Opportunity, Fun, Adventure... any day at SVC!
During an assembly last month I took the opportunity to speak to the boys about the importance of tradition. I related to them a story from the Jubilee Roll of Honour dinner where one of the recipients spoke fondly of his memories of a State Athletics trip. Following this speech, as is tradition at this dinner, old scholars in attendance, give their rendition of the College ‘War Cry’. It always amazes me that even after 30 or 40 years away from the College the old boys are word perfect when it comes to the College’s call to arms.

The following day I travelled north to Launceston for the State Athletics championships. The day was successful on the track, but a highlight was the great numbers that attended the event to support the athletes as members of the cheer squad. As tradition would dictate, the boys were in fine voice and were gaining the attention of all and sundry with their constant strains of our song, ‘Oh when the Saints’. The meeting concluded and we were successful in winning the Junior State Athletics title. As has become custom, the team plus the cheer squad belted out a very memorable War Cry. Following the War Cry I told the boys the story about the Old Virgilians from the previous evening and the significance of the War Cry to the history and tradition of St Virgil’s College.

This spirit was again evident recently at our Golden Jubilee weekend where we celebrated 50 years of Catholic education for boys on the Austins Ferry campus. On the Friday the students participated in a diverse range of fun and engaging activities which provided a mood of celebration whilst also allowing for time to reflect upon the traditions that had been handed to them by old scholars, many of whom arrived by train when the campus opened in 1962.

In keeping with our mission the major community event for the weekend was the celebration of Mass on Sunday held in the spiritual home of the campus, the Chapel. The celebration of Mass is at the heart of everything we do as a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition and as Father Felix so poignantly reminded the old scholars, current students and staff and other friends of the College in attendance, it is appropriate when celebrating to give thanks to God for the many gifts that he has bestowed upon the College and its students.

Another feature of the weekend was the opening of the History Trail which recognises some of the key events and people in the rich history of the Austins Ferry site. The trail has been a labour of love for the incredibly talented and committed pair of Bruce Woods and Graeme Rainbow, who have captured in word and image, the true essence of life at the ‘Ferry’.

Other significant events over the weekend included a BBQ luncheon for the Classes of 2005 and 2009, morning tea served by Hospitality students and staff, a T20 cricket match between the Di Venuto XI and the Clinglefeffer XI and an incredible music
concert by a band comprised of old scholars, current staff and some of the College’s instrumental teachers. Many of the musicians directly attribute their time at St Virgil’s as being pivotal to their decision to study and work within the music industry.

On the Saturday evening old scholars from the Class of 1972, 1982 and 1992 gathered for a reunion dinner at St Virgil’s College Junior School. Prior to the dinner old scholars were able to tour Barrack Street and re-live their glory days! During the night countless memories and stories were recounted with all in attendance vowing to get together again soon to reinforce their friendships and the unbreakable bond they all have with St Virgil’s College.

The Golden Jubilee weekend was a wonderful celebration of the history and traditions of the Austins Ferry campus. It also reinforced the connection of old scholars to the College, a connection so wonderfully established by the incredibly successful Centenary celebrations. God bless all who contribute to our community in the name of St Virgil.

School Registration

In the first edition of Words and Deeds for 2012 I reported that the College was going through the process of re-registration in 2012. Through the hard work of staff in collating the considerable educational and administrative resources for the review panel, I am pleased to report that the College has attained registration for the period 2012-2015. The Registration Board commented on the College’s decision to continue with a disciplined based education based around the new Australian Curriculum. We look forward to the continued development that the Australian Curriculum will bring at both the primary and secondary level. Much time and effort this year has been put into the consolidation and use of this curriculum.

Junior School Bank Development

On the development front, things have been very quiet during the second half of the year with the one exception being the opening and blessing of the new Nature Bank at the Patrick Street campus. The amphitheatre stand, as part of the development, was named the ‘Luch Brighella Stand’ in recognition of Mr Brighella who finishes his time with the College at the end of 2012. We thank him for his wonderful contribution and wish him well in his role as Principal of Sacred Heart Primary School at Geeveston.

End of Year

The academic year concluded with our usual rituals and ceremonies with a highlight being the handing over of the light from the Old Scholars to the graduating class and then the graduation class handing it on to the current students to nurture in the future. We are pleased with our ongoing links and connections within our community but especially the strengthening of our connections with the Old Virgilians’ Association and their supporting network. The other major highlight was the presentation of a cheque for $25,000 to Brother Russell Peters at our Thanksgiving Liturgy. Br Russell, a former Principal of St Virgil’s College, now operates and works in the Christian Brothers Network in East Africa. The money donated will allow the Mary Rice Centre, a school for disabled children, to function and operate effectively for the coming year.

In closing I would like to thank all the staff, students and parents for another wonderful year and especially in our Golden Jubilee celebration. 2013 promises to be another busy year for the College as our enrolments exceed 750 students for the first time in many, many years.

In the spirit of Blessed Edmund.

Damian Messer
Principal

Following this speech, as is tradition at this dinner, old scholars in attendance, give their rendition of the College ‘War Cry’. It always amazes me that even after 30 or 40 years away from the College the old boys are word perfect when it comes to the College’s call to arms.
2013 Student Leadership

The College community commend the following boys who have taken up the challenge of student leadership in 2013.

House Leaders

**Hessian**
- Carlos Poulson – Service
- Luke Roe – Spirit
- Caleb Jewell – Sport

**Dwyer**
- James Wagin – Service
- Mitchell Free – Spirit
- Lachlan Watt – Sport

**Doyle**
- Nathan Beattie - Service
- Isaac Salter – Spirit
- Jordan Hayden – Sport

**Joyce**
- Wesley Hauler – Service
- Sean Colrain – Spirit
- Mitchell Hoare – Sport
Grade 10 Farewell Mass

For the first time the Grade 10 graduands joined with Old Virgilians to celebrate Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral as part of the rite of passage for the Class of 2012. As a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition, the celebration of Mass is a poignant way to celebrate the journey that boys, parents and staff have shared at St Virgil’s, whilst giving thanks to God for the many gifts and blessings the boys have shared.

The Old Virgilians Association Mass was a moving occasion, celebrated by Old Virgilian priests, Fr Michael Tate and Fr Michael Delaney as well as concelebrating priests Fr Felix Ekeh and Fr Brian Nichols. The Old Virgilians present greatly enjoyed the opportunity to interact with members of the Class of 2012 and formally welcome them to the ranks of Old Virgilians.

Thanksgiving Liturgy and Awards Ceremony

The end of a passage of time is often a mix of emotions. For our Grade 10 students, the annual Thanksgiving Liturgy and Awards Ceremony was definitely one of those moments. For the graduating class the elation felt from being with a large group of friends and peers and celebrating years of strong mateship, is counterbalanced with the raw emotion of coming to terms with the fact that the journey at St Virgil’s is now over. This was especially evident at the supper where guests heard the elation in the war cry and felt the passion with which it was sung and then experienced the outpouring of raw emotion from our young men who shed tears of joy tinged with great sadness as their time as Virgilians came to an end.

The College is always proud to see where the journey for each boy has taken them. Each boy has undertaken a unique journey and one which he will remember for all his days. It is of great solace that the boys have been on a good journey; a journey true to our calling as a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation to Br Russell Peters, a former Principal of the College, who made the journey from Africa to provide such inspirational material about the Mary Rice Centre, details that will no doubt affirm our commitment to the Centre and inspire our students and staff to do even more in 2013. Principal Mr Damian Messer presented Br Peters with a cheque for $25,000, the culmination of fundraising efforts from students, staff and parents.

A feature of the night is the presentation of awards that recognise student excellence and achievement in curricular and co-curricular areas of the College.

2012 Award Winners

**Advanced English**
Brady Jones

**Agriculture**
Nathan Blair

**Aquatic Biology**
Samuel Young

**Art**
Adam Schofield

**Athlete Development**
Joshua McDermott

**Business Studies**
Ellis Blyth

**Drama**
Jake Doran

**English**
Adam Schofield

**Film Studies**
Adam Schofield

**French**
Aaron Harvey

**Health and Physical Education**
Henry Hopwood

**ICT - Applied**
Connor Shreeve

**ICT - Systems**
Samuel Young

**Introduction to Sociology & Psychology**
Kieran Healy

**Law in Action**
Jordan Sutton

**Mathematics**
Samuel Young

**Mathematics Additional**
Dominic Bobrowski

**Mathematics Methods**
Samuel Young

**Music**
Zachary Spinks

**Outdoor Education**
Henry Hopwood

**Production Management**
Zander Barisic

**Recreational Leadership**
Luke Warrener

**Religious Education**
Adam Schofield

**Rock Music Studies**
Jack Norris
Half Way Day

Half Way Day is a symbolic day on the College calendar. As its name suggests it marks the mid-way point of the year for students in regards their academic studies. The break from classes enables students and staff to reflect upon their achievements to date and to also to consider the needs of the marginalised in our midst. The focus of the day is the College Walkathon which raises funds for charities supported by the College; charities which are in keeping with our mission as a Catholic school for boys in the Edmund Rice tradition.

The day brings together all students from Senior and Junior School as well as a number of parents who cooked a BBQ lunch for over 750 hungry students and staff! A highlight of the day was a moving Liturgy which highlighted the distances that some students in other countries have to travel to get to and from school each day by foot.

All students participating in the walkathon were challenged to walk a minimum of seven kilometres - the same distances that the children of Mary Rice walk each day to and from school. Some boys went far beyond what was expected of them and were able to raise a significant level of funds through eliciting sponsorship from friends and family. The wonderful sense of spirit and endeavour was inspiring.

In planning for this day staff spoke to students at length about two things:
What it means to be a good man – a man of faith and empathy, and to this end the boys were encouraged to look to Jesus as their model; and
To take up the challenge of looking beyond themselves and to selflessly work for the poor and marginalised, in this case the students of the Mary Rice Centre in Nairobi.
In the spirit of recognising student achievement to date, following the walkathon some boys participated in a range of fun activities in the afternoon, whilst Grade 10 students participated in a diverse range of service learning activities including preparing food for the St Vincent de Paul’s, Louis’ Van, cleaning the van, volunteering at Brightside Animal Sanctuary in Cygnet, working at the Foodbank at Cambridge and working with students at St Paul’s Primary School, Bridgewater. For these students the afternoon was an opportunity step out of their comfort zones and take action in living the Gospel story of presence, compassion and liberation.

We are blessed to have such supportive people in our com Half Way Day is an opportunity for the College to come together as a Catholic community to pray and to reflect upon what makes us an authentic Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition and to pray for the students, families and teachers at the Mary Rice Centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

In the Service of Others

Our College crest tells the wider community who we are and what we stand for. The central element of the cross reminds us of our Catholic faith and traditions. The open book indicates that all learning is to be brought to the young and the two letters on the open pages, Alpha and Omega, are a reminder that God is the “first and last, the beginning and the end” (Rev:32:13), and that all knowledge begins and ends with Him. ‘Facere et docere’, meaning to do and to teach, reminds all...
in our community of our pledge to lead others to Him by word and example. It is a constant reminder of the promise of Christ to his followers: “But he that shall do and teach shall be called great in the kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 5:9).

Through deeds not words we live out this promise and in line with the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice we are called to stand with the marginalised within our community. This is achieved through a commitment to service of others and is evident in programmes such as service leadership, Youth Ministry and the New Beginnings programmes as well as activities such as the annual Walkathon, which this year raised funds for the Mary Rice Centre in Nairobi.

