Incorporating The Old Virgilian

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WORDS & DEEDS

New Beginnings...
Endless Possibilities
It is becoming part of what is considered the norm in a contemporary school that each new-year brings with it significant change. As the cliché suggests, in today’s educational landscape change is perhaps the only constant in our environment and one that we must all embrace as part of our daily reality. The breadth and rate of change, whilst presenting some challenges, has forced educators to examine their professional practices and the way in which they interact with all stakeholders involved with the education of students.

The somewhat daunting world of Information Communication Technology (ICT) provides many salient examples of the complexity and inherent benefits associated with embracing change. Clearly people from around the world have never been more contactable in our lifetime, which can be both a blessing and a curse! Clearly as ICT channels inevitably expand, this situation is not going to change and so it is essential that we provide students, staff and parents with the skills and opportunities to thrive in this ‘brave new world’!

These challenges have been attacked head on as a College community with the expansion of the iPad programme to include all students from Grade 3 to 10. Each boy has the opportunity to work with an iPad as one of their learning tools. The introduction of this College-wide programme was a result of our extensive trials at the Austins Ferry campus. As with most technology, it has had its teething problems, but is proving to be very successful in further engaging boys in learning, whilst greatly enhancing their digital literacy and citizenship.

We commenced the academic year with a visit from Br Damien Price who took the opportunity to work with the staff on the topic of boys’ spirituality. This linked very well with our previous planning and supported our key curriculum focus and welfare focus on the importance of boys’ education at St Virgil’s. Br Damien was able to explore with the staff the meaning of being actively involved in our Catholic community and the importance of the boys seeing every day as part of their spiritual journey to manhood.

Br Damien’s work brought to life the four touchstones of the Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) Charter - Gospel Spirituality, Liberating Education, Justice and Solidarity and Inclusive Education. The authenticity of the College as a Catholic school in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice is reflected in our witness to these touchstones and has been very evident this year through a number of significant events and achievements.

The College has always shown support for our Indigenous custodians and recognised the traditional custodians of the lands upon which our campuses sit. At the 2013 Commissioning Assembly we took the opportunity to bless and display a number of plaques acknowledging the traditional
We also took the opportunity to bless one of our recent acquisitions from the EREA Congress - a message stick, that was given to the College by the Mutha Mutha people. This stick is used in meetings to help people respect each other, to gather in a spirit of peace and collaboration where the right to be heard and respected is ensured through the person holding the message stick, effectively ‘holding the floor’ for the purposes of the discussion or meeting.

At the commencement of the academic year, the College welcomed a number of new staff members. Mr Andrew Pinelli was appointed as the Head of the Junior School. Also at Patrick Street, we welcomed Mrs Megan Williamson to teach Japanese, Mr Tim Birthisel, Mr Chris Waugh and Mrs Theresa Stoddard as classroom teachers, and Mrs Jillian Norton was appointed to teach music.

At Austins Ferry Mr Nathan Sharman joined the Technology Department, Mr Willy Chambers, the English Department, and Mr Deon Scanlon was appointed as the ICT Integration Leader. In the Learning Enrichment Department we welcomed Miss Emma Richardson and Mr Alex Rose. During the year we also appointed Mrs Narelle Green as the Business Manager, Mr Liam Scott as an IT Assistant and Mrs Caroline Conallin as a teacher assistant.

On the student front, we welcomed 188 new students to the College which brings our total number upwards of 740 for the first time. The increased number was highlighted by an extra primary class and an additional stream of Grade 7s. The College Board has been pleased with the additional numbers, as it provides strong endorsement of the veracity of our programmes and our commitment to work with parents and the wider community to enhance learning outcomes for every student at St Virgil’s. The word of mouth endorsement from current parents has been most gratifying and highly appreciated and augurs well for future growth in enrolment applications.

The increase in enrolments highlights the need to have an engaging, rigorous and relevant transition programme to assist the boys enjoying their first formal dealings with the College. Taking away Junior School boys, for over 120 boys the first day of the academic year was their first connection to St Virgil’s. For all students it is their first involvement with Austins Ferry and the vagaries of secondary education, most notably lockers, timetables, teachers and the canteen! To optimally support all students with transition from primary to secondary school, the College suspends classes on a Tuesday and Wednesday for four weeks and runs a transition programme based around spirituality, service, transition and outdoor education. The major goal is for boys to spend more time together in a less formal environment therefore allowing relationships and connections to grow with both their peers and staff. Research clearly highlights that connection is integral to boys enjoying success at school and we are enormously proud that research with stakeholders has clearly highlighted that the programme has been very successful and we look forward to its continued development.

In the classroom our focus continues to be on the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. The College has spent a significant amount of time on the implementation of the four key curriculums that have been mandated by the Government; English, Mathematics, Science and History/Geography and is considered a leader in curriculum, assessment and reporting development and implementation. Most other subjects are moving into their implementation phase after significant community and school based consultation. We would expect to see full Australian Curriculum across all subject areas by the end of 2015.

At regional network meetings the key focus for 2013 is on moderation and the consistency of assessment across all areas. This has been a welcome addition to the College, providing staff with wonderful opportunities to benchmark and compare work with students from other schools and colleges. It will significantly assist St Virgil’s with self-evaluation and ongoing performance, key ingredients in building and sustaining a rigorous academic culture at the College.

On the development front, we have had a quiet start with most time and effort put into

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek”.
Barack Obama
the planning for the future development of the College’s science and arts precincts. We hope that these significant, and much needed, educational projects will be ratified in the coming weeks to enable work to be undertaken on the re-development of the last of the original Austins Ferry buildings, the Hamilton Wing. At the Patrick Street site, as part of our continuing growth of the arts programme, we were able to build some new practice rooms for instrumental music tuition and significant storage for equipment.

The work at the Junior School almost completes the formal renovations on the site, marking the conclusion of an amazing period of development which has seen the campus transformed from a grand but dated primary school, to a welcoming, engaging and attractive educational facility, where space is optimally utilised in a range of innovative ways to maximise educational outcomes for all boys. The laying of artificial grass on the bottom court will formally complete the transformation of the former St Peter’s school site. The support of the Parents and Friends in these endeavour is highly appreciated and will be readily apparent when the formal history of the College is documented.

During 2013, we have a number of our community who have experienced difficulties in their family situation. This is not an unusual occurrence in a large community, but this year it has been foremost in the students’ hearts and minds with one of their peers admitted to hospital in Melbourne for an extended stay in 2013. This has evoked significant empathy within our community, with students planning and organising a range of significant fundraisers, including ‘Shave for a Cure’ where the Principal had a ‘bounty’ placed on his hair! Through the leadership of senior students and the enthusiasm of younger students and staff, funds were duly raised, the net result being a Principal who has been severely exposed to the recent cold weather!

The money raised was donated to the organisation Canteen as the students recognised the impact that this disease has upon more than just the student involved. Cancer affects many members of our community and the donation to Canteen provides maximum benefits to all associated with the treatment and care of an ill child or teenager. Students have also been extremely generous with their time working within the community for the Pontville detainees. As part of our traditional programme for community support we are active in working with St Vincent de Paul for the winter clothes drive and the Caritas appeal, as well as ongoing fundraising for the Mary Rice centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

A number of key events have taken place in 2013 which relate closely to our theme for the year:

**St Virgil’s 2013**

**Two campuses, One College**

Examples of significant College events include the Commissioning assembly, Easter celebrations, the Edmund Rice Network Mass, the Time and Space programme, and Halfway Day to name a few. The significance of the Halfway Day celebration was the addition of a ritual to mandate St Virgil’s College as a Catholic school. The Archbishop attended and presented the school with its certificate of mandate, a tangible sign of the College’s commitment to honour through deeds and words, the eleven pillars of the Archbishop’s Charter for Catholic Schools. Also on this day, the President of the Old Virgilians Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding for operations between the College and the Old Virgilians Association. This event provided a key opportunity to reinforce the close link that exists between the Old Scholars and the College, a link that will continually be forged as each year the OVA welcome our graduates to their ranks.

Earlier this year, we were extremely fortunate to be able to welcome Fr Felix Ekeh, the new Priest in Residence of the Claremont/Bridgewater parish to join with Fr Brian Nichols and Fr Shammi Perera at the Cathedral as our partners in Church. In many of our major events our Priests have played significant roles in making our celebrations meaningful. We thank them for their continued support.

As 2013 continues, I encourage all readers of this publication to become involved with our community whether you are a current student, current parent, Old Virgilian or valued friends, the College has many events upcoming and would love to welcome you to any or all of these events.

Being involved with this community is certainly a privilege and through the joys of technology can be facilitated in a myriad of ways including twitter, facebook, You Tube and our new website which will be formally launched on August 1 2013. Of course we always love seeing all members of our community in person and I look forward to meeting with you in the near future and sharing in the exciting times to come, in this our 103rd year!

In the Spirit of Blessed Edmund.

**Damian Messer**

**Principal**
Tasmanian Edmund Rice Network Mass

“Be intent on prayer and whatever may happen will turn to our good”.

Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice

On May 10 2013 over 1500 staff and students gathered to celebrate the feast day of Blessed Edmund Rice. The celebration of Mass led by old scholar Archbishop Adrian Doyle was a beautiful celebration of the life of Blessed Edmund and the extraordinary contribution he, and generations of Brothers inspired by his example, have made to education and communities over the past 211 years.

Blessed Edmund’s legacy has spread to almost thirty countries where Brothers and lay people continue to bring Christ’s message and the Founder’s inspiration to millions of people who are served in ministries and schools. In Tasmania the Edmund Rice Network is comprised of a number of schools (St Virgil’s College plus seven Associate schools), Edmund Rice camps and the Old Virgilians Association. All of these groups take their motivation from the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice, a charism inspired by Edmund’s reading of the Gospels, his devotion to prayer and the deep learning and faith he experienced whilst working amongst the impoverished children of Waterford in 19th century Ireland.

In looking into the audience on Friday it was hard not be struck by a number of thoughts

1. Br Damien Price
2. Edmund Rice Network Mass
3. Shave for a Cure - ‘Principal’s Revenge’
4. Grade 10 student Nick Dodge sacrificing his beloved locks for Grade 10 mate Bailey King
2013 Student Leadership
The College community commend the following boys who have taken up the challenge of student leadership in 2013.

House Leaders

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

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

**Joyce**
Wesley Hauler - Service
Sean Colrain - Spirit
Mitchell Hoare - Sport

**Hessian**
Carlos Poulson - Service
Luke Roe - Spirit
Caleb Jewell - Sport
and questions; “what would Edmund make of this gathering? What would he make of our schools, our young people and the challenges that they face today? Would he be proud of our advocacy for the marginalised within our own communities? Would he take comfort from the knowledge that our words and deeds are authentic to his teachings, and to the teachings of Jesus of the Gospels? Would he encounter an inclusive, Christ inspired community where all felt welcomed, valued and connected to his story and the story of Jesus and the traditions of the Catholic Church?”

All would have slept very well on Friday night, comforted by the fact that Friday’s Mass was a resounding endorsement of the strength of the Edmund Rice Network in Tasmania and reinforcement of our Catholic traditions and an authentic expression of the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice. To be amongst 1500 people, united by a prayerful respect for the network confirmed that Edmund would be immensely proud of his legacy and the work of Brothers and lay staff in his schools and ministries in Tasmania.

In sharing the day with students, staff and friends of the Tasmanian Edmund Rice Network it was evident that the answers to these questions would be a resounding ‘yes’! 93% of our students were in attendance and almost 100% of our staff and quite a number of parents and Old Virgilians. Our student attendance rate was higher than a normal school day, a significant figure given that we are entering the cold and flu season. This figure and the active involvement of students confirms our belief that the boys are hungry for experiences that connect them with our story at St Virgil’s - a story inspired by the example of Blessed Edmund and the traditions of our Catholic Church.

The aspirations of all those connected with the Network and the College is that St Virgil’s College will always provide an authentic Edmund Rice education that
enables young men to encounter Jesus through the lens of Blessed Edmund. In doing so, boys through their words and deeds will become young men of faith, committed to working with the marginalised and to making ours a fair and just society. Noble aspirations indeed, but not too far removed from the aspirations of Edmund Rice when he opened up his first school for six boys in Waterford in 1802!

In celebrating the success of the day it would be remiss not to sincerely thank all those involved with the Mass, especially Br Sean McManus and Mrs Renee MacGregor for their leadership of this significant Eucharistic celebration.

**EREA Public Juridic Person**

In Term 3 the College was honoured to experience a visit from EREA Executive Director Dr Wayne Tinsey. Dr Wayne updated all staff members about the change in governance structure at the College with the granting of Public Juridic Person (PJP) status to Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA). He also took the opportunity to meet with students and the College Board.

The following lines are from a letter to all members of the College community and highlight the scope of the network of schools throughout Australia that take their motivations from Jesus of the Gospels and the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice.

"On May 1, Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), which provides Catholic education to over 33,000 students throughout every State and Territory of Australia, took another step in assuming full responsibility for schools established by the Christian Brothers. The signing of agreements to transfer accountability follows the granting of canonical and civil status to EREA as a Church and legal body in its own right."

"In Australia, the Christian Brothers have, for almost one hundred and fifty years, continued the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice and created a magnificent story in Catholic education. Edmund Rice Education Australia was established by the Christian Brothers in October 2007 after many years of planning, with the intention of carrying on their educational mission into the future."

"For the first five years of EREA's story, it acted on delegated authority from the Brothers to conduct, govern and manage their schools. At the end of 2012, after an application to Rome, EREA was granted Public Juridic Person status; its own identity in the Catholic Church. In early 2013, EREA was also recognized in Civil law as a separately incorporated body."

