If you spend your whole life waiting for the storm...

you’ll never enjoy the sunshine.
Vale

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”

John 14:1-4
It appears the longer we are working in life, the busier we seem to get. Each year we seem to fit more and more activity into our school year without culling or removing any aspects of our journey for fear of losing connection or continuity. The second half of 2013 year appears to be definitely living up to this notion.

The onset of the four term year has brought about some changes in our thought processes and the day to day operations of the College. With four terms split into two semesters, the academic year can be separated into two distinct periods of learning for the first time. Our observations have suggested that the move to four terms has been a successful one and both the staff and students have seen significant benefits from this re-structuring of the academic year.

This year the College’s strategic theme, ‘Two Campuses, One College’ sought to reinforce and build upon the links between the operations of the primary and secondary campus and the interaction between students, staff and parents in our community. A practical example of this has been the opportunity provided by the Senior School Technology Department in enabling each Junior School boy with an opportunity to spend eight weeks during the academic year working with the staff on an introduction to woodwork and metalwork unit. The Half Way Day visit, the viewing of the matinee of the musical Jesus Christ Superstar and the Grade 6 Transition experience also provided opportunities for the students to connect with students and staff from the Austins Ferry campus.

The College Leadership Team will continue to look for opportunities to strengthen this significant educational connection to enhance the learning opportunities available to all boys. Senior school students involved in programmes with their Junior School peers also receive rich educational benefits from working closely with boys in areas such as recreational leadership, sport and music.

On the development front, in line with the Building Master Plan there has been significant development works undertaken on both sites. At Patrick Street, plans are underway to re-surface the area outside the Grade 3 class room. This will conclude the Master Plan for the site and will be concluded by the beginning of the new school year. At Austins Ferry, the re-development of the Hamilton wing is well under way with the end result being the refurbishment of the art facility, the creation of four new science labs, and two additional flexible learning areas being created. Also included in this facility will be a dedicated student services centre providing support of our one-to-one iPad programme. A significant portion of this re-development will be concluded for the beginning of the school year with the remainder completed by the end of March. These developments are exciting and will certainly assist with our learning and teaching programme.

Funding for these developments are enhanced by the work of the Parents and Friends Associations from both campuses. Both committees have committed significant funds in the support of these projects, and in line with their mission, most students will get the benefit from tireless work of our P&F. This year both committees ran a successful Fair as well as other fundraising events each term.
These community events bought significant numbers of people to both sites and the efforts of the organisers and those who assisted on the day is very much appreciated.

In August the Arts department ran a very successful musical in conjunction with St Mary’s College. The production ‘Jesus Christ, Superstar’ was staged and played to four full houses. I would like to thank all those involved in working with the students in making the production such a successful one.

Also on the co-curricular front, the second half of the year has proven to be very successful. Our students participated in the Science Titration competition and for the first time, made the National Final. Our sailors, as part of team racing, were successful at the State titles and as a consequence, travelled to Brisbane and represented Australia in the Interdominion Sailing Competition versus New Zealand. Our Senior Basketball Team travelled to New South Wales and won the Edmund Rice Education Australian Basketball Tournament. Our Senior Footballers won the Tassie Hawks Cup, and our athletes completed a clean sweep of the Southern and State Athletics events, winning all age groups across both carnivals. A big thank you to all who have played a role in the organisation and support of the students at all of these events.

As the year drew to a close and we farewell another group of students who join the ranks of the Old Virgilians Association in a moving and poignant Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral. Each year at the Old Virgilians Association Memorial Mass, the ‘Old Scholars’ invite the Grade 10 students and welcome them into their association. The Mass held at the Cathedral was a very moving event. It was great to see the significant number of parents and old boys in attendance and we thank our old boy priests for their concelebration of the event. This Mass was backed up very closely by our Annual Thanksgiving and Awards Ceremony where again, the Old Scholars formed a guard of honour for our newest Old Virgilians. This night was highlighted by a song sung by the Grade 10 group called ‘A Band of Brothers’ which the boys dedicated their fellow student, Bailey King who sadly passed away in November. Those present will long remember the passion and pride with which the boys sang that evening.

These end of year ceremonies are mirrored at Junior school where Grade 6 boys make the transition from primary to secondary school. The Thanksgiving Liturgy enables Grade 6 students to say farewell to Patrick Street and continue their St Virgil’s journey at the Austins Ferry campus. Again, these significant events have been extremely well supported by our parents and the students showed great pride in their school and are looking forward to their continuing journey.

On a personal note, many of you recall I was extremely fortunate to take some long service leave during Term Three this year. This time, much of it spent with my family, was extremely refreshing and I certainly returned to the College with a renewed sense of vigour and purpose to continue my role as Principal of this wonderful College.

This was further reinforced and informed through my participation in the International Boys School Coalition Conference in Richmond, Virginia where I was able to work with other leaders in the field of boys’ education. The experience again highlighted that we work within a specialist area of education and reinforced our belief that we implicitly know boys, understand their learning, pastoral and development needs and can provide programmes that optimally cater for these needs. I would like to thank all the staff for their efforts in my absence, but in particular, Mr Terry Blizzard and Mr Cameron Alexander for their support in taking on expanded Leadership roles and for their execution of these roles.