Grade 9
Service Learning Programme

In Term 3 students in Grade 9 completed service learning in a range of community endeavours including the Hobart Foodbank, St Paul’s Catholic School at Bridgewater and the Bellerive Coast Care project. The work of students has been greatly appreciated by members of the wider community and in the process students have learnt a great deal about themselves, leadership and the values that underpin our College motto, ‘By Deeds not Words’.

The concept of servant leadership begins by being a servant first. A servant leader must see service to others as an integral component of leadership. Servant leaders serve because they are motivated by love and humility. Jesus is the perfect example of servant leadership. Jesus humbled himself and became a servant of all. Through these service experiences it is hoped that boys will continue their journey towards becoming good men, inspired by love and humility and through their deeds will model the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice who took his motivation for service leadership from his reading of the Gospels.

The College is particularly appreciative of the work of Mrs Renee MacGregor for her leadership of the programme and would like to commend the boys for their fine efforts. After learning about each of the service providers and the completion of the practical component of this unit, boys were asked to write a reflection of their experience. The essence of this learning experience has been captured in the following quotes taken from student reflections:

“When packing hampers yesterday I felt proud that I was doing something for the community and for those in need instead of thinking about myself”

“I have learnt to respect that I am able to have a meal in the morning, lunch and at tea and I have learnt not to take that for granted anymore”

Youth Ministry

This term the Youth Ministry class has been participating in the ‘Face to Faith’ Programme. Face to Faith is a worldwide, multi-faith programme. It allows students to interact with other students from around the world, in the process bringing together a diverse number of countries and faiths through video conferencing, blogging and contributions to online forums.

The focus for the Youth Ministry class has been a unit of work on Poverty and Wealth. The class teamed up with Kira Khurd Public School in Delhi, India. Kira Khurd is situated in the middle of Delhi, one on the most highly populated cities in the world and students practise the Hindu faith. In the introductory video conference (VC), students shared stories about their faith, schools, and communities.

Both classes then studied the same unit of work, culminating in a second video conference. In preparation for the VC students explored what spiritual wealth and material wealth was, learnt about fair trade and reflected upon what was important for them in their lives and contemplated the Catholic perspective of wealth.

A highlight of the preparation was a visit from Dr Drasko Disdar. Dr Disdar introduced the boys to ‘Liberation Theology’ to aide them in their exploration of material and spiritual wealth. At the conclusion of the unit boys completed a written reflection of their experience of the Face to Faith programme, with a number of comments cited below:

“I feel I have taken a lot of experience from this conference, it showed me that even though people can be vastly different, there is always key points where we can come together as one to maturely discuss and relate to”.

“I discovered that I have a lot of spiritual wealth in terms of my family, friends and definitely the lifestyle I am choosing to live. I see that I’m much less inclined to make material kinds of wealth the more important goal of my life and think about the people all over the world who are content with having little to no material wealth at all, but spiritual wealth.”

Daniel Debnam, Grade 10

“We are not different to other cultures because we are actually very similar if you take the time and sit down and listen.”

Sam Percy, Grade 9
Catholic Education Week

The theme for this year’s celebration is the Church’s ‘Year of Grace’. As a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition, students were encouraged to reflect upon the question and apply it to their own lives; “What does this have to do with Jesus?” Catholic Education Week is an invitation for making the Family-Parish-School Partnership real in our day to day lives.

The Church invites all to ‘Retreat’ through reflection and meditation during this Year of Grace. In the Junior School students celebrated the Year of Grace each day with morning class prayer. There was also a focus on the achievements of students and the commitment of staff to Catholic Education. Students participated in a soup and roll day as a fundraiser for the Archbishop’s Good Samaritan Fund, which provides assistance to local families in need of support or emergency help.

Hobart City Eisteddfod

Well done to our amazing Choir led by Mrs Janelle Stowe who won their section of the School Choir competition for students Grade 10 and under. The Choir beat a range of high performing boys, girls and co-ed Choirs to collect an Award Certificate and $50 prize. The Choir’s efforts were perhaps even more notably recognised with the awarding of another certificate and $50 prize presented to the best performing choir of the day!

The award is due recognition for the Choir’s commitment to rehearsal and to the immense benefit they received from participating in Master Classes with internationally renowned Choir Master Paul Jarman. The College community had additional opportunities to appreciate the talents of the Choir at the annual Gala Concert and at the Thanksgiving Liturgy and Awards ceremony.

House Beach Bonanza Day

The 2012 House Beach Bonanza Day has been ‘run and won’. Over 400 boys ventured to Seven Mile Beach to take part in a range of beach challenges in year level House groups. The combination of beach, boys and challenge made for a great day of activity and competition. Congratulations to all boys who entered into the spirit of the day in such a positive and spirited way.

A special mention must go to Tom and Joe Gauden for overseeing the water activities and also to Mr Dalton and the HPE staff for the organisation of the day. The all-important House points from the day were added to the overall tally, and after a strong performance on the day, Hessian House received the trophy for the winning House for 2012 at the Thanksgiving Liturgy and Graduation Ceremony.

25 Year Service Awards

In July the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office recognised Mr Terry Blizzard and Mrs Lee Shea for their excellent service to Catholic Education. On behalf of St Virgil’s we offer our heartfelt thanks for their service and dedication to Catholic education- Lee 25 years and Terry 27 years.

Jubilee Auction Dinner

The 2012 Golden Jubilee Gala Auction was a great success thanks to the wonderful organisation of the Parents and Friends Association led by President Mrs Lynne Jones and her team who staged a successful fundraising event. The College was provided with $15,000 of income to spend on projects such as the Junior School Bank Development and projects at Austins Ferry that will benefit current and future students at the College.

It was particularly pleasing to see a great cross section of parents from our Senior and Junior campuses. Any opportunity for parents from both campuses to come together is greatly appreciated, both from a social perspective but also as it tangibly highlights the seamless transition process for boys from Junior to Senior school. The number of Senior school students who gave up their Saturday night to work at the event is testament to the pride boys have in their College and for parents and guests is...
a powerful endorsement of the calibre of young men that we have the privilege of educating.

The Gala Auction is also a great success because of the many generous corporate partners we work with and their willingness to support the College with significant donations. On behalf of the College community and the Parents and Friends please consider supporting the following businesses and people who sponsored the auction:

Mike’s Gardening Services, Nix Hair and Beauty, Art, Picture and Mirror, Chris Wright, Ball and Chain Grill, Felicity Harvey, La Porchetta, The Paint Shop, Reece Plumbing, Moonah, Jayne Barnhoom, Phoenix Traders (Sue Byrne), Michelle Porter, Rod Street, Tradelink Moonah, Br Peter Flint, Br Scan McManus, Corporate Express, Muse Espresso, Davis Allie, Lyn Gregg’s Roches Beach Studio, Ace Diesel Services, Whitesunday at Salamanca, Scott Bacon MP, Sue Blizzard, Jo’s Massage and Beauty, Customs House Hotel, Anne Gallagher (Tuppaware), James Dalton, Jim Taylor, Susan Parr, Claremont Chainsaws and Mowers, Phoenix Traders (Michelle Hills), Birdwood Motors, Tim McDevitt Builders, Tracy Turnbull, Craig Farrell MLC, Simon Orlowski, Michael and Susan Harvey, Pennicott Wilderness Journeys, Chris Kerush, Robert Fergusson Plumbing, Chris Thomson, David Charlesworth, Fernwood Fitness, Airport Undercover Parking, Sally Crosby, Versashi Hair Studio and Beauty Clinic, Cooper Automotive, Anthony Rollins Golf Centre, Erica O’Driscoll, Kate Quinn at Basil Catering, Niche Building, Peter Killic, Ricoh Business centre, Marisa Di Domenico, Tasmanian Racing Club, Pure Tasmania and the North Melbourne Football Club.

Musical ‘Grease’

The St Virgil’s College and St Mary’s College co-production of the musical ‘Grease’ commenced with a matinee for visiting primary school students from our Junior School and from St Mary’s College. Reviews of the four performances were overwhelming as was the response of students who nearly lifted the roof off the Joyce Performing Arts Centre such was their enthusiastic support for the highly talented performers from each school. Well done to the following boys who were part of the production: Kieran Healy, Zach Spinks, Max Crosby, Luke Warren, Nick Piscioneri, Jakob Riley, Matthew Barker, Ian Parsons, Ben Smith, Connor Fox and Jack Norris. The following email from a Grade 7 parent highlights the sentiments of many in our community: “We just wanted to write a quick note to say how impressed we were with the School Production and Athletics carnival. The Grease production was a fantastic night, followed by a great day at the athletics carnival. We came away from both events feeling proud to be part of the school”.

Vocational Education and Training

As part of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Horticulture course, Callum Glancy and Mitchell Stevens completed a very successful work placement at Granton Nursery, impressing staff with their attitude, work ethic and aptitude.

During the second half of the year students completed work experience in a range of other VET subject areas including hospitality and building and construction.

Motivational Media – iRisk

Mr Cameron Alexander

In week two of Term 3 all students watched a presentation from the Motivational Media organisation. This year the focus was on risk taking. A number of aspects, both positive and negative, were explored. Below is a brief overview of the different aspects of risk taking explored, all of which make for important discussions between parents and their son.

Inherent risk

There are some actions that by their very nature have a high probability of resulting in dangerous, even perilous outcomes. If we were to rationally assess these actions, we probably wouldn’t go down that path, but under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or peer group pressure, we act without calculating the risk and end up potentially jeopardising our lives or the lives of others.

Intelligent risk

Is there really such a thing as intelligent risk? Thinking through a course of action, calculating all the negative things that could happen, then balancing that against possible good outcomes, may allow us to push ourselves out of bad friendship groups, unfulfilling jobs or poor grades. While we could be risking ridicule, immediate financial penalty or alienation from peers, it could ultimately lead to a better outcome.
Indispensable risk
It is not possible to grow and develop without taking some risk. It even seems that we are all hard wired to take risks: to take our first step, to try something new, to push our boundaries, to reach new heights. The trick is to understand that taking some risks leads some to development and others to disaster.

Irresponsible risk
Taking foolhardy action without any thought for the risk involved, shows lack of judgment. Texting while driving, sexual irresponsibility, hazardous planking and inappropriate friendships can all be high risk. Whilst resulting in short term gain, the long term impacts can be devastating.

Intended risk
There are times when jeopardising our own safety in order to help others may result in an act of great courage. Understanding the personal risks involved but acting anyway, can show true bravery and selflessness.

All actions have outcomes. Actions that are not deliberate, or not thought through, can put us at risk of consequences that are out of our control. Having an understanding that life is full of risk: that there are risks that need to be taken, and risks that should be avoided, helps us to navigate through life, to live deliberately, joyously and to the full.

Race Day
In October the St Virgil’s College community gathered for the annual Race Day. The event was extremely successful, bringing together all parts of the College community. At the presentation of trophies it was quite amazing how many trainers and owners had links to the College. All expressed great pride in their link to St Virgil’s, with many expressing a deep appreciation to the College for the outstanding education they, or their sons had received, and the ongoing influence it has had upon their life.
The success of the day is largely attributable to the generosity of sponsors who support the event through sponsoring a race. As well as bringing together members of our community, the day also raises funds for the ongoing development of the College’s History Centre which is an invaluable resource for past, current and future students.