"As a result of this recognition, and because of the forward thinking of the Christian Brothers, EREA now has full stewardship and governance for the majority of its schools and educational facilities across Australia under the name of the Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia. At this time, EREA schools in Western Australia and Tasmania, as well as schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Dioceses of Parramatta and Broken Bay, remain under the ownership of the Christian Brothers with stewardship and governance continuing to be delegated fully to EREA."

"In close collaboration with our Australian Church, EREA continues the mission of Jesus Christ, helping young people to arrive at the fullness of Christian life through the provision of quality Catholic education. Through excellence in Catholic education, EREA seeks to transform the minds and hearts of young Australians to build a more just, tolerant and inclusive community in educating for liberation and possibility."

"We ask for your prayers and support for EREA at this very significant time."

Dr Wayne Tinsey

**A Special Friend!**

Grade 8 student Alex Abey became the first person in Tasmania to benefit from the medical video link established with specialist doctors in Canberra. To mark the occasion Alex was invited to a launch of the technology and had his photo taken with a very special guest, former Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

**Service Learning**

A ‘New Beginning’

Mrs Renee MacGregor

Our College motto, “deeds not words alone” has been a key focus for the Grade 7 ‘New Beginnings’, My Service Journey. Over the two day programme boys have made links between servant leadership and why as a member of a Catholic community in the Edmund Rice tradition, it is integral to what we do. Servant leadership begins with our interactions with others.

The first session of the programme highlights the parable of the Good Samaritan and the values of respect, hospitality and dignity. With this in mind students, set out into the community to be men of Deeds not Words alone. Groups have spent time at the Growth Centre in Bridgewater harvesting and cultivating vegetables for ‘Dining with Friends’, helping out with the re-location of the Foodbank and working at the St Vincent de Paul, Argyle Street warehouse sorting donations and re-stocking tinned food supplies.
Boys participating in My Spiritual Journey have visited the Barrack Street site where St Virgil’s College first commenced its life as a Catholic school. Br Sean McManus introduced boys to the campus which included spending time in the St Virgil’s Chapel and sharing the story of Blessed Edmund Rice. The afternoon was then spent at St Mary’s Cathedral where Mr Lawler, an Acolyte at the parish gave a tour of the Cathedral giving commentary of the sacred space.

The second day of the programme is based at the Austins Ferry campus where boys visit the Centenary History Centre and have an opportunity further explore the traditions of the College. The boys also spend time with our Campus Minister Br Peter Flint learning about life as a Christian Brother living within a community as well as tapping into his knowledge of our College community.

Off to Africa...
An Immersion Experience

In July, the College’s Director of Development, Mr Mark Waddington will be visiting the Mary Rice Centre in Nairobi, Kenya as part of Carrigg Karibu, an immersion opportunity provided through the Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) network. He will also visit Mt Sinon Secondary College, the Ruben Health Centre, the Beausang Primary and Secondary School and Clinic and the world’s biggest slum in Kibera. The Carrigg Karibu experience is designed to enable Australians to develop a relationship with Africans (Brothers and their lay collaborators) in their ministry to the marginalised Africans, especially children and young people.
St Virgil’s College is committed to such experiences for members of our community to be authentic to the EREA touchstones of Gospel Spirituality, Justice and Solidarity, Inclusive Community and Liberating Education.

The challenge upon Mr Waddington’s return will be to examine practical ways for the College to express additional support for the Mary Rice Centre and other charities supported by EREA schools and to examine opportunities for students and staff to further engage in dialogue, whether in person as part of an organised tour or through the use of information communications technology.

We wish Mr Waddington safe and enriching travels and continue to offer our prayerful support to the people of Kenya and Tanzania, supported by members of the extended EREA network. A full report of Mr Waddington’s experience will be featured in the next edition of ‘Words and Deeds’.

The quality of guest speakers was quite amazing and all in attendance had a wonderful day. The College enjoys a great reputation within the football arena, making it possible to attract such high quality guests. The College will again conduct the luncheon in 2014, the day before the first North Melbourne game in Hobart and a comparable list of speakers is sure to be in place. Please keep an eye out for details early next year and round up family, friends and work colleagues for a wonderful event, shared with others from our community.

The New Beginnings Programme is the cornerstone of the Grade 7 Transition experience for students entering St Virgil’s College. Whilst some elements of the programme have been used in isolation to assist students in making the transition to the College, the foundation for the fully integrated programme is breadth of research that highlights that the transition from primary to secondary education has major implications for the learning and social development of students (Howard & Johnson, 2004). Towns (2011) identified the importance of transition programmes in making the process as smooth as possible and in reducing anxiety, in particular highlighting the need for students to develop a sense of belonging as being central to successful transition programmes.

In the College’s context as a boys’ school, Lillico (2000) identified that boys need to engage with nature, establish a sense of belonging to the school and build relationships with teachers, if they were to enjoy a successful transition to the demands of secondary schooling. The importance of making a smooth transition is highlighted by Langenkamp (2009) who found that students who experienced a successful transition to secondary school are usually better positioned to overcome the challenges encountered during their later school years.

The sense of belonging and identity is central to the New Beginnings Programme. It themes are taken from the College’s Strategic Star which reflects the three values of St Virgil’s Community, Justice and Respect, which are at the heart of the five Strategic Pillars central to a St Virgil’s education - partnership, stewardship, identity, learning and leadership. These values and pillars are inculcated within the culture of the College and have provided direction to staff in formulating transition experiences that will heighten student belonging, identity and connectedness whilst being authentic to the

Grade 7 Orientation ‘New Beginnings’ A Research Review

Mr Cameron Alexander
Director of Transition

St Virgil’s College is a Catholic boys’ school and member of Edmund Rice Education Australia, a national network of Catholic schools with over 40 member schools across Australia. The College is has two campuses in Hobart; a Junior Campus (Grades 3 to 6) on a site located adjacent to St Mary’s Cathedral in central Hobart and the Senior Campus (Grade 7 to 10) which is located in the Northern Suburbs of Hobart. In 2013 the College has recorded record levels of enrolment, with its largest cohort of Grade 7 students (168) swelling the numbers of boys at St Virgil’s to 740. Almost a quarter of students entering Grade 7 continue their educational journey from the Junior campus, with the remaining students coming from nearly 50 different primary schools, located within one hours bus travel of the College. Eleven of the feeder schools are Catholic primary schools.

SVC Community Luncheon Community Lunch

Prior to the Kangaroos first home game at Bellerive against reigning premiers the Sydney Swans, over 70 members the St Virgil’s College community gathered for the second annual ‘Luncheon with the Stars’ at the Blundstone Arena Function Centre. The luncheon featured new North Melbourne Football Club CEO Carl Dilena, Kangaroos key forward Drew Petrie, a graduate from a fellow EREA school, AFL Legend Ron Barassi, Andrew Ireland (CEO) and Gary Rohan (injured star player) from the Sydney Swans.
mission of the College as a Catholic school for boys in the Edmund Rice tradition.

The College has a vertical pastoral care system, based around four Houses that are comprised of six Pastoral Care Groups. Each boy is allocated a House and Pastoral Care Group upon commencing Grade 7 and remains in this group for the four years at the College. The relationship with the Pastoral Care Teacher and Head of House is central to the pastoral care of each boy. Within each Pastoral Care Group, Grade 10 students take on the role of Peer Support Leaders who take on the responsibility for the care of the Grade 7s as part of the transition process. The active involvement of senior students in the New Beginnings Programme has been pivotal in its success, a fact borne out in research with students, staff and parents.

The New Beginnings Programme features four, two day experiences that relate to the values and the pillars that are congruent with a St Virgil’s education. Students are provided with a comprehensive workbook which explains each of the areas and provides the context in how it relates to the values of the College and the desired outcomes for the entire transition experience. The four experiences are:

**My Spiritual Journey**

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

My Relational Journey
This experience has two contrasting days, designed primarily to deepen the connections between boys at the College. On the first day boys complete an Amazing Race around central Hobart as a member of their Pastoral Care Group. The task requires boys to work together as a team with their Pastoral Care Teacher to complete a number of challenges. The reward for all boys is the opportunity to order lunch form a CBD café and enjoy an ice cream at world renowned Constitution Dock. The second day is spent working in their House group, exploring a range of issues including perceptions, self-identity, positive self-talk and an introduction to the Rock and Water programme. Both days provide opportunities for the boys to explore ways of developing strong relationships with all members of their House group as well as the opportunity to reflect upon, and identify their own personal identity.

Outdoor Education
The primary focus of the two day, overnight experience is to foster and promote better connections and relationships between Grade 7 boys. To help achieve this, boys are given the opportunity to undertake a variety of activities that encourage teamwork and self-growth in a fun, challenging and supportive environment. These activities include mountain biking, bushwalking and navigation, kayaking, bush skills and cooking, and abseiling. Additionally boys also participate in a variety of ‘getting to know you’ activities. Grade 10 House Leaders are extensively involved, acting in a mentoring and peer support role. There is also time and space for the boys to make further connections with the Pastoral Care Teachers, Heads of House, and other College leadership members. Each year parents are surveyed as a means of evaluating the value of the New Beginnings programme as an integral part of the College’s Grade 7 transition programme. Responses from 2012 and 2013 indicated very strong support for the New Beginnings Programme. 88% of respondents felt that the New Beginnings programme had helped their son settle into life at St Virgil’s. There was also strong evidence from parents that the goals of the programme had been fulfilled, particularly in relation to building and strengthening relationships. 75% of parents believed that the programme had greatly assisted their son in making new friends, whilst 91% of parents felt their son now had excellent relationships with their teachers. In relation to boys building a sense of belonging to the College, 87% of parents believed that the New Beginnings Programme had made a positive impact on their son’s connectedness to the College. 73% of parents believed that their son had a greater understanding of the Catholic traditions of the College. These findings were also supported by research with students who indicated a greater connection to their peers, their teachers and the traditions of the College. 90% of parents also identified that having Grade 10 Peer Support Leaders mentor had a positive impact upon the transition experience of their son into the College. The long term benefits of the mentoring relationship between older and younger students has also been identified through other research instruments used at the College including bullying and student wellbeing data.

Summary
Research highlights that the transition from primary to secondary school can have a significant impact on student’s academic and social development. Transition programmes that focus on building strong connections between students, strong relationships between students and staff, whilst engendering a sense of belonging have been shown to be effective in reducing anxiety about the transition to the secondary school environment. A successful transition will provide students with the best possible chance of experience success in secondary school. The experience of students supports the
research data from parents, staff and educational theorists, which confirms that the New Beginnings Programme at St Virgil’s College has had a significant impact upon the transition and educational experiences of Grade 7 students through improving their relationships, sense of belonging and understanding of the history and traditions of the College.

iPad Programme
Expanding the Gateways to Learning

Mr Richard Lawler
Director of Information Services

Following an extensive two year research trial, in 2013 all boys from Grade 3 to 10 at St Virgil’s College were provided with an iPad to further optimise learning for every student at the College. Whilst the College will maintain other information communication technology (ICT) devices and programmes, the provision of iPads will greatly assist with enhancing student engagement and learning outcomes as well as improving student’s ICT literacy and their readiness for the technology rich world they will enter upon leaving school.

Mr Richard Lawler the College’s Director of Information Services contends that in moving to a one to one iPad ratio, the College recognises that “there is a significant body of research available regarding what factors enhance learning outcomes for boys. Some key factors include the use of ICT and tactile (hands on) activities. Mobile devices with touch interfaces meet these key factors significantly.

“In addition, mobile devices give greater real time access to data, and allow teachers to integrate ICT more smoothly into day-to-day lessons in a myriad of ways. Mobile devices are therefore seen as ‘learning enablers’ for students rather than just productivity tools, which is how traditional computers and laptops tend to be viewed”.

Students and staff will utilise iPads in a range of exciting and engaging ways, both in and outside of the classroom including:

• Web researching without having to go to a computer lab;
• Student response systems where students are able to provide instant feedback to issues and have feedback automatically aggregated by the teacher;
• Presenting work in various ways - not just written answers but electronic presentations; and
• Collaborative learning - learning in groups can be easily facilitated by sharing documents, screens and input from group members.

The learning and teaching outcomes for boys is endless and no doubt the programme will be a constantly evolving one as staff and students continue to make optimal use of the technology to maximise learning outcomes for each boy at St Virgil’s.

The Archbishop’s Charter

On Friday June 28, ‘Half Way Day’, the College was delighted to receive a visit from His Grace, Archbishop Adrian Doyle who mandated the College as a Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Hobart for the next five years. Archbishop Doyle’s mandate is provided based upon evidence that highlights the College has been authentic in its responses to the eleven pillars of the Archbishop’s Charter for Catholic Schools. Events such as the Half Way Day walkathon, Religious Education programme, outreach activities and parish and community connections provide just a few examples of the work of students and staff to be exemplars the Church’s commitment to the dignity of the individual, particularly by being called to relationship in community, and committing to make a preferential option of the poor.

The College will continue to use The Charter as a foundation stone for all works as it strives to remain an authentic Catholic school, true to the pillars of the Archbishop’s Charter.

The Challenge of a Bus Strike!

Amongst the challenge of Term 1, students had to contend with two days of bus strikes by Metro Buses as part of a long term industrial action campaign. The College through the leadership of the Principal and the Director of Transport Mr Simon Orlowski were able to liaise with O’Driscoll Bus Lines to effectively cover all Metro bus routes.