As each year ends, it leads to new beginnings. I know that 2014 will bring many wonderful opportunities for all those involved in the St Virgil’s College community. I look forward to continuing the journey with you.

In the Spirit of Blessed Edmund.

“Every human activity can be put at the service of the divine and of love. We should all exercise our gift to build community.”

Jean Vanier
Principal’s Thanksgiving Speech

- Rev. Fathers Brian Nichols, Chris Hope and Felix Ekeh
- Rev. Brothers Peter Flint and Sean McManus
- Mr Paul Williams from Edmund Rice Education Australia
- Mr Allan Clark from Tasmanian Catholic Education Office
- Hon. Adriana Taylor (Member for Elwick) and Mr Taylor
- Mayor of Glenorchy Mr Stuart Slade
- Mrs Libby Piesse, representing Holy Rosary Catholic School
- Mrs Joy Matar, Principal of St Paul’s Young College
- Mrs Bobby Court, Principal of Guilford Young College
- Mrs Laurie Wolfe, Principal of Mt Carmel College
- Mrs Elise Archer, Liberal Member for Denison
- Dr Natalie Brown, Chair of the St Virgil’s College Board, and other Board members
- Mr Edward Gauden, President of the Old Virgilians Association, and other Old Virgilian members
- Mrs Lynne Jones, President of the Parents & Friends Association and other committee members
- Mrs Laurie Wolfe, Principal of Mt Carmel College,
- Mrs Bobby Court, Principal of Guilford Young College
- Mrs Joy Matar, Principal of St Paul’s Catholic Primary School
- Mrs Libby Piesse, representing Holy Rosary Catholic School
- Staff, Parents, Friends and my fellow students

I begin this evening by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land.

We are coming to the end of a wonderful evening, giving thanks for all that has happened this year and, particularly, for our Grade 10 students, what has happened during their years at St Virgil’s.

Just a while ago the boys walked confidently across the stage - perhaps a contrast to the hesitant way in which they took their first steps with the College. I know that the parents here tonight share our pride.

We recognise tonight the fact that there are others finishing their journey at the College in addition to those boys on stage. A number of families will be finishing their direct relationship with the College. I thank them for entrusting their sons to us and particularly thank those who have contributed beyond the norm with their involvement as volunteers, coaches, supporters or active P & F members. All the boys have benefited from your generous and committed work.

I could easily say that the students in front of me are fine men - but they are not-well not yet. They are becoming fine young men. The journey to manhood will keep going for many years yet. The privilege for us has been sharing part of this journey with you the parents and family members over these years.

We look forward with great optimism and hope for what this group will provide into the future. If this year is an indication of how they will handle adversity I think they are on the right track. Most of you would be aware that these students lost one of their own, Bailey King, last month to a long battle with Leukaemia, and the support they showed to the family, friends and fellow students was a heart warming experience, the guard of honour for their mate at the funeral will be long remember by all who attended. As a tribute to their friend the boys will dedicate their Grade 10 song to Bailey.

Whilst away on my break this year in the US I came across this letter that Abraham Lincoln, the 16th American President, wrote to the Headmaster of the school in which his son was studying. He wrote this about his hopes for his son’s time, growing towards manhood at the school: “Teach him to learn to lose and also to enjoy winning.

...see what you can do. “This is a big order, Headmaster, but please by saying:

Steer him away from envy, if you can.
Teach him the secret of quiet laughter.
Teach him that for every enemy there is a friend.
Teach him the wonder of books; but also give him quiet time to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun, and flowers on a green hillside.
In school teach him it is far more honourable to fail than to cheat.
Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if everyone tells him they are wrong.
Teach him to be gentle with gentle people and tough with the tough.
Try to give him the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone is getting on the bandwagon.
Teach him to listen to all men, but teach him also to filter all he hears on a screen of truth and take only the good that comes through.
Teach him gently, but do not coddle him; as only the test of fire makes fine steel.
Let him have the courage to be impatient, let him have the patience to be brave.
Teach him always to have sublime faith in his creator and faith in himself too, because then he will always have faith in mankind”.

And then Abraham Lincoln signs off by saying:

Well, Grade 10 students, I am happy to say that you are fine fellows also. We wish you well for your future. We hope that you will always be proud Virgilians and that you will continue building on the foundations of community, Justice and respect given to you by your parents and teachers. Leave us with pride and gratitude, look back with rich and fond memories, and look forward with optimism, excitement and enthusiasm, knowing that you take the history and heritage of St Virgil’s as part of you.

And to all other students and our parents - we give thanks for a year of progress, achievement, challenges and successes. May 2014 bring many blessings for us all.
My journey at St Virgil’s College began in 2010 when I commenced Grade 7 here at the Austins Ferry Campus. At first I wasn’t quite sure what to expect; I had heard of the great honour and traditions of St Virgil’s College but having gone through a state primary school and not having any close friends or relatives who were Virgilians themselves I was very unsure what it actually meant to be a Virgilian. Little did I know that throughout my four years at Austins Ferry I would receive countless once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, make so many lifelong friends and gain experiences and memories that will stay with me forever.