Thank you to the following generous sponsors: TCM Pty Ltd, Ricoh Business Centre, Iris Computing, Tasmanian Worldwide Shipping, Gee Gee Horse Stud, Graham Family Funerals, Tiifreno Builders and the Old Virgilians Association.

2012 France Trip
Mr Rohan Prior
Trip Coordinator

In line with the College’s commitment to providing students with rich extension learning experiences, Mr Prior and five other staff members accompanied a group of Grade 9 and 10 students to France. The following are some poignant observations from tour leader Mr Rohan Prior.

Sifting through the myriad photos taken by students and staff who participated in the St Virgil’s College 2012 Trip to France, I am at times overwhelmed to think of the amazing places we visited. From Île de la Cite, where the Parisii tribe first settled over two thousand years ago and where the majestic Cathedral of Notre Dame stands today; to the ghostly Catacombs, final resting place for six million reburied souls; from Napoleon’s tomb and his Arc de Triomphe, to the breathtaking Palace of Versailles and the Louvre museum; from the skyward-climbing majesty of the Eiffel Tower, to the awe-inspiring Basilica of Sacré Coeur. And who will forget the fun, rides, shows and food at Parc Asterix!

However, surely our most moving moments were experienced in the last two days, as we first visited the US cemetery at Arromanches, final resting place for thousands of soldiers killed in the D-Day invasion of World War Two.

Then, something a lot closer to home: paying our respects at the graves of a number of Old Virgilians including Cecil Cearns, John Farrell and Thomas Sullivan. In a poignant reminder of the horrors of war, all boys were taken by the fact that these brave old scholars were only a few years older than them but did not have the luxury of enjoying the freedoms that as a busy society we sometimes take for granted. All boys behaved in a manner befitting themselves, their families and our College, particularly as prayers were offered and a College cap, centennial badge and photograph of the Memorial Wall were placed before the graves.

Sincere appreciation must be afforded to all parents for trusting the College to make this the trip of a lifetime possible for their sons.

Music Star
Well done to Sam Dean who had a lead role in the community musical ‘Back to the Eighties’ – a great achievement for Sam to showcase his talents amidst a very experienced cast.

Gala Concert
On Thursday November 1, students from Grade 3 to 10, showcased their talents in a stunning Gala Concert, held for the first time at St Mary’s College. Musicians, singers, actors and rock bands all took to the stage for the concert which received rave reviews from all in attendance. The Concert highlighted the breadth of talent within the College whilst also providing a fitting stage for our newest performers – the Grade 5 Band, who demonstrated their meteoric improvement through participation in the inaugural Grade 5 Music programme.

On behalf of the College community, it is important to recognise the efforts of Fair Co-ordinator, Mrs Julie Doran for her dedication, hard work, commitment and much needed sense of humour in organising such a wonderful evening! Julie worked for months on preparations for the Fair and literally ‘ran’ all day to ensure all went smoothly. The Austins Ferry Fair raised in excess of $12,000, which will be put to projects such as the refurbishment of the ‘Quad’ for 2013.
Junior School
Farewell Mr Brighella and Mrs Fielding!

After providing outstanding service to the Junior School community, Mr Brighella and Mrs Fielding are departing at the conclusion of the 2012 academic year. Mr Brighella has been an inspired and industrious leader of the Junior School since 2002 and has overseen a period characterised by considerable capital improvements, student enrolment growth and a consolidation of learning and teaching programmes. Luch has been much loved by students and parents and his engaged and caring presence at the Junior School will be greatly missed. However St Virgil’s loss is Sacred Heart Geeveston’s gain and it is a great outcome for Catholic education in Tasmania that Luch will be able to enrich the Sacred Heart community with his experience, leadership and commitment to Catholic education. Good luck and thanks Mr Brighella!

Mrs Helen Fielding departs the College after 23 years of dedicated and caring service to the boys of St Virgil’s College. Helen was perhaps destined to work at the College, as her father Max Vincent was the Architect who designed the original buildings on the Austins Ferry campus. She remembers the opening and blessing of the site and the instructions of her mother who forbade her and her siblings from indulging in the scrumptious afternoon tea provided for the occasion. Sadly Max, an old scholar of St Virgil’s passed away in October 2012, but his legacy to the College shall remain for many years to come. Mrs Fielding has taught generations of boys at the College and has been recognised for her patient, caring and thorough approach to the education of her boys. She is looking forward to retirement and time with family and friends. Thank you Mrs Fielding!

2012 Junior School Awards
At the Junior School Thanksgiving Liturgy, a number of significant awards were presented to Grade 6 students to recognise excellence in academic studies, leadership, co-curricular endeavours and service.

**Academic Award**
Alex Thomas

**Junior Virgilian Award**
Joshua Woodward

**Junior Edmund Rice Award**
Nathan Brown

**Principal’s Award**
Spencer Hall

**Art Award**
Edward Goodsir

**Marita Zattay Writing Prize**
Mitchell Rakowski

**Sportsmanship Award**
Jackson Ebini and Harrison Loveless

**Music Award**
Alex Thomas

Mini Olympiad
During the festival of sport that was the Olympic Games, students at the Junior school staged a number of ‘Olympic events’, all with a slight twist, including volleyball, a marathon, equestrian events, fencing, synchronised routines and dramatic weightlifting. School leaders conducted an official opening ceremony to set the scene for the Junior School Olympiad. The boys had a fabulous time and participated really well throughout the range of events on offer. House points were awarded for excellent performances, good sportsmanship and positive attitudes. Doyle House prevailed on the day after some very enthusiastic and spirited competition!

Robotics at the Junior School

**Mr Luke Fitzpatrick**  
Robotics Coordinator

On Saturday, September 1, sixteen Grade 6 boys took part in the Robocup at the University of Tasmania. The students participated in weekly lessons, culminating in the event at the end of term. For the event, students were required to build a Lego robot and programme the robot to complete a set of challenging tasks.

For a first attempt, all judges and spectators were impressed with the problem solving and team work skills shown by the boys. Despite not finishing in the semi-finals, SVC teams were very competitive and completed some of the more challenging courses. Well done to the following boys who represented the College with great pride on the day and had a great time doing so!

Angus Barrett
Julian Pangrazzi
Nathan Brown
Mitchell Rakowski
Brennan Burke
Lachlan Rice
Jackson Ebini
Jacob Saville
Kaya Geale
Alex Thomas
Spencer Hall
Campbell Weston
Harrison Loveless
Lloyd Weston
Edward Okey
Joshua Woodward
City of Clarence Eisteddfod

In 2012 the Junior School Choir and Grade 5 Band both performed at the Clarence Eisteddfod. The choir sang wonderfully well achieving a Certificate of Merit. The adjudicator from Ireland commented on how good it was to see boys singing and that it was amazing to have a choir entirely of boys! The Grade 5 Band in its first year of existence, performed exceptionally well to receive a Certificate of Merit. What a fantastic achievement for forty Grade 5 boys to come together as one concert band and play their wonderful repertoire.

Congratulations to all our boys who represented the College so well and to Mr Jeremy Williamson, Mrs Claire DeFreitas, Mr Rex Barber, Mrs Janelle Stowe, Mr Kevin Cooney and Mr Nick Nugent who were all instrumental in bringing out the best in our boys!

Grade 4 Camp

In Term 3 the Grade 4 class went on camp at Waddamana, the site of a de-commissioned hydro-power station in the Central Highlands. Whilst on camp the boys enjoyed exploring the great outdoors through activities like bush walking, shelter building and a nocturnal walk. The boys also learnt a great deal about hydro-electric power at the Waddamana Power Station Museum. Camps like this also provide boys with an opportunity to develop skills such as cooperation, team-building, respect, leadership and initiative. The boys are very fortunate to have outdoor education experiences as part of their learning at St Virgil’s.

Water Warriors Programme

Students from Grade 5 and 6 were featured in the Spring edition of ‘In the Pipeline’, the periodic publication of Southern Water Tasmania. The boys were featured on the front page of the widely distributed magazine and publicly lauded for their commitment to the programme, the depth of their knowledge and their enthusiasm for learning. The boys were also featured on WIN Television for their work with ‘Greening Australia’ and the commitment of the College to embrace sustainable practices on the Patrick Street campus.

Junior School Fair

On Friday October 12 after a day of vastly contrasting weather patterns, the Junior School Fair was enthusiastically received by a bumper crowd who delighted in the fine food, games, crafts and entertainment on offer. The Junior School Parents and Friends Association led by Michael Moschogianis did a wonderful job in providing an entertaining, fun-filled and family focussed community event which resulted in the Parents and Friends raising an amazing $11,000 towards payment of the recently constructed bank.

An additional highlight of the evening was the opening and blessing of the bank by Fr Brian Nichols who informed those in attendance that he was indeed privileged to bless his first bank! As part of the opening, the plaque was unveiled for the ‘Luch Brighella Grandstand’ which recognises Mr Brighella’s leadership of the Junior School campus over the past ten years and his drive to bring together the bank development project in partnership with the parents and Friends Association. The evening was a great success, thanks to the wonderful organising committee whose tireless work and commitment have ensured that the facilities at the school are further enhanced for the benefit of current and future students of St Virgil’s.

Lachlan Hutchinson

Budding Artist

At a weekly assembly in November Principal Mr Messer had the pleasure of presenting Lachlan Hutchinson with a special certificate and prize voucher for winning the Catholic Education Office 2012 Christmas card competition. His entry was adjudged the best from entrants across the State and will feature on the front cover of Christmas cards sent out by the TCEO in 2012. Well done Lachlan!

Solar Car Challenge

In Term 3, 28 Grade 6 boys took part in the Primary Schools’ Model Solar Car Challenge. St Virgil’s had ten teams entered in this competition. The boys have worked hard this term to build their solar cars from scratch. Over 30 teams from a number of schools gathered at John Paul II Catholic Primary School for this annual event. Teams performed exceptionally well in what was the College’s first year of entering this competition with many making it through to
the finals. Two SVC teams finished third and fourth in a very tight finish. Congratulations to Elian Doniz, Riley Wylde-Browne, Lachlan Jenkins, Callum Ngawhare and Tom Novy-Green on their finals achievements.

The College is extremely grateful to Mr Graham Armstrong who came along each week to share his knowledge and expertise on building solar cars with the Grade 6 boys. Thank you also to Denis and Gina Graves, Tony Wylde-Brown and Jim Ngawhare who all gave significant amounts of time to assist the boys with the construction of their solar cars. This was a very engaging project for our Grade 6 boys and I am sure that a great deal of learning was achieved.

Grade 6 Canberra Trip

In the last week of November, Grade 6 students visited Canberra on a four day educational tour of the national capital. Whilst on tour, Grade 6 students participated in a variety of educational programmes that focused on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy. Some of the highlights included visits to the CSIRO Green Machine Education Centre, the National Zoo and Aquarium, The Australian Institute of Sport, Tidbinbilla National Reserve and the Australian War Memorial where boys participated in the Anzac Legacy Education Programme. Grade 6 boys also visited Mount Ainsley and the Telstra Tower which provided great views over the city of Canberra. The boys enjoyed excursions to Old and New Parliament House, the Australian National Gallery, the National Science and Technology Centre and the National Museum.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National capital as part...
of their civics and citizenship education. To assist the parents of our Grade 6 boys in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian Government is contributing funding of $150 per eligible student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate Programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school.

