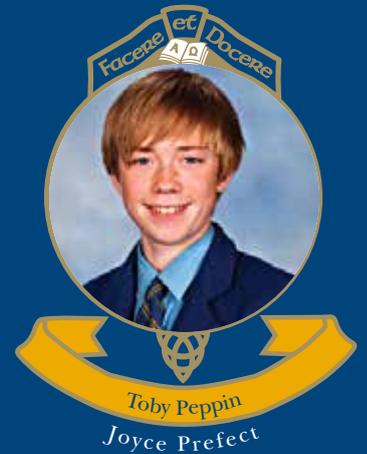
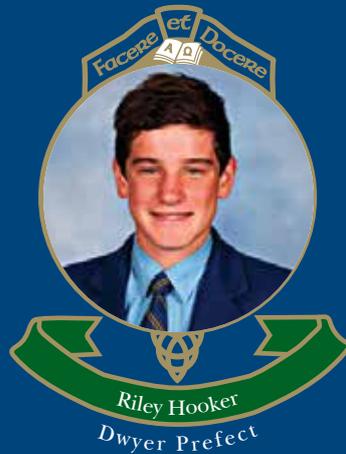
Junior School House Captain

Samuel Smith

Vice-Captain

Christopher Smith

2015 Student Leadership



House Leaders

Doyle

Service - Nicholas Haydon
Spirit - Nicholas Machin
Sport - Tomi Hapka

Dwyer

Service - James Graham
Spirit - Peter Venetsanakos
Sport - Jack Mazengarb

Hessian

Service - Charles Gerke
Spirit - James Gobbey
Sport - William Dodge

Joyce

Service - Declan Waddington
Spirit - Liam Cooke
Sport - George Bickers

A New Beginning

A Smooth Start to Grade 7

Mr Cameron Alexander, Assistant Deputy Principal (Middle Years/Transition)

In 2015, 145 Grade 7 students commenced at Austins Ferry; over a quarter of students entering Grade 7 continue their educational journey from the Junior Campus, with the remaining students coming from 28 different primary schools, located within one hour's bus travel of the College.

The New Beginnings Programme is the cornerstone of the Grade 7 transition experience for students entering St Virgil's College. The foundation for the fully integrated programme is a breadth of research that highlights that the transition from primary to secondary education has major implications for the learning and social development of students. Towns (2011) identified the importance of transition programmes in making the process as smooth as possible and in reducing anxiety, in particular highlighting the need for students to develop a sense of belonging as being central to successful transition programmes.

In the College's context as a boys' school, Boys' educational leader Professor Ian Lillico identified that boys need to engage with nature, establish a sense of belonging to the school and build relationships with teachers, if they were to enjoy a successful transition to the demands of secondary schooling. The importance of making a smooth transition is highlighted by Langenkamp (2009) who found that students who experienced a successful transition to secondary school are usually better positioned to overcome the challenges encountered during their later school years.

The sense of belonging and identity is central to the New Beginnings Programme. Its themes are taken from the College's Strategic Star which reflects

the three values of St Virgil's: Community, Justice and Respect, which are at the heart of the five Strategic Pillars central to a St Virgil's education: partnership; stewardship; identity; learning and leadership. These values and pillars are readily evident within the culture of the College and have provided direction to staff in formulating transition experiences that will heighten student belonging, identity and connectedness whilst being authentic to the mission of the College as a Catholic school for boys in the Edmund Rice tradition.

The College has a vertical pastoral care system, based around four Houses that are comprised of six Pastoral Care Groups. Each boy is allocated a House and Pastoral Care Group upon commencing Grade 7 and remains in this group for the four years at the College. The relationship with the Pastoral Care Teacher and Head of House is central to the pastoral care of each boy. Within each Pastoral Care Group, Grade 10 students take on the role of Peer Support Leaders providing support for the care of the Grade 7s as part of the transition process. The transition experience culminates with a Mother/Son evening, facilitated by Mr Bill Jennings from Time & Space, which promotes conversations between the boys and their mothers (or significant female mentor) on the transition from primary to secondary school.

The New Beginnings Programme features four, two day experiences that relate to the values and the pillars that are congruent with a St Virgil's education. Students are provided with a comprehensive workbook which explains each of the areas and articulates the context and how it relates to the values

of the College and the desired outcomes for the entire transition experience. The four two day experiences are:

My Spiritual Journey: This experience is primarily focused upon building a sense of belonging for the boys through an introduction to the history and traditions of St Virgil's College as a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice Tradition. It includes a visit to the original location of the College, St Mary's Cathedral, St Virgil's College Junior School, working with the parish priest in the College's chapel and research work in the College's Centenary History Centre. All of these locations are significant in the spiritual foundations and the history and traditions upon which the College is built. This experience seeks to foster a sense of belonging within the College community, whilst providing additional opportunities to deepen boys' understandings and appreciation of beliefs and practices that are central to the identity of St Virgil's College as a Catholic school, founded upon the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice.

My Relational Journey: This experience has two contrasting days, designed primarily to assist with the establishment of quality relationships. On the first day boys complete an Amazing Race around central Hobart as a member of their Pastoral Care Group. The task requires boys to work together as a team with their Pastoral Care Teacher to complete a number of challenges. The second day is spent working in their House group, exploring a range of issues including perceptions, self-identity, positive self-talk, an extended session with their Grade 10 Peer Support Leaders and an introduction to the Rock and Water programme. Both days provide



opportunities for the boys to explore ways of developing strong relationships with all members of their House group as well as the opportunity to reflect upon, and identify their own personal identity.

My Service Journey: The College motto, “By deeds not words” extols all students at St Virgil’s College to commit to the service of others. The Service experience begins with an investigation of why, within our context as a Catholic school for boys in the Edmund Rice tradition, we are called to give of ourselves for the benefit of others. This is followed by an exploration of all areas of the Senior Campus property, which comprises a large bush land area, before being involved in land care work on a patch of the property that their grade level will care for during their four years at the College. On the second day, boys are asked to serve the wider community by being involved in a service activity off campus, this year boys assisted at Foodbank Australia, at a number of

St Vincent de Paul initiatives and at a local primary school. These two days mark the commencement of the student’s service journey at St Virgil’s, in particularly each boy’s stewardship of the significant bush land setting on which the College sits and the need for all boys to look beyond their own situation and to serve the wider community.

Outdoor Education: The primary focus of the two day, overnight experience is to foster and promote better connections and relationships between Grade 7 boys. To help achieve this, boys are given the opportunity to undertake a variety of activities that encourage teamwork and self-growth in a fun, challenging and supportive environment. These activities include mountain biking, bushwalking and navigation, kayaking, bush skills, and abseiling. Grade 10 House Leaders are extensively involved, acting in a mentoring and peer support role. There is also time and space for the boys to make further connections with the

Pastoral Care Teachers, Heads of House, and other College Leadership members.

Each year parents and students are surveyed as a means of evaluating the value of the New Beginnings programme as an integral part of the College’s Grade 7 transition programme. Responses from 2015 indicated very strong support for the New Beginnings Programme. Over 92% of parents and 87% of students felt that the New Beginnings programme had helped students settle into life at St Virgil’s. There was also strong evidence from parents and students that the goals of the programme had been fulfilled, particularly in relation to building and strengthening relationships, making new friends, relationships with teachers, connectedness to the College and understanding of the Catholic traditions of the College – all whilst having loads of fun!

A synopsis of the presentation delivered by Mr Cameron Alexander to the 2015 Adolescent Success Conference.

EREA Principals' Conference

In the first week of June, the College was delighted to host the Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) Principals' Conference. It provides a wonderful opportunity for school leaders to network with other colleague Principals and to share some of our challenges, triumphs and the common bonds EREA schools share in taking their motivation from rich Catholic traditions and the way in which Blessed Edmund Rice interpreted his reading of the Gospels.

Delegates spent a great day on the first day of the gathering at the Austins Ferry campus. They were particularly taken by our magnificent grounds and the authentic welcome they received from every boy they encountered. Principals were inspired by their walk through the labyrinth, the story underpinning the 'Nine Tribes Walk' and the peaceful reflective opportunity provided by Lowamakana.

The theme for the conference was "Voices Together - Advocacy in Catholic Schools" and delegates were blessed to have some of the nation's leading social justice advocates in attendance.

Fr Frank Brennan SJ is a leader in advocacy for Indigenous Australians as well as a published author on a range of topics from refugees, the plight of the homeless to the state of the contemporary Catholic Church in Australia. Fr Frank launched his new book at the conference, 'Amplifying that Still, Small Voice' which encourages all to listen to their conscience and make small efforts in their own way to do what is right.

Principals also spent time with Br Brian Bond, a Christian Brother who works for Edmund Rice International in Geneva. Prior to the conference four Grade 10 Service Leaders travelled to St Bernard's College in Essendon with Mrs Bridget Jenkins to attend a workshop with Br Brian on advocacy. Our hope for all boys is that they will, inspired by Blessed Edmund and Jesus of the Gospels, always advocate for those who do not have a voice and will lead other members of the wider community in advocating for what is right.

We sincerely thank EREA for the opportunity to host the Principals' Conference and thank God that we are part of a Catholic educational network that values advocacy and the rights of all human beings.

Edmund Rice Mass

On May 5 we acknowledged the Feast Day of our founder, Blessed Edmund Rice. The acknowledgement of this feast allowed us time to reflect on how fortunate we are that our founder created and formed the Christian Brothers, the result of which established the tradition upon which St Virgil's was formed in 1911.

Edmund's vision, based upon the Jesus story, remains as valid today as it was when the story motivated him to begin his amazing journey with boys' education. We are indeed privileged to follow in his footsteps and to play our role in "sowing the seed" in the heart of each boy at St Virgil's.

In celebration of the Feast Day, the annual Edmund Rice Network Mass was conducted on May 7 at the Derwent Entertainment Centre, again hosted by Brother Sean McManus. The celebration was wonderfully led by Old Virgilian Father Richard Ross with our students being joined by students from schools such as Guilford Young, Holy Rosary, MacKillop, St Cuthbert's, St James', St Mary's, St Paul's, and St Patrick's, Launceston. In all, over 1600 people were present for the Mass.

It takes much effort and organisation to bring so many people together as part of this poignant Eucharistic celebration. On behalf of the College we would like to thank Brother Sean for his leadership within our community and also thank all those who helped or participated so enthusiastically in the celebration. It was a wonderful day!



College Commissioning Assembly



On Friday February 13 the College welcomed guests from far and wide for the annual College Commissioning Assembly, where our 2015 Grade 10 and Junior School leaders were commissioned. It was a wonderful occasion. College Captain Alec Hastie provided students with a simple, but effective message.