For me my transition into St Virgil’s College was seamless and I believe that this was due to the friendly support of all the staff and other students. The excellent way in which everything, from classes to whole-school gatherings, was organised made me feel comfortable in my new environment almost immediately. Another aspect of St Virgil’s College which also made me feel welcomed into the Virgilian community was all of the traditional ceremonies that take place throughout the year with one of the first occurring just two days into my journey. The Blessing of the Bags takes place at the beginning of each year and to me symbolises the great things to come during that year and the entire College uniting in an extremely significant way.

Even as a young little Grade 7 at St Virgil’s I felt welcomed and greatly encouraged to take part in many co-curricular activities and sports. Personally my Grade 7 year included being a part of the Grade 7 Band, Big Band, saxophone ensemble and the prestigious SVC Athletics team.

Over my four years more and more opportunities have become available to me and all culminated this year in being the lead role in the College musical and a member of this year’s athletics team which won every single age group we competed in. Everything that I have participated in during my time at St Virgil’s has given me countless unique experiences that I could not have received anywhere else and in particular being a part of the musical this year has given me so much more in the form of meeting so many amazing people, some of whom I will stay in contact with forever.

In addition to all of these activities for school, a large part of my St Virgil’s experience has also been the aspect of service and giving back to the community. This encompasses the St Vincent de Paul group, the Grade 9 Service Learning Programme, assisting at the annual ANZAC Day Parade and various forms of fundraising. For me though, the most significant service that we as a College do is our yearly walkathon which is conducted on halfway day. Every single cent that is raised from this event goes to a small school in Nairobi Kenya called the Mary Rice Centre and enables them to continue running for another 12 months. All of the groups and events at St Virgil’s which are focused on service have made my own personal journey something much more significant than just one of education.

All of these experiences and traditions have made St Virgil’s College far more than just a school to me and this is why I felt so privileged and honoured when I was elected as College Captain for 2013. Through this leadership position I have been able to represent the College in so many different ways and these feelings will stay with me forever. I personally encourage each and every student to get involved in as many things as you possibly can during your time at St Virgil’s; it truly will make their four years here at Austins Ferry so much more than just a simple education.
2014 Student Leadership

The College Leadership Team was extremely impressed with the quality of applicants for this year’s leadership positions. It is always pleasing to see boys put themselves forward to take up the challenge and responsibility of leadership, both in a formal role but also through their deeds around the College.
Welcome Archbishop Julian Porteous

We commenced Term 3 with the news of the appointment of the new Archbishop of Hobart. His Holiness Pope Francis has announced the appointment of Bishop Julian Charles Porteous as the eleventh Archbishop of Hobart. Bishop Porteous was an Auxiliary Bishop in Sydney and was installed as Archbishop of Hobart on September 17, 2013. Whilst we farewell His Grace, Archbishop Adrian Doyle, an old scholar of the College from this role he will remain a much loved member of the St Virgil’s College community. As outlined in The Star, St Virgil’s College will continue to function as an authentic Catholic school committed to the pillars of the Archbishop’s Charter for Catholic Schools.

An African Immersion

In July the College’s Director of Development Mr Mark Waddington had the privilege of participating in the Carrigg Karibu Immersion Experience organised by EREA. The immersion experience enabled EREA staff to engage with a number of the ministries conducted by the Christian Brothers in Kenya and Tanzania.

A highlight of the trip to Africa was the opportunity to visit the Mary Rice Centre, the major beneficiary of the College’s fundraising efforts each year. In 2013 the College walkathon and other fundraising efforts support the Mary Rice Centre. It is humbling to consider that students’ efforts keep the centre operating for the entire year, providing staff, educational programmes and lunch for the ‘specially abled’ children who attend the school from the adjacent Kibera slum.

The Mary Rice Day Care Centre was established in February 2007 in Ngei 1 - lower - Langat a, adjacent to the Kibera slum with a mission to focus on the needs of physically and mentally challenged children. After a number of ‘forced moves’ the centre is currently located on land adjacent to the Charles Lwanga Primary on the outskirts of Kibera. The establishment of the Centre was the work of two Christian Brothers and is overseen by the inspirational and ever optimistic Br Russell Peters, former Principal of St Virgil’s College. The identification of children with special needs who would benefit from the Mary Rice Centre was guided by one leading woman from the Kibera slum.

The Mary Rice Centre is a transitional day care centre where children with special abilities are offered an opportunity for social integration and rehabilitative care, experiences which are not available to them within their homes. Currently the Centre caters for up to 20 students.

After successful transition through programmes focussed upon self-care, social integration and creative skills, children are supported in accessing mainstream schools or vocational training centres through the provision of sponsorship support from generous and caring benefactors. A relative small amount of money in our terms can make a huge difference to the lives of students at the Centre.