The College is very grateful to the Australian Government for their support of the programme. This excursion was a very rewarding experience for all students and one they will remember for many years to come.

Junior School Golf Day

On Sunday November 4, 48 people played in the Inaugural Junior School Parents and Friends Golf day. The day was extremely successful, bringing together many parts of the College community for a day of wonderful weather, good company and some great golf. Thank you to the committee led by Phil Borsboom and Michael Moschogianis for their organisation of this event which adds a new dimension to the College calendar. In 2013 all serious golfers and weekend hackers are encouraged to get involved to make it a much anticipated and enjoyed annual event.

For the record the results were:
1st (53.125) – Mark Macmichael, Mick Lewis, Serg Pace, Jason Rice – winners of the perpetual shield which is on display at the Junior School.
2nd (54.5) – Brenden Bromfield, Todd Press, Brad Marsh, Matt Steele
3rd (55.5) – Jason Marsh, Darren McConnon, Chris Lilley, Tom Huigsloot

Grade 3 Visit to Government House

By Luke Johnson and Callum Parssey

On Tuesday November 13, Grade 3 went on an excursion to Government House and met His Excellency Mr Peter Underwood and his wife Mrs Frances Underwood. For morning tea we were served orange juice, sandwiches, blueberries, cupcakes and watermelon. It was delectable!

Next we went into the ball room and Mr and Mrs Underwood told us a story about ruling England. After that we went outside to see the chickens and then Tom Doyle’s (the governor’s grandson) climbing tree. It was great! We got to climb up the tree but after about five or so minutes we had to jump down. After that we went to see the cows in the paddock. When we went down the hill it was so fast! Though when we came back up the hill it was really tiring. I noticed that there was a tree planted by the Queen: Elizabeth the second.

After that we had to go back to school but it was a great day to remember!

Mrs Fielding was particularly proud of her class and was thrilled by the following comment from His Excellency: “your class were the best mannered class who have visited Government House”. The Governor was also taken by how articulate and knowledgeable the boys were. Well done Grade Threes!

In the first week of December students from Grade 6 also visited Government House, enjoying wonderful hospitality and again attracting compliments for their exceptional behaviour and genuine interest in learning about the role, and place, of the Governor within the State’s parliamentary system.

Sport

1st XVIII Football

St Virgil’s College  9 - 9 - 63
defeated
The Hutchins School  0 - 4 - 4
St Virgil’s College  18 - 20 - 130
defeated
Launceston Church Grammar School  0 - 1 - 1

Tassie Hawks Cup

On Wednesday September 5, the 1st XVIII Football Team travelled to Aurora Stadium in Launceston to compete in the Tassie Hawks Cup. The three Regional winners competed in a round Robin competition to determine the winner of the Grade 9/10 competition.

In Game 1, SVC defeated local school, King Meadows HS with a dominant display.

Game 2 pitted SVC against Marist Regional College. The boys showed their class and adapted well when the rain started to come away with a good win to set up a re-match in the Grand Final against KMHS.

Having rested a number of players in Game 2, the boys were optimistic of a good result in the Grand Final. The undefeated season of SVC Football, unfortunately ended in the final game. In a very tight match the Kings Meadows HS team managed to win, with the SVC boys running out of legs after plying three games in succession.

Congratulations to all boys for a great season and special thanks to ’the Silver Fox’, Mr Andrew Hopwood for his coaching over the last four years.

Game 1

SVC  6 - 9 - 45
defeated
Kings Meadows HS  3 - 3 - 21

Goals: Joseph 2, Watt, I Webb, Hopwood, Sandric
Best: M Doran, L Webb, Joseph
Game 2
SVC 6 - 5 - 41
defeated
Marist 3 - 0 - 18
Goals: Hopwood 2, Oakford-Grachan, Arnold, Joseph, Matthewson
Best: Dodge, Pangrazzi, Watt

Game 3 Grand Final
SVC 2 - 2 - 14
lost to
Kings Meadows HS 3 - 4 - 22
Goals: M. Doran, Gardiner
Best: Arnold, Sandric, Gardiner

Water Polo Champions!
Miss Heidi Gregg

The Tasmanian Schools Water Polo Grand Finals were held at the Hobart Aquatic Centre. The Grade 9/10 SVC team had stormed into the final with a powerful defeat of the Friends team in the semi-final. The opponents for this final showdown were MacKillop College, who were yet to be defeated. The cheer squad promised to be huge and the tension had been building steadily all week. The St Virgil’s boys went into the game looking good in their monogrammed caps and feeling confident. Tension rose and opening whistle sounded. Play was very tight from the outset. Both teams were defending closely making scoring opportunities very hard to come by. Added to this was the MacKillop goalkeeper who seemed to be hard to come by. Added to this was the MacKillop goalkeeper who seemed to be hard to come by.

1st XI Cricket

The 1st XI regained the Di Venuto – Saunders Shield with a comprehensive win over arch rival The Hutchins School. Played in excellent conditions at Hutchins the team batted and bowled very well to record a solid nine wicket victory; the highlight being a majestic unbeaten century from Alex Wolff. Alex was well supported by Captain Riley Backhouse who continued on his fine form from the Victorian cricket tour with a polished 29 no. Trent Millhouse was the pick of the bowlers, well supported by a host of players who each took one wicket and some solid ground fielding and catching. A great conclusion for Grade 10 players who have contributed so well to the 1st XI programme.

Match Details
SVC 1-161
defeated
Hutchins 9-158
Alex Wolff 101 no
Riley Backhouse 29 no
Isaac Salter 20
Trent Millhouse 2-13

1st XI Tour of Victoria

On Monday December 3, 15 students from Grade 7 to 10 gathered at 5 am at Hobart airport to commence the inaugural 1st XI cricket tour to play matches against fellow Edmund Rice schools in Melbourne, Ballarat and Geelong. The boys enjoyed a great cricket experience as well as the opportunity to visit the MCG, Windy Hill and Kardinia Park. Boys were billeted for two nights with families from St Patrick’s College, Ballarat and the connection between boys from schools that share a common heritage was quickly evident. The following daily reports provide an insight into the great cricket and educational experiences enjoyed by the boys.

Day 1

After a very early start and a smooth flight we descended upon Melbourne for the start of the 2012 cricket tour. After breakfast at Southbank the group walked to the MCG for a tour of the ground and the National Sports Museum. After lunch in Lygon st we ventured to Windy Hill to meet Essendon player Nick O’Brien, a graduate of St Patrick’s College Ballarat, a fellow EREA school. Nick played Under 15 cricket for Australia and also was an Under 15 and Under 16 All-Australian footballer and College Captain in 2011. He spoke to the boys about the importance of balancing sport and study whilst at school and in his current career – in 2013 he is studying Commerce at University part-time.

From Windy Hill we made the short trip to St Bernard’s. SVC won the toss and batted on a two paced pitch. On such a track runs were always going to be hard to score and so a score of 106 was a defendable total. Most batters fell playing across the line and will need to be more selective in their shot selection in the next two days of cricket.

The boys responded very well in the field making three run outs. Trent Millhouse bowled an exceptional spell to take 6 for 5, being well supported by Sam Leon.
SVC 10/106
defeated
St Bernard’s College 10/14.

Details
Caleb Jewell 18
Riley Backhouse 14
Matt MacDonald 12
Alex Wolff 11
Nathan Percey 11
Trent Millhouse 9 and 6/5
Nick Dodge 9
Sam Leon 1-4
Three run outs

Day 2
A cold and wet Ballarat day overshadowed some great cricket performances from the St Virgil’s boys. Batting first on a green wicket the boys batted well to post a highly defendable 9/224. Riley Backhouse was simply sensational leading from the front and was well supported by Caleb Jewell and Alex Wolff who both rode their luck to post good scores. Unfortunately heavy rain meant the game was called off and we re-located to a hard wicket to bowl to St Patrick’s College on a postage stamp size ground. The boys battled hard and had it not been for dropped catches we would have defended the score – St Patrick’s passing the score with three overs to play and one wicket in hand. A draw technically, a loss on the score card but a huge moral victory from a day that promised so much.

Details
Caleb Jewell 46 and 2-32
Matt MacDonald 9 and 1-23
Alex Wolff 28
Riley Backhouse 81 no
Callum Rawson 6
Liam Devlin 3 and 1-40
Trent Millhouse 9

Grade 7&8 Cricket

Hobart Hurricanes T20 Champions!

In one of the most inspirational performances from any St Virgil’s team in 2012, the SVC 1 team led by Sam Wakefield defeated the Grade 10 team from Dominic College to win the Hurricanes Grade 7&8 T20 competition. Bowling first the team were disciplined and bowled excellent lines to dismiss the highly credentialed Dominic team for just 70.

In a very brave batting performance, players then had to withstand a blistering spell of fiery pace bowling from Brayden Drake, who whistled the ball around the ears of our young batsmen – none taking a backward step and all placing maximum value on their wicket. Brayden was a net bowler for the Australian and Sri Lankan Test teams, providing some indication of the bravery and skill shown by players – in particular Caiden Workman and Austin Keeling. This approach proved a winning formula with the team compiling 1/71 to win by eight wickets.

Grade 9 Cricket

St Virgil’s College defeated St Patrick’s College, Launceston to win the inaugural Clingeleffer-Coyle Shield game at Launceston last week.

St Virgil’s Grade 9 2-149
defeated
SPC Grade 9 148-7 (50 overs)

Nathan Percey 2/18, Jacob Despard 2/38

Hobart in December for a game and it is hoped that other EREA schools will take up this invitation as well in 2013 to enhance the cricket experiences enjoyed by students.

Grade 9 Cricket
1. Cricket First XI v St Joseph’s College Geelong
2. Grade 7 & 8 Cricket - Hobart Hurricanes T20 champions
3-7. SATIS Athletics in Launceston
8. Caleb Jewell accepts the Clingeleffer-Coyle Cup from Tasmanian cricket coach Tim Coyle
9. St Virgil’s College A Grade Sailing Team
10. SVC Learn to Sail Programme
11. EREA Games - Intermediate Basketball Champions
A Basketball Star
Callum Barker

Congratulations to Grade 10 student Callum Barker who has been selected to represent Australia in Basketball at the Youth Olympics in Sydney in January 2013. This is an outstanding achievement and we wish Callum all the very best in this elite level Basketball Tournament.

SSATIS Athletics Carnival

Following a day of mixed performances and a dropped baton or two, the St Virgil’s team placed second in the SSATIS Athletics carnival, losing to Hutchins by a mere five points! Some of the stand out performances included three Record breakers:

- Henry Hopwood
  Under 16 Shot Put
  15.56m
  (Beating Jack Riewoldt’s record from 2004)

- Jack Hale
  Under 14 Long Jump
  6.20m
  (Beating Patrick Coleman’s record from 1999 as well as jumping further than Open Boys’ event)

- Biniyam Hagos
  Under 15 1500m
  4:23.44
  (Beating 42 year old Record set by Randal Markey in 1970!)

SATIS Athletics

On November 10, over 40 boys travelled to the St Leonard’s Athletics Track in Launceston to compete in the State SATIS Athletics Carnival. In what turned out to be a very successful day, the St Virgil’s boys were out for redemption, following a narrow loss to Hutchins in Hobart and a recent history of agonisingly close losses in the State’s premier athletics event.