St Virgil’s is particularly grateful for the support of O’Driscolls for accommodating such significant changes at short notice to ensure that there was minimal disruption to the College’s learning and teaching programmes. Thank you also to parents and our boys for their wonderful cooperation to make sure it all came together so smoothly!
2013 College Production

Mr Jeremy Williamson
Director of Music

We are very proud to announce that St Virgil’s College will be staging Jesus Christ Superstar in conjunction with St Mary’s College in 2013. Jesus Christ Superstar written by Andrew Lloyd-Webber is one of the most popular musicals the world has ever seen. It is based upon the events unfolding in the last week of Jesus’ life, and follows the format of a Rock Opera - complete with rock band accompaniment. Being involved in a school musical is a very exciting, educational, and rewarding experience, with memories to last a lifetime.

The performances will be staged in Term 3, during the first week of September, with final rehearsals and performances between September 5 and 7.

Rehearsals will be held from Term 2 onward, each Thursday afternoon 3:30pm to 5:30pm, at Austins Ferry.

The Team which will manage the 2013 production is:

Producer/Music Director - Jeremy Williamson
Artistic Producer/Director - Willie Chambers
Assistant Director - Imogen Gray
Vocal Coach - Janelle Stowe

Student Roles
Jesus - Davis Allie
Mary Magdalene - Georgia Bombardieri
(understudy - Alex Mole)

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Lyrics by Tim Rice

September 5 - 7, 2013 at 7.30 pm
Joyce Performance Centre
Tickets at www.easybookings.com.au
1. Grade 10 Work experience
2. LEC Work experience students Jackson Rogers and Austin Newell
3-4. Grade 10 Agriculture students at the Ross Wool Centre
5-8. VET Agrifoods students at work in the College orchard and at the Granton Nursery

Judas Iscariot - Jakob Riley
Pontius Pilate - Sebastian Roach
King Herod - Nick Piscioneri
Peter - Matthew Barker
Simon Zealotes - Carl Renshaw
Caiphas - Alec Hastie
Annas - Nick Machin

Minor Roles and Chorus
Soldier/Chorus - Monty Piesse
1st Priest - Sean Heathorn
2nd Priest - Nicholas Monks
3rd Priest - Andrew Bourke
Old Man/chorus - Andrew Bourke
Soul girls/chorus - Monica Longshaw, Alex Mole, Claudia Fone, Jaime Murzecki-Hince, Layesh Gebrezgabir
Maid by the fire/chorus - Kelsey Hill
Apostles women/chorus - Taylor Kemp, Caitlyn Cooper, Amber Lloyd, Isabella Podwinski, Ella Dobson, Katie Huxley, Maggie Gander

Tickets are sure to sell quickly and can only be purchased online via www.easybookings.com.au

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September 5 - 7, 2013 at 7.30 pm
Joyce Performance Centre
Tickets at www.easybookings.com.au

A joint production proudly presented by

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Lyrics by Tim Rice
Work Experience

Learning Enrichment Centre

Jackson Rogers and Austin Newell have been engaged in a work experience programme at Oak Tasmania until the end of the year. It is currently a half day a week programme and will eventually become a full day work programme.

The boys have been working hard on a range of tasks including security document sorting and shredding.

The boys are learning valuable skills such as personal appearance, interaction with work colleagues, following instruction and meeting deadlines. All of these skills are preparing them for a workplace in the future.

ANZAC Day 2013

The annual celebration parade for ANZAC Day at the College and through the streets of Hobart provided an opportunity to reflect upon the devastation that war can bring to families, communities and countries whilst commemorating the sacrifices made by generations of service men and women.

It was gratifying to see the large turnout of students to support the march in 2013, particularly as with the move to a four term year, this year ANZAC Day fell within the school holidays.

Students respectfully participated in many aspects of the parade and Cenotaph service. At both campuses students and staff spent time acknowledging those men and women who have fought so hard to provide us with what we have today. It is always pleasing to see boys willing to put something back into the community and get involved with these significant celebrations.

We pray that one day all countries may be free of war and that the world becomes a more peaceful place.

VET Agriculture and Agrifoods

Mr Simon Orlowski

Students in VET Agrifoods have enjoyed a busy semester with ongoing visits to the Granton Nursery to complement work undertaken in the College’s Orchard. At the nursery students have been involved in plant propagation work under the watchful eye of proprietor Damien Kerrin.

The nursery and the College have enjoyed a long and productive partnership with Damien, who also ran an engaging and practical session at the College, where students were able to learn pruning techniques on the 30 trees in the College’s plantation. Damien will continue to work with students and staff to further expand the nursery and the learning opportunities available to students.

Students studying Agriculture were involved in a ‘hands-on’ visit to the Ross Wool Centre in Term 2. The visit focussed on the wool industry and its origins in Tasmania. The students learnt the basics of wool growing, classing and usage. The visit concluded with a tour of the centre.

Student Leadership

Commissioning of Student Leaders

At Austins Ferry on Thursday February 28 students, staff and parents gathered for the first time as a College community, bringing both campuses together for the Commissioning of or Senior Leaders. The College gets the opportunity to join as one on a number of times during the year and these events are critical to our commitment to building unity, identity and a strong sense of community connection. The assembly presents a wonderful opportunity for the boys to enjoy their time together and to focus upon the importance of student leadership in building young men of character and integrity.

In the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice, College Captain Davis Allie challenged students to be men of deeds and not words alone. This is part of the mission statement developed by the Student Council for 2013 leaders who have pledged to modelling service leadership to all students at St Virgil’s.

Herbert River Expedition

Outdoor Education

Mr Simon Harder

The Herbert River Expedition has become an annual tradition that sees a group of intrepid Grade 10 students venture to Far North Queensland and journey down the mighty Herbert River. The Herbert River is an iconic multi-day river expedition sort after by rafters.
and adventurers alike and takes our group six days to complete. The trip requires boys to negotiate large and exciting rapids, haul gear and equipment into and out of the river valley and be fully self-sufficient during the trip. Along the way boys get to experience a truly amazing landscape, see powerful waterfalls, and see some beautiful native wild life. This trip is a once in a life time opportunity for the boys that participate. Students are required to develop in maturity, teamwork and are given the opportunity to develop leadership skills.

This year’s trip was again a huge success, and full credit must go to the boys, whose behaviour, enthusiasm and support for each other made this year’s expedition a truly memorable experience.

Mark Greenwood Visit

Miss Lucy Dalton
Leading Teacher of English

Australian author, Mark Greenwood, visited St Virgil’s College recently to share a number of famous myths and legends with Grade 7 and 8 students. Students were completely enthralled with Mark’s amazing stories of the past and present, in particular his telling of the celebrated stories of Ned Kelly and Simpson and his Donkey. The following summary was provided by Grade 8 student Elliot Fone:

“Today Grade 8 was able to experience the wonderful stories from the popular author Mark Greenwood, who is the author of such popular stories as “Ned Kelly and the Green Sash”, “Simpson and his Donkey” and “The greatest liar on Earth”. Mark’s books are aimed at teenagers from age 13 to 16.
Mark told us about how he was able to travel around the world to create ideas about his novels. One story in particular really got the boys attention. His novel, “Fortuyn’s Ghost”, is about one of Australia’s most horrific true stories. It follows the tale of the ship Fortuyn and the tale of how the ship became shipwrecked and what the survivors had to do to survive on a desolate island for an extended period of time. The boys really enjoyed Mark’s visit, with borrowing from the library at peak demand.”

For more information about Mark and his books visit www.markgreenwood.com.au

Junior School

Head of Junior School
Mr Andrew Pinelli

The 2013 year commenced with a number of significant changes at the Junior School Campus. Significantly, the end of the 2012 school year saw the retirement of long serving teacher Mrs Helen Fielding and the change of roles for Mr Luch Brigella as he was appointed as Principal at Sacred Heart Geeveston. The 2013 year also commenced with the largest enrolment in the history of the Junior School Campus and the addition of a sixth class grouping. With Mrs Christine Scanlon being on long service leave for the first half of the year this has meant a number of new faces on the staff at the Junior School including Mr Chris Waugh (Grade 6) and Mr Tim Birthsil (Grade 4). Mrs Williamson also joined the staff teaching Japanese and Mrs Jillian Norton teaching Music.

Music Programme

The Music programme continues to go from strength to strength. This year saw Mrs Jillian Norton join the staff at the Junior School Campus as our Music teacher. Jillian, or affectionately Mrs Music, has certainly brought a new level of enthusiasm and interest into the Music programme. She is certainly talented too having performed in concert with Tina Arena. Jillian has been working very hard with the boys in the choir in readiness for their performance in the Hobart Eisteddfod. She has also raised the profile of the classroom music programme for those boys in Grades 3 and 4.

The successful Band programme has not only continued this year, but grown in strength. Of the boys involved in the band programme last year in Grade 5, a remarkable 90% have continued into Grade 6. The current Grade 5 boys have embraced the Band programme most wholeheartedly and in a dedicated way attend Band and tuitions weekly. We are looking forward to their performances at the end of Semester assembly. The boys are also enjoying using the newly constructed tutorial rooms adjacent to the Hall.

Curriculum

The implementation of the Australian Curriculum has certainly taken the front seat with the curriculum work being undertaken by the staff. The implementation of the curriculum along with new student reporting requirements have certainly kept the staff busy in the first half of the year. The staff have also decided to have all boys from Grades 3 to 6 undertake the ICAS Maths assessment later in the year. Data from this assessment will be plotted against NAPLAN data to gauge the effectiveness of the deployment of the Maths programme. It has been decided to do this, initially, for three years so that there is longitudinal integrity to the data.

Effective and successful integration of iPads based on good pedagogy is also a focus of the staff. Whilst there have been some outstanding samples of work completed by the boys to date, the staff are keen to further develop, and build upon, this area of offerings in the latter half of the year.

Student Leaders Commissioning

A wonderful liturgy was prepared by Mrs Chambers for the commissioning of the Junior School student leaders for 2013. The liturgy was well attended by parents, grandparents and siblings. We were also privileged to have Mr Messer lead us in the singing, with the last minute unavailability of our musician! After the liturgy, the new student leaders assisted in serving morning tea to their parents and other invited guests before enjoying the ‘yummy’ treats themselves. Congratulations to our student leaders for 2013.

Student Representative Council

Junior School Captain:
Nicholas O’Connell

Junior School Vice-Captain:
Alexander Fracalossi

Grade 6 C SRC:
Harvey Bessell, Thomas Vickers

Grade 6 W SRC:
Harrison London, Tom Messer

Grade 5 SRC:
Angus Murfitt, Alec Spencer, Tadhg Waddington

Grade 4/5 SRC:
Joseph Fracalossi, Thomas Goward, Tony Zagni

Grade 4 SRC:
Fletcher Loveless, Max Marsh, Tom Oliver
House Captains and Vice Captains

**Doyle**
Captain: Kane Symons
Vice-Captain: Riley Thomas

**Dwyer**
Captain: Jacob King
Vice-Captain: James Shepherd

**Hessian**
Captain: Harry Bodnar
Vice-Captain: Isaac Dineen

**Joyce**
Captain: Daniel Di Domenico
Vice-Captain: Cody Lane

Aussie Sport Leaders

**Doyle**
Captain: Finlay Rossiter-Hill
Vice-Captain: Will Tomlin

**Dwyer**
Captain: Tom Kemp
Vice-Captain: Liam Watling

**Hessian**
Captain: Carl Excell
Vice-Captain: Luke Press

**Joyce**
Captain: Tyler McGinniss
Vice-Captain: Chris McGuiness-Terry

Mini Vinnies

President: Harvey Bessell
Vice-President: Thomas Vickers

**Mini Vinnies Members**
Jordan Baker, Lachlan Hutchinson, Chris McGuiness-Terry, Tom Messer, Declan Nisbet, Nicholas O’Connell, Alex Spencer, Kerem Turhal, Marcus Turnbull, Tadhg Waddington, Tony Zagni

1. Visiting author Mark Greenwood
2. Grade 6C Woodwork
3. Grandparent’s Day at Junior School
4. Grade 5 Camp - Crescent Bay
5. Mini Vinnies Easter Raffle winners
6-7. Paul Jarman Choral Workshop
Mini Vinnies Easter Raffle

During the Lenten period, the Mini Vinnies boys under the leadership of Tom Vickers and Harvey Bessell ran the annual Easter egg raffle. Many thanks to all the families who so generously donated eggs for the raffle.

Congratulations to Tom Messer who had the closest guess and also to Harrison Rhodes and Tyler McGinness who were runners up. Congratulations to Liam Watling, Hamish Baxter and Mrs Moate who won the Easter egg baskets. Overall $238 was raised for Caritas in the raffle and guessing competition.

Woodwork at Austins Ferry

During Term 1 and 2, Grade 6W travelled to the Austins Ferry campus to participate in woodwork activities. Under the watchful eye of Mr Barry Maxwell, the boys participated in an extensive introduction to woodwork which incorporated an induction into the woodworking area of the Senior School Campus.

Once the safety guidelines and instructions were out the way, boys enthusiastically commenced their projects and after some trial and error some amazing work was produced over the course of the unit. With 48 boys moving on to Austins Ferry in 2014 the unit provides a wonderful introduction to woodwork whilst also proving students many important social skills. We look forward to future visits by ‘Mitch’ later in the year and wish the boys well in living out the messages that were discussed.

Some of the responses from the boys in Grade 6C to their MJR experience to date were:

“After I saw the video of the kids living on the tip, I realised that I take my parents for granted and I hope to be a better team player at home.”

“I learnt that I can have a better cheerful and positive attitude to life and want to be more of a ‘giver’ at home and at school.”