Thanksgiving Ceremony Reflection

The following reflection was shared with members of the College community at the annual Thanksgiving and Awards Ceremony. It aims to briefly summarise the key learnings inherent within the immersion experience, in particular the deep connection between St Virgil’s College and the Mary Rice Centre.

At the start of the year I could not have imagined that in July I would find myself in Africa. I had long supported fundraising efforts by students at St Patrick’s College in Ballarat and also been a contributor to the Edmund Rice Foundation but my level of engagement could be described as passive - and I was a noted five star traveller!

I did not hesitate to accept the challenge of going to Africa to engage with the Brothers and the people of Kenya and Tanzania for a number of reasons.

Firstly it speaks to the heart of who we are as a Catholic school and is an authentic expression of our response to the pillars of the Archbishop’s Charter.

It is reflected in our mission as a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition and honours the example of Blessed Edmund Rice and the legion of dedicated Brothers and lay people who have worked tirelessly with marginalised communities throughout the world.

And lastly it was an opportunity to practically express the motto of our wonderful school, through deeds not words alone.

All noble sentiments but I would be lying if I did not say that I entered into the experience with a healthy degree of trepidation!
The St Virgil’s College community has generously supported the Mary Rice Centre for a number of years, due largely to the influence of former Principal Br Russell Peters, an inspirational and inexhaustible man who is deeply committed to the Centre and its ‘specially-abled’ students and staff.

The work of the MRC is important work and a practical expression of the Jesus of the Gospels that Edmund encountered in 19th century Waterford. The Centre caters for 20 students and their care givers - mostly mothers. Set within the Kibera slum it seeks to provide students with a practical education that may enable them to articulate with mainstream schooling a future vocational and employment opportunities. More importantly it seeks to de-mystify the ‘curse of disability’ amongst residents of the slums. Prior to the MRC some students were tied up in their dwelling - a corrugated iron hut the size of a garden shed that may accommodate 8-10 people, or even worse killed because of the shame associated with having a disabled child.

Kibera slum is set on a hill, its slope akin to the walk up from the Main Oval to the gym. Mothers in some cases carry their child for miles through rivers of waste and human faeces, through mud and slush with the stench of the slums permeating every pore of their bodies.

And yet they come - every day, desperate to learn and to find a safe haven amongst the hardships of the slums. The MRC educates students and parents and provides for them opportunities and hope - just as Edmund did in his steadfast commitment to providing liberation through education.

I cannot adequately express my love, respect and admiration for the people I encountered in the slums. Upon leaving Hobart I had a misguided notion that I was going to Africa to help them. In reality I was the one who was helped to see that we are brothers and sisters united by our faith, our sense of family and hope for a better tomorrow. As one mother told me as we chatted in her dark, damp mosquito infested house - ‘we cannot truly understand each other until we can look into each other’s eyes’.

The optimism of the African people is inspiring, their resilience and courage uplifting and their thirst for education and opportunities in simply unquenchable. It is borne of their faith and their intrinsic belief that God is with them, no matter how confronting, tragic or hopeless their circumstances may seem. This is what life is about - God is not in things, he is within us and the people we encounter. I pray that the young men of St Virgil’s will never lose sight of this.

So what do the people of the slums and the children of the MRC want from us? Most significantly they seek our prayerful support and recognition that they are not forgotten. They fervently hope that we wish to engage with them in a mutually respectful way. Yes they have problems and in a just world there would be a much more equitable sharing of resources. But the slums are their reality and we cannot help or save everyone.

What our African brothers and sisters truly seek is a ‘hand up, not a hand out’. Dollars are essential but they must be accompanied by active engagement through prayer, communication, interest and respect.

At St Virgil’s we can be people of deeds not words alone. Currently the money we raise funds the operation of the MRC for an entire year - staff, learning resources and lunch every day for the students! For most this is the only meal they will receive. The centre still relies upon other gifts but also makes do with some very old and outdated learning resources. My challenge to every student here is simple - can we do more? Through knocking on a few more doors, talking to family and friends can I raise $60 rather than $30? Be assured the difference this would make if every student could double their contribution would be enormous - it would fund an extra teacher, specialist occupational therapy equipment or some new sports equipment!

This is our mission, our faith and our calling at St Virgil’s and the challenge I put to all members of our community. Be people of action, of faith, of compassion and be assured that our collective prayers, financial and practical support can and does make an enormous difference to the children of MRC and our brothers and sisters of Africa.

Asante sana - thank you very much!