Great performances from all the boys competing enabled the team to win the Junior Boys Shield – an amazing 13th time in the past 17 years! All the boys are to be congratulated on an outstanding performance on the day. Their efforts were complemented by the efforts of the SVC Cheer squad who travelled up for the day, showing true SVC spirit and tradition that the College prides itself on. The roar of the College war cry was evidenced of the passion of the boys and their commitment to make up for the narrow loss to Hutchins at the SSATIS Athletics Sports.

Australian All Schools Knockout Championships

On December 3, both the Junior and Intermediate State winning teams from St Virgil’s travelled north to Launceston to compete in the Australian Schools Knockout Final. Both teams were very confident of a successful outcome, and prepared to do the best that they could for the team. Many of the boys were extremely tired after having competed in the Australian School Championships in Hobart on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The Junior boys started the day off with numerous top five placing’s in their respective events, ensuring themselves of top position for some time. Unfortunately, luck was not on their side and they lost valuable points, to come through in twelfth position overall. Fraser Rose had a successful day in securing personal best s in the 100m hurdles and the 800M, whilst Bailey Elmer won the shot put with a throw of 11.95. The junior boys’ team consisted of Fraser Rose, Jack Hale, Bailey Elmer, Harrison Pearce, Nat Graham and Will Kaden.

The Intermediate boys, consisting of Jacob Despard, Bini Hagos, Mitchel Walker, Mitchell Salter, Henry Hopwood, Dylan Pugh and Callan Sutcliff, Jacob Despard was in fine form coming in third in both the 100/200 metre events, Henry Hopwood fourth in the shot put and Bini Hagos fifth in the 800m. The Intermediate boys finished the day in a creditable sixth position. Congratulations to all boys who competed. Each boy’s sportsmanship was once again indicative of the St Virgil’s spirit and dedication in team sports.

Southern High Schools Basketball Championships

On the weekend October 26 to 28, four St Virgil’s basketball teams challenged schools from all over southern Tasmania in the Southern High Schools basketball tournament.

The very talented Grade 7/8 team comprising of Jesse Maple, Dylan Bradford, Michael Monaghan, Brendan Blake, Harry Pearce, Tom Hill, Sam Maxwell, Nick Baker and George Bickers finished undefeated after the minor rounds and went onto defeat Clarence High in the Grand Final. This highly skilled group of boys were gracious in victory and displayed great sportsmanship all weekend.

In the Grade 9/10 Division 2 competition, our two very evenly matched teams SVC Gold (Luke Warrener, Beau Webster, Josh Clark, Sam Moles, Nathan Beattie, Riley Mole, Curtis Loveluck, Will Parker and Hayden Cooper) and SVC Blue (Dylan Cassidy, Trent Adams, Isaac Mathewson, Matt Joseph, Teddy Kadisha, Sean Oakford, Daniel Arnold, Jack Sandric and Corey Evans) played consistently all weekend to end up playing off against each other in the Grand Final. SVC Gold took the win in what was a very tightly contested game. Both teams should be extremely proud of their achievements and the manner in which they conducted themselves and represented the College.
The Grade 9/10 Division 1 team coming off their gold medal win at the EREA tournament in Sydney in July, did just enough to finish the minor rounds in second place. Their Grand Final game against New Town High School was a much improved performance and they pushed them all the way. Unfortunately their late charge wasn’t quite enough to secure the win, going down by six points.

Well done to Matt Doran, Callum Barker, Heath Thompson, Will Ogle, Jake Doran, Wes Hauler, Jaryd Ashcroft, Jordan Wright and Zane Ahern.

Huge thanks to our coaches, Mick Blake, Tim Coad, Jordan Wright, Karen Cassidy, Angela Adams and Andrew Hannaford for their commitment to our teams. Thanks also to our parent groups for performing many and varied roles over the weekend and their enthusiastic support of their boys.

**Australian Schools Tennis Challenge**

Fourteen schools from around Australia travelled to Albury, NSW for the annual tennis tournament played on natural grass. The competition brought together some of the best tennis players in the country as the event was being used as a qualifier for the International Schools Tennis tournament, also being played in Albury in 2013. The standard of tennis being displayed was fantastic to see, and the boys got great value out of seeing how some of the schools with funded and specialised tennis programmes function in this environment.

Not surprisingly, the surface presented challenges to the boys, however, they adapted much better as the tournament progressed. The team had a mixed bag of results, however, returned home more motivated to focus on better preparation for such competitions.

Well done to Alex Wolff, Daniel Groom, Mitchell Free and Luke Webb who made up the team.

**Squash**

Well done to the Division 1 Squash Team of Eamon Garrett, Harrison Banks and Brady Jones who won the Southern Schools Competition Grand Final against a combined Friends, McKillop and GYC team.

**Congratulations**

Well done to the following boys who have been selected to represent Tasmania in a range of sports:

- Tyson Bessell represented Tasmania as a referee at the School Sport Australia Under 12 National Hockey Championships in Adelaide.
- Jack Fairhurst was selected to represent Tasmania at the School Sport Australia Under 16 Swimming Championships in Sydney.
- Thomas Gauden won the State Surf life Saving Tasmania Under 19 Competitor of the Year. He won the award based on all his results including the Surf Swim, Board Race, Tube Race, Iron Person events. Tom won every Iron man event he participated in last season.
- Harry Bird represented Tasmania at the National Squash Championships from September 28 to October 8.
- Drew Aggenbach won the best overall gymnast title at the Under 12 Australian Gymnastics Championships. In an outstanding display of consistent and polished gymnastics, Drew recorded the following results – floor 2nd, Vault 1st, Rings 1st, High Bar 2nd, Pommel 3rd and Parallel Bars 2nd.
- Patrick McDevitt played in the National Under 13 Hockey Championships in Nowra, NSW.
- Thomas Maksimovic was selected for the inaugural Under 14 Little Athletics Australia Coaching Camp at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.
- Harry Bird represented Tasmania in soccer in Merrimbula NSW from October 16 to 20.
- Aidan Gunn represented Tasmania in the National Table Tennis Championships in Perth.
- Lachlan Watt represented Tasmania at the National School Sports Touch Football competition in Brisbane from October 20 to November 2.
- Caleb Jewell represented Tasmania at the Under 17 National Cricket Championships in Hobart from December 10 to 20 2012.
- Grade 9 students Kelly Nordstrom and James Wagin represented Tasmania in the Mark Richard’s National Surfing Titles, held at Clifton Beach.
- Jack Fairhurst competed in the Victorian State Age Swimming Championships in Melbourne from December 17 until December 23 2012.

- Daniel Harris, Angelo Rosendell-Piper and Daniel Thurley represented Tasmania in the Under 16 Vikings Futsal National championships in Townsville.
- Ryan Chalmers represented Tasmania in Junior Open Table Tennis Championships in Perth.
- Callum Stevens was selected for the inaugural Under 14 Little Athletics Australia Coaching Camp at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.
- Deng Guot and George Bickers played basketball in the Under 14 National Club Championships in Perth.
- Andrew Kang, Henry Pritchard, Aaron Wilson and Kobe Kent represented Tasmania at the National Soccer titles in Coffs Harbour.
- James Gohbey represented Tasmania in soccer in Merrimbula NSW from October 16 to 20.
- Aidan Gunn represented Tasmania in the National Table Tennis Championships in Perth.
- Lachlan Watt represented Tasmania at the National School Sports Touch Football competition in Brisbane from October 20 to November 2.
- Caleb Jewell represented Tasmania at the Under 17 National Cricket Championships in Hobart from December 10 to 20 2012.
- Grade 9 students Kelly Nordstrom and James Wagin represented Tasmania in the in the Mark Richard’s National Surfing Titles, held at Clifton Beach.
- Jack Fairhurst competed in the Victorian State Age Swimming Championships in Melbourne from December 17 until December 23 2012.
2012 saw a change in the Presidency of the Association and the election of several new committee members. Edward Gauden (SVC 1973-78) replaced Adrian Coetzee as President - Adrian had given great service in that role for the previous eleven years and Kim Chen replaced John Munro as Vice President North West. John standing down due to ill health. Dan Reardon, Rene Sluyters, Bill Roach and Peter Imlach were re-elected as Vice President, Treasurer and College Board Representative respectively. The new ‘boys’ – all recent retirees and all finishing up at the College in the early 1960’s - were Michael Ball, David Clark, Bruce Woods and Graeme Rainbow.

At the annual dinner in October, outgoing committee members – Ashton Shirley, Roger Smart and Barry Cooper were thanked for their considerable contributions over many years. At that same function Rene Sluyters and Bill Roach were the recipients of ‘life membership’ awards – awards richly deserved.

There were three major overriding objectives that the Association focused on for the year. The constitution is being re-drawn allowing the Association greater flexibility in order to raise funds to support the College as well as supporting old scholars who may face hardship. An Association web page is also being developed so better communication is available for old scholars as well promoting new functions for younger old scholars at times and places that are more convenient. This site will be separate from, but linked to the existing College site.

Thirdly, the Association, in conjunction with the College, has embarked upon
the conversion of the abundance of printed archival material into digital form (for preservation, and ease of access and distribution purposes). Included will be the College Yearbook – ‘The Virgilian’. The next edition of this publication will contain details of how former students can obtain digital copies of a particular year or years.

Ongoing discussion centres on identifying changes that ought to be effected in order to make the Association relevant in this day and age.

As in previous years bi-monthly luncheons were held in the Joyce Centre at Austins Ferry. At the mid-year luncheon, recent student Oscar Giudici was guest speaker, recounting his experiences as a volunteer with the Edmund Rice Network in Tanzania, East Africa.

About sixty old scholars attended the Association’s 2012 Annual Dinner. As in previous six years there were additions to the College’s Heritage Roll of Honour. Those inducted this year were:

**David Mackey**
Professor of Ophthalmology / Director of the Centre for Ophthalmology and Vision Science at the University of Western Australia.

**Bruce Haley OAM**
Real Estate and Travel Agent – civic honour for “service to music, particularly jazz, and to the community through charitable, service and church organisations”.

**Michael Harmer**
lawyer and philanthropist

**Father Graeme Howard**
50 years of dedicated priesthood in Tasmania

**Colonel (ret.) Adrian McGee AM**
Australian Army, Care Australia Director, Chairman of St Virgil’s College Centenary Committee.

Added posthumously:

**Barry Woods (1943-2010)**
Meteorologist and College supporter and benefactor.
An expanded overview of the careers of the above, along with those previously inducted, is contained on the College website by accessing the Old Virgilian’s icon on the St Virgil’s College Web Page.

Should you have any suggestions, comments to make on the role of the Association, or any matters that you find the Association should be attending to, please do not hesitate to write to the OVA at PO Box 141 Sandy Bay Tas 7006 or at the College 195 Main Road, Austins Ferry, Tas. 7011.

Kind Regards

Edward Gauden
President

St Virgil’s Old Scholars Cricket Club

The St Virgil’s Old Scholars Cricket Club is now based at the Austins Ferry Main Oval and plays in the Southern Tasmanian Cricket Association. The club fields two teams and trains on Wednesday nights from 6pm at the indoor nets at the TCA. All new players are welcome – old scholars and friends!

In conjunction with the College, members have been working diligently to enhance the facilities for current players and students of the College. Change rooms have been upgraded, the ‘shed’ painted and hospitality facilities improved. The Club is continuing to work with the College through the Principal and Development Office to further develop facilities over time.