“I learnt today that it is better to thank a person and use their name, and to say thanks four times a day at home.”

Some of the responses from the boys in Grade 6W to their MJR experience to date were:

“I want to be more of a ‘giver’ than a ‘taker’.”

“The video of Nick inspired me to be more determined to have a go, never give up, and to believe in myself more.”

“I really liked the green card and I was surprised what the other kids thought about me.”

On the second day, the focus was on the convict history of the region, with their visit to the Historic Site which included a Tour of the Isle of the Dead. We capped off our third and final day with the somewhat challenging walk into magnificent Crescent Bay. The task of climbing the sand dune was worth the effort with the breathtaking views it afforded at its summit, followed by an afternoon of swimming and flag races. The camp is an ‘all hands on deck’ camp, meaning our eight dads, (including one grandfather) who came along, were kept busy over some very long, hot days. It was a most enjoyable and rewarding three days for everyone.

Mini Vinnies Easter Raffle

Woodwork at Austins Ferry

MJR in Grade 6

On Monday April 8 and Tuesday April 9, Grade 6 classes participated in the Making Jesus Real (MJR) programme. The days were led by Mr Peter Mitchell and the boys were asked to reflect on some very important questions about life and their future. The boys were challenged to approach life with a positive attitude and to be team players at home and at school. Throughout the day, students participated in many fun team building activities and discussed many important social skills. We look forward to future visits by ‘Mitch’ later in the year and wish the boys well in living out the messages that were discussed.

Grandparents and Special Persons Day

Over 250 grandparents and other special people joined students at the Junior School for the annual Grandparents and Special Persons Day. Grade 4/5 prepared a beautiful (and funny at times) reflection about grandparents which was well received by the audience. The choir, led by Mrs Norton, also performed their items beautifully. Our visitors then had the opportunity to visits the classrooms where the boys enthusiastically showed them some of the great work that they have been completing in class.

Grade 5 Camp

Mrs Josephine Messer

What an awesome camp experience the Grade Five boys enjoyed over three days at Port Arthur! The camp started off with raft constructing, fishing and a ‘dolphin rescue’ experience all at Pirates Bay - and the boys certainly did look like pirates with their team bandannas on! The squid were literally waiting to be caught off Eaglehawk Jetty, just ask Jordan Baker!
Some visitors even got some iPad lessons from the boys. The visitors were then able to join together again for a scrumptious morning tea and a catch up on a chat.

Junior School Sport
Well Done Daniel!

Grade 6 student Daniel Di Domenico continues to excel in the sport of track cycling, recording several outstanding results over the holiday and Term 1 period. Daniel participated in the Sport Carnival Association (SCAT) carnivals that started on Boxing Day at Latrobe, Roseberry, Launceston, Devonport, Burnie, St Helen’s and ended with the Hobart Carnival on January 28. Daniel won all his scratch races with the exception of Burnie where he had a fall. This involved a lot of travelling around the State and was the first time Daniel had competed at this event. Many months of hard work really paid off for Daniel and he may well have surprised himself. His results were amazing but his humility and sportsmanship were just as amazing.

Daniel won the Launceston Wheel Race which was quite overwhelming considering the enormity of the crowd and he was able to watch the international cyclists that travelled here for the event and most of all, the Australian Olympians that competed there too. This was such a highlight for him but to his surprise the judges awarded him a perpetual shield for the ‘most outstanding performance from a Junior in the Under 13, 15 and 17 ranks.

Daniel was awarded the Scat Junior Cyclist Encouragement Award following these exceptional results.
On Friday June 21 Grade 10 student Jackson Rogers was featured on the front page of The Mercury in an inspirational, uplifting story of a wonderful young man who became a hero and his teammates became sportsmen in the true meaning of the word.

Jackson has a global development delay, a condition that greatly affects his intellectual and communication capabilities and has turned out for the College’s football teams for the past four years, in the process realising a dream that would have been unachievable without his teammates.

The St Virgil’s College footy team has never celebrated harder than when they made Jackson, 17, captain for the day and allowed him to slot the final goal against Sacred Heart.

It wasn’t the winning goal. In fact it had little bearing on the result. But it was about sportsmanship of the highest level in an era when professional sport has been so sullied and tawdry in recent months.

Teacher and coach Brad Canning said Jackson and his teammates could not have been prouder. “The boys had planned to try to get him a goal because we were a fair way up,” Mr Canning said.

“A team mate was running into an open goal and then he ran backwards, handballed it backwards to ‘Jacko’ and the opposition, Sacred Heart, in the spirit of the game figured out what we were trying to do and they let him run into an open goal. “He went and did a handstand, then the team got around him.”

“They were all very happy. At the end of the game they put him in the middle of the team circle and sung the song.”

Jackson has been telling his teammates about it ever since.

“I kicked about 15 metres out and bang through the goals,” Jackson said. “I ran around after it.”

Mr Canning said such activities were vital for Jackson.

“The boys have been a great support to him and always encouraged him to get involved,” he said. “They never get frustrated or annoyed when he may make a mistake but instead give him more encouragement to keep going.”

Whilst Jackson has greatly enjoyed his new found notoriety, he has taken in all in his stride. What was possibly unexpected was the way the story resonated with members of the wider community and the newspaper itself. The story was the foundation for the following Monday’s editorial which highlighted that amidst some sports stars behaving badly, the boys from both schools had set a benchmark for sportsmanship that should remind all about the intrinsic values of sport and the importance of playing the game in the right spirit.

The Mercury also received a large number of reader posts, the following quotes best summarising the sentiments of many in the community:

“Congratulations Jackson the smile on your face says it all - this is what a good school is all about. Sacred Heart your actions speaks volumes for your college also. Having had a son at St Virgil’s and a daughter at Sacred Heart it does not surprise me in the least. Keep kicking life’s goals Jackson- you are a winner”.

“A beautiful story once again highlighting the power of sport and the goodness of people. Nelson Mandela was so right when he said that sport has the power to change the world. Well done to everyone involved”.

(Reproduced with the kind support of The Mercury).
Stirring tale of the day Jackson became a star

BRET STUBBS

It was the day Jackson Rogers became a hero and his teammates became sportsmen in the true meaning of the word.

This is a story about a 17-year-old with global developmental delay – a condition that greatly affects a child’s intellectual and communication capabilities – realising a dream that would have been unachievable without his teammates.

The St Virgil’s College footy team has never celebrated harder than when they made Jackson, 17, captain for the day and allowed him to slot the final goal against Sacred Heart.

THERE’S A WHALE IN THE SKY

SHOW SOME HEART

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2013

THE Federal Government has come under fire for failing to act on pleas by asylum seeker advocates to help youths at the Pontville detention centre.

Just days after the second major disturbance at the centre, advocates say pleas for authorities to show some heart and release the teenagers into the community are going unheeded.

Australian Greens Leader Christine Milne said the detainees just need “love and attention”.

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...
Mother’s Day Breakfast
What a marvellous success the Mother’s Day breakfast was! So many mums and grandmothers were able to attend and be waited on by their boys. Thank you to all the dads who came in bright and early to prepare a delicious breakfast for the ladies. Those mothers that attended were also given painted plates to commemorate this year’s mother’s day. The boys prepared these under the watchful eye of Ms Stary during their art lessons. Thank you once again to the P & F for their organisation of this wonderful social activity.

House Swimming Carnival
The boys eagerly travelled to Glenorchy Pool in February to participate in the annual House Swimming Carnival. There was a great spirit around the pool as the boys launched into their cheering routine. It was also very pleasing to see so many boys enter into the different events on offer. After fierce competition during the day, Dwyer came out victorious taking out the House Trophy for 2013. The House Swimming Carnival also acted as selection trials for the upcoming inter-school carnivals.

Congratulations to the following boys who went on to represent the College at the STCPSSA and JSSATIS carnivals:

Grade 6:
Liam Watling, Tom Messer, Jacob King, Zach Hills, Shae Burnett

Grade 5:
Tadhg Waddington, Jordan Baker, Liam Roach, Lachlan Borsboom, Reserve: Josh Harvey

Grade 4:
Harry Fisher, Ryan Borsboom, Matthew Noble, Max Newett, Sam Smith, Riley Ringrose

Grade 3:
Harry Williams, Edward Johnson, Sahib Singh, Hamish Menzie, Liam Duffy

Farewell Mrs Scanlon
After enjoying two terms of long service leave this year, Mrs Chris Scanlon has formally given notice that she is has made the decision to retire from teaching. Mrs Scanlon joined the staff of St Peter’s College in 1978 and has been a constant and much loved presence at the Patrick St campus ever since. She has educated generations of St Virgil’s students, all who have greatly appreciated her cheeky sense of humour and her commitment to helping all students develop in all key learning areas. Old boys returning to the College for reunion events will always ask how Mrs Scanlon is and will recount many stories, most of which focus on her sharp sense of humour and her ability to always make them smile - a wonderful gift, highlighting her skill and passion as a Catholic educator.

The College community thanks Mrs Scanlon for her exceptional service to the College and wishes her well as she pursues her other great passion - watching her horses win at tracks around the State!

Music to the Ears!
Paul Jarman Visit 2013
Again this year we have greatly appreciated and enjoyed the visit from renowned choralist and song writer, Mr Paul Jarman. Paul worked with a significant number of students with the key focus being on choir work. At the secondary school the focus was on whole year groups as we prepare for a number of upcoming functions, such as Half Way Day.

Paul’s ability to engage the students in the art of singing is a sight to behold and literally music to the ears. His key focus for the week has been working with our combined choir. They will perform at student assemblies, but their main focus will be their Eisteddfod performances later in the year. The choirs will sing songs that have been written and developed by Paul. We are sincerely indebted to Paul for his inspirational drive and commitment to support the College and our quest to continually develop the Arts programme.

Visit from Whitefriar’s College, Melbourne
At the end of Term 1 we were privileged to host the Whitefriar’s College Band and their staff. Whitefriar’s is a Catholic boys school in Donvale and has an outstanding music programme - as evidenced by the rave reviews the boys received from attendees at their concert at the Claremont RSL. Any time we link with other Catholic schools, whether it be through music, sport, social justice activities or other educational experiences, we are reminded of the link that we share - our traditions as Catholic schools, informed by the teaching of the Catholic Church and inspired by the example of Jesus of the Gospels.

The experience has been a special one for all involved, particularly those St Virgil’s families who have supported the visit through the billeting of students from Whitefriars. Billeting students from other schools provides our own students with a very rich educational experience. Students learn about other school systems and programmes...
and have their horizons expanded by other students who have aspirations to work and study in locations well beyond Hobart.

The following comment from one of our host families highlights the benefits of supporting programmes that incorporate a billeting component:

“Last night I experienced the most amazing jazz concert from the Whitefriar’s College Band. It was truly amazing, how truly talented these students are. My family are certainly enjoying our two billets.

I would highly recommend billeting to other families - it has been a truly positive experience (who would have thought five other families - it has been a truly positive experience)”. 

Sport

Jacob Despard Wins the Burnie Gift!

In January, Hobart teenager and Grade 10 student leader Jacob Despard became the youngest athlete to win the prestigious Burnie Gift in a night of records at West Park. Jacob, 16, was tipped to win the race and did not disappoint with a solid victory in windy conditions.

Jacob said his confidence had built as the race got closer. The Ray Quarrell-trained sprinter has been in good form this season notching up a win in the PCCCT meet at West Parkearly in the new year, coming third in the Rosebery Gift and third in the 70 metre final at Devonport. Jacob also set a Tasmanian under-16 record for the 100 metre, in a time of 8.41.56, a new State record, which also included one GYC sailor Jonny.

Jacob followed up his Burnie win with his debut performance at the iconic Stawell Gift in Victoria. Whilst Tasmania finally broke its Stawell Gift drought with Launceston’s Andrew Robinson winning the $40,000 footrace, Jacob ran a very creditable fourth in his heat just .2 of a second outside the time run by Olympic Gold medallist Asafa Powell.

Running off scratch Jacob came second in his heat of the Under 17 Boys 100 metres, just missing the final of the event. The experience will undoubtedly stand Jacob in good stead for future attempts at winning the nation’s premier professional footrace.

Jacob’s win in the Burnie Gift continues the College’s strong connection with the race, becoming the sixth member of the College community to win the race. Ted Terry became the College’s first winner in 1925, followed by Len Bugg who won the race in 1928 and 1929. Trevor McMahon won the Burnie Gift in 1935, Ashton Shirley won in 1949 and Gerard Thompson won in 1975.

Caleb Jewell

A Season of Excellence!

Congratulations to 1st XI Captain Caleb Jewell who was named the TCA Allen Newman Under 17 Player of the year and the Allen Newman Multi-Grade Player of the year for 2013/2014. Caleb played a number of 1st XI games for North Hobart in the process facing State and Test pace bowlers.

Prior to Christmas Caleb represented Tasmania in the National Under 17 championships and was one of the few batsman to cope with the pace attacks from other states and territories, making one score over 50 and a number of 20s and 30s. Given he still has time left in the age group he is sure to make a huge impression in the championships later in 2013 and will be setting his sights on a rookie contract with Tasmania in years to come.

Bini Wins Another National Title!

Bini Hagos of Grade 9 captured the hearts of the Tasmanian athletic fraternity, winning the Under 18 2000 metre Steeple-Chase in a new personal best time of 6.09.42, culminating in a historical event; Tasmania’s first trifecta in the event at the National Championships! Bini also won the silver medal in the Under 17 3000 metre, in a time of 8.41.56, a new State record, despite being sick. Unfortunately Bini was unable to complete a hat trick due to a severe bout of tonsillitis.