Alec challenged the students to consider the acronym T.H.I.N.K (Is it True?, Is it Helpful?, Is it Inspiring?, Is it Necessary?, and Is it Kind?). He went on to suggest that “words, actions and deeds can be much more powerful than we believe”. Experience suggests that Alec’s T.H.I.N.K challenge is exactly what is needed in a school full of adolescent boys. Adolescence for boys could be summed up by the following:

- Life can be confusing.
- Massive increase in testosterone – very active.
- Move from being family focussed to peer focussed.
- Search for identity and groups to belong to.
- Frustrating!

Let’s hope that Alec’s challenge was heard and that in all we do we T.H.I.N.K!

Following Alec it was particularly pleasing to welcome back former Principal Br Russell Peters who thanked the College for their wholehearted support of the Mary Rice Centre and Olympic Gold Medallist, Old Virgilian Dr Scott Brennan.

Scott spoke eloquently about his Olympic journey, his challenge of combining medical studies and training and the battles he has fought in recent times with severe injuries. His address contained some poignant points for all students, staff and members of our College community and is re-produced with Scott’s permission below. Scott also gave a wonderful address to guests at the Rowing Club reunion on Saturday night and left all in attendance with no doubt as to what a fine exemplar of the values and traditions of St Virgil’s he is.

Address to Commissioning Ceremony

**Dr Scott Brennan,
Olympic Gold Medallist (Above)**

Good morning,
The last time I spoke at St Virgil’s was just after the Beijing Olympics. I stood in the hall and watched as our race was played on the screen, thinking back over all that had happened since I first sat in class as a Grade 7 schoolboy and was handed the “come and try rowing” form by the boy who would be the school captain the year before me - the late James Dunsby. At that stage of my life an Olympic gold medal seemed just an impossible dream.

But that impossible dream came true and the year following this I was about to embark on my chosen career as a doctor, so life, at this point it would seem, had been exceptionally kind to me. For this I was enormously grateful, and I still am.

Step forward to now however and my London post-Olympic experience has been vastly different. Injury crippled our efforts at the last moments of the campaign, shattering not only my dreams of further Olympic glory, but seemingly also my body itself, rendering me completely unable to do the sport that has brought me so much joy for so much of my life.

Since then I have travelled the country and the world at great expense of money and time, spending hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars in painful treatment, tedious rehab and relentless frustration. Yet despite all of this, I have remained less capable in a rowing boat than I was as a St Virgil’s schoolboy.

Life of late, it seems, has not been fair.

But who ever said that it would be? Where was the contract signed? The promises made? All too often the belief is that if we work hard for something then we will achieve it and good things will come our way. Olympians stand up and tell you to follow your dreams and train hard and you will succeed. And while it’s true that without work there is no chance our dreams will ever come true at all, the presence of hard work alone does not guarantee success, it only increases our chances of it. Whether we think this is fair or not has absolutely no relevance.

The thing is though - “fairness” doesn’t actually matter.

After years as working as a doctor I’ve seen a lot of sick people come and go. Fortunately in Australia, the vast majority get better and go home, back to their normal lives. Others only get a little bit better but still get to go home anyway to



struggle on as best they can. Others don't get to go home at all. Mostly they are much older than us, those ones. Perhaps that makes it slightly easier to deal with. Some of them are younger than me though, like James Dunsby was. Some are even younger than you.

Sometimes it seems like they have had a fair innings. Sometimes it seems they were dealt a terrible hand. No two people are ever the same. But there are some things that never change.

When I stand at the end of the bed and listen, nobody ever tells me they wished they had worked more hours, earned more money, been more famous, or had a bigger house. But they do tell me about the dreams they didn't chase, the desires they set aside, the decisions they regret. Decisions they backed away from because they were afraid. Afraid of failing. Afraid of what other people would think of them if they followed their own path. Afraid of being different. Afraid of what they thought of themselves. Afraid to say sorry. "If I had my time again" can be the saddest sentence a health professional comes to know.

But the happy ones don't tell me about what they achieved or the attention they received for it, even when some of them did truly great things. The majority of them didn't, living what many would call "ordinary" lives. They tell me about the way they faced their fears, the times they forgave, the way they persevered despite setbacks and remained true to what they felt was right for them, regardless of what the task was or the challenges life threw at them.

Often it was the simplest of things - being a good father, a loving partner, a

true friend. I've treated cleaners, labourers, renowned authors and military generals, people of vastly different backgrounds but all united by the challenges, triumphs and failings that face every human being every day. They did these things without the promise of reward or the applause of others watching on.

Nine days ago I achieved one of the greatest feats of my life. I woke up without pain, in a body that once again felt like my own, and I put a rowing boat on the water and I rowed. That's all. No records broken. No races won.

No one will ever write about that in the newspaper, ask me for my autograph or give me a medal that I can show to others. But what I endured in these past two years to get to that point required more determination, learning, persistence and sacrifice than anything else that was ever required of me to become an Olympic champion.

I may never be able to race again, and this is heartbreaking. But when I look back on this time I will see that I faced my fears head-on, I suffered, I persevered, and I learned. There was nothing more that could have been done, and so there is nothing left to regret, whatever the outcome.

In short, it's only been through this struggle that nobody's seen have I been

able to discover, test, and finally become, the man I believe that I was meant to be.

Ostensibly today we are here to recognise our leaders. This is an important role, and I congratulate the recipients. We look to them to embody the characteristics that we aspire to in ourselves. This is a challenging task and one that should never be taken lightly. While it may seem unlikely to you now, your role as a leader lends your actions, or inactions, a weight that can have continuing impact many years from now. What will that impact be? Many people will be watching.

But just as important, perhaps even more so, is what becomes of the rest of us? A leader's formal title is no guarantee of a good man, but neither is its absence any reason we can't be great men. Nothing to stop us being true to ourselves, and true to those around us. Not just the ones that we love, but to those who have no permanent place in our lives. To be the best we can for those who may never even know of our efforts. Or the greatest test - even to those who resent us for it.

Because what a great thing it would be, to live our lives such that when our time comes we could look the person standing at the end of our bed right in the eye, and know in our heart:

"I was a good man when no one was watching".

EREA Renewal and House Commissioning Assembly

It was a great privilege to welcome Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) Executive Director, Dr Wayne Tinsey, Director of Regional Support, Mr Paul Williams and TCEO Director, Mr John Mula and other invited guests to this significant assembly.

Dr Tinsey presented College Captain Alec Hastie and Principal Damian Messer with a Renewal Certificate which is evidence of the College's Accreditation as an authentic Catholic School in the Edmund Rice tradition.

The College is very proud to boast that the data which is the foundation for the certificate is on show every day at St Virgil's and is the very essence of what our Catholic learning community is all about. Not surprisingly Mr Messer received several notes and phone calls complimenting students upon the manner in which they engaged with this important occasion.



Welcome

Welcome to the following staff who have taken up the opportunity to work with students to maximise learning opportunities during the 2015 academic year.

- Miss Mikayla Lack
Junior School Teacher
- Mr Brent Scanlon
Junior School Teacher
- Mr Jason McDonald
Mathematics Teacher
- Mr Robert Morgan
e-Learning Coordinator
- Mr John Tulk
Outdoor Education Assistant
- Mrs Jodie Williams
Director of Music
- Dr Peter Wilson
Head of Science

Palm Sunday

Students from both campuses were very well represented in Hobart's annual Palm Sunday pilgrimage. Boys joined with other participants from all over Tasmania to acknowledge and recognise the commencement of Holy Week – the final week before Easter. The boys are to be commended for their enthusiasm and willingness to participate in the activity. Thank you also to Mr Scanlon and Mrs Chambers for supporting and encouraging the boys as they undertook the 6.5 km walk to St David's Park. Thank you also to all the parents who encouraged their sons to participate.



Music

Palm Sunday – Senior Band Performance

Congratulations to the Senior Band and Rock Band who entertained in St David's Park as part of the Palm Sunday pilgrimage for Catholic schools and parishes from around Tasmania. The band performed admirably under the direction of Mr Ellis, with the crowd bopping along!

Tasmanian Headstone Project – Senior Band/Grade 8 Band and Senior Choir Performance

On Friday April 24 the College Band and Senior Choir performed at the Tasmanian Headstone Project ceremony at the Cornelian Bay cemetery.

This was an important ceremony for the soldiers who had laid at rest without recognition for over 60 years. Senior Band and Grade 8 Band students prepared an Australian Folk Montage medley of songs and played exceptionally well on the day. The Choir performed moving renditions of 'Abide with Me' and 'Advance Australia Fair'. The efforts of our musicians was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

Jordan Cowen

Shave for a Mate

Mr Damien Messer

Walking into the quad for the first time on Monday it was interesting to see the response, and particularly the double take that many boys had in seeing me for the first time with a beard. The boys looked surprised and quite shocked at the change in my appearance. We gathered in the Edmund Rice Hall and I explained to them the purpose of my 'new look'.

One of our Grade 10 students, Jordan Cowen, was diagnosed with a brain tumour during 2014 and has spent the time since his diagnosis working with his doctors on dealing with his benign tumour. Jordan's treatment has been successful. As part of his ordeal he has put pen to paper and written an article for the World Medical Magazine about his journey.

On Friday May 1, Jordan shaved his head as part of his commitment to raising awareness of diseases such as his. In support of Jordan and the cause, Alec Hastie and Thomas Maksimovic, our College Captain and Vice-Captain at Austins Ferry, joined him. I also decided to support the boys and hence the beard. With two campuses I thought it was important that we

could include both our primary and secondary boys in the awareness raising.

Boys at the Patrick Street campus had the opportunity to shape my beard and one of the staff shave it to the desired look. Then in the afternoon I joined Jordan, Alec and Thomas at lunch time and we had our head's shaved. Mrs Bridget Jenkins, Jordan's Pastoral Care Teacher, also agreed to have her hair coloured.

Again we thank Jordan for his initiative and courage in supporting and raising awareness for those with brain tumours.



ANZAC Day and Cornelian Bay Headstone Project

Students and staff joined with members of the wider Hobart community in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. As the College remembered our ANZACs in moving commemoration services on ANZAC Day, St Virgil's College students participated in strong numbers as part of record crowds who attended all of the ceremonies, including those conducted in Hobart and Glenorchy.

It is always with a sense of pride that the boys actively involve themselves in significant events such as the ANZAC Day ceremonies and we congratulate all the students who attended on the weekend to remember our fallen soldiers.

The day prior to ANZAC Day students were involved in a moving ceremony honouring the memory of soldiers buried at Cornelian Bay.