The SVOSCC is thrilled to be reunited with the College and to be based at the College – further reinforcing this pride and hopefully making the club more enticing for old scholars. The SVOSCC is a great way for old scholars to continue their association with the College by playing for the club.

The club is also performing well on the field having recently made the Grand Final of the Southern Cricket Association T20 competition after an amazing double wicket ‘bowl-off’!

After being 2/92 in the 12th over Campania were all out in the last over for 126 with
Daniel Morgan 3/9, Scott Keeling 2/24 and Leigh Nosworthy 2/37 doing the damage.

In reply, the Saints made 6/126 with Leigh Nosworthy making a great 60. Needing 18 off the last over to win and 17 to tie, then 12 off the last two balls, Craig Stockdale blasted two sixes off the last two balls -(the last hitting the bottom wire fencing on the full) to get us up for a tie.

So to the Bowl-Off (3 bowlers, 2 balls each aim at the stumps)

After the first round of six balls the score was 1-1 The second bowl off saw the Saints home 2-1 to secure a place in the final!

For more information about the club please contact Matt Lansdell (SVC 1989) - matt.lansdell@yahoo.com.au or visit MyCricket on the web where week to week scores and ladders are available.

OVA Golf Day

In 2012 the OVA Golf Committee decided to have a change of venue for the 51st running of the OVA Golf Day on November 12 2012. Chosen was the picturesque, but at times difficult, Tasmanian Golf Club course. Subsequently what has been “Par for the Course”, over recent years was quite misleading due to the weather conditions of driving rain showers and wind. With some sixty starters, including nine students from the College, a few more senior players sought a slightly easier form of getting about, choosing to avail themselves of the buggies that were available!

All in all, it was a good day, with a roast meal being provided at the end of the day and some light refreshments for those attending. A raffle was also conducted at the end of the day, with the major prize, a TV set going to none other than well-known golfer, John Toogood.

The Committee thanks the major sponsor for the day and for the past few years, Ron Brooks and Raine and Horne for his support of the day and to all those organisations that provided items for the raffle: the Ball and Chain Restaurant, Electric World, Amcal North Hobart, GN Electrical, New Town Station Nurseries, Vermeyes Butchers, Fish 349 and Boag’s Breweries (David Charlesworth).

For a number of years now, the day has been classified as a charity day, with proceeds of the day, going to Edmund Rice Camps Tasmania, to enable them to continue with their work of assisting under privileged children. Chairman of the Committee, Peter Fahey indicated that over the past eight years, the day has provided the charity with in excess of $30,000.

The winner of the Ed Joyce Memorial Trophy for best score by an OVA player was David Jones (SVC 1980).
2012 was a challenging year on the field for our senior side, which unfortunately missed out on the finals for the first time in several years. Whilst we had a terrific pre-season working tirelessly, unfortunately our on-field performances were inconsistent.

Since 2010, the club’s Head Coach has been Jason Britten. Jason has been assisted wonderfully by his great mates and champion footballers in their own right, Leigh Post and Adrian ‘Chopper’ Burdon. Adrian has also this year passionately taken on the role of the coach of the Reserves.

Jason, along with Adrian and Leigh, has worked extremely hard over the past three years and each of them have thrown themselves into the club with great dedication.

In 2010, both grades made it through to the Grand Final, with the reserves winning the premierships.

In 2011, while both grades made it through to the finals, unfortunately, the seniors were knocked out in the first semi, while the reserves narrowly missed out on a place in the Grand Final.
This year, whilst we showed glimpses in the seniors we did not quite manage to string it together. The reserves under Chopper Burdon had a great season and had a great win over Hutchins under lights at Richmond in the elimination final. Unfortunately the boys went down in the preliminary final against DOSA after leading for most of the day. However, on behalf of the club I congratulate them for their efforts and for what was a great season.

Earlier this year Jason notified the club that he would be moving on at the end of this season. On behalf of the club I would like to thank Jason as well as Leigh and Adrian, for all of their fantastic work over the last three years. They have been great servants of the club and their commitment outstanding.

Off the field this year we celebrated our 85th Anniversary. The occasion was marked with a commemorative dinner that was attended by many Old Virgilians spanning back as far as the 1960s. It was a fantastic evening and I would like to thank Simon Duigan and Brett Hall for their efforts in bringing it together.

Moving into 2013 we have had a great off-season with a number of exciting recruits coming on board. Our Head Coach for 2013 will be Richard Robinson, a former TFL player with North Hobart and Glenorchy, with coaching experience for the last three years as a senior assistant with Clarence, most recently as match day coach.

We are also very excited to have Ken Hall come on board as a senior assistant coach. Ken is a former Essendon recruit and played for many years with the Tasmanian VFL side. Our last two coaching positions will be filled by Jon Bowring as assistant coach and Mark Beck as an assistant coach in charge of our fitness and conditioning.

We are currently a club that is largely run by our current players. The ability to attract people to provide volunteer support to organisations such as ours is becoming increasingly difficult. As such I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2012 committee Matthew Parker, Brad Canning, Matthew Rice, Tim Nicholas, Joe Brooks, Jon Gill, Michael Grandin and Dan Nicholas.

I would also like to thank our match day volunteers Bob Hope (Head Trainer), Brian Parker (Match Manager - seniors), Matthew Rhodes (Match Manager - reserves), Nathan Hartnett (Bench Coach - seniors) and Jeremy Parker (Assistant Coach - reserves).

I would also like to thank all players, supporters, wives and girlfriends who make up what is the wonderful St Virgil’s Old Scholars Football club community. In 2012 the club enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the College and is committed to working with the OVA through President Edward Gauden to reinforce the culture of the club and its place as a home for all old scholars, whether they be players, officials or spectators. As facilities continue to improve at Austins Ferry we look forward to using the ground for training and practice games and exploring future development opportunities with the College.

Engagements

June
• Simon Jones and Hanna Carey.
• Nathan Terry and Kylie Benson.
• Joshua Downey and Kate Moon in Koh Samui on Chaweng Noi Beach.

August
• Jarrod Burton and Elizabeth Hey

October
• Mark Morgan and Emma Stone.
• Dean Millhouse and Joanna Morey.

November
• Julian Vince and Paola Secondo
• Greg Ball (SPS 1990-93; SVC 1994-97) married Meghan Munday on November 18 2012. He was attended by Old Virgilian groomsmen Jason Turvey and Tom Phillips. In true Virgilian style, Tom arrived in Hobart from the UK at lunchtime Friday for the Sunday wedding and flew out for return to London on Monday morning - a little hung over and jet lagged! Meantime Jason completed the gruelling Point to Pinnacle run from Wrest Point to the summit of Mt Wellington on the morning of the wedding accompanied by Martin Healy, Nick Smith and Paul Shuyters who finished a creditable 22nd with Richard Hanslow, hot on his heels! A great example of the resilience of Old Virgilians!
Births

December 2011

• Evan Brown and his wife Lindy welcomed Jensen Robert on December 29, 2011. A brother for Ayrton.

February 2012

• Benjamin and Samantha Wiggins were delighted to welcome Jensen Reid Wiggins on February 15, 2012.

June

• David and Fiona Morse, a son, Jacob Anthony.
• Martin and Natalie Rainbird, a daughter, Eve Natalia.
• Adam and Karina Garlick, a son, Isaac Douglas.
• Andrew and Clare Latham, a son, Oscar Leo.
• John and Karen Tierney, a son, Leo James.

July

• Adam Dance and Siane Sperring, a daughter, Eva.
• Denis and Natalie Cupit, a daughter, Maggie Maree.

August

• Luke and Jemmar White, a son, Tyson Charles.
• Dalls and Rebecca Harding, a daughter, Sophie Grace.
• Trent and Jennifer Hickey, a son, Lucas David.
• Andrew and Angelica Pearce, a daughter, Elianna Ruby.
• Justin and Amanda Sires, in Brisbane, a daughter, Tiana Rose.
• Adrian and Rachael Williamson, a daughter, Hannah Brooke.
• John and Kate Scarafioti, a son, Alec Michael Charles.
• Luke and Nicola Tilyard, a daughter, Josie Margaret.

September

• Mark and Tina Bartulovic, a daughter, Sophia Olive.
• Tim and Amy Breen, a daughter, Sophie, Jenny Irene.
• Chris and Annabel Breen, a son, Angus William.
• Caleb and Emma Fraser, a son, Declan Jack.

October

• Daniel and Margaret Archer, a daughter, Ruth Lorraine.
• Grade 6 teacher Mr Luke Fitzpatrick and his wife Emma, were thrilled to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth.
• Cameron and Kylie Frost, a son, Benjamin John.
• Mark and Harriet Links, In London, a son, Frederick Edward.
• Daniel and Roxie Meehan, a son, Ryan Preston.
• Paul and Belinda Mihal, a daughter, Olivia Maria.
• John and Anna Holliday, a son, Liam Jack.

November

• The College welcomes Samuel James Alexander, born on November 27 to Director of Transition Mr Cameron Alexander (SVC 1989-1994) and his wife Emma – a brother for Georgia.
• Ben and Sarah Slade, a son, Hamish Benjamin.

July

• Celestina Giuseppine De Felice, mother of Ron.
• William Rolfe (Bill) Boyd, husband of Mary, father of Roger and father-in-law of Renee.

August

• Boleslaw Adams, father of Eugene.
• The College was saddened to hear of the passing of Br Leo Doolan at St Joseph’s Home Northcote (Victoria) on August 20, 2012. He was resident in the home since October 2009. Br Leo was a former Principal of St Virgil’s College from 1972 to 1977. He was 84.
• Ella Kathleen Mulcahy, wife of Lloyd, mother and mother-in-law of David and Jenny, Richard and Rosemarie, Stephen, Andrew and Leonie, Elizabeth and Quentin Solomon.
• Peter Reginald McShane (SVC 1938), son of Letitia and Ernest (both dec.), brother of Joan (dec.), brother of Joan (dec.), Lucy, Valerie, Mary (dec.), Audrey, Joseph, Ernest and Frances, husband of Dorothy (dec.) and Marjorie, father and father-in-law of Jennifer (dec.) and David, Roger and Ann, Leigh and Kelly, Rosemary and Peter, Quentin and Tracy.

September

• Elizabeth Laura (Betty) Coad, wife of Graham (dec.), mother and mother-in-law of Laurence and Carol, Anthony, Guilford and Sylvia.
• Maria Podolak, mother of John.
• Thomas James Court, father of Peter.
• Lewis Norman Brickhill (SVC 1934), father of Lewis and Paul.