To find out how to sponsor a student from the Mary Rice Centre please visit the Centre’s website www.maryrickenya.com
Student Awards 2013

Subject Awards

Advanced English
Jonah Lilley

Agriculture
Nathan Blair

Art - Community
Liam Grace

Art - Visual
James Wagin

Athlete Development
Kobe Kemp

Business Studies
Jonty Killick

Drama
Jakob Riley

English
Jonty Killick

Film Studies
Liam Bennett

French
Jacob Arkley

Geography
Will Aggenbach

Health and Physical Education
William Ogle

History
Ryan Goldsworthy

ICT - Systems
Cody Felmingham

Introduction to Sociology & Psychology
Jacob Wilson

Japanese
Gabriel Miles

Landcare
Nicholas Dodge

Law in Action
Jordan Sutton

Mathematics
Nathan Percy

Mathematics Additional
Lachlan Chandler

Mathematics Methods
Davis Allie

Music
Davis Allie

Outdoor Education
James Wagin

Production Management
Ben Hammond

Recreational Leadership
Jacob Despard

Religious Education
Brady Jones

Rock Music Studies
Sebastian Roach

Science
William Ogle

Science Technology
Nicholas Palmer

Sport Science - Foundation
Davis Allie

Sport Science - Extension
Mitchell Hoare

VAL - Design Graphics
Will Aggenbach

VAL - Metal
Daniel Triflett

VAL - Mixed mediums
Nathan Blair

VAL - Wood
Luke Alderton

VAL - Food
Harrison Banks

VET - AgriFood Operations
Samuel Clark

VET - Automotive
Nathan Blair

VET - Construction
Joshua Davie

VET - Hospitality
Kade Debnam

Zarita Mattay Award
William Ogle

Danny Forster Award
James Prairie

Joshua Cooper Award
Luke Alderton

Edmund Rice Award
Luke Alderton

Virgilian of the Year Award
William Ogle

PB Murphy Award for Academic Excellence
William Ogle

Academic Excellence

Grade 7
Harry Blizzard
Andrew Bourke
Lachlan Budd
Luke Haas
Lucas Horton
Tyler Morris
Hudson Wakefield
Joshua Woodward
Felix Yeomans

Grade 8
Abhiram Balraddygari
Nicholas Ashlin
Liam Cooke
James Graham
Alec Hastie
Andrew Kang
Thomas Maksimovic
Thomas Pitt
Aiden Sullivan
Montgomery Piesse

Grade 9
Patrick Vout
Gabriel Miles
Lewis Arnold
Jakub Cis
Jonah Lilley
Matthew Barker
Cody Felmingham
Phillip Gardner
Daniel Groom

Junior School

College
Academic Award
Alexander Fracalossi

College
Sportsmanship Award
Tyler McGinniss

Junior School
Music Award
James Shepherd

Junior School Art Award
Joshua Bearman

Zarita Mattay Memorial Award for Writing
Alex Donald

Junior School Principal’s Award
Finlay Rossiter-Hill

Junior Edmund Rice Award
Marcus Turnbull

The Junior Virgilian
Liam Watling

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Bell Shakespeare Presentation

Miss Lucy Dalton

On Monday September 2, theatre company Bell Shakespeare visited students in Grade 9 and 10. Both year groups were studying William Shakespeare plays, so were very fortunate to have this cultural experience on our doorstep! Significant thematic concerns about Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth were explained to the students as well as some of Shakespeare’s poetic devices. It was amazing to see how four actors could effectively take on the persona of Shakespeare’s characters and the role of narrator.

Student Feedback
It was a great play by the players and it was amazing that one person can play so many different roles in the same play. I learnt a lot of things from the play and it has made it easier to understand Romeo and Juliet in class.

Bini Hagos (Year 9)

A funny and entertaining show. Well performed and very enjoyable!

Blake Pearce (Year 9)

The Bell Shakespeare Macbeth production was very insightful into the language and world of Shakespeare’s writings. It helped me to understand the language and the inner meanings of the play. It was very helpful and entertaining!

Sam Cornelius (Year 10)
**Gala Concert**

The audience at the 2013 Gala Concert enjoyed a wonderful night of entertainment from students in the Arts Department. The concert showcased work from the music (including ensembles, bands and choral groups), drama and art departments and reinforced the rich tradition of artistic excellence at the College. The Gala Concert provided a wonderful stage for all our artists to share their talent and to tangibly highlight the hard work and expertise of our staff in supporting students to perform at such a high level. The College received many emails complimenting the boys and thanking the College for providing such an enjoyable night of entertainment.

**Grade 6 Canberra Trip**

All the boys were full of anticipation for the trip.

**Places we visited:**
- Mint
- Parliament House - old and new
- Telstra Tower
- Zoo
- CSIRO
- AIS
- Bowling
- Electoral Learning Centre
- National Museum
- National Gallery
- Bike Ride around Lake Burley Griffin
- Swim at AIS
- Questacon
- War Memorial

All the boys and teachers very much enjoyed the great trip we were luckily supplied with, some of the favourite attractions:

**AIS**
All the fit sporting boys loved the interaction with the activity centre, not to mention the guided tour and the very popular and teeming with great souvenirs gift shop.

**Questacon**
Everyone interacted with the creative and spontaneous science galleries that Questacon was littered with. We even had to book the gift shop as it was so popular. The Free Fall was a favourite amongst the students.

**Australian National Mint**
The students greatly enjoyed hearing about how coins were processed and pressed, and the corny tour guide, Andrea, just made the experience even better.

**Australian National War Memorial**
This place was so massive and beautiful, full of amazing sandstone and rock architecture, historical memoirs and medals, vehicles of war, red dazzling Poppys. And these were just a fraction of the huge palace like war memorial. It was spectacular!