The Headstone Project which saw the unveiling of new headstones for some of the returned Catholic soldiers laid to rest at the cemetery, providing each with the recognition and dignity they so richly deserved. Students researched the lives of each soldier, providing a poignant summary for the official programme commemorating the day.

The College also conducted moving ceremonies at each campus to acknowledge the great work of our ANZACs. Boys acknowledged how extremely fortunate we are to have had such courageous forefathers and acknowledged that their efforts have allowed us to live the fortunate lives that we do. We will be forever grateful – Lest we Forget.



Science and Engineering Challenge

Aidan Sullivan

On Tuesday May 5 a group of Grade 9 and 10 students took part in the Science and Engineering Challenge at UTAS. It was a busy and enjoyable day, where we got to put our combined skills and ingenuity to the test along with students from several other schools. There were eight different activities that the teams were involved in: Future Power, Grasping at Straws, Helter Skelter Shelter, Stringways, Mission to Mars, Hover Frenzy, Eco-Habitech and Bridge. The challenges tested problem solving abilities and teamwork, as we were supplied with only limited resources to fulfil the brief. For the Hover Frenzy challenge we were provided with: Polystyrene, a plastic bag, balsa wood, a ruler, cutting block and saw, a controller and battery pack and some fans. From this we had to construct a working hovercraft which had to pass a test for speed, agility and ride height.

Some of the activities went for the whole day, others were divided into two half-day sessions. By the end of the first session, St Virgil's were in the lead. After the last event of the day, which was the Bridge Challenge, the final results were released and we finished in a very credible fourth place. Thanks to Mr Ellis and Mr Derrick for their support.



Production Management

Adam Fisher

During Term 2, the Production Management class has ventured out on two separate excursions. The first trip was to TYGA-FM, a community radio station based in New Norfolk. We started off our tour of the station by meeting Bruce Lamb, the station's President. Mr Lamb explained to us the complexities and multiple tasks required to operate a successful radio station. He also spoke about the role of the radio station in the local community and how the station is operated completely by volunteers. After this the class was invited to announce a song on air. As everyone was feeling nervous, I took up the challenge to have a go, and despite mispronouncing the name of the artist, I was still very pleased with my 60 second talk on TYGA-FM!

Our second excursion was to the Theatre Royal. During this tour we saw what happens behind the scenes at a working theatre. Seeing how a 'flyman' operates the ropes seven and fourteen metres above the stage on the fly loft was a fascinating part of the experience.

A Big Week in Football!

In the lead up to the Kangaroos versus Tigers clash, the College was presented with two opportunities to conduct two significant community building events. As readers may be aware the much loved, and often controversial, Channel 9 'Footy Show' had advertised a show at Wrest Point which sold out in just six minutes! The major stars of the show were arriving the night before the Thursday show and were available to run a 'panel style' show at St Virgil's.

The Parents and Friends Association quickly responded to the opportunity and rallied over 40 volunteers to ensure the show could proceed. Over 390 tickets sold in just 60 minutes and so all was in readiness for a great night.

The P&F transformed the Joyce Performance Centre and the crowd flocked in on a wet and cold night. Garry Lyon, Billy Brownless, James Brayshaw and Damian Barrett entertained the audience for over two hours with sporting stories, insights into the Footy Show and a few tall tales!

The evening raised valuable funds that will support all students at the College. Thank you to P&F President Mrs Susan Roberts and her incredible band of helpers and to Mr Blair Brownless for organising all logistics. Ticketing and school logistics were expertly handled by Mrs Tracy Moschogianis, Mrs Narelle Green and Mr Sean Morgan.





Junior School

Two days later the College held its annual SVC Community Football luncheon at Blundstone Arena. Over 130 people gathered to listen to a star panel of speakers including Richmond Football Club Chief Executive Officer Brendon Gale (son of OV Don Gale), Kangaroos CEO Carl Dilena and Kangaroos star Nick Dal Santo. College Archivist Mr Graeme Rainbow provided an overview of the proud history of 'Saint's football'. It was a fantastic day for all in attendance and a great lead-in to the following day's blockbuster between the Kangaroos and Tigers. Funds raised will be used to further upgrade the College's History Centre.

Field of Poppies

In the lead up to ANZAC Day Junior School boys were honoured to be asked to be part of the launch of The Mercury's 'Field of Poppies'. The boys were very respectful during the official proceedings and willingly assisted in planting the first of the 8,141 poppies to recognise the Tasmanian lives lost in war. They were also given the opportunity to have a chat with Premier, Mr Will Hodgman, and to sing him happy birthday as well!

Disco

The Junior School Hall was certainly the place to be as the P & F hosted their first Disco of the year. The Grade 3 and 4 boys enjoyed their chance to show off their dance moves. However, the enthusiasm was certainly heightened as we also hosted St Mary's and Mount Carmel Grade 5 and 6 girls for the latter part of the evening. Lots of fun was had whilst some interesting dance moves were shown off. Special thank you to DJ Fox and also all the parents who helped out to make the evening an enjoyable and successful social gathering.

Grade 5 Science

Grade 5 had a great day doing experiments with Dry Ice, making Bath Bombs for Mother's Day, working in small groups doing a variety of activities with Mrs Messer and keynotes on iPads to teach Grade 3 about 'States of Matter'. We learnt so much and it was so much fun!

Grandparents and Special Persons Day

There was a great buzz around the Junior School Campus as students welcomed in excess of 200 of our grandparents and special persons to the campus. The day commenced with a liturgy and assembly presentation by Grade 5M. Visitors were then able to tour the classrooms to see the work that our boys have been doing and how different it is to when they, or their children, were at school. Our guests were encouraged to stay for morning tea and a catch up with each other, waited on by students and staff.

Book Swap for Nepal

In response to the tragedy in Nepal, the Junior School Library ran a book swap with funds raised being donated to the Red Cross Nepal Earthquake Appeal. All boys were asked to find a book or books at home that they no longer need but would be suitable for boys at the Junior School. Thank you to all the families and boys who supported this worthy cause for the people of Nepal who are still suffering the effects of this devastating natural disaster.





Grade 5 Camp

Under stormy skies, Grade 5 headed off on their annual pilgrimage to Port Arthur. Unfortunately campers weren't blessed with the magnificent weather that we have had in recent years, however this did not deter the boys from having a fantastic time. There were some interesting rafts designed and constructed – some did actually float. Unfortunately, the fishermen didn't have much luck with the rod and reel and only successfully caught some seaweed! The boys also enjoyed their walk along the foreshore exploring what the higher tide leaves behind.

A highlight of the first day was watching how successful our 'volcano' building was. Some were really successful whilst others created a real smoke screen. After a restful night, the boys were ready for their investigation around the Port Arthur Historic Site.

The weather improved as the day progressed which allowed for a thorough investigation of our convict past. Sadly the last day's weather was not the best. But, every cloud has a silver lining so we travelled to Remarkable Cave to see the beauty and the fury that mother nature can throw up at the same time. The boys were amazed by the power of the water and the effects of the very strong winds.

A big thank you to all of our enthusiastic dads who came along and helped out over the three days. Thank you also to Mrs Messer, Mrs Ogle and Miss Lack for their organisation of the camp and preparation of the boys leading up to it. Also, a great big thank you to Mrs Blizzard for her wonderful catering – we were certainly well fed.



ICC World Cup

What a fantastic night we had at the ICC World Cup Cricket game between Scotland and Sri Lanka. By all accounts we were heard across the whole ground and also received a lot of national and international media attention – even trending on Twitter in India! The boys are to be commended for their enthusiasm and congratulated for their behaviour. Many of the ground staff and other spectators went out of their way to comment positively and favourably on the boys' enthusiasm and behaviour. Well done boys!

Congratulations also to Mr Scanlon who might get a job as a fielding coach if he gets tired of teaching! We would like to thank the parent of an Old Virgilian for generously purchasing the tickets to give the boys the opportunity to attend.



SVC Sport Swimming



Junior School House Swimming Carnival

We were so fortunate to be blessed with beautiful weather for the annual House Swimming Carnival at the Glenorchy Pool. It was great to have the support of so many parents and grandparents as either spectators or helpers on the day – we couldn't do it without you.

The boys are to be commended for their wonderful efforts and sportsmanship displayed during the day. Boys were wishing each other well prior to races and congratulating each other at the end.

Congratulations to the Joyce House for being victorious.



Representative Swimming Team

As a result of our House Swimming Carnival, the following boys were selected to represent the College at the STCPSSA (Catholic Schools) Carnival and the JSSATIS (Independent Schools) Carnival.

Congratulations to:

Grade 6: Sebastian Brown, Max Newett, Joshua Wylie, Max Giuliani, Harry Fisher

Grade 5: Lachlan Brennan, Campbell Hills, Harry Williams, Dylan Graves, Sahib Singh, Hamish Menzie

Grade 4: Charlie Banks, Ayrton Cooke, Jack Pritchard, Riley Ferguson

Grade 3: Darcy Berry, Ned Cunningham, William Faux, Daniel Wylie, Noah Boonstra, Ben Santalucia

Maximilian Giuliani broke the 50m backstroke record in a new time of 1.36.24. He was also awarded the Bill Henderson Memorial Trophy for most outstanding Grade 6 boy.

SSATIS Swimming

The Southern SATIS Swimming carnival was held at the Hobart Aquatic Centre with St Virgil's having a strong team of swimmers from all grade levels. The day started with the Under 14 Medley relay. The boys proved that they were a group to watch out for as soon as their race began. The Under 16 team followed and also showed our competitors that they were a force to be reckoned with. Throughout the day our boys excelled in most events.

One of the highlights of the day was Thomas Bennett's personal best in the Under 13 50 metre Freestyle. Following a short lunch break, the boys returned to the pool and finished with a number of top three places. The final event of the day was the freestyle relay. The Under 13 boys led early and managed a first place win. The under 15 boys then swam against some tough competition but managed to be the first team to touch the wall.

At the end of the day the overall winners were announced. The Under 13 Boys took out first place overall as did the Under 15 Boys. Overall it was a very successful day.

The Under 15 team ended the day on a high, by not only taking out first place, but also by beating the previous record set in 2008 with a time of 1 min. 50secs. Congratulations to Lachlan Rice, Riley Oakley, James Drew and Angus Reilly on their record breaking swim.



1. Junior School Leaders' Commissioning Assembly
2. Mass in the Chapel
- 3-4. Grade 8 Outdoor Education



Athletics

City to Casino Fun Run

Congratulations to all the boys and teachers who participated in the 2015 City to Casino. All the boys are to be congratulated for their efforts in keeping Mr Waugh on his toes in the 7km race. Well done to Cameron Monks who placed in the Top 10 of the 2.7km run.