Obituaries

June

• Philip Arthur Turner, (SVC 1930-1936), husband of Elvie, father of Ian and Christian, step father of Geoffrey and Barbara (dec.).
• Allan Henry Anderson, (SVC 1959-1962), husband of Barbara, father of James and Sophie, father-in-law of Courtney, son of Bertram and Mary (both dec.).
October

- Maxwell George Vincent (SVC 1936-1946), father of Michael, Helen, Phillip (dec), Fran, Andrew (dec) and Sarah. Father-in-law of Noeleen , Peter, Joe and Annette . Former husband of Betty. Max was an architect who designed the original buildings on the Austin's Ferry campus. His daughter Helen Fielding retired at the end of 2012 after 23 years of teaching at St Pater’s and St Virgil's College Junior School.
- Jillian Marie Higgins, wife of Peter, sister-in-law of Michael (dec) and Brother Jack Higgins.
- Lyell Tacey, husband of Mavis for 63 years, father of Catherine , Danny and Michael, Stan and Julian.
- Leo Bernard Jeffries (SVC 1949), son of Arthur and Florence (both dec), son-in-law of Sam and Linda Chivers (both dec), husband of Sally , father and father-in-law of Deborah and Ross, Roger, Michael, Josephine and Tim.
- Victor Witek, husband of Zella, brother of Stan and Julian.
- Edmund John Graves, husband of Teresa, father of Catherine , Danny and Michael, brother and brother-in-law of Terry and Sue.
- Stuart Craig Murnane (SVC 1974-1979), son of Betty and Harold, brother of Nicholas and Lyn and brother-in-law of Campbell Palfrey, husband of Fiona , father of Grady and Cooper.
- Geraldine Mills, wife of Don , mother and mother-in-law of John, David and Alison, Kathrym and Rodney (dec.) Grimwood, Robert and Sonia, Scott and Michelle, Jacqueline and Craig Quinn, Brent and Cathy, sister of Pat and sister-in-law of Lois. Sister-in-law to Ian and Mary.
- Sister Kath Howe, sister of St Joseph and sister and sister-in-law of Tom (dec.) and Doreen.

November

- Wendy Ann Dawson, wife of Michael, sister and sister-in-law of Merilyn and Brian Moore.
- Laurence John Benet (Ben) Gard, husband of Jane, father and father-in-law of Bridget and John, Ann, James and Kate, Isobel and Gary, Robert and Jacqueline, Philip and Vivian.
- Peter Joseph Healy, on the Gold Coast, husband of Patricia, father of Robert, David, Amanda and Kathyn, father-in-law of Mark, Helen and Kristine.

Personal Pars

- Two of the College’s finest sons are forging strong links with Cambodia. Dominic Sharpe and Phil Charlesworth – both resident in Cambodia (page 25 - picture 5). Dominic (SVC 1971-79)and his wife Benita ran a very successful specialist renovation company operating out of England. They renovated some of the most prestigious London homes and have done work in France, Austria, Turkey where they did the Prime Minister’s house and Uganda where we did the Presidential palace in Entebbe. Their lives changed irrevocably with the birth of their son, Jakamo, in 1999. Jak was fine but Benita nearly died and spent a week in intensive care. This led to a re-assessment of their lives and focus. Unable to have more children but wanting more, led them to adopt a daughter in Cambodia. And so began an incredible association with Cambodia. They helped found and continue to be trustees of CAMKIDS – The Cambodian Children’s Charity www.cambkids.org. In 2008 Dominic and Benita decided to leave the UK, their home for the past 20 years with the intention of moving back to Tasmania – along the way they stopped off at Cambodia and have continued to work there since.

- Senior Sergeant Dave Bray (SVC 1972-76) was recently featured in an article in The Mercury highlighting the plight of people suffering from mental illness and the ‘R U OK Day’. Dave literally saved the life of Steve Bakes, as described in the article: “I’d been going through some tough times ... there was a lot of stress in my life at the time,” Mr Bakes said. “The day it happened, I was at the pub in the city. I’d only had 2 1/2 drinks. I rang my friend and he couldn’t come and get me, I rang my youngest brother and all he could say was ‘Have you got money for fuel?’ “He got into a waiting cab and told the driver to take him across the bridge to the Eastern Shore. “We were driving along and just before the bridge I said ‘pull up’. “I was sitting there up on the bridge on top of the rail. Cars were blowing their horns, buses were blowing their horns, there were people on the bus that knew me, saw me sitting there.

- The only thing I’d thought of was going. And I did go. That’s when this guy, Dave, put his hands through those rails and put that cuff around my wrist.” There was a struggle. “He wouldn’t let me go, all he was concerned with was getting me back over that rail. I told him I wanted to go.” By reaching over the rail and handcuffing Mr Bakes, Sgt Bray– the same age as the man he was trying to save – risked his life. Mr Bakes did jump. And the jolt very nearly flipped the young policeman over the rail. Back-up arrived and Mr Bakes was taken to hospital.
• “It’s this simple. If it wasn’t for him I wouldn’t be sitting here today,” Mr Bakes said. “To know in that dark moment that someone valued my life, that meant everything. “I didn’t speak about it much over the years but I did say to a couple of people ‘I’d love to have the chance to shake his hand’.” He put in a request for the police officer’s name last year and on their first meeting says he “couldn’t thank him enough. He did all that to save my life” Sgt Bray never sought out any special recognition but he takes great joy in the knowledge that the troubled young man went on to have seven children and seven grandchildren and a world of experiences.

• Josh Burdon finished third in his European NASCAR debut in Valencia Spain. John is also the Australian Formula 3 and a V8 Ute championship driver. A gearbox failure robbed him of another podium place in an earlier endurance race.

• Jarrod Burton successfully completed a Post Graduate Certificate in Energy Studies from Murdoch University in March to complement his Bachelor of Engineering (Power). In addition to his post-graduation certificate, Jarrod is now also a qualified NABERS (National Australian Built Environment Ratings System) assessor and a CBD (Commercial Building Disclosure) Assessor.

• Former ‘Tassie Devil’ VFL player and four time Queensland State player, James Charlesworth, is returning to Tasmania. The Hobart Football Club has secured his services, naming him a playing assistant coach.

• Alex Čisak, after notable performances in Australian and European soccer circles has commenced pre-season with English Premier League side Oldham Athletic in the best possible way, earning ‘Man of the Match’ plaudits against defending title holder Manchester City.
• Current St Virgil’s College Director of Sport James Dalton’s contribution to the rowing programme at St Patrick’s College, Launceston was recognised in October with a new rowing shell named in his honour. James was the Director of Rowing at St Patrick’s and helped launch the careers of many successful rowers including Ingrid Fenger. James’ contribution to rowing at the school was profound as evidenced by the success of St Patrick’s during his period in charge.

• Niall Doran was a nominee in the Pride of Australia Medal for 2012.

• Tyler Fenton was awarded the Australian Defence Force Association (ADFA) Long Tan Leadership and Team Work Award. Tyler is currently a Year 12 at GYC.

• Tim Gibbons (SVC 2009) travelled with the Derwent Valley Concert Band to both Austria and Poland from July 5 to July 26 2012. The Band undertook many activities during the tour, including performances in the Mirobell Gardens, taking the Sound of Music tour, participating in the 2012 Mid-Europe Music Conference in Schladming Austria (representing Australia as the only band from our country), a visit to Vienna, participation on the 650th anniversary celebration of the city of Kolo in Poland and a visit to the Presidential Palace in Warsaw Poland. A full and rewarding schedule!

• Adam Hudson and Nathan Earle were both participants in the six day Tour of Tasmania bike race in 2012.

• Hobart City Mission Chief Executive Gary Fletcher, is at the helm of Australia’s oldest City Mission and the third oldest in the World, which in November celebrated its 160th anniversary.

• Well done to Hamish Kingston (SVC 2005-2008) who was selected for the Tasmanian 2nd XI cricket team to play Western Australia in the ‘Future’s League’ game at Lindisfarne. Hamish is developing well as an opening bowler in TCA first grade cricket and will be hoping for an opportunity in the coming years to play for Tasmania in Shield cricket or in the shorter versions of the game.

• Paul Lennon, who brought the homeless initiative, ‘Common Ground’ to Tasmania, has been appointed Chairperson of the Board, following the resignation of Hank Petrusma.

• Kevin Lynch has been in Switzerland for the last couple of years as Vice President and Head of Clinical Research and Development for Celgene Pty Ltd in EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa). He is based in the International Headquarters in Boudry, near Neuchatel. The company has its focus in cancer research and drug development and has about 30 Development programmes ongoing. Kevin notes that, “although this is a great experience and we love the regular flow of friends and family visiting from Australia, family ties will draw us home in the next year or two. Teresa (Askey-Doran) and I have five children, two at university in Australia and three at the International School of Lausanne where their French is improving much more rapidly than mine”!

• Ryan Morgan attended his second ‘Octoberfest’ in as many months, attending Hobart’s own version just weeks after having attended Munich’s celebrated event.

• Nick Nikitaras won the 2012 Hobart Exceptional Customer Service Award in the category of ‘New Business Excellence’, for his leadership of Hillstreet On Line.

• Old Virgilians are well represented amongst student leaders at Guilford Young College in 2013. Lincoln Street is College Captain at the Hobart campus and Zac Piesse is Vice Captain of the Glenorchy campus.

• John Phillips contacted the College to correct a notation in a recent edition of Words and Deeds. The article was in relation to the Frank McDonald Memorial Prize for Grade nine students and indicated that Frank had won the Victoria Cross. The following citation from the Department of Premier and Cabinet in reference to Frank McDonald clarifies his status amongst esteemed veterans - “The prize recognises World War I veteran, Frank MacDonald, who was born in Ulverstone in 1896, and died in August 2003 at the age of 107. Frank MacDonald was one of the last of the 40th Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Force; the only all-Tasmanian Battalion raised in World War I. He was responsible for repairing signal lines between headquarters and trenches and received the Military Medal for working courageously under heavy fire. He also served in World War II and received the Legion of Honour in 1998.”

• Richmond Football Club star Jack Riewoldt kicked six goals against Port Adelaide to secure a highly coveted second Coleman Medal for the AFL’s leading goal scorer in season 2012.

• Tristan Thomas qualified fifth fastest in the biggest stage of his career; the London Olympics. His time was his best in the past three injury-plagued years. “To don the green and gold and the five rings, I nearly cried a few times, thinking how much it has meant to me over the years”, Tristan said, highlighting his commitment to training and his sport.

• New Norfolk spearhead Michael Thompson, who started with the club in 2004, kicked a century of goals for the first time in 2012, a feat recognised by his winning of the 2012 William Leitch Medal for the competitions Best and Fairest player. An eventful 2012 for Michael, a year which also featured the much publicised game with Brendan Fevola who kicked 18 goals for New Norfolk – probably robbing Michael of a few goals in the process!

• Nich Tremayne and his sister Jessica, clinched best and fairest awards in season 2012 in the Southern Hockey League.

• Captain Nicholas Williams (Pinkie) has recently retired from the Defence Forces after 16 years service and is joining the reserves. His career spanned both the Navy and the Army. The ships he served on include the HMAS Manoora, HMAS Newcastle and HMAS Brisbane. He is full of praise for the Defence Force Chaplains who not look after the spiritual welfare of service men and women but also provide valuable counsel to all regardless of their beliefs. Whilst in the Defence Forces, when time allowed, his passion was offshore sailing. He recalls one incident in Bass Strait at night during a rough race, where he had to climb to the top of a Navy yacht’s mast to carry out a repair on a wildly gyrating mast - something he said he would be reluctant to do now days. Nicholas is a member of the Parish Council of St Anthony’s Eastwood NSW. He is married to Miechelle and they have four children.
1. Fr Felix celebrating the Golden Jubilee Mass in the Chapel at Austins Ferry
2-3. OVA Annual Mass at St Mary's Cathedral – welcoming the OVAs newest members from the Class of 2012
5. During the 1st XI Tour of Victoria, players were delighted to meet up with Old Virgilian Barry King – a volunteer tour guide at the MCG National Sports Museum. Barry is pictured with 1st XI Captain Riley Backhouse
6-7. Golden Jubilee Weekend

- Isaak de Winter was admitted to the Dean’s Roll of Excellence in the Faculty of Business for outstanding results in 2011.