Special thanks to all the teachers and guides who made the trip possible: Mr Pinelli, Mr Waugh, Mrs Messer and Mrs Chambers.

**Austins Ferry Fair**

Due in some part to the fine, albeit chilly weather, a fantastic Fair was held at the Austins Ferry campus on Monday evening with a huge crowd enjoying all that was on offer. The Fair is another tangible sign of the strength of our community and its shared commitment to band together to raise funds that will further enhance the learning resources and opportunities available to all current and future students of the College.

The College sincerely thanks Fair Coordinator Mrs Julie Doran and her incredible team of hard working Parents and Friends for bringing the entire event together. Thank you also to Mrs Lynne Jones for her leadership of the P&F and to our own staff for their contributions to ensuring the evening was a great success. Thank you to everyone for your support of this event.

**Brain Bees**

Earlier this year, a number of Grade 10s participated in the Brain Bees challenge, representing St Virgil’s. The Brain Bees competition was a lot like a test, but based completely around neuroscience. The competition required that all boys study from a textbook and sit the test on a computer, answering a range of questions about the brain and the nervous system.

Four of these students were chosen to represent St Virgil’s in the second round of the brain bees challenge, later in the year. It was a big day of competition, with prizes up for grabs, the students getting a tour around the UTAS medical building, as well as a free breakfast and lunch! We encourage next year’s Grade 10s to participate in the competition, it was an interesting experience and worth it for the tour!
If you have never been “in” a school production, you could easily sit back and watch the enormous time and personal commitment people who are “in” the show, put in to make it work. One could look at the infectious enthusiasm the cast, band and staff have for a production and almost think what they are doing is crazy. Perhaps we have all lost it….or perhaps those of us involved in school musicals have seen just how incredible and life-changing they can be.

After teaching music for the last 15 years and being involved in eight school musicals, the bigger learnings that I see happen, far outweigh the show itself in the end. In 20 years time when you have forgotten the words to the songs from the show, you will probably still be a better person from doing it. This good stuff sticks with you. It becomes you.

When you are 15 years old and pushing yourself to learn two hours of music, from memory, and then perform that on stage to an audience of your parents, teachers and peers, sometimes in a funny costume; you
could get a bit overwhelmed by that. But kids do this all the time, in many schools, and carry those learned skills and character traits on into every facet of their lives. Words like “persistence”, “courage”, “resilience”, “understanding”, “teamwork” and “forgiveness” all come to my mind when thinking about the really big things we learn in projects like this. As a parent when I consider the things I really want my daughter to learn, those words above are probably more important than all the other stuff you are going to learn at school anyway. And in a musical you get to learn them all while in a funny consume while singing some old song about Jesus!

It took the creative team ages to choose what show to do this year. We knew the last St Virgil’s musical was such a hit, so obviously we had to put on something spectacular. The trouble was, most of the really big spectacular shows are written for adult singers and actors, and well, our oldest performers are just 16. Probably three months of discussions led us to our final decision of Jesus Christ Superstar. And with the talent this show has pulled out of the woodwork, we are sure glad we chose it.

The creative team for this show, although experienced in other places, had never actually worked together. In fact we only really met each other in December last year when Mr Willie Chambers the Director turned up at the school. I had only been here 11 months as well at that stage so it was going to be a complete unknown how it would work. Lucky for us, along with Gary Mansfield (choreographer), Mathew Derick (sound & lighting), Imogen Gray (assistant director and costume design), Janelle Stowe (vocal director), and Leesa Baker (hair and makeup design), Br Peter Flint (photography and theology) and Mark Waddington (publicity), we were able to all come together just for this show. The band consists of St Virgils students, staff, old boys, and some of Hobarts very best rock musicians who wanted to be involved in this production.

I cannot thank all of the staff involved in this production enough. Committed, passionate teachers and parents who have volunteered to tackle Jesus Christ Superstar, mostly in out of hours time, and always done so with enthusiasm, brilliant ideas, and often a smile to go with it.

Thanks to the parents of cast members who have entrusted the artistic education of your children to us! I hope we have done a good job.

Thank you for encouraging them to be in the show in the first place, getting them to practice, driving them to rehearsals and for your ongoing support when it got a bit tough for them.

And finally my biggest thanks goes to the cast! What a team! Well over 100 hours of rehearsing is no small commitment. It has been a real joy seeing you grow as musicians, singers and actors through this show. Some amazing talent has developed the past 6 months. I sincerely hope you take all the big learnings from this show with you.

Words like “persistence”, “courage”, “resilience”, “understanding”, “teamwork” and “forgiveness” all come to my mind when thinking about the really big things we learn in projects like this. As a parent when I consider the things I really want my daughter to learn, those words above are probably more important than all the other stuff you are going to learn at school anyway. And in a musical you get to learn them all while in a funny consume while singing some old song about Jesus!

It took the creative team ages to choose what show to do this year. We knew the last St Virgil’s musical was such a hit, so obviously we had to put on something spectacular. The trouble was, most of the really big spectacular shows are written for adult singers and actors, and well, our oldest performers are just 16. Probably three months of discussions led us to our final decision of Jesus Christ Superstar. And with the talent this show has pulled out of the woodwork, we are sure glad we chose it.