Cross Country

What a great event was shared with the entire College community with the running of the Junior School Cross Country! Held at the Senior School Campus for the first time, new challenges were presented to the boys as they traversed the scenic campus competing to gain qualification in the cross country squad for the upcoming carnivals. Great spirit was evident as the boys cheered and encouraged each other on to complete the gruelling course. Thank you to Mr Nichols and Mrs Messer for their organisation of the carnival as well as Mr Dalton for assisting with setting up the course.

Cricket

1st XI Cricket

During the holiday break the 1st XI toured Launceston to take on other Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) schools as part of the St Patrick's College Launceston Cricket Week. The team received incredible hospitality from Mr Luke McCormack at St Patrick's College and were privileged to stay in the College's amazing Grade 9 Centre, Croagh Patrick.

Despite being presented with the challenge of playing Grade 10 to 12 sides from Victoria, the team responded magnificently and were highly competitive in both matches. A highlight for the team was playing at Westbury against St Patrick's College, Ballarat, where prior to the game players from all schools were photographed with the Cricket World Cup! The boys were exceptional ambassadors for the College and have benefitted from the opportunity to meet fellow EREA students as well as play some high quality cricket.

Match Details

Game 1: SVC 10-99 (Declan Waddington 25, Alex Blair 17, Andrew Bourke 17, Harry Burgess 15) defeated St Patrick's College, Ballarat 10-84 (Austin Keeling 3-13, Nick Haydon 2-6, Declan Waddington 2-11).

A great team performance on a slow, challenging wicket.

1. Jack Direen
2. Joe Randall with OV Tony Burrill
3. Tasmanian Water Polo Representatives Joshua Wylie, Max Newitt, Sebastian Brown, Shae Burnett, Tom Messer and Lachlan Reilly
- 4-5 2015 Sailing Action





Game 2: SVC 10-155 (Declan Waddington 39, Joe Randall 25, Sam Wakefield 24, Austin Keeling 16) lost to St Kevin's College, Toorak 8-276. (Nick Haydon 3-11, Austin Keeling 2-58)

After having St Kevin's 6-112 (after 32 overs), we were literally blown away by some amazing hitting from two very talented players – including 84 from Jeremy Burrill, son of Old Virgilian Tony Burrill!

1st XI Premiers!

SVC Blue 4-161 (Declan Waddington 56 no., Andrew Bourke 24)

Defeated

GYC 8-156 (Austin Keeling 4-18, Reece Williams 2-23, Brad Percey 1-20)

In a fantastic performance SVC were able to win the final of the SSATIS Seconds Cricket roster against a previously undefeated GYC team. Bowling first we made a fantastic start taking three quick wickets thanks to some tight bowling from Austin Keeling and Brad Percey. GYC were then able to establish a quick scoring partnership which was finally broken by the return of Austin into the attack. From here the SVC boys all bowled well to restrict GYC to 156.

Our chase started well with an opening partnership of 38 between Nick Haydon and Oscar Walker, we then lost a few quick wickets to be 3-61 and in a little trouble. At this stage Declan Waddington and Andrew Bourke put on a fantastic 74 run partnership to put the win within reach. Austin Keeling came in with some late hitting and with Declan reaching his 50 we were able to claim the title.

Grade 7&8 Cricket

The Grade 7&8 Development programme concluded with two excellent games against The Hutchins School. Both games were played in great spirit with high quality skills being displayed by boys from both schools. Sincere thanks to Hutchin's ground staff for preparing wickets and grounds during the wet spell leading up to the game.

SVC 1 9-148 (Jack Stevenson 43, Ryan Graham-Daft 24, Harry Anderson 16, Will Collins 12)

Lost to

Hutchins 1 6-151 (Luke Kreune 2/17 and James Bourke were the pick of the bowlers)

In a game that came down to the last ball, the boys from SVC just failed to reach the boundary, falling agonisingly short of Hutchins score of 151. With eight overs remaining we needed 24 with wickets in hand, but some excellent bowling from Hutchins meant that our batters couldn't clear the in-field. It was a great learning experience for players, particularly in regards to the need to 'get off strike' with decisive calling and running between wickets.

SVC also paid the price for a few lapses in the field, gifting Hutchins extra runs. As the boys learnt the hard way, these are crucial in a tight game! Thank you to coaches Mark Kreune and David Collins, Captain Isaac Manson and all players for their wonderful involvement in the programme.

SVC 2 6-178 (Josh Roberts 51 no, Josh Eyles 47 no, Tom Vinen 24)

defeated

Hutchins 2 10-87 (Hayden Nuss 3-23)

A comprehensive win by the 'Twos' who played great team cricket against a spirited opposition. Opener Tom Vinen set the foundation with a patient 24, allowing Josh Roberts and Josh Eyles to plunder the tiring Hutchins' attack. The team fielded well and picked up wickets at regular intervals to dismiss Hutchins for 87, pick of the bowlers being Hayden Nuss, Captain Riley Smith and Marcus Turnbull. Special thanks to Mr Holland who coached the team wonderfully throughout the programme.



Cycling

Kellevie Hillbilly 24 Hour MTB Race

Mr Steve Aitken

Three teams of intrepid riders took on the massive challenge of completing the Kellevie Hillbilly 24 Hour MTB race. In great conditions the boys rode the challenging 9 km course from 12 noon Saturday to 12 noon on Sunday. The energy and commitment of riders never waned regardless of whether they were riding at 4 am or the more civilised time of 4 pm! We had two teams in the six rider category and one elite team in the four person event – the elite team of Josh and Mitch Gittus, Adam Oates and Oscar Bannerman came 4th riding in very impressive company.

With the support of our amazing parent support crew who fed the boys (and ensured they were awake for their early morning take-off!) the teams put in excellent performances. The team of Adam Roberts, Isaac and Lachlan King, Declan Waddington and Thomas Attrill won their section of the event. Jack Direen, Joe Young, Jaidyn Gluskie, Ben Manton and Alec Weaver rode impressively to finish third.



Soccer

EREA Premiers and Champions!

Congratulations to the St Virgil's 1st XI Soccer Team who won the Intermediate Division of the Edmund Rice Education Australia Tournament in Brisbane during the first term holidays defeating Parade College, Victoria 2-0 in a high quality Grand Final. The team were undefeated for the week recording the following results:

Semi Final - SVC 3 defeated St Patrick's College, Shornecliffe (QLD) 0

Round 2 - SVC 3 defeated Gregory Terrace (QLD) 0

Round 1 - SVC 7 defeated St Laurence's College (QLD) 0

The team were outstanding ambassadors for the College and greatly enjoyed meeting boys from other EREA schools from across Australia. The team played some high quality soccer and impressed all opponents with their silky skills, team work and excellent sportsmanship. Boys also greatly enjoyed a billet experience further increasing their understanding and appreciation of our special bond with other EREA schools. Special thanks to coaches Mr Simon Orłowski and Mr Jason McDonald for looking after the boys on the trip.



Tennis

2nd IV Tennis Final

SVC defeated Hutchins Gold 5 – 1 (33 – 15)

S. Plunkett-Smith d W. Burgess 6 – 1; J. Haas d E. Johnstone 6 – 3; A. Bourke d M. Burgess; O. Bresnehan d F. Gardner 6 – 4; S. Plunkett-Smith / J. Haas d W. Burgess / F. Gardner 6 – 0; A. Bourke / O. Bresnehan lt E. Johnstone / M. Burgess 3 – 6.

The boys were very confident going into the Final against Hutchins, but knew they still had to be on their game to make sure of the result. Sam and Jakob were once again very strong as the number 1 and 2 combination, with Sam making short work of his opponent and Jakob making slightly harder work with his game, but coming through in the end. Andrew made a welcome return by defeating his opponent in a strong performance and Oscar engaging in a very close fought struggle with several rallies going as long as some elite players would be used to seeing.

It was a fantastic way to finish a successful season to bring home the trophy - which up until this year, only had Hutchins name on it!

Basketball

Congratulations to all the boys in the Grade 7 Gold team that defeated MacKillop College 38 - 23 in the SSATIS Basketball Roster. Special thanks to College Business Manager Mrs Narelle Green for coaching and managing the boys. Also a special mention to the Grade 7 Blue team that finished the season in third position.

Cross Country

SSATIS Cross Country

The 2015 SSATIS Cross Country was held at Pontville on Tuesday June 9. Despite very challenging weather that took its toll on some school equipment, the races themselves all ran very successfully. Congratulations to all boys who represented the College so well. St Virgil's College retained the Junior Boys' Shield by one point from The Hutchins School, with The Friends School in third.

Congratulations

- Jack Direen represented Tasmania in March at the National Triathlon Championships.
- Max Giuliani had an amazing weekend in Burnie at the Junior Tasmanian Surf Life Saving Championships. Max won four gold medals for individual events as well as a gold, a silver and two bronze for team events.
- George Drew represented Tasmania in the State Junior Trap Shooting in the Australian National Trap Shooting Championships in Wagga Wagga NSW in March.
- Tom Messer, Joshua Wylie, Lachlan Reilly, Shae Burnett, Max Newett and Sebastian Brown represented Tasmania in the National Junior Water Polo titles held on the Gold Coast in April.
- Jarrod Kaye, Jack Stevenson and Keegan Oates represented Tasmanian in the Under 15 National titles in Darwin in June. Jarrod made an impressive 64 in the final game against the Northern Territory.
- Bailey Cowen was chosen to play a part in the new music film clip for The Wolfe Brothers. The clip was shown nationally!
- Josh Smith of Grade 7 represented Tasmania recently at the Australian National Judo Titles in Wollongong. He won Bronze in the Senior Boys U/45 kg Division.
- Liam Roach represented Tasmania at the Australian Junior Boxing Titles on the Gold Coast in April.
- Kobi Gray competed at the PIT competition at Mill Park in Melbourne. The Tasmanian team retained the Shield and Kobi competed in the Men's Level 4 Open Event.
- Jesse Clements and Lachlan Gadomski have been selected to represent Tasmania in the Under 15 AFL Championships in Geelong in July.