- Brian Yates has been appointed Head of the Australian Research Council (ARC). Brian is a professor at the University of Tasmania, School of Chemistry and an Australian Teaching and Learning Council Discipline Scholar in Science. He will advise the ARC on strategic research directions. The ARC also advises the Government on research and manages a considerable grants programme.

- Aaron Zantuck was awarded the Prime Minister’s Award for Skills Excellence in School in Tasmania. Aaron was also Tasmania’s School Based ‘Apprentice of the Year’. Last year he studied through the Tasmanian Skills Institute. He was just one of twenty students around the nation to be recognised.

From the Heritage Desk

Graeme Rainbow (Heritage Committee)

1. The Post CD Centenary Package is now completed and available for purchase
   The disks contain an outline of the sequence of events during the celebratory period, a myriad of photos taken at the various functions and the text of all the keynote speeches at these functions. In addition, the disks contains a further selection of photos that capture significant features of the two SVC campuses and what is now Guilford Young College at Barrack St.
   Price: $10 (postage included)
   Order: email grainbow@stvirgil's.tas.edu.au or Graeme Rainbow 11 Britannia Place Bellerive TAS 7018

2. The initial DVD/CD Centenary Package is still available. Price and purchase details are the same as above.
3. Story Search. As mentioned in the previous edition of Words and Deeds the search is on to record the stories of people and events that enliven the Spirit of St Virgil’s College. By telling the stories, it is hoped that present and future students will be able to better appreciate what their predecessors have been able to achieve and hence inspire them with confidence and a desire to go forth and strive for similar. The accounts of the deeds of former students will go onto the College website and will also assist the Old Virgilians Association in identifying prospective Roll of Honour inductees.

In addition to stories of the forty five Heritage Roll of Honour inductees, the Centenary DVD / CD package contained a further sixty achievement stories. During May letters went out to a further thirty former students, whose achievements were drawn to my notice, inviting each to tell his story. Please help Graeme record other Achievement / Inspirational stories. Please provide the basic details and I will follow up with you to get additional information at a convenient time. Please email: grainbow@stvirgil's.tas.edu.au

Boarding in the 1940s

Julian Newton-Brown contacted the Development Office to share some of his recollections of boarding at St Virgil’s from 1942 to 1948. Some of his musings are sure to resonate with generations of boarders at St Virgil’s!

Having arrived from West Australia in October 1941 my elder brother Paul and I, had attended a State School at New Town for what remained of that year. Our mother had arranged for us to board at St Virgil’s and we arrived just after the start of the first term in 1942. Our father had died in 1937 and we were taken in by our mother’s parents. Our mother’s younger sister Norma was married to a doctor Jim Tremayne who was the superintendent of St John’s Park where they had a large house. They offered us accommodation and Jim found a job for mother. We took the long trip to Tasmania and stayed with Norma and Jim until Paul and I went to St Virgil’s as boarders.

The war was on at the time and people did not have the affluence we have today. Looking back all those years ago we were not in the least ill-treated. We were disciplined it’s true and we were given a fine education I thought. Many of the boys of the time acquired themselves very well in life subsequently. Certainly the school excelled in sport too. During my time there we had been State premiers in footy for twelve consecutive years. It is pleasing to see how well the school is doing today 101 years since it was founded.

Boarding school proved to be a whole new experience. We slept in dormitories in squeaky iron beds with horse hair mattresses with sheets and a few blankets. The food was pretty ordinary and I grew to hate porridge. Worse than porridge was oats ground to a powder called Creamoater. It looked and tasted like pale flour and water! Most staples were by then rationed and we had to hand in our ration books. There were coupons for meat, butter and other items and also some for clothing. Coupon must have been a new word to people because most pronounced it as ‘kewpons’!
There was no shortage of bread but we got only a piece of butter three inches (75mm) long and a quarter inch (6mm) square once or sometimes twice a day. Meals three times a day, 8 am, 12.30 and 6 pm. Afternoon tea was on at 4pm where heaps of bread and jam, usually raspberry, no butter and a huge pot of very black bitter tea with limited sugar was available. It was not heavily patronised unless you were really hungry.

One item we were served on some Fridays was curried scallops. Scallops were rare or unknown in other parts of Australia then. I do remember seeing in Casamaty's fish shop window huge bins of scallops for six pence (five cents) a pint (about 1Kg) also white bait for a similar price. In the late 1950s scallops were discovered in Port Phillip bay and became popular. They were always referred to as Tasmanian Scallops. The College's curried scallops consisted of a few scallops floating in a pale yellow fluid and was not very appetising! There were about 300 boys at the school of which 100 were boarders. The day boys mostly brought their own lunch although we did have a tuck shop. Those who could not eat all their lunch often offered their left-overs to us and we really enjoyed the ingenuity of some of the mothers whose creations we devoured.

Our day started when we were woken at 6.30am by ‘Old Ted’, Brother Edmund Joyce. Brother had a way of clapping his hands to wake us that sounded like that of clapping two coconut shell halves together. Many of us managed to copy this sound and spook other kids with it, they thinking they’d been ‘cot’, which is how he pronounced caught. Ted was the original FOO! He would often say “phew you’re cot” or begin some statement with Phew. When I knew him he had been at the school for many years and had taught the fathers of some of the boys. He often called them by their father’s name, and he also called me Paul, my elder brother whom he’d taught before I got into senior school.

Some years ago on a visit to Hobart I was with Tony Copeland my best mate at school. We were discussing school days when I mentioned I had been into the grounds of the school for a look about. We then both decided to go. As we went in via the Patrick St gate one of the Brothers spotted us and queried our presence. He proved very amenable and showed us around. At the library built to honour Brother Joyce I noticed a bust of him. On close inspection I remarked on the nose of the bust in that it was inaccurate. While in class I often drew his features in profile. Just below the bridge between his eyes he had a distinct bump which remained level to the tip of his nose. This feature was missing. The brother said they had scoured any photos for details of his likeness, but no doubt there were none of him in profile.

At 7am we went to mass, at times in the Chapel or to the Cathedral through the Bishop’s palace grounds then down a long flight of concrete steps. After Mass it was into study until breakfast at 8am. School started at 9am until midday when we had religious instruction until lunchtime at 12.30 pm. Back to class at 1.30pm until 3.30pm. After Tea (dinner) study again. For juniors until 8.30pm then bed, with lights...
out at 9pm. Seniors studied until 9.30pm and lights out at 10pm.

When I was a senior we were allowed on warm nights to walk around the lawns with a book or notes to memorise things without distraction!

A popular activity during play times was handball. There was a purpose built hand-ball court, a bit like a squash court but without a rear wall, and no line on the main wall. This allowed what was called a ‘butt’ where a ball hit the wall so low down that it could not rebound enough to be played or returned. Some of the boys were really good at hand-ball and played at every opportunity. One advantage of playing hand-ball was that hands became very tough and thus could better tolerate the ‘cuts’. We received the cuts for misbehaviour or inattention in class.

As the war progressed invasion by Japan became more of a reality by 1942 so we dug trenches in the school grounds. The soil we dug out of the ground was put into hessian bags and piled up to form a roof and one closed end. The entrance was the lift-up lid off old desks secured with more soil filled bags. When Paul and I started it cost 12 guineas (an old term for one pound and one shilling or 21 shillings) per term with four terms per annum. As Ma was being paid four quid (pounds) a week our fees took up 50% of her earnings, but for the first year, dear old Brother Boylan took the two of us for the cost of just one.

In senior school the sciences were taught and I was really interested in both physics and chemistry, and to a lesser extent in algebra and trigonometry. These subjects were taught by ‘Old Ted’, Brother Joyce. He was okay with the mathematical subjects, but I did not think much of his ability in the physics and chemistry subjects. The physics and chemistry books I had read right through, and was ahead of him in the lessons. He was boring one day in Physics and my attention wandered as I already knew what he tried to teach. On this occasion he asked me a question about static electricity. I replied “if you charge a glass rod positively” and was cut off by him saying a glass rod being charged (by rubbing with silk) is a definition of negative charge. I took the text book up and showed him it was possible. By first wetting the glass rod and drying in an oven to charge it positively. He was furious and I realised how easily embarrassed he was. In future, I avoided such occasions and he did too!

Following the war we must have had a real influx of boarders because at one time the ‘hall’ on the northern end of building was used as a dormitory. Later it was converted back to a hall and on some Sunday mornings a dainty lady whose name escapes me conducted ballroom dancing lessons. For this to be possible ‘partners’ were required, so some of the girls at St Mary’s were enlisted. The teacher was a local lady and we learned the quickstep, the waltz and other dances, holding on to these terrified girls. Some were chatty, poised, and good fun while others shook with nervousness. Some had a handkerchief moistened from their sweaty hands in one hand, usually the right which we had to grasp with our left. I doubt any romances resulted. The result was I became a reasonable sort of dancer.

At the age of 13 or 14 I joined the cadets. I think it was pretty well compulsory. We were issued with a khaki uniform and a rifle. Initially training was after school on Monday. We marched to the chorus of left right left right…squad halt…attention…stand at ease…by the sergeant and were drilled in rifle drill such as…slope arms…present arms…all shouted
at us. We were inspected to ensure we were dressed according to military protocol, and punished if not. Punishment was generally what was referred to as fatigue duty, such as walking about for some minutes with the rifle held high above your head. The big event was the annual camp at Brighton about 40 km north of Hobart. Cadets from the three major school in Tasmania St. Virgil’s, Hutchins, Friends in Hobart and Scot’s from Launceston all spent a week in camp. We slept on Iron beds with palliases for a mattress. The Palliasse was just a big hessian bag filled with straw. We were issued with two blankets a pillow but no sheets. At reveille we were given about 20 minutes before ‘inspection’.

As the years progressed our fortunes improved and finally some assets in WA were realised and some funds became available. We were then able to move to Melbourne where our mother had plans for the future. Brother Meiers was then the Principal and he gave me a fine reference. All it said, after stating my scholastic achievements was, “He is straight forward, truthful, and honest”. I know not where it is now, but it did help me later at times, and it also inspired me ever since, to be true to the simple words he used.

After I graduated from the Melbourne College of Pharmacy I took a job in Hobart at Sidwell and Townley, then the biggest Pharmacy there. I wondered about Brother Fenwick and rang the school to find he was still alive so I made a time to visit him. I was ushered into the “parlour” and on the wall was a framed notation from the pope congratulating Fenwick as the oldest living Christian Brother. He was brought down the stairs to me and in his quavering voice as he held out his hand he said “Oh Brownie how are you”. It was an emotional moment for me and I still think of him with the greatest affection. He filled the space left by the father I hardly knew as I was only five when he died. Recently I found a copy of the Old Virginian of Sept 1967 with a photo of Brother Fenwick on the cover with a piece about him inside. He died in August 1967 at age 97 having been in the order for 79 years. So when I last saw him in 1955 he was 85. He was quite frail as I recall and had been in the order for 67 years then. That he survived another 12 years is amazing.

Soon after my job in Tasmania I moved to Mount Beauty in Victoria to manage a pharmacy there and be close to the snow at Falls Creek. I built a ski lodge there and made it my life’s work as I loved skiing so much. Having been so hopeless with balls (as evidenced by my lack of success with hand-ball) I found a natural ability in skiing (also sailing and surfing) and still ski black runs today!
The College community congratulates the Class of 2012 for their outstanding contribution to the College. Good luck and may God Bless all boys throughout the exciting journey beyond the College gates.