The creative team for this show, although experienced in other places, had never actually worked together. In fact we only really met each other in December last year when Mr Willie Chambers the Director turned up at the school. I had only been here 11 months as well at that stage so it was going to be a complete unknown how it would work. Lucky for us, along with Gary Mansfield (choreographer), Mathew Derick (sound & lighting), Imogen Gray (assistant director and costume design), Janelle Stowe (vocal director), and Leesa Baker (hair and makeup design), Br Peter Flint (photography and theology) and Mark Waddington (publicity), we were able to all come together just for this show. The band consists of St Virgils students, staff, old boys, and some of Hobarts very best rock musicians who wanted to be involved in this production.

I cannot thank all of the staff involved in this production enough. Committed, passionate teachers and parents who have volunteered to tackle Jesus Christ Superstar, mostly in out of hours time, and always done so with enthusiasm, brilliant ideas, and often a smile to go with it.

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Visit by Students from Yaizu

Mrs Yvonne Hennessy

St Virgil’s College has been actively involved with Yaizu annual student visits for many years, providing educational, cultural and home stay opportunities. Mt Carmel College and St Mary’s College also participate in the Yaizu student visits and all Colleges work co-operatively with the Hobart City Council who arranged for a cultural excursion to Bonorong Park with a barbecue for all the Japanese students, teachers, host brothers and sisters.

This year we welcomed Shotaro Ishigaki, Hiroaki Urasaki and Ayumu Hashigaya to participate in a wide variety of lessons and school activities. Ishigaki, Hiroaki and Ayumu presented our Acting Principal, Mr Terry Blizzard, with cultural gifts from the Yaizu City Council on their arrival. Host families were also presented with cultural gifts.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our host brothers: Nathaniel Graham, Zac Leon and William Connolly for their outstanding assistance and friendship extended to Shotaro, Hiroaki and Ayumu.
Also special thanks to Jennifer and Peter Graham, Olga and Lee Leon, and Tracey and Andrew Connolly who were amazing host families.

Our visitors appreciated the welcome and kindness extended to them from many of our Japanese students and teachers. Mr Sakurai, the English Teacher and Mr Nozawa, Tour Director, wished to extend their sincere thanks for the opportunity to visit and explore our school facilities and meeting students.

Mrs Hennessy, Mr O’Keefe, host brothers and sisters were invited to the Lord Mayor’s Reception on July 31 to welcome the 11 Yaizu students and teachers. Council Staff, Committee Members, representatives from Mount Carmel College, St Mary’s College also attended the official welcome. St Virgil’s College is also provided with homestay, intercultural activities, official receptions and school visits when we travel to Yaizu on School Excursions. The development of intercultural understanding and making new friends from Yaizu is a wonderful opportunity for our students.

Community Race Day

Another successful community event was held last Sunday at the Elwick Racecourse with the running of the St Virgil’s College Community Race Day. It was wonderful to see such a broad cross section of our community in attendance including parents, staff, old scholars, corporate partners and friends of the College. A great day was had by all - and a few winners backed... With some horses ‘still running’!

Sincere thanks to all members of the community who contributed to make the day such an enjoyable and successful one.
College Website

In September the College launched its new web site and it has been pleasing to see a number of parents use it to communicate with the College. Please take the time to visit the site and utilise some of the functions inherent within it. Some functions that could make life easier for parents include:

- Notifying student absence via email;
- Ordering clothing from the Uniform Shop;
- Finding out the latest news from the College - for example our Grand Final football win;
- Paying fees and charges online;
- Access twitter via the website;
- Contact the College using the contact form - it could be information about an injury to your son or a request for school work for an ill student;
- Download dates from the website straight to your phone or tablet calendar; and
- Enjoy searching through the photo albums.

Please take the time to visit the new site at www.stvirgils.tas.edu.au As ever we would greatly appreciate your feedback which can be made through the site - 'contact us'.
Junior School

Junior School: Captain’s Speech

Nicholas O’Connell

This year has gone very quickly for me as the Junior School Captain. I’m sure it has gone quickly for all the other boys in Grade 6 especially in their role as leaders of the Junior School campus. I would really like to thank all the teachers and other staff for the support and help they give to every boy that makes everything from sporting events to our class lessons and other extra activities possible.

This year we had more boys enrol at the Junior School so an extra class was added, making six classes altogether. We also had three new class teachers join the staff this year: Mr Tim Birlisiel, Ms Showers and Mr Chris Vaugh. Mrs Jillian Norton also joined the staff as music teacher, Mrs Megan Williamson as Japanese teacher and Mrs Teresa Geason in a part-time capacity. We also welcomed a new Head of Junior School, Mr Andrew Pinelli. Mr Pinelli and I were both new to our roles which meant we would do a lot of learning in our roles together, with the assistance of all the other teachers of course!

The Junior School Vice-Captain, Alexander Fracalossi and I have worked together on many other activities and events in the past, before we were elected Junior School Captain and Vice-Captain. This helped us co-operate with each other, when we went to different functions to represent the Junior School or just organising a speech or other College activity.