Jacob Despard also competed at the National and showed great determination throughout his difficult campaign in the 100 and 200 metres double. After finishing the heat, semi-final and the final, Jacob was unlucky not to have medalled in the 200 metres coming fourth (22.37) in a competitive field of thirty six athletes. All athletes were competing in the race for selection in the World Youth Championships. Jacob’s 100 metres (11.30) was equally exciting, as he reached the 100 meters final. Suffering a slight back strain, he was unable to perform well out from the blocks and ended up a credible sixth position.

Jack Hale competed in the Under 16 long jump. Jack soared through into the top eight and was selected for the final. Unfortunately Jack fouled on a couple of occasions, resulting in posting only one legal jump. However despite this Jack managed to gain sixth position overall in Australia. A great effort!

Sailing

State Champions!

Br Peter Flint

On Sunday April 21 St Virgil’s College won the Tasmanian Schools’ Team Racing Title with a strong win over the more experienced and older Friends Blue Team. At the end of the Round Robin section, St Virgil’s College (which also included one GYC sailor Jonny
Cooper), was on top of the ladder. They defeated Friends Red in the semi-Finals and defeated Friends Blue 3-1 in the Best of Five Final Series.

It was acknowledged at the Presentation as an outstanding effort, with both schools sailing extremely well in what all considered to be a great example of Team Racing.

The College will now represent Tasmania in the National Titles at Sandy Bay later in the year. Depending on placings in the National regatta, the boys could represent Australia in the Inter-dominion Titles in Perth. Given the team’s ‘home-ground’ advantage the boys are quietly confident of progressing to the titles in Perth.

Congratulations and well done to all members of the team and their coaches:

**Helms:** Jonny Cooper (GYC) (Captain), Tommy Cooper and Angus Price. Josh Eggins also helmed some races.

**Crews:** Blake Nicholson, Jack Kennedy, Harry Dwyer and Josh Eggins.

**Swimming**

Well done to the St Virgil’s College Swimming Team who won the SSATIS Junior Swimming Championship at the Hobart Aquatic Centre. Under the guidance of Miss Gregg, Mr Dalton and Mr Messer, the team supported by the vocal SVC Cheer Squad swam with great intensity and consistency to record a strong victory by 13 points. The team recorded wins in the Under 13 freestyle and medley relays and the Under 15 freestyle relay. Individual event winners were Lachlan Rice, Joshua Rice, Isaac Pearsall, Jack Fairhurst and Thomas Gauden.

In the SATIS Championships in Hobart the Under 13 Boys 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay team of Riley Oakley, Isaac Pearsall, Joseph McMullen and Lachlan Rice won in a new Record time.

U/15 - N Graham - 1st
U/15 - J Thompson/R Kennedy - 1st

Congratulations to all the boys who competed.

**Cycling**

On Saturday May 25, three St Virgil’s boys travelled to Exeter to compete in the State Road Cycling Titles; Daniel Di Domenico, Ainsleigh Grey and Oscar Bannerman.

Daniel was successful in taking out the Under 13 title, and Oscar finished second in the Under 15 race. Ainsleigh finished in fifth place in a very competitive field.

Mitchell Hoare and Ainsleigh Gray competed successfully in the Burnie 80. Ainsleigh enjoyed a great weekend winning the Under 15 title.

**Rowing**

**Head of the River**

A wonderful day was enjoyed at the SATIS Head of the River at Lake Barrington. It was fantastic to see the number of students representing the College so well throughout the day. All boys competed well with some great results as detailed below. It was also wonderful to see the number of Grade 7 students (over 20) and families make the trip to be part of the their first Head of the River regatta.

U/16 - L Roe/W White - 3rd
U/15 - O Risleley/J Thompson/ R Kennedy/N Graham/L Harris - 1st
U/13 - G Risleley - 3rd
U/16 - W White - 3rd
U/14 - J Weisse/A Gray - 3rd

The two are set to compete in the World Championships in Lough Derg, Ireland in July/August 2013.

**1st XI Cricket Grand Final**

Mr Cameron Alexander
Coach

SVC 6/100
(Caiden Workman 31 not out, Caleb Jewell 19) defeated by
Hutchins 5/101
(Caleb Jewell 2/11, Nathan Percey 1/12)

After going through the roster undefeated it was unfortunate that the team played their worst game for the season in the Grand Final. Batting first SVC made a steady start before losing wickets consistently and suddenly found themselves in deep trouble.

A great partnership of 32 between Caiden Workman and Alex Blair saw the team creep to a defendable total of 100.

To defend such a score on a quick outfield requires a disciplined bowling performance supported by high quality fielding.
Unfortunately our bowling and fielding were not to the standard that we had set ourselves through the season and therefore the team could not build enough pressure on the Hutchins’ batsmen who cruised to the total with ten balls to spare.

Despite a disappointing finish the boys have had an excellent season and are to be congratulated on the way they represented the College throughout the season and in particular their respect for the game and the ‘spirit of cricket’.

Grade 7&8 Basketball

The Grade 7 Dingoes came in to their 2013 campaign with high hopes and ambitions for the task that lay ahead. They began with style as they took on and conquered teams from various schools in the south of the state. Victory after victory their magnificent play brought them to the Grand Final. Their opponent was to be the Friends School and as we had never come up against this side before we were both anxious and determined to come home with the victory. As the game got underway the boys quickly realised that this would have to be a gruelling, gutsy and composed effort. To their credit the boys dug in and were able to maintain a healthy lead for the entirety of the match coming away with the victory and the plaque in an inspiring and courageous performance.

The final score 27-15 capping off an undefeated season that saw them recognised as the Big V champions once more. Well done to team members, Nelson Goram-Aitken, Thomas Lyden, Harry Loveless, Joseph McMullen, Zac Doran, Lachlan Daniels, Sam Decru-Woodstock, Joe Colraine and Brennan Burke. Thanks to coach Jake Doran, 2012 College Captain.
1. Grade 6 cycling star Daniel Di Domenico celebrating another win in season 2015
2. Oscar Bannerman - winner of the 2013 Latrobe 40 Road Race
3. SVC - Tasmanian Team Racing champions 2013
4. 2013 Tasmanian School Surfing Championships at Clifton Beach
5. 2013 Tasmanian Water Polo Reps
6. Joshua Gittus - winner of the Silver Wheels Road Race

Excellence in Sport

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved outstanding results in Semester 1 or have been selected for State representative duties.

- Josh Eggins and his father won the State NS 14 sailing Title on handicap. Josh also won the Junior State Sabot Titles in his first competitive sail in the boat.
- Callum Stevens and Fraser Rose competed at the Hunter Track Classic in NSW. They represented Tasmanian Under 14 Little Athletics Team and they came home winning the points in a surprise result. Callum ran second in the 1000m and Fraser third, with Callum fourth in the 400m Fraser second in Triple Jump, and they both ran in the relay which Tasmania won.
- Liam Devlin, Isaac Salter and Dylan Hay represented Tasmania in the Under 15 National Cricket Championships to be held in Perth, WA from February 22 to March 4 2013. Isaac batted particularly well being the second highest run scorer for the carnival and has been added to the Under 16 Australian squad for upcoming games in December 2013 and in 2014.
- Callum Polanowski, Joseph McMullen, Nelson Goram-Aitken and Angus Reilly were selected in the Tasmanian Under 14 team to contest the National Water Polo Championships in Adelaide from March 27 to April 2.
- Jack Hale qualified for long jump in the Australian Junior Athletics Championships in Perth from March 11 to March 18.
- Well done to Jordan Cox of Grade 7 who is the new State champion Under 12, winning a gold medal, for little athletics multi-event held last weekend - events included 100 metres, discus, 60 metre hurdles, long jump and 800 metres.
- Ben Spinks from Grade 7 has been selected in the Tasmanian team for the National Judo Championships in NSW in June.
• Grade 9 student Binyiam Hagos won the National Under 17 2000 metres Steeplechase title. In an amazing achievement, Tasmania took out all the medals, with Bini leading the charge, leaving other runners from around the nation in his wake!

• Thomas Maksimovic of Grade 8 won a bronze medal in the discus and silver medal in the shot put in the Under 15 age group at the Tasmanian Athletics titles. He was also a member of two relay teams, coming home with two gold medals.

• Jack Hale won gold in the Under 16 long jump at the Tasmanian Athletics titles.

• James Williams represented Tasmania at the Age Nationals Diving competition in Perth over the Easter Break.

• Zac Curtis of Grade 9 has been selected in the Tasmanian team for the National Trampolining teams' event.

• Oscar Bannerman won the Latrobe 40 road race.

• Benjamin Spinks of Grade 7 who won the State Under 15 Judo Championship.

• Daniel Groom of Grade 9 represented Tasmania in the Pizzey Cup tennis event in Adelaide.

• Jesse Clements represented Tasmania at the Australian Little Athletics Championships in Canberra.

• Joshua Harvey came second in the Under 15 synchronised trampoline and third in the individual trampoline at the Tasmanian titles.

• Tom Rasmussen (Grade 4) and Harvey Bessell (Grade 6) have been selected in the Tasmanian Under 12 boys Hockey Team for the Nationals Championships in August in Canberra.

• Jarrod Hunter of Grade 7 will be going to Brisbane on June 29 to attend the 2013 National Youth Archery Championships.

• Zac Curtis of Grade 9 is competing in the National Trampolining Teams Event from August 1 to 6 2013.
President’s Report

I preface this second report as President of the Old Virgilians Association for 2013 with a question. Where have the last twelve months gone? It just seems that it was yesterday that I was reporting on my first year as President of The Association and now I am reporting on my second term!

The committee that was elected in 2012 continues to actively work to having the Old Virgilians Association continue as a relevant and viable Association that not only supports its members but contributes to the wider community as many of our members do. I am indebted to my Deputy President Mr Dan Reardon for his support and guidance throughout the year as well as to my fellow Committee members, Peter Imlach, Rene Sluyters, David Clark, Bill Roach, Michael Ball, Graeme Rainbow, Bruce Woods and our North and North West representatives, Michael McGee and Kim Chen. This committee has and continues to work hard for the betterment of its members and future members, that is, current and future students of St Virgil’s College.

The major overriding objectives that the Association focused on in 2012 continues to actively work to having the Old Virgilians Association continue as a relevant and viable Association that not only supports its members but contributes to the wider community as many of our members do. I am indebted to my Deputy President Mr Dan Reardon for his support and guidance throughout the year as well as to my fellow Committee members, Peter Imlach, Rene Sluyters, David Clark, Bill Roach, Michael Ball, Graeme Rainbow, Bruce Woods and our North and North West representatives, Michael McGee and Kim Chen. This committee has and continues to work hard for the betterment of its members and future members, that is, current and future students of St Virgil’s College.

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Diary Dates 2013

**Old Scholars and Friends Music Concert**
Friday August 9, 7pm. JPC.
Featuring the Matthew Ives Big Band.
Tickets $10 at the door.

**Class of 1963, 73, 83 and 93 Reunion Dinner.**
Saturday August 10.
Junior School Hall, Patrick St campus, 6pm.

**Class of 2003 and 2008 BBQ**
Sunday August 11 from 12 noon.
Austins Ferry campus BBQ lunch and drinks provided.

**Details of reunion weekend are available at**
www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au/old/

**SVC Community Race Day**
Sunday September 22, 11am.
Elwick Race Course.
Tickets at www.easybookings.com.au

**OVA Golf Day**
Monday November 18, 1pm Shot Gun start.
Tasmanian Golf Club.

Further information about all events is available at www.oldvirgilians.org.au
The digital age has finally been engaged by the Association and we now have a presence on the Web with a page specifically developed to foster communication amongst all our members. News and updates will allow all our members to be far better informed and I do request that you take advantage of this important communication tool and provide your input.

The website has been developed by the highly talented Bruce Woods, ably assisted by the highly energetic Graeme Rainbow. It brings across much of the OVA content from the College’s website whilst focussing on the history of the OVA and the College, whilst providing a medium to enable old scholars to keep up to date with news from their peers as well as stories and photos from OVA events.

Please log on to
www.oldvirgilians.org.au
and check it out!

The Association undoubtedly has a close relationship with St Virgil’s College. In order to strengthen and clarify this relationship it was mutually agreed that a document be formally drawn up that would reflect clearly this connection. This Memorandum of Understanding was signed in the presence of Archbishop Adrian Doyle AM, a full assembly of current SVC students and Association members by the Principal Mr Damian Messer and myself. This agreement paves the way for better cooperation between the College and the Association.

To date, at our meetings the discussions of the committee have centred on what do we recognise our role to be and what changes do we need to make to remain relevant? I am very eager to hear the thoughts of scholars young and old who feel that they may contribute to strengthening the Association. At the same time we are committed to continuing to nurture already existing events that assist past scholars keep their college and their friendships strong and alive.

With this in mind I do encourage all members to attend our annual dinner
with their wives and partners. This is an important night for the Association where we celebrate the Old Virgilians and acclaim the achievements of a number of our members. The dinner will be held on Friday October 25 from 6.30 pm at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. A number of distinguished old scholars will be inducted on to the College’s Heritage Roll of Honour on the night, including:

- Major General Michael Keating
- Fr Chris Hope
- Dr Paul McCartney
- Dominic Sharpe
- Brian Sertori (posthumously)

For all ticket enquiries please contact OVA Secretary Rene Sluyters – rsluyters@stvirgils.tas.edu.au. We look forward to welcoming old scholars from all generations back to celebrate the achievements of these outstanding exemplars of the traditions of St Virgil’s College.