1. SSATIS Cross Country
2. 2015 Rowing at Lake Barrington

- Jarrod Hunter attended the Youth National Archery Competition in Penrith, Sydney over the Easter Holidays and came away with three Gold Medals.
- Bayley Campbell of Grade 7 won Gold in the Australian Little Athletics Championships in the 1500m race walking event in Perth with a personal best (PB) of 7 minutes 14 seconds.
- Jackson Devine, Tadhg Waddington, Max Giuliani and Joshua Wylie have been selected to represent Tasmania in the 2015 Pacific School Games in Adelaide in November.
- Ben Spinks won both the Junior and Senior Men's U60kg judo gold medals at the Tasmanian Judo Championships in Ulverstone. Ben also won both the Junior and Senior Men's Under 60kg judo gold medals at the Tasmanian Judo Championships in Ulverstone. Ben will compete as a member of the State Team at the National Judo Championships in Wollongong in June with Josh Smith Grade 7 and Luke Press Grade 8.
- Max Giuliani set two Tasmanian 11 and under records at the Hobart Short Course titles in the 50 and 100 metres freestyle.
- Congratulations to Keegan Oates and Old Virgilians Liam Devlin, Isaac Salter, Caiden Workman and Dylan Hay who have been selected in Cricket Tasmania's 2015/2016 High Performance Program. The program was a key stepping stone in the development of Tiger's young gun OV Caleb Jewell.





The Old Virgilian

Magazine of the Old Virgilians Association
Volume 23 - No. 33

OVA Website

The website provides a medium to enable old scholars to keep up to date with news from their peers as well as stories and photos from OVA events. It also has all dates for events, including the bi-monthly luncheons for 2015.

www.oldvirgilians.org.au

Upcoming Events

2015 Luncheon Dates

July 28, September 29 and November 24
(Includes Annual Mass at Cathedral with lunch at Junior School).

Annual Dinner

Friday October 16, Wrest Point.

OVA Golf Day

Monday November 16,
Royal Hobart Golf Club.

Office Bearers

Old Virgilians Association Executive Committee

President

Edward Gauden

Vice President

Dan Reardon

Secretary

Peter Imlach

Treasurer

Bill Roach

Board Representative

Peter Imlach

Committee

Michael Ball

David Clarke

Bruce Woods

Roger Smart

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 November 20 2015.



President's Report

Edward Gauden

I begin yet again my report in questioning to where has time disappeared? It does move on and events, major and insignificant at the time occur and fade. Events that are monumental on our society, on those close to us, indeed our families and our colleagues who are part of the Old Virgilians network.

In providing my President's report in this the August 2015 edition of Words and Deeds, I am mindful that a number of our members are no longer with us. Past scholars that I have met but also those who personally joined me in the last twelve months to celebrate the tradition of our Association. They and their families are in the Association's thoughts and prayers.

I extend congratulations to Hon. Paul Lennon KGSJ a recipient of our own Heritage Roll of Honour on his receipt of the Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours, an honour well deserved.

I also want to extend best wishes to Fr Denis Allen, a past student of St Peter's (now known as St Virgil's Junior School), and an Old Virgilian, on his 50th anniversary of priestly ordination. Fr Denis has worked throughout Tasmania and to see so many of our members from around the state and interstate participating in celebrations with Fr Denis showed the respect that he has from so many educated under the tradition of Edmund Rice. The tradition of deeds not words continues.

The past year has seen the association enter a new phase of consolidation and restoration. It has been a difficult time to enthuse members and indeed encourage young members to participate in activities. The challenges of personal commitment that our members have is

always a difficulty though it is important to be challenged and to continue as we approach the centenary of the Old Virgilians Association. Just six years after the opening of St Virgil's College on May 20 1917 a committee of eleven former students with Albert Ogilvie as President and later Premier of Tasmania was elected to coordinate activities of fellow past students. Who was to believe that a hundred years on that this organisation would continue to be in existence?

From a personal perspective as President I do want to highlight my indebtedness to my Deputy President, Mr Dan Reardon for his support and guidance throughout the year as well as to my fellow Committee members, Bruce Woods, David Clark, Bill Roach, Roger Smart, Michael Ball and Peter Imlach along with our North West representative Kim Chen. I also would acknowledge our 2014 Northern representative Michael McGee, who passed away earlier this year for his contribution to the Association.

The committee continues to meet regularly on the first Monday of the month. Meetings take place in Sandy Bay at the Catholic Parish Centre and the committee is very appreciative of Fr Brian Nichols who continues the hospitality of Fr Michael Tate our Chaplain in providing a place to meet

The Centenary of the Association is due in 2017 and members are encouraged to have input into activities that celebrate St Virgil's College and our Association. A planning committee has met with Roger Smart as the Chairman reporting back to the elected members to celebrate and promote our centenary of achievements. I look forward to hearing from past scholars and would encourage our members to provide their thoughts into

how we can make a celebration in the tradition of the College.

The committee continues to focus on being relevant and is working on;

- Heritage Roll of Honour
- Sportsman's Roll of Honour
- Closer Collaboration with Clubs utilising the Association's Banner
- Annual Mass and Dinner
- Engaging younger members
- Golf Day
- Digital engagement
- Fundraising events to support scholarships and College activities
- Years 11 and 12
- Support especially younger Old Virgilians

The Association's web page, www.oldvirgilians.org.au that was developed in late 2013 has begun to prove a positive tool for the Association. It fosters communication for our members and the Association as well as highlighting activities and I encourage you to take up the opportunity of the digital age and visit this site. Once there, do provide feedback as this will assist the association into the future to be relevant for its members. It would be great to hear your stories.

I conclude with a challenge to those of our members who may find difficulty in how the association is progressing to contribute and implore them to engage positively for the benefit of our tradition now approaching a hundred years.

Best Wishes
Edward

Heritage Roll of Honour Dinner

John Kelly

John was kind enough to provide a copy of his speech to the Heritage Roll of Honour Dinner to The Old Virgilian. It is a wonderful snapshot of his memories of the College and some of the experiences that have remained with him to this day.

My story is no different to that of the other 11,000 Tasmanians who passed through St Virgil's College.

In my day, prior to being accepted into the big league of the Catholic education system at Barrack Street, one would need to be prepared in a somewhat gentler institution.

The Newtown Female Factory, otherwise known as Sacred Heart Convent School, was where I started in the system along with lifelong friends Wayne Chapman and Andrew Baillie.

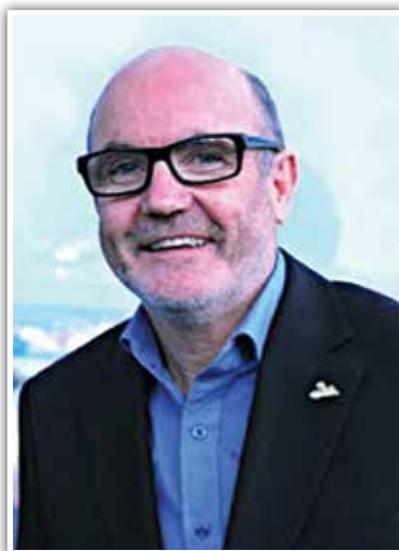
After a three year period the male of the species were excommunicated from this quaint, Enid Blyton-esque setting and we were required to make alternative arrangements for our future education.

Away from the safety of the bosom of this matriarchal society we found refuge with a tribe at the top of a hill to the south, otherwise known as St Virgil's College.

I remember my arrival as if it was yesterday. Replete with a brim hat and grey suit, looking like a dwarf detective from the TV set of Division 4, I nervously climbed the stairs beneath the long shadow of the chapel tower.

The deep and booming voices of Neanderthal looking seniors, echoed around the concrete hand ball courts as I entered this gothic like enclave.

The whole campus, ranging from eight year old children to 18 year old men, assembled on the hot bitumen of the outdoor basketball court. We waited in the blazing sun,



standing in complete silence, like an army of terracotta soldiers.

Suddenly, in a bat-like movement, the six foot plus imposing figure of Brother Tom Howe, swooped onto the podium cloaked in his flapping black soutane. I stood directly below him, and as he leaned forward at an almost impossible angle, I gazed at my reflection in his highly polished shoes.

Rules and regulations relating to such matters as facial hair, fraternization and tobacco consumption were sternly delivered.

I immediately felt a strong sense of place and belonging.

No longer a bosom - but a hairy chest!

I was soon to learn how at times, this tribe spoke in tongues, reciting such chants as Choomalacka, boomalacka, ha, ha, ha.

The years passed and we roamed further to the heavily wooded Austin's Ferry region. We were trained in specialist pursuits such as army cadets, and learnt life skills like firing rifles, in our very own purpose built range.

We freely roamed the fifty acres of bushland, and in dystopian scenes reminiscent of Lord of the Flies, we smoked, fought, ran wild and generally had a jolly good time - unless caught.

As retribution for an offence, or for the purpose of disciplining and reforming a wrongdoer, our leaders were armed with leather implements to assist in the deliberate infliction of pain.

This region had its own distinct dialect and we spoke in even more foreign tongues chanting Amo, Amas, Amat, Amamis, Amatis, Amant and Allo, C'est Phillipe La Deux- Oui c'est moi.

But perhaps the most bizarre of rituals occurred every Tuesday afternoon in "the hall".

We formed a large circle, music was played and our leader would count. This was the signal to embrace your nearest class mate and assume either the male or female position. In a sea of awkward hand and leg movements, this activity was described to us as the Tango, Foxtrot and Pride of Erin.

Once a term, alien-like creatures in green costumes were delivered to the hall and assumed the female position, all the while under the watchful gaze of the elder male superiors.

Like the homing pigeons that roosted in the chapel tower, we returned to Barrack Street to complete our nine year incarceration. We left without ceremony, fanfare or hype fully prepared for a coveted "job for life" in the public service.

Some continued in academia and in a self-perpetuating caste system they emerged as teachers.

1. Michael Di Venuto
2. OVA Luncheon
3. Jamie Di Ienno with Melbourne star Jeremy Howe

In hindsight we may well question the value and legitimacy of Latin, firing rifles on school property, ballroom dancing and corporal punishment but for the great part I am sure that most of the 11,000 students had no real issues with the system, and in fact it was the making of them.

I am eternally indebted to the Christian Brothers and the lay teachers of St Virgil's College. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Graeme Rainbow, Rene Sluyters and the committee for this honour, and for the incredible work they do with the old scholars association.

To my parents Frances and Leo who made many sacrifices to educate me.

I thank my guests this evening in particular my children Dean and Paul, two of my five siblings Brendan and Maureen and their families, and a sincere thank you to Janet Dale.

And last but by no means least, to my good friends who have attended tonight Wayne Chapman, Jim Connolly, Phillip Gowans, Tony Kent, Tim Respondek and Paul Heerey.

And in a final twist it was only recently that I learnt the translation of the Brothers' motto "To do and to teach" - FACERE ET DOCERE - is not Latin swearing for "go away and do your homework".

Thank you all and good evening.



Special Visitor

In March the College was privileged to have a visit from one of our most prominent Old Virgilians, Australian batting coach, Michael Di Venuto.