In conclusion I do wish to acknowledge the commitment and hard work of all the committee members. They are a committed group of men that live By Deeds not Words. I am very thankful of their great support, time and humour.

Greg Ball was in the Year 6 leaving class at the time and vividly recalls the excitement of the time and the contents of the capsule - mainly classroom materials used in 1993 and believes that the intention was to re-open it either 25 or 50 years after it was sealed.

In the coming years the capsule will be moved to the College’s History Centre in preparation for its opening as part of the 125th anniversary of the St Peter’s site in 2018. If you have any recollections of the time capsule please email them to mwaddington@stvirgils.tas.edu.au

Peter Donnelly

Peter Donnelly has been recently inducted into the Australian Cinematographers Hall of Fame, recognising a lifetime of achievement in cinematography, which included filming documentaries for the ABC programme, ‘A Big Country’ and dramas such as The Colonials. Peter becomes the third Tasmanian to receive the coveted award. Peter was born in Sydney in 1935. At 13 months his mother died, so he went to live with his grandmother’s family in Hobart, which brought him through the gates of St Virgil’s College. At a tender age he saw Live Theatre productions directed by his talented Tasmanian uncles. An interest in cinema began from seeing a neighbour’s lantern slide and movie collection.

Peter Donnelly

Peter shared in the transparency craze of the 1950s. He developed his own colour slides and did a course in photography. While working as an Industrial Chemist when TV started in 1960, Peter purchased a 16mm Paillard Bolex and began shooting ‘stringer’ assignments. Subsequently, he was appointed as ABC Hobart’s first Assistant Cinecameraman to Neil Davis in 1962. Peter progressed to filming Weekend-Magazine items and when Current Affairs began in 1966 he relished in the expanded creativity offered.

While perusing the American Cinematographer Magazine Peter began using coloured filtration to lift the standard on important B&W assignments. He photographed the ABC’s first locally produced national documentary, A Council Man, in 1968.

Peter joined the Australian Cinematographers Society NSW Branch and in 1969 became a foundation member of the Tasmanian Branch, holding the reigns of Secretary then President for many years. While freelancing, Peter was asked to quote for Tasmania’s first ‘Big Country’ story - The Kings of Melaleuca for ABC Rural in 1970. Although photographed in black & white it received many favourable reviews. When his second opportunity arose in 1974 Peter was back on ABC staff and filmed the Keepers of the Light, winning his first Golden Tripod Award. A Fragile Web was another major nature documentary Peter filmed. It followed his cinematic involvement in the campaign to Save Lake Pedder and Save the Franklin that also saw him standing for Parliament.

Peter’s respect for Hobart’s talented Education producers saw him assigned on many drama productions, particularly The Colonials which screened for over 10 years. In 1976 he became the first Tasmanian based cinematographer to be granted Accreditation. A recipient of several National Awards, Peter photographed Devils Tasmania for cinema release. His best overseas assignment was Swinging through Ireland, a golfing documentary shot on videotape for ABC Sport in 1992.
In filming thousands of Tasmanian assignments over 40 years, Peter has captured a great deal of his own State’s motion picture history. A firm believer in the Society, Peter was awarded with Life Membership in 2006.

St Virgil’s Old Scholars Football Club
Tom Pilkington - President

Last year was a tough season for the Saints, and the seniors struggled to ever get really going, whilst the reserves made it to the Preliminary final, but fell just short losing to eventual Premiers DOSA. We also said goodbye to our Coaching panel in Jason Britten, Adrian Burdon and Leigh Post who all did amazing things at the Saints over the three years, and we thank them very much for that.

It was then time to look forward and look at breaking back into the finals where the ‘Saints’ belong. To do this we appointed as our Head Coach for 2013 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 were 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 final coaching position is skipper Mark Beck as an assistant coach in charge of our fitness and conditioning.

Pre-season began with great eagerness, and Richard had the boys in fine form going into the first game of the season. The senior side began with an emphatic first up win against Channel and continued this form with a hard fought win over OHA who had been taken over by former coach Jason Britten. The season since then has had mixed results, with some fantastic wins due to four quarters of hard fought football, but we have also had some lapses for quarters which has cost the team dearly. The team is sitting in the four and eyeing of a top two finish, if it can play consistent hard fought footy.

The reserves have come out firing in season 2013 under the guidance of new reserves coach Ben Hughes. The team is currently undefeated thanks to well-disciplined team footy which Hughesy has instilled in the players. The boys will be looking at finishing off the season the same way they have started it and hopefully be there for the last game of the season.

To follow the fortunes of the Saints each week go to: http://www.sportingpulse.com/comp_info.cgi?c=1-39004-252860-0&pool=1&round=0&a=ROUND

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 committee Joe Brooks, Brad Canning, Neil Gibson, Tim Nicholas, Jon Gill, Matthew Rhodes, Matthew Rice and Brad Weston.

We would also like to thank our match day volunteers especially the always committed Bob Hope (Head Trainer). 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.

Finally, I’d like to thank our fantastic and generous sponsors Barwicks, Cascade, Directions Wealth Management, Graham Family Funerals, Haven Built, La Porchetta, Marquis of Hastings Hotel, Milano’s, Prince of Wales Hotel, Toyota Co-op, Butler McIntyre and Butler and Hultons Electrical.

Update your details

In 2013 the College is updating its information management system which will enable it to communicate more effectively and efficiently with all old scholars. It would be greatly appreciated if old scholars could send updated contact details (address, mobile phone number and email) through to Development Assistant Mrs Bernadette Pogorzelski - bpogorzelski@stvirgils.tas.edu.au

Old scholars are encouraged to follow the College on Twitter @svctas for all the latest news from St Virgil’s.

Dr Brian Bowring AM

In the recent Queen’s Birthday Honours List, old scholar Brian Bowring was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

Brian commenced in Grade 4 at Barrack St coming from St Josephs, and finished HSC (Year 12) in 1971. He then went on to study Medicine at the University of Tasmania in 1972, graduating with an MBBS in 1979.

Since graduating he has practiced as a full time GP in George Town since 1984. The practice services a population of 6,000 in one of the
State’s most socio-economically challenged areas, providing 24 hour emergency on call and supports the adjacent 15 bed hospital and local 50 bed nursing home.

The Citation for Brian’s AM reads:

“For significant service to medicine in rural and regional areas, and as a general practitioner”

Brian’s list of achievements are quite significant and include:

- Chair, Rural Health Education Foundation (www.rhef.com.au) 2002-2010: Board member for 12 years.
- Representative, National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) 3 years.
- Current Board member of the Tasmanian Medical Board of the Medical Board of Australia.
- A Founding Director of the National Prescribing Service 1998-2000.
- Former Chair GP North (Division of General Practice, Northern Tasmania).
- Deputy Chair, Rural Health Workforce Australia 2001-2003.
- Brian was awarded with a Centennial Medal in 2001.

Perhaps his proudest achievement however is seeing the not for profit, Rural Health Education Foundation (The health education lifeline to the bush) blossom to have 700 dedicated Satellite dishes on health facilities in rural and remote Australia and having programs available to web stream on the website, as well a live webcasts of many programmes, and in the last year has established the Rural Health Channel a Free to Air Digital satellite TV channel, for those in rural and remote Australia who get TV via satellite not via a TV aerial. This has a reach to 50,000 health professionals.

A wonderful career of professionalism and service, duly acknowledged by his AM - well done Brian!

Memorandum of Understanding

On June 28 at the College’s Half Way Day Assembly, President Edward Gauden signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with College Principal Mr Damian Messer. The MOU seeks to clearly outline the ongoing relationship between the OVA and the College, in particular the joint commitment to enhance educational outcomes for boys currently at the College and within a context that honours our charism as a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition.

Then and Now

Michael Boon (1988-93)

The 1988 Virgiliian recorded the following... Michael Boon, a student in Grade 7 at Austins Ferry, has proven himself to be one of Australia’s top 25 mathematicians. After competing against a field of 400,000 participants from Australia and the South Pacific, Michael was announced as a medal winner in the Mathematics competition conducted by Werstpac.

Advance 25 years, the Tasmanian Magazine (Mercury Newspaper May 4, 2013) carried a story on Michael’s post school journey. On leaving school, Michael went to UTAS where he studied Computer Science. Whilst at university he was approached by a local entrepreneur to help design a video game. This was the beginnings of a very successful career which was to take him to the USA and his name has been in the credits for some of the biggest video games of the past decade. After 10 years in the States, Michael, his wife and two small children have moved back to Hobart to be near their families. However, he continues to work with his American colleagues through our modern technologies of Broadband, Skype and webcam.

Clarence City Council Senior Citizen of the Year (Joint winner)

Graeme Rainbow

Graeme, the College’s Archivist and OVA Committee member has been the driving force behind the Belliver Blluf Land and Coast Care Group since it began in 2001. He has been its secretary for the past ten years and coordinator of working bees - during 2012 the group coordinated 37 working bees on the Bluff involving school groups, local residents, Conservation Volunteers and Corporate Volunteers. The Belliver Group won the 2011 Tasmanian Landcare Award and Graeme represented it at the 2012 at the National Landcare Conference and Awards Ceremony in Sydney in 2012. The Belliver group was an integral contributor towards Clarence being awarded the 2011 Best Tasmanian Beach at the Keep Australia Beautiful awards.

Graeme also had had a long association with the St Vincent de Paul Society and was awarded the its 2012 Volunteer of the Year Award and its 2012 Loui’s Van Volunteer of the Year.

Graeme worked at St Virgil’s College for 30 years and continues his association
in his retirement as an archivist. He was inducted onto its Heritage Roll of Honour in 2011 for services to the College and to the community. During his latter years in teaching, he worked at MacKillop College. In 2009 he was the recipient of the Mary MacKillop Award. The award is presented annually “to someone who lives up to the ideals for which Mary MacKillop was renowned of never seeing a need without attempting to respond to it.”

National Finalist - Senior Australian of the Year 2012

Kieran Brown
Teacher and mentor

Old Scholar Kieran Brown’s remarkable teaching career with the Tasmanian Education Department spans 32 years. He has also devoted decades of time and energy in a variety of roles with St John Ambulance Australia. Described as a man with “a heart of gold”, Kieran joined St John in Devonport in 1976. Since then his responsibilities with St John have included delivering essential first aid training including advanced emergency skills. As St John’s Chief Cadet Officer, Kieran travelled across the country meeting, mentoring and inspiring hundreds of young St John members. His friendly, supportive approach made him widely respected as a leader especially among young people with disabilities. One former St John cadet credits him with giving her the enthusiasm and confidence to follow her dreams in a way she never thought possible. In 2008 Kieran was appointed Deputy Chief Commissioner of St John’s Ambulance and more recently has turned his attention to working with Indigenous young people including translating first aid training resources into Indigenous languages. Kieran continues to put his hand up to help young Australians gain the confidence and skills to reach their potential.

At Long Last

The 2012/2013 season was our second season in the Southern Cricket League and with that came our first silverware in over ten years, winning the SCA T20/20 premiership. SVOSCC hasn’t been shy of making Grand Finals over the past ten years but could not seem to get that victory we all were desperate for, however this all changed in late December. We took on the might of St Aiden’s and certainly went in ‘under-dogs’ but this day was going to be different from past experiences and from ball one everyone from players and supporters had the sense that this could be our day. Batting first we were able to post an imposing score of 184 off the back of a great opening partnership between Seb Wishart and veteran Leigh Nosworthy. We couldn’t have got off to a better start in defending our total with Mark Newbold snaring a wicket with the very first ball. We went on to dismissing St Aiden’s for 125 and bringing it a premiership and wild celebrations! With some celebrating harder than others!

Both 1st and 2nd grades had reasonably successful seasons with both teams qualifying for finals for the first time in the SCA. 1st grade finished third on the ladder in the regular season but unfortunately after a long regular season couldn’t produce their best cricket come finals and eventually just missed out on a second Grand Final for the season. 2nd grade finished fourth and qualified for the elimination final. Unfortunately it wasn’t meant to be on the final’s stage, however the 2nd grade in particular have made great in roads had a much improved year turning two wins in 2011/2012 to ten wins in 2012/2013.

As much as it was a successful year on the field it was as much if not more successful off the field. With the relationship between the club and St Virgil’s College growing stronger both parties embarked on transforming the shed at the end of the oval into change rooms and other facilities. A massive thank you has to go to Robert Huigsloot for the time and effort he put into this transformation and all the people who pitched in during numerous working bees. The Clubs Board has also put in a lot of work and with a few extra funds raised we look forward to being able to upgrade facilities further for both players and supporters.

In regards to individual awards. The club awards went to Jason Rigby - Club Champion, First Grade Batting and First Grade Bowling, Maddy Wadwha - Second Grade Batting, Mark House Second Grade Bowling, and Mark Newbold - Clubman of the year.

This club is now into its 88th year and all involved want to see this club continue to grow. We have a number of people who continue to play and support the club but as with any club we would like to welcome more people into our club. The club would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone interested...
in playing, sponsoring and supporting the club for the upcoming season to contact our President Craig Jones 0417304901 or Email generalandwindow@bigpond.com

We especially would like to grow our playing numbers and implore anyone interested in playing cricket to join our club. Young, old, good or not so good there is always a place for you at SVOSCC.

The Club and its Board would also like to take this opportunity to thank the 2012/2013 sponsors, which without their support would obviously make it near impossible for the club to continue. A big thank you goes to Customs House Hotel, Andrew Jones Travel, Talbot Hotel, Cascade, Tas Isle Trading, Dial a Meal and Evolution Plumbing.

Reunions
Class of 1988
25 year reunion
Also for Year 11s who left in 1987 and Year 10s who left in 1986.
Friday 4 October, 7pm at the Marquis of Hastings Hotel
Further activities to be advised for Saturday October 5
To confirm attendance for Friday October 4, please contact Michael on 0417 393 304 or rooboy@bigpond.net.au

Class of 1993
20 Year Reunion
Saturday December 28, 2013 from 7:30pm. Customs House Hotel in the Vue room. $20 (covers room hire and food - drinks available at bar prices).
Anyone from our year group is welcome to attend whether you stayed to Year 12 or not. Teachers most welcome too.
RSVP: By October 31 to Gene Graham - genekg@gmail.com or 0422 115359.

Tasmania, Fairbrother Board member, Thea Fairbrother Board member, Thea Fairbrother, Managing Director of Hobart Production, Michael Fleming, Butler McIntyre and Butler partner Damien Geason and Chairman of Partners KPMG-Tasmania, Paul Green.

• Elevation to the Magistracy, Simon Cooper and Simon Brown. This follows the retirement of Peter Dixon last December and the retirement of Pierre Slicer who is serving as a Justice in Samoa.
• Greg Geason was been appointed President of the Law Society of Tasmania.
• Damien Bugg, was appointed Chair of the State Governments Bushfire Recovery Taskforce.
• Greg McNamara has replaced Rod Scurrah as Chairman of the Catholic Education Commission.
• Michael Di Venuto has been appointed batting coach for the Australian Cricket Team.
• Old Scholars feature in executive positions within football circles in Tasmania, with Dominic Baker, President of Tasmanian Statewide League; Kyron Johnson, President of Southern Football League and Brett Hall, President of Old Scholars Football Association.
• Dirk Meure of D’Meure in the islands south is one of the country’s leading proponents of natural winemaking and organic/biodynamic viticulture.

Personal Pars
• Common Ground Tasmania (CGT) was established in 2008 to work in cooperation with State, Federal, Local Government and the private sector to deliver supportive housing services to homeless people and more affordable housing for those in significant need. Common Ground Tasmania is represented by a Board of Directors. The Board members are Paul Lennon (Chairman), Peter Blackwood former CEO of OAK

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52nd Annual Golf Day
Kindly Sponsored by Raine and Horne
Tasmania Golf Club
Monday November 18, 2013
Shot gun Start - 1pm
$50 Entry Fee

The event is a single Stableford competition and includes a group aggregate prize for the best 3 scores in a group. A shot gun start will commence at 1:00pm and players should be at the course by 12:30pm to allow time to register and reach the allotted tee.

Entry forms can be downloaded at www.oldvirgilians.org.au

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• Old Scholars feature in executive positions within football circles in Tasmania, with Dominic Baker, President of Tasmanian Statewide League; Kyron Johnson, President of Southern Football League and Brett Hall, President of Old Scholars Football Association.
• Dirk Meure of D’Meure in the islands south is one of the country’s leading proponents of natural winemaking and organic/biodynamic viticulture.

Dirk began his teaching career as a tutor in the Faculty of Law. In 1970 he was appointed the Sir Henry Baker Memorial Fellowship for his critique H L A Hart’s Justification of Punishment. He began his studies and writing about radical criminology. In 1972 he was appointed to the University of Bristol. Three years later he began his long period of service at the Law School of the University of New South Wales. At the time of his retirement in 1999, he had risen to the rank of Senior Lecturer.

• Jacob Despard's victory in the 2013 Burnie Gift, off 8m in a time of 12.7sec, follows in the footsteps of other well known Old Virgilians who have had success in this event:

1925 - Ted Terry - off 11.0 yards - 13.0sec.
1928 - Len Bugg - off 13.9 yards - 12.1 sec.
1929 - Len Bugg - off 10.9 yards - 12.0 sec.
1935 - Trevor McMahon - off 13.5 yards - 13.5 sec.
1949 - Ashton Shirley - off 12.0 yards - 12.0 sec.

- Tristan Thomas won his fourth National Title in the 400 meter hurdles and booked a ticket to the World Championships in Moscow in August.

- 2012 saw the Golden Jubilee of Father Graeme Howard and would have been the same also for the late Father Bill Egan.

- At the Old Virgilians luncheon in March, Brother Ed Braden CP was made an Honorary Member of the Old Virgilians Association for his services to the Association over many years.

- Targa Competitor, Michael Pritchard, driving a Porsche 911 GT3 finished in 2nd place after leading the Early Modern category for all but the last day. He recently won Targa High Country in Victoria.

- Barilla Bay Oyster General Manager, Justin Goc, was relieved to see his product back on the shelves after being given the “all clear” following the devastating effect of a sewerage line break at their Dunally Lease.

- Taroona Rugby Club welcomed back former skipper James Wicks whilst their opponents in the opening encounter, Glenorchy Stags, also welcomed back classy fly half Daniel Aualiitia from interstate.

- Josh Burdon continued to dominate the European NASCAR Championships, winning at both the Dijon and Nogaro circuits in France. He hopes to win England’s most historic race at Brands Hatch in June.

- Ben Bradley won his fifth consecutive National Mountain Bike Championship at the Olympic Cross Country level in Canberra in February.

- Ben together with Scott Bowden recently returned home from World Cup races in Germany and the Czech Republic as members of a Mountain Bike Australia Development Team, which the world championship squad will be selected from. Ben is the cousin of Tasmanian Olympic mountain bike rider, and OV, Sid Taberlay.

- Damian Bourke was awarded a University of Tasmania Scholarship in memory of the late Sue Napier, former Educator and Tasmanian MP. Damian, who aims to be a Principal, will complete a Masters of Teaching with his scholarship.

- Hobart Football Club, Luke Sullivan celebrated his 100th game when the side took on North Hobart in April.

- Current student, Daniel Groom won the 2013 Hobart Junior Tennis Championship at the Domain Tennis Center. The Top Seed didn’t drop a set losing only nine games in his four matches.

- Congratulations to Mary Excell on her recognition in the 2013 Queens Birthday Honours awards.

- Scott Bowden enjoyed an excellent road cycling season in 2012/2013 winning several rounds of the National Series.

- Following excellent results nationally and overseas, Nathan Earle has been recruited by the all-conquering Sky Racing Team for the 2014 cycling season. Sky Racing boast such high profile riders as Sir Bradley Wiggins, Chris Froom and Richie Porte and will again be looking to dominate the podium in the major races, including the Tour de France, in 2013 and 2014.

- Congratulations to the Fitzgerald family - John, wife Mavis and son Andrew, who received the St Vincent de Paul Conferences Volunteer Award for 2012.

- In the last edition of Words and Deeds (December 2012), Barry King was pictured with 2012 1st XI Captain Riley Backhouse as part of the 2012 Victorian Cricket Tour. Barry has been an official at the Melbourne Football Club for over 45 years. He grew up in King St Bellerive but has lived in Melbourne for the past 50 years. Through Melbourne’s difficult years he has remained loyal and is a highly interactive and valued member of the volunteer staff at the Australian Sports Museum at the MCG.

- Damian McIntyre and Kate Rodrigue.

- Ben Wilkinson and Sarah Pestrucci.

- Tim Mahoney and Danielle Hawkes.


- Mathew and Maddi are very pleased to welcome Alfie Lewis Derrick to the family. Born on New Year’s Day - 3.59kg. Mum and baby doing well.
February 2012
- Adrian and Jane Beck, a daughter Olivia Grace, in Melbourne.

July 2012
- Stuart and Leanne Middleton, a daughter, Keely Niamh, in Queensland.

November 2012
- Maxim and Andrea Tambling, a daughter, Rose Lynette, in Melbourne.

December 2012
- Jared and Kristy Batchelor, a son, Xavier James.
- James and Louella Tria, a daughter, Lucia Rose.
- Cameron and Emma Alexander, a son, Samuel James.

January 2013
- Roy and Jessica Abrego, a son, Ethan.

February
- Craig and Jessica Brumby, a daughter, Emma Joan.
- Robert and Marijana Bolonja, a daughter, Lara.
- Robin and Antonia O’Brien, a son Rupert Otis Kent.
- Adam and Casey French, a son, Elijah James.
- Sam and Teresa Scurrah, a son, Thomas Leonard.
- Christian and Venetta Zantuck, a son, Frederick John.

March
- Simon and Olivia Tamlyn a son, Hugh David.
- Tim and Brooke Cubit, a daughter, Zoe Vivienne.
- Shaun and Chloe Sutton, a daughter, Violet Isobel.
- Matthew and Maria Pigden, a son, Edward Stephen.
- Adrian and Corissa Venetacci, a son, Darby Milla.
- Marcus and Tracey Ralph, a son William Marcus.

April
- Julian and Vanessa Gill, a daughter, Alice Elizabeth.
- Julian and Jess Direen, a daughter, Isla Holly.
- Jonathon and Anita Fox, a son, Noah James.
- Max and Kathryn Paterman, a son, Angus Blake.
- Brad and Kate Sward, a daughter, Harriet Maev.
- Chris and Claire Holloway, a son, Jackson Scott.
- Rod and Jules Oudshoorn, a son Peter Dylan, in Melbourne.

May
- Mark and Simone Chivers, a daughter, Violet Anne.
- Simon and Myshka Plaister, a son, Jett Noah.
- Matt and Michelle Harper, a daughter, Darcey Elizabeth.

June
- David McKay (1986) and Kirsty Munn, Gold Coast, proudly welcomed the gift of their son, Spencer Chace McKay in June 2013.

Obituaries

November 2012
- Gregory Revis McCann, (SVC 1944-1950), son of Leonard Charles (SVC 1911) and Winifred (nee Deegan), father of Stephanie, Lester, Colette and Gwenda, companion of Sharyn, father-in-law of Randall and Brent, brother of Marita Crothers and Genevieve Berry.

December 2012
- Tamara Collis, wife of James, sister-in-law of Michael in Brisbane 16 December 2012.
- Laurie Leo Horton, husband of Lurline (Patsy), father of David and Margaret and father-in-law of Marion and John.
- Geraldine Anne (nee Ryan) Hollingsworth, wife of Peter, mother and mother-in-law of Tim and Lisa, Simon and Nicole and Stuart and Emma. Daughter of the late Lindsay and Kathleen Ryan, sister and sister-in-law of Jill and Phillip Fisher, sister-in-law of Judy, Brian and Toni, Ian and Fairleigh, Kathy and Jeff Carins, Phil, and Jan and David and Annette.
- Geoffrey Francis Cutcliffe, (SVC 1954-1957), in Cairns, son of Beryl and Frank (dec).
- John Patrick Gregg (SVC 1952), husband of Jane and father of Laura and William, father and father-in-law of Samuel and Ingrid, Sarah and Nigel Watson, Susannah and Matthew Merrigan, son of the late Gilbert and Linda, brother and brother-in-law of Nancy and Geoff Reynolds (both dec), Faye (dec) and Laurie Cleary, Bruce and Marie, Lynette (dec) and Denis Powell and Gillian and Kevin Joseph.

January 2013
- Elizabeth Ann (Lizzie) Rakowski, daughter of Sylvester and Carolyn, twin sister of Barbara (dec) and sister of Joanne and Renee.
- Ronald Francis Doolan 19.5.25 - 6.1.13, son of SVC first year student Eric Francis Doolan and Martha May Doolan and elder brother of Ian and Geoff. Ron was prominent in athletics in the early 40’s having won the prestigious St Virgil’s Garrett Cup and pursued an active yachting interest both locally and in Queensland.”
• Irene Joan Shirley, wife of Ashton, mother and mother-in-law of Christopher; Anne and Denis Morrison; Stephen and Ann; Clement; Gerard and Loretta; Felicity and Robert Sly; Martin and Sharon; Phillipa; Damien and Traci; sister-in-law of Joan (dec); Marie and Ursula; daughter of Vivian; Laurie and sister of John (all dec); daughter-in-law of Cyril Corr and Eileen Pearl Shirley (both dec).

• Sebastiano Palmese, father of Gianna and Gaetano, father-in-law of Warren and Abigail.

• Maxwell Victor Horlock, father of Dom Brian Horlock OSB, Tim and Philip.

• Phillip Shelverton (SVC 1988), husband of Kylie, father of Emma and Sarah.

• Benjamin Paul Wicks, son of Paul and Andrea, grandson of Alan and Brenda Wicks (both dec).

• Gregory Lewis Geard (SVC 1965-1971), son of Bernie and Maureen (both dec), brother of Marie Welsh (dec), Dianne Delwood and Michael and brother-in-law of Anne.

February

• John Michael Murray (SVC 1956-1964), husband of Elaine, brother of Steven, father of Matthew and Adam, son of Margaret and Cecil (Curly), (both dec).

• Natasha Dallas Cleaves, wife of Jonathon, mother of Sebastian.

• Julie Ann (Derrick) Picone, mother of Tim and partner Jasmine, Jo and husband Tim Clifford, Matt, Marc, Jeremy and partner Gina, daughter of Lloyd and Joan (dec), sister of Helen and Teesa.

• Anthony John Wyatt (SVC 1956-1960), brother of Jan and Gordon Scarle.

• Denis Arthur Mawbey, husband of Margaret, brother-in-law of John and Peggy Wilmhurst.

March

• Keith Brennan, father and father-in-law of Dominic and Megan.

• Paul Xavier Clark, (SVC 1970-1975), son of Cyril and Jennifer, brother of John, Kathleen, Ruth and Gary, Mia and John.

• Charles Alfred Bucher, husband of Anne Marie (dec) and special friend of Dorothy Nibbs, father of Herbert and Eileen, Susan and Kim, Peter and Kerry, Carmen and Peter, Markus and Donna.