Michael was home for the World Cup fixtures at Bellerive and took time out of his busy schedule to come out and visit. Part of his visit was to drop off a donation to the College; amazingly it was Michael Clarke's current bat! Just before his visit Michael Clarke broke a piece out of a bat during practice and kindly gave it to Michael who had it signed by the entire World Cup Squad and donated it to the College.

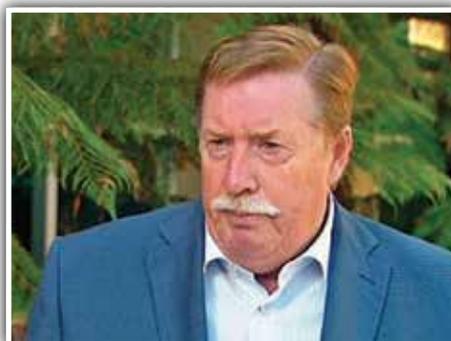
Michael spoke to the boys about his current role as Batting Coach with the Australian Cricket Team and one of his key messages was the importance of 'keeping it real and having fun'.

He spoke of each one of those members of the Australian Cricket Team, how they all started their journey as young boys loving the game. Their dedication and commitment to the sport has led them to their current positions as members of the Australian Team but he emphasised with the boys that even though it is their current job, if they are not having fun then it will become a chore and they lose their purpose and focus. This is a powerful message for all boys who are 'chasing their dreams' in so many fields of curricular and extra-curricular activities at the College.

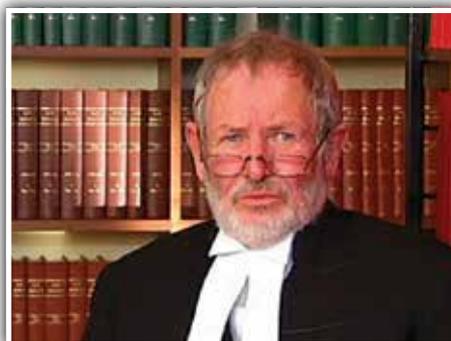
We thank Michael for his generous contribution to the College and we are fortunate to have him as an ambassador of ours, travelling the world. He spoke glowingly of his time at the College and challenged the boys to continue to be the best that they can be and make the most of every opportunity they encounter.

2015 Queen's Birthday Honours

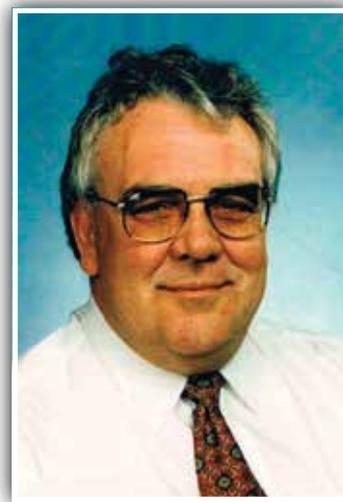
Congratulations to a number of Old Virgilians who were recognised for their outstanding service to the community in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours list:



- Paul Anthony Lennon AO (SVC 1965-1973) For distinguished service to the Parliament and Community of Tasmania, to economic diversification and sustainability, to improved social welfare opportunities, to major infrastructure development, and to reconciliation.



- Pierre W. Slicer AO QC (SVC 1951-60) Pierre was recognised for his service to the judiciary both nationally and in the Pacific. The honour also recognizes his work in the areas of social justice and policy reform.



- Michael Mervyn Clarke AM (SVC 1961-62). Michael received his award (posthumously) for his significant service to public health – particularly in terms of HIV / AIDS awareness and public administration.
- Tony Foster AM – Mayor of Brighton. Parent of former students Stephen and James. For significant service to local government through leadership roles, to professional governance associations, and to the community of Brighton.

Old Virgilians Athletics Club Celebrates its 50th Birthday

Some eighty people, several from interstate, gathered at the Cornelian Bay Hockey Centre on the evening of November 12 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Old Virgilians Athletics Club (aka the Southern Saints).

Keynote addresses to mark the occasion were delivered by Brian Roe, President of Athletics Tasmania, who provided an overview of the athletics scene in Tasmania and the challenges this sport faces. Graeme Rainbow 'came off the bench' to replace OV Simon Hollingsworth who was unable to attend due to the early arrival of child number three. Graeme was able to trace the history of the club from 1964 till the present.

Also on the night Lauren Gorringer (nee Jauncey) and Mark Nichols were given life membership.

Save the Date

Centenary of the OVA 1917-2017

A Weekend of Commemoration.
Friday May 19 - Sunday May 21, 2017.

Featuring the OVA Centenary Dinner,
Saturday May 20 at Wrest Point Casino.

Further information at
www.oldvirgilians.org.au

1. Life members Lauren Gorringer and Mark Nichols
2. Nathan Morey (OVA club President), Brian Roe (President of Athletics Tasmania) and Brendan Hannigan (former Olympian, life member and a current club coach).
3. The Jubilee gathering.



Personal Pars



- Grazianno Di Martino won the 2015 Art Award with his photograph “Hobart Underground” (above) at the prestigious 2015 Wrest Point Art Awards and Exhibition.
- Jamin (Ben) Kluss is a successful street artist and was recently featured in The Mercury’s Saturday Magazine. He uses stencils and spray paint to produce colourful and bold messages that can be seen around Hobart and on the high profile MONA ROMA ferry. His work is also on display at the waterfront restaurant Frank and the Despard Gallery. Jamin completed an undergraduate fine arts degree in 2004 when street art was starting to become recognised as a “thing” due to events such as the Iraq war and subsequent conflicts. In recent years he has also completed his Honours and Masters degrees and is currently completing a PhD in painting where he is exploring the dark side of politics.
- Daniel Reardon has featured twice in recent months for his work with St Vincent de Paul. Dan has led initiatives to collect blankets and raise funds and awareness for the plight of homeless people shivering through Hobart’s icy winter. He was particularly successful in obtaining blankets and support from a major Hotel chain in Hobart.



- Mark Ryan was recently featured in the news with the announcement of plans for the Macquarie Point site on the Hobart waterfront. Mark is the Chair of the Development Corporation as well as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tassal Group Ltd, having held the position since November 2003. He is the current Chair of Juicy Isle Pty Ltd, and a Director of Salmon Enterprises of Tasmania Pty Ltd, as well a number of other industry-related associations. Mark has over 26 years’ experience in the finance and turnaround-management sector and has contributed to a wide range of successful projects in Tasmania, interstate and overseas.
- Congratulations to Bini Hagos on his recent athletics successes. Bini won the 7 Km division of the City to Casino fun run and followed up with a win in the Open Division of the Southern Independent Schools Cross County Carnival held at Pontville. The Morey brothers also featured prominently in the City to Casino –Sam was 11th in the 11km event whilst Nathan, on the comeback after a lengthy injury, finished sixth in the 7Km.
- Jacob Despard and Jack Hale figured prominently at the 2015 Stawell Easter Carnival. Jacob finished second in his semi-final to the eventual winner of the Gift, whilst Jack ran third in his semi. Both made it through to the final of the backmarkers 120m event. Both were handicapped at three metres with the backmarker only 0.5 metres behind. Jacob ran second and Jack came in 4th.
- At the 2015 Burnie New Year Carnival, Jacob narrowly missed out on winning a second Burnie Gift, having won the prestigious event in 2013. This year he finished second by 0.01sec. He nearly completed a rare double having won the Devonport Gift just two days earlier.
- James Charlesworth has highlighted that he has many more talents than those he displays on the football field for TSL club Clarence. James has been recognised as the joint winner of the Education Department’s 2014 Outstanding Young Teacher Award. James is in his third year at the Jordan River Learning Federation Senior School at Bridgewater where he has developed and managed programmes to increase student literacy and numeracy as well as student wellbeing. James also helps mentor students as a school football coach and peer support coordinator.
- Jack Riewoldt continues to make headlines with his exceptional forward play for the high flying Richmond Tigers. Recognising his outstanding season the Tigers moved quickly and have signed him to a long term deal that will keep him at Punt Road until the end of the 2019 season. The College is extremely grateful to have taken possession of Jack’s International

Rules Top which has been signed by all players in the 2014 team. It has been framed and will go on proud display in the College's History Centre, alongside another recently acquired piece – an Australian cycling top signed by Olympian Sid Taberlay.



- From tragedy to triumph - it was a tumultuous year for Tasmanian tourist airline Par Avion and its Managing Director Shannon Wells. The year culminated in Shannon's company winning Best Major Tour and Transport Operator at the Australian Tourism Awards—the first national award for the family business in its more than 25 years of operation. Accepting the award, Shannon paid tribute to pilot Sam Langford, 29, who died in an accident with a photographer who was shooting the Sydney-Hobart yacht race. "The accident in late December was an absolute tragedy and we're still trying to get around that the best we can," Shannon told *The Mercury*. In 2014 Par Avion launched a flight training program in partnership with the University of Tasmania with the flying school attracting interest from interstate and overseas, particularly China. Par Avion operates tours to the

remote South-West National Park. Shannon's father, Don, bought Par Avion 25 years ago - "My father has been in aviation his whole life, from the air force, aged 17, then aerial photography and working for the original Airlines of Tasmania".

- SVC mountain biking star Scott Bowden was recently featured in *The Examiner*. The lead paragraph sums up his standing with the Tasmanian riding community – "FEW riders better encapsulate Tasmania's love affair with mountain biking more than Scott Bowden". As Tasmania continues to expand its world-class catalogue of trails and a host of riders turn their talents to elite competition, the 19-year-old has efficiently racked up Australian and Oceania cross-country titles at under-23 level as well as claiming the Open Men's National series. Scott's increasingly impressive CV could see him make a late push to represent Australia at next year's Olympic Games. While Victoria's London Olympian and Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Dan McConnell secured one spot in Rio de Janeiro by winning the national title, Bowden said the country's second allocation is less clear cut. "The Olympics are in the back of my mind having won the elite national series," he said. "It goes without saying that Dan has one of the spots, but I would like to think I could challenge for the other." With McConnell absent from two of the five rounds of the national series, the Hobart rider took full advantage, claiming the title in Toowoomba where he also won the Oceania under-23 crown.

And in Bright, Victoria, he added the National under-23 crown in an 80-minute race which also saw strong finishes from fellow OV Ben Bradley (fourth).

Bowden's route into mountain biking was almost as windy as some of the courses he now tackles. He previously competed in national titles of BMX riding, cross-country running, track and field athletics and triathlon. He eventually found his way to road cycling, and will contest this year's National Road Series. According to *The Examiner*, "Mountain biking reared its head when he was a student at St Virgil's College. They had 75 acres of land where a couple of outdoor education teachers (led by Mr Scott Williams and Mr Steve Aitken), had built six kilometres of mountain bike cross-country track. That put me on the right path, I met more people in the sport and started to get really motivated." Having deferred University for a year, Scott will travel overseas hoping to follow in the bike tracks of Tasmanian national champions OV Sid Taberlay and Rowena Fry by competing in world cup events and possibly the world champs in Andorra in September, before resuming plans to become a physiotherapist. Good luck with your Olympic quest Scott!

- Daniel Groom and Mitchell Free (Captain) and Matt Harris represented Tasmania in the Pizzey Cup and the Tennis Australia Cup. Tasmania tied for third but on count back was paced fifth. Daniel was named as one of eight in an Australian tennis Team of Merit following outstanding performances in circuit events.



- 2008 Beijing Gold medal winning Olympian Dr Scott Brennan formally announced his retirement from rowing on March 18. The 32-year-old who, with David Crawshay won gold in Beijing 2008 in the men's double scull, has been battling a persistent upper back injury originally sustained in the weeks leading into the London 2012 Olympic Games, which has meant he has had to call time on his elite rowing career. Starting at St Virgil's he noted: "I have been rowing for 20 years and through this sport I have formed a large part of my own identity. To be forced by injury into the decision to walk away has been unpleasant to say the least, but also unavoidable. I consider myself fortunate that I have a medical career that can, to an extent, fill the void that rowing will leave behind, although nothing could replace the thrill of sitting on the start line of an Olympic Games representing your country." The Canberra-based doctor, tried everything possible for over two years with the support of an incredible medical team to overcome this injury. The triple Olympian began competing for Australia in 2000 when he made his debut at 17 years of age in the Junior Men's Quadruple Scull at the World Rowing Junior Championships, while in 2001, at the same event, he won his first

international medal, silver, in the Junior Men's Single Scull. He went on to claim gold in the Men's single scull at the World Rowing U23 Championships while during his senior career took home five World Rowing Cup medals. He is best known to the Australian public for his fantastic Olympic gold-medal winning performance alongside David Crawshay in 2008. Under the guidance of Rhett Ayliffe, the duo won their heat, their semi-final and then beat Estonia and Great Britain to finish top of the podium in China.

"Winning gold with Crawshay is of course the highlight of my career. It has been a sad day to know that I won't be rowing in the same team as him anymore as our entire Olympic careers have been together. We worked so closely and under such intensity for the better part of a decade, I wouldn't have wanted to have won gold with anyone else, and I dare say I couldn't have won it with anyone else either. He is the brother I never had and I'm truly grateful for the friendship we will always have."

Rowing Australia's High Performance Director, Chris O'Brien said: "Scott has represented Australia over the last 14 years to the highest distinction. His Olympic gold medal at Beijing will see him go down in the annals of Australian rowing history, and justly so.

"Scott has been a fantastic role model over the years to many Australian rowers and I have no doubt that he will continue to do so even though he is no longer competing. We wish him every success with his medical career and his future."

The St Virgil's community echo those sentiments and thank Scott sincerely for inspiring past, current and future generations of SVC rowers.

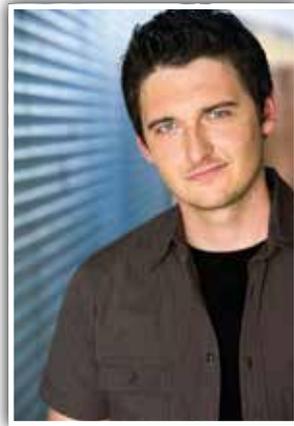


- Nick Direen recently contacted the Development Office – "Congratulations on the cover photo of the latest Words & Deeds (February 2015) - receiving the magazine here in Houston, I was immediately transported back to my beloved Tasmania, standing on dolerite looking at the southern curve of the edge of the world.

The photo evoked two particular SVC memories for me: first, of two torrid trips to Pindars Peak and Mt La Perouse in the early '90's, one with Justin Ridgeway (SVC 1986-1991), where we spent several days tent-bound in rain and fog at Pigsty Ponds - we never did reach Pindars! The second, looking back to the coast and Southport, where the Christian Brothers house was, and where I spent my retreats in Grades 10 and 12. Great times! I also want to extend my congratulations to Nicholas Ashlin, and all the other boys who achieved highly in the UNSW Australian Mathematics Competition, which I also remember fondly from my SVC years. There is definitely a great academic path for you lads to follow: aim high!

Nick Direen
Senior Geophysical Advisor, ExxonMobil
Exploration Company, Houston, Texas
USA SVC 1986-1991; Dux & Best
All Rounder

- Inspirational OV Mitch McPherson was recently featured in the 'Tas Weekend' publication. Mitch started the 'Speak Up! Stay ChatTy' after losing his much loved and popular younger brother Ty, to suicide two years ago. He launched his suicide prevention message in 2014, running 330km from Burnie to Hobart. Six of his football mates joined him to raise awareness about the not-for-profit "Speak Up Stay ChatTY" program. Since then it has increased its profile throughout Tasmania and has a clear message for all people about mental health issues – be aware. People can be popular, successful and appear to have no apparent issues, but may be in crisis. In 2015 Mitch was awarded the Clarence Citizen of the year Award at the Australia Day celebrations on the Bellerive Boardwalk. As the charity expanded Mitch left his job as a glazier and now works for Relationships Australia. He visits schools, workplaces, sporting clubs and other venues to talk to people about mental health and try to de-stigmatise it. He happily admits he is not a professional but is passionate about ensuring that other families do not feel his family's loss. He regularly gets messages from parents thanking him for encouraging their own children to open up and speak about their feelings. Mitch's work is making a difference and the College community is very proud of him. To find out more about 'Speak Up! Stay ChatTy' go to www.staychatty.com.au
For 24/7 crisis support phone Kids Helpline 1800 551 800, Lifeline 131 114, Suicide Call Back Service 1300 65946 or headspace.org.au



- Toby Leonard Moore (SVC Grade 10 1994) is currently blitzing the small screen with his portrayal of James Wesley, the right-hand man to chief baddie Wilson Fisk, in Marvel's dark superhero series Daredevil. The Washington Post described Moore's Wesley as "the essence of cruelty and professionalism". Toby is the son of actor and motivational speaker Robyn Moore who was the voice of cartoon character Blinky Bill! Robyn in *The Mercury* was quoted as saying; "the reaction to her son's performance in Daredevil, available on Netflix in Australia, was amazing. "It's another inspiring Tassie story," she said. "At nine years of age Toby said 'Mum, I want to be an actor' and he's been a self-sustaining actor and voice-over artist in the US for many years now." Toby went from SVC to study acting at the prestigious National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) in Sydney (past alumni are Cate Blanchett, Sam Worthington and Mel Gibson), graduating in 2005. In Sydney theatre, he's appeared onstage in Company B's production of *Peribanez*, directed by Neil Armfield as well as in Sydney Theatre

Company productions of *Dead Caesar*, *Stag* and most recently, *Saturn's Return*, directed by David Berthold. His Australian TV appearances include "Murder in the Outback" and "Underbelly" and his American credits include six episodes of Spielberg and Hanks' HBO epic mini-series, "The Pacific", playing Sergeant Stone. In 2010 he was credited for guest starring as Walton in the Dollhouse episode *Gray Hour*. He has since gone on to work on 2014's *John Wick* starring Keanu Reeves, guest starred on *White Collar* and in 2016 will be beside Paul Giamatti on the anticipated "Billions".

Reunions

Class of 1955

Every five years for a number of decades the 1955 matriculation year (along with adjacent classes) have held a three day reunion.

This year's event, being the 60th Anniversary, is to be held on Friday November 6, Saturday November 7 and Sunday November 8 2015.

More information can be found at the Reunions website www.svcclassof55.org or by contacting Geoff Doolan 0427391150 or doolan@iprimus.com.au

Births

Class of 1995 Reunion

Saturday December 19 2015

3 pm – meet at Austins Ferry campus for tour and pre-dinner drinks
5pm – bus to city venue for dinner

Please contact Anthony Dickson 0456 536 357 or anthony@mainstageevents.com.au if you are able to attend and help track down some of the boys from '95.

Class of 1975

The Class of '75 wants you at the 40 Year Reunion Weekend, Friday October 30 to Sunday November 1 2015

Friday October 30:

Evening - informal gathering for drinks and nibbles. The Marquis Hotel, 6pm

Saturday October 31:

Evening Reunion Dinner
Hadley's Orient Hotel, 6pm

Sunday November 1:

Lunchtime BBQ at St Virgil's including tours of the Austins Ferry campus. (11.30 am - 4 pm)

A closed Facebook page has been set up @ SVC 1975 40 year reunion. More information on the Reunion functions will be published on the Facebook page in the near future. Please RSVP to the Reunion email address: 1975svc2015@gmail.com and indicate which of the reunion events you will be attending. It would be appreciated if you would also include your mobile phone number. It is intended that all future contact regarding the Reunion will be via email. Please round up your mates and make it a weekend to remember! Paul Boutchard, Jim Rushton and Steve Denniss. Class of 75 Organising Committee.

- To Christian and Venetia Zantuck a son, George Augustus, on May 18. A brother for Frederick.
- To Shannon and Sarah Wells a son, Louis Joseph, on June 4. A brother for Olivia and Flynn.
- To Peter and Kristen Rasmussen a son, William James Kenneth, on June 22.
- Steve (staff) and Dawn Aitken welcomed their first child, Fletcher, born 9:16pm July 16, weighing 3.34kg (7lb1oz.).
- Simon (staff) and Juanita Ellis welcomed Maisie Amy, born 2.15pm July 11, weighing 2.930kg.
- Tim Hill (SVC 1960-70) passed away in Launceston on March 1. Tim who served as a Magistrate in the north of the State for 22 years is survived by his wife and two children. Tim is the brother of soon to retire chief magistrate Michael Hill (SVC 1958-66) and an uncle of Julian Hill (SVC 1991-94).
- David Anderson passed away May 14. Husband of Roberta (dec.) and father of Mark (SVC 1973-78), Michael (SVC 1975-81) and Catherine.
- Bridget Stone passed away May 24. Beloved wife of Derek (dec.), loved and loving mother and mother-in-law of Martin (SVC 1968-73) and Janet, Carol and Richard Parremore, Julia (SVC staff) and Steve Denniss (SVC 1967-75, Patrick (1974-77), Elizabeth, Anna and Cliff Phillips, Teresa and Paul Sheehan, Marguerite and Tim Clarke, Gabrielle and Matthew Streat, and Chris (SVC 1986-91). Daughter of the late Maurice (SVC 1911-15) and Lesley Mulchay, and brother of Bernard and Robert (SVC 1957-62).