• Brendan Joseph Littlejohn, (SVC 1963-1964), in Canberra, son of William and Canice (dec), father of Elizabeth, brother of Margaret Glover.

• John Thomas Chick, father of Sue and friend of John Whitehouse.


April

• Dulcie McGee (Sister Marguerite OCD) in Sydney, sister of Ken, aunt to Anthony (Tony) and Mavis.

• Lola May Dwyer, wife of Michael (dec), mother of Patrick Dwyer and Margaret Kitchener.

• Juele Mary Wiggins, sister of Kevan Brimfield and Gordon and sister-in-law Lois.

• Dimitrios (Jim) Kessarios, husband of Maria, father and father-in-law of Angelo and Mandy, Billy (dec) and Tony.

• Francis (Frank) John O’Neill, (SVC 1949-1950), husband of Betty, father and father-in-law of Lisa and Glen Cooper, Tim and Kate O’Neill, twin brother of Brian (dec) and son of the late Fred and Muriel.

• Joan Margaret Egan, sister of Father Wilfred John (dec).

• Maya Kim La Croix, daughter of Ron and Alwyne, sister of Kerry.

May

• Cathrein Norberta (Cath) Vanderstaay, wife of Henry (dec), mother of Tony, Robert, Henry, Keith and Trixie.

• Leonard Francis Field, father of Francis (dec).

• Daisy Ivy Fooks, wife of Reginald (Rex) (dec), mother and mother-in-law of Gregory and Noeleen, Jeanette, Wayne and Lyn, and sister of Percy, Keith, Violet, Daphne and Lilian (all dec).

• Viv Hovington, brother of Patrick.

• Lola Grace Tate, wife of Maurice Joseph, mother of Julie and Arthur Wrigley, Paul and Kathy, Kaye and Chris Bush, and John and Kerry, sister of Max (dec) and Phyllis Stops.

• Colleen Judith Nettlefold, wife of Robert.

• Basil Noel Brimfield, (SVC 1942-1944), brother of Kevan, brother-in-law of Lois, husband of Shirley, father and father-in-law of Kerrie and Rod, father of Shane (dec).

• Adrian Van Dongen, (SVC 1974-1979), husband of Janet, father of Alison and Elizabeth, son of Jack and Margaret (dec), brother and brother-in-law of Jane and David Apte, Nic and Stacey, Libby Sutherland and John Shuis, son-in-law of Jenny Sutherland and friend of Keith and Arlene.

June

• Bruce Gardam, husband of Fay (dec), father and father-in-law of Christopher and Maureen and Dianna.

• Harold Rex (Snowy) Corbett, husband of Iris, father and father-in-law of Peter and Christine.

• Barbara Carmel Cooper, wife of Don, mother of Madeleine and Claudia, grandmother of Joshua (dec), Carmel, Kate, Sarah (dec), and Victoria, daughter of Stan and Kath Case, sister to David, Patricia, Brian and Pat (all dec).

• Francis (Frank) Mack (SVC 1946-1954), in Queensland.

• Beverley Mary (Bev) Reynolds, wife of Ron (dec), mother and mother-in-law of Judy and John Freeman, Mick and Anne, John, Annie Reynolds and Don Neil, Gayle and Frank Andrews, Sharon Reynolds, Kim O’Leary.

• Br Michael Borromeo Stallard cfc., highly esteemed mathematics teacher at St Virgil’s College from 1985 to 1988. He was Superior of the Barrack St community of Brothers and Senior Mathematics Master. Born 20 September 1929 in Bundaberg Q.L.D. Mick was always proud of his origins and maintained close contact with his two sisters and three brothers. His maroon leaning became obvious during State of Origin Rugby and state cricket competitions.

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Mick was born in Bundaberg and the Stallard family was well respected in the local and Church community. Many are the stories of the fishing and crabbing skills of the family.

Mick’s sister Von, remembers Mick bringing some Bundaberg crabs back to Melbourne to show anyone interested in their size before being eaten - even though this was probably illegal to take seafood across state borders! Mick did enjoy pushing the envelope and yet kept boundaries in place.

Another of Mick’s passions, which originated from his childhood, is cricket. Many a game of cricket was played on the street outside 21 Station Street Bundaberg - where the Stallards lived in the same house for 50+ years. However the most significant and lasting trait from his family Bundaberg years was his faith in his God that led him to travel to the Christian Brothers’ Juniorate Strathfield at the age of 14. With his father a train driver some of the family would travel to Sydney to visit Mick with concession tickets. His mother’s ability and willingness to travel rubbed off on Mick as he enjoyed travel and visiting places with a difference.

The spiritual journey that commenced in Bundaberg was to last all his life. Mick was not rigid in his beliefs and practices and moved with the times. He became a student of Vatican II documents after Vatican council and he studied and renewed himself. Mick adapted well to his environment and developed practices that ensured he developed and grew as a person. His life values included enthusiasm (ripper), positive outlook, non-judgmental, loyal, hardworking and above all humility. The scripture passage from John’s Gospel - I have come so that you may have life and live it to the full - sums up Mick’s attitude to life. To Mick’s lasting testament - he empowered and encouraged people to reach their potential. Frank O’Shea from Africa writes: Mick was rarely threatened and full of commonsense, but as great these gifts were. It was his humility that made him so great and loveable and free from any need to talk about himself and his many achievements.

It was always about the brothers and the other. Mick was a committed Christian Brother and lived out his vocation with its ideals as his compass point. He was loyal to his leaders and when he became a leader he was pastoral and yet could be firm as was required - but never harsh.

We heard last night’s vigil celebration of how his brother Vin also became a Christian Brother and shared many enjoyable times with Mick visiting brothers’ communities and schools when they had holidays together. Mick claimed at one stage to have visited every Province of the Congregation and every community house in Australia! His life was uncluttered - he
travelled lightly and ever ready to deviate to meet the needs of the brothers’ mission. Indicative of this was him arriving in Tonga in 1988 with the suitcase that he used when he left Bundaberg for Strathfield 45 years earlier. Mick was a man of great simplicity, attached to little else, other than his small black notebook kept in his shirt pocket and a slice of bread and butter with a cup of tea. He enjoyed the use of a bicycle and this was his preferred mode of transport - the red Roman bike and the yellow Tongan bike amongst his well known. The novices have positive memories of Mick as Novice Master during the years 1970 - 72. While he kept the novices focused and on task he had a sense of humor and adventure. Every Sunday was treated as Easter Sunday with extra food and drink. Every feast day was an outing. I recall visits to Philip Island, Puffing Billy, and the hamburger and can of drink on the way home. On a journey to Bendigo / Hanging Rock area we did a lap of the Calder Race Way in the transit van. Personal radios were banned in the Novitiate and yet an enterprising novice created a crystal set during the English Ashes Tour and would inform the novices of the score at breakfast after reading of the necrology was complete. Mick decided to ignore this breach of Novitiate rules until he asked the novice how many runs did Chappell make?

On another occasion returning late from catechetical classes in the transit van the novice driving went onto the soccer field to spot light the many rabbits on the field. Some novices got out of the bus trying to catch a rabbit. The next day Mick called the brother aside to reprimand him and as the novice walked away Mick asked how many rabbits did you catch? Such was the free spirit of the man.

A brother told me the story about how Mick, when a member of the Province Leadership Team, made a special visit to hand him a letter informing him that he was not allowed to play football for an outside football team. Later Mick told the brother how much it pained him to have to do it. But for Mick duty and loyalty to the task were paramount.

For some reaching the age of 60 / 65 indicates a time to slow down and retire - not for Michael Stallard. In his 60s / 70s Mick lived and worked in Tonga, Fiji, Liberia and Tanzania. Mick experienced a serious illness while in West Africa - cerebral malaria- that brought him close to death. Mary his sister told me how grateful the family still is to the foresight of an English brother Liguori Gillespi who arranged for Mick’s transportation to Manchester England where Mick made a recovery and travelled back to Australia. This did not slow him down. After a period of recuperation he volunteered again and returned the brother’s school at Sinon Tanzania where he reconnected with two of his past novices Paul Follas and Frank O’Shea. A small room was built where he taught extension maths and tutored others. While Mick never learnt a foreign language after attempts to do so, this did not stop him from teaching - as mathematics is a universal language that Mick grasped with high distinction. Terry his brother told me how Mick would send him maths problems while in the seminary. Terry explained while our methods varied we agreed with the solution. So when a connection was required Mick found a way.

Mick always kept a sense of humour and balance to life - even if it was a little disguised. Mick was the Community Leader in Hobart and the Brother’s house.
needed to replace some kitchen items, which the community could not agree on. Mick called a community meeting to discuss the matter and reach a solution. He asked the six brothers in turn what they wanted. He asked the fourth brothers that agreed with the proposal first, the fifth brother spoke against it. Finally he asked the sixth brother, we can call Greg. Greg muttered to Mick “I can count!” - The vote was 4 - 2. After the meeting I joined Mick for a cup of tea and Mick said with multiple blinking of his eyelashes - isn’t it great that Greg can count! Mick was a pastoral leader that based his leadership on service of the other. He didn’t request an action without being prepared to do it himself.

Frank Hennessy expressed his appreciation regarding Mick’s leadership while at Ballarat, Mick commenced as Principal of St Patrick’s College and the Superior of a large and diverse brothers’ community in 1967. Frank writes:

Mick was great he looked after and supported the young brothers very well. Mick would have a catnap at the end of the school day for 10 - 15 minutes have afternoon tea and then go till the end of the boarding school day. He got a reputation of being on the move all the time - if you want to find Brother Stallard, stand still for five minutes and he will go past! Frank O’Shea describes this trait while in Tonga Mick was nicknamed Helicopter for his non-stop circling around an event looking for the best vantage point. I recall in Hobart Mick would ride his bike to the local Tasmanian Football Match at the North Hobart Oval and stand wearing his yellow spray jacket behind the goals. Invariably Mick would end up on the TV evening news sports section watching the match. After a while the students of St Virgil’s would look for Mick on the TV. On several occasions if the fullback or full forward was an old boy from St Virgil’s or St Patrick’s Launceston he would chat with them when the ball was at the other end of the oval. I recall one time when the fullback playing for Sandy Bay called out good to see you here Brother Stallard - Mick beamed with delight! Mick had 12 years as a member of St Patrick’s Province Provincial Council. He was devoted and did anything asked of him - even relocating to another community to support them in a time of crisis. Frank Hennessy recalls an incident that highlights Mick’s service of others as he modelled servant leadership.

I remember when Mick was in leadership he used to do the “mail country Circuit” - Geelong, Colac, Warrnambool and Ballarat in a day. One day he landed at St Mary’s Technical School Geelong at lunchtime - I was occupied trying to find a placement for a missing teacher. Mick quipped, “what class is it?” - Year 11 Maths I replied. I can take the class - do you have a pair of dice asked Mick. Off Mick went to the Year 11 Maths class and the students wanted to know is that Brother coming back? Mick was a gifted teacher - he had a sharp and retentive memory. He was a legendary Maths teacher yet he taught other subjects including Religious Education, Geography, English and others. He memorized slabs of Shakespeare and recited poetry by heart. However as we know his first love was Mathematics. At St Virgil’s he had a badge under his cardigan that was occasionally shown stating, ‘I love Maths!’

His first teaching assignment was at South Melbourne and this cemented his loyalty to the South Melbourne Football club and later the Sydney Swans. Another significant place for Mick was his time at St Kevin’s College. He often spoke of his fondness for the College and yet he said once he left a place he rarely returned - you need to keep focused on the present and keep moving. He was thorough in his preparation and
corrections. I met an old boy of St Virgil’s last week and told him of Mick’s death. He said he still wonders how he gave an exam one day and it was corrected and returned the next! This was at a time when Mick was rowing master at St Virgil’s. He would rise at 4.15 am collect student rowers and leave them under the guidance of the coaches at the rowing sheds, return to the community for prayers and mass and then return to the rowing sheds and collect the rowers for breakfast and class. No wonder he required a catnap!

Even when Mick was in his late 70s he tutored Refugee / Asylum Seeker students at St Albans. Living at St. Albans the community of 6 brothers shared the cooking of the evening meal. Mick put his hand up to cook. He cooked the same beef casserole with mashed potato each week. He let the secret out one night that his sister Von gave him the recipe and instructions. I’d say there were a few practical cooking classes at Ellen Street Springvale. Even late in life Mick was prepared to learn and a willingness to be fully involved in community life.

Mick was a highly motivated and committed person and this allowed him to dig deep for energy and perseverance. It was at St Albans that Mick encountered his Gethsemane and the beginning of his Calvary experience. One Saturday in 2007 as he normally did he set off to watch Tim Moloney goal umpire. He became disorientated and lost on his way back to the Brothers’ house at St Albans.

The community became concerned when he didn’t return. The Police were contacted and sometime after midnight Chris Meehl received a phone call informing the community Mick was in causality at St Vincent’s Hospital. He lived a short time at Mt Sion Parkville before relocating to Villa O’Neil Prahran. It was here that the dementia took its hold of Mick and where he peacefully died last Thursday 13 June. The five years he was at Villa O’Neill he was faithfully supported by his sister Von on her weekly visits and the brothers. His final surrender to his God was peaceful.

Michael Stallard was a generous, kind and loving man who lived his life to the full. May his spirit rest in peace.

July

- Francis Damian Mack (SVC 1946-1954) in Queensland, husband of Anne, father of Veronica, Damian, Hilary, Anthony and Cecilia (dec), brother of Bernard (dec).
- Bernard Mack (SVC 1948-1956), in Geelong, brother of Francis (dec).