Marriages

Please tell us your news – your peers would love to know!
Email: rainbow@stvirgils.tas.edu.au

- Grade 4 teacher Mr Tim Birthisel and Mel were married during the Christmas break.

Deaths

- Neale Matthews passed away peacefully March 8. Beloved husband of Helen and much loved father and father-in-law of Nathan (SVC 1987-92) and Sylvia, Craig (SVC 1988-94) and Karen, and Giles (SVC 1991-94).

- Paul O'Brien (SVC 1947-49) passed away peacefully at Calvary Hospital on April 18. Son of Ken and Eva O'Brien of Tunnack, much loved husband of Marie and adored father of Christopher (SVC 1970-73), Anne Maree, Helene and Justin (SVC 1976-81). Much loved grandfather of eight grandchildren.



• Michael Francis McGee
(1949-2015) (SVC 1961-66)

Michael was born on March 24 1949 at Westbury. A second son for Walter and Phoebe, and a little brother for Peter. He spent his childhood on the farm at Quamby Bend at his parent's property 'Fair View' and attended the Westbury Convent School. His secondary education was at St Virgil's College in Hobart as a boarder from Grade 7-12. Michael was always proud of being educated at St Virgil's and was a member and keen supporter of the Old Virgilians Association, often enjoying many functions in Hobart and afar. He served as a Vice-President of the Association from 1982 through to 2015 – some 34 years.

Following College, Michael gained employment at Comalco George Town and through evening TAFE classes gained his accreditation as a Metallurgical Research Scientist.

Weekends were spent back at Westbury working on the farm. In due course older brother Peter, who had gone onto the family farm after leaving Saints, persuaded Mike to go into partnership

with him and purchase a nearby property 'The Pines' – from there the iconic brand PM & MF McGee Brothers, Westbury was formed.

Working hard on the farm the McGee brothers were supplying a lot of fresh produce to Hobart and Launceston – the brothers worked out that they could probably make a dollar or three if they started their own retail business and put the heat on the bigger supermarkets. So in the early 1980s the old dilapidated service station (which had been vacant for ten years and is now John Temple gallery) was purchased. With a lot of handy work carried out by his maternal grandfather and his brothers the Westbury Fruit and Vegetable Market was in business. Peter claims, "they gave themselves four years to pay it off and within 56 days it was paid off" – a good business decision after all!

Between the farm and the market Mike and Peter employed up to 22 fulltime and up to 30 casual staff. For eighteen and a half years up until 2000 a successful wholesale and retail business was conducted, Peter looking after the farm and Mike the market's finances and book work.

Mention was made in the eulogy that, "Mike was a hard working, calm businessman who would often have to step in to be the 'fireman' and put out all the 'fires' that Peter started with employees. He would diffuse the situation and business would continue as normal". Mike married Helen Berringer in 1976 and from the union three children - Matthew, Alison and Simon – were born. Regrettably, in 2000 Helen passed away with cancer. There is no doubt this broke Mike's heart and to be honest he probably never recovered. Mike loved his family. He loved sport and was a great servant of the Westbury

community. He loved sport despite not having stepped onto a sports field as a serious participant due to congenital problems with his ankles and feet. He thoroughly loved watching live and TV sport. Of particular interest was his affiliation with the Westbury Shamrock's Cricket Club. Michael was the inaugural President of the club and its archivist - shortly before his death handing over six large scrap books to the club. Despite his failing health Mike was front and centre when the club won the NTCA 'A Grade' premiership earlier this year. Michael had also spent four years on the Board of the NTCA.

Shortly before Helen's death, the family moved to Riverside. Michael joined the Riverside Lions Club in April 2003. This gave him a new lease of life through its projects and through the fellowship of its membership. He served as the Club's President 2008/09 and Secretary 2011/12. Rest in peace, Michael Francis McGee.

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- Murray Fisher
(August 28 1945 – March 3 2015)
Some thoughts from John Shaw.
Murray Fisher died on March 3 2015.
His funeral was held at the Church of
the Holy Spirit in Sandy Bay on 11
March 2015.
Murray attended St Virgils College
Barrack Street from 1953-1964. Murray
was a good student at St Virgil's,
popular and was always fun to be
around. He was an accomplished
footballer and was at one time referred
to by Br Quilligan as, "gentleman
Fisher" for his manner of play.
He was proud to be an Old Virgilian
and remained active in the Old
Virgilians Association, serving on the
OVA committee and at times co-
editing the OVA newsletter with Bob
Scanlon and Bob Hamilton.
He sailed overseas to the UK soon
after leaving school and spent some
time living in London with fellow old
boys, Jerry Langdale and Gerard
McGarry, and the popular Mayor of
Brighton, Tony Foster. Some of his
London mates travelled from
interstate to attend his funeral.

Besides working overseas in London
and Toronto, Canada, Murray worked
for over 30 years in the Tasmanian
State Public Service, covering a
number of Departments including
Premier and Cabinet and Treasury,
and he was on the staff of a number of
Labour and Liberal Ministers. During
the 1970s he was an adviser to the late
Michael Barnard, the Labour Minister
for Tourism.

A highlight of Murray's career was his
time working for Robin Gray, the
Liberal Premier of Tasmania during
most of the 1980s. When the
government changed in 1989 Murray
very nearly scored a job with the
incoming Labour Premier, Michael
Field. However, according to Murray,
the Greens objected to the
appointment. When the Liberals were
returned to office during the 1990s,
Murray worked for Liberal Premier
Ray Groom. I can't think of anyone
else who has worked on the staff of
Ministers from both political
persuasions. So what does all this
bi-partisanship tell us about Murray
Fisher? Well I suggest that it not only
tells us how good he was at his job, but
also how much he was liked by
politicians on both sides of politics.
He was seen as a political asset by
many because of the way he was able to
engage with all kinds of people at
every level. He had the ability to bring
people together. He had a great
saying which I think helped him do
that. He would often say to people
when talking about his political boss
"He thinks very highly of you." It may
not always have been accurate, but it
often helped in difficult situations.
Murray was a great raconteur and
storyteller. I have no reason to doubt
any of them. There is one that I can

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SVC, 1978 - 1987

recall. It was when Murray accompanied former Premier Robin Gray to Davos in Switzerland for the annual World Economic Forum. Being a Roman Catholic, Murray went to Mass on Sunday morning and after mass met the Federal Labour Treasurer Paul Keating and his wife Anita. Paul Keating offered Murray a lift back to their Hotel. As they approached the Hotel, Paul Keating said to Murray "Look there's Robin pacing outside looking for you. Why don't I jump out and open the door for you?" Naturally Murray agreed to this arrangement despite the risks to his career. So Paul Keating stepped out and opened the door and Murray alighted from the car grinning from ear to ear, as a surprised Robin Gray watched on. This story almost rivals the time in Tokyo when the Japanese mistook him for the Premier and Murray was driven away in a limo waving and smiling whilst Robin had to be content, following in a smaller vehicle!

Murray was highly valued for his ability to assist with major emergencies in Tasmania. He undertook a specialised training course on disasters or emergency management at Mt Macedon in Victoria. He was an invaluable resource in managing the political and social aftermath of fires at Zeehan, the mine closures at Queenstown and King Island and a number of other major emergencies in Tasmania over a number of years. He was often sent out as the fix-it man on the spot, representing the government. Murray spent his last years living at Coogee in Sydney. He was immensely proud of his family, and he is survived by his former wife Denise, their four children, daughter Mary Rose, son

Geoffrey and Kate and grandsons Thomas and Campbell, daughter Sally and Matt, daughter Cassandra, and his brother Paul.

- Vale Br Reginald Michael (Colman) Long, Principal of St Virgil's College 1985 - 1990 .
Br Reg Long died at the Good Shepherd Home in Abbotsford, Victoria, where he had been since 2012. In recent months, Reg had been slipping and communication was minimal although, on the other hand, his gentle, almost cheeky smile would still sometimes appear.
Reg was born at Knowsley in country Victoria near Bendigo where his father, James, was a farmer, and his mother, Mary, looked after the house. Reg had seven siblings, John, Marie (Kennedy), Ted, Bill, Bernie, (all deceased) Des and Monsignor Bryan. Reg did his secondary schooling at St Patrick's College, Ballarat, before he entered the Christian Brothers' Training College in Strathfield in January 1946. When his training was completed, he moved to:
- | | |
|--------|--|
| Jan 49 | Leederville |
| Feb 56 | Moonee Ponds |
| Jan 65 | Heyington |
| Jan 73 | Bundoora ERC |
| Jan 75 | North Melbourne
(Principal) |
| Jan 81 | Devonport
(Superior/Principal) |
| Jan 84 | Box Hill – St Joseph's |
| Jan 85 | Hobart (Principal) |
| Jan 91 | Ballarat – St Patrick'
(Superior
& Bursar 1992-2008) |
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Reg was clearly a stable and committed community man as shown by the relatively small number of communities in which he lived. He had a generous heart and he used to make sure that cakes and lollies were provided for the community. His spirituality was solid while he was also open to the changes in the Church and religious life after Vatican 2. Reg enjoyed teaching and he specialised in teaching Economics while his competence and efficiency saw him taking on leadership roles in various places. At Devonport, he led St Brendan-Shaw College in its first years as a combined school with the Christian Brothers and Sisters of St Joseph. He was a well-respected and effective leader at St Virgil's College Hobart. Another of his roles when at Ballarat was that of manager for the holiday house, Baysands, at Apollo Bay and this task received his usual thoroughness. Reg was a keen sportsman with cricket and tennis as his main interests.

With general good health, he continued playing tennis into his 70s while he had a passion for Collingwood in the AFL. All his life, he maintained close links with his extended family and he will be missed by them and by the Brothers who respected him highly. A Vigil Service was held at the Treacy Centre, Parkville, followed by his Funeral Mass the following day at St Damian's Church, Bundoora, which followed by his burial at the Brothers' cemetery in Bundoora. We thank our God for Reg, his life and for those whose lives touched his. May Reg rest in peace.

- Michael Albert Connor passed away in May 2015. Michael was the son of A J Connor who ran a well-known clothing emporium in Harrington Street, Hobart for many years (now the site of Spotlight). They used to supply SVC uniform clothing. Michael's funeral at Corpus Christi Church, Bellerive was well attended and concelebrated by Archbishop Adrian Doyle, Frs. Peter O'Loughlin, Brian Nichols and Gerald Quinn CP.
- Mr Ian Shadbolt, past Business Manager of St Virgil's College passed away in May.



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