During my past four years at St Virgil’s College I have grown as a person, a leader and a friend. My main highlight during my four years would definitely be the different camps I have attended with the other boys in my grade. The camps have taught us, first hand, so much history and other significant information and also let us experience the different attractions that our state has to offer. Our Grade 6 excursion to Canberra is certainly a memory that I will have for many years to come.
The different subjects and other co-curricular activities that St Virgil’s offer is just amazing. I know that I have tried to do as many different activities as I can which has made me a better student academically, physically, socially and personally.

This year has been very busy as we have participated in many events beyond the Junior School fence but have also hosted many events held at school. These have included; discos with St Mary’s College, the Junior School Fair which was on a Sunday this year, Swimming Carnivals, Cross Country Carnivals, Athletics Carnivals, the IPSHA Leadership Day in Launceston as well as a range of after school sports and different activities like Tournament of the Minds. We have also been able to witness some talented boys who have achieved so much on the sporting field, achievement in academic assessments or in the creative arts - especially the bands.

This year every boy received an iPad as an important educational tool to help with research and a wide range of other activities that we have learnt about this year at school. It was a great way that the Junior School could keep up with the progress of modern technology. We have also received equipment donated by the Parents and Friends Association. The main donations to the Junior School this year have been the resurfacing of the Top Court with artificial grass, the installation of Apple TVs into every classroom and the upgrading of the audio visual equipment in the Hall. All of these items have further improved the facilities at the Junior School and made our learning experiences even more enjoyable.

It is now the end of primary school for the Grade 6s who are now heading to Grade 7. I cannot wait to go to the Senior School next year and experience life out there.

I would finally like to say that I was honoured to be the Junior School Captain for 2013 and I wish the Junior School Captain and all the other Grade 6 boys for 2014 the very best. It is a great role to be honoured with and it has let me experience many opportunities during this past year.

**P&F Father’s Day Breakfast**

A really enjoyable breakfast was enjoyed by many dads, and some grandads, at the 2013 Father’s Day Breakfast hosted by the Junior School P&F. Many mums came in early to cook up a feast for the dads who enjoyed watching their sons use many of the facilities that are on offer at the Junior School Campus. A real highlight, though, was the fantastic Art Exhibition that was on display in the Hall. This exhibition featured work from every boy and is the compilation of the year’s work to date. Congratulations and thank you to Ms Stary, and her team of helpers, for putting on such a great display.

Each year the students collect donations and bring them to the school. They collect shoe boxes and cover them, and parents and friends make iced Christmas cakes – one for each box. The boys pack the boxes in a process line.

“It may just be a Christmas box but when you’re at your lowest ebb, the sign that someone cares about what’s happening in your world could be enough to bring about hope or change, or simply feel good for a moment,” Ms Allen said.

“The boys do a fantastic job each year and I am so proud if their work.”

The 92 boxes were delivered by Greg Casimaty in his Tas Bash car.

**Boys ‘man up’ for a good cause**

The Mercury on December 19 featured an article about the work of Junior School boys in providing much needed help to the men of Bethlehem House at Christmas time.

It was a case of the boys helping the men this week when St Virgil’s College delivered 92 Christmas cakes to Bethlehem House.

For the past four years parent Mandy Allen, students, staff, and parents and friends of St Virgil’s have made Christmas Hampers for the residents.

Ms Allen started the cake drive when someone she knew was struggling and turned to the male shelter.

“I became brutally aware of the lack of services and support for men,” Ms Allen said.

She said St Virgil’s junior school, in the same suburb as Bethlehem House, embraced the concept with open arms.

The Christmas drive has brought awareness of the existence of the shelter and men’s issues to the boys’ attention.

“It is initiating in this younger generation the need for men to support men and how to network to help one another,” Ms Allen said.

**Flute players visit TSO**

**Mrs Jillian Norton**

On Friday July 26 our Grade 5 and 6 Concert Band flute players went to see a concert by the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra in the Federation Concert Hall. It was a very special concert and opportunity for our boys for a number of reasons.

Firstly, one of the pieces being played was a Tasmanian premiere of a new piece by Australian composer Paul Stanhope. Secondly, this piece featured a soloist; the handsome, young and incredibly talented principal piccolo player of TSO, Lloyd Hudson. Thirdly, the boys got to meet Lloyd Hudson in person after the performance, ask him questions and get their photo taken with him. Last but not least, they got a backstage tour after the concert with TSO trumpet player Mark Bain (arguably even more handsome than Lloyd…and he happens to be my husband!).

Mark introduced the boys to the timpani player of the orchestra who demonstrated most passionately his precious timpani which featured quite prominently in Haydn’s Drum Roll Symphony No. 103. Mark also demonstrated with great enthusiasm his impressive collection of trumpets by playing random requests of...
well-known tunes such as the chicken dance, Star Wars theme and ‘When the Saints Go Marching In’.

All in all, the boys did St Virgil’s College proud, standing out in the crowd with their smart formal uniform and being polite and courteous to everyone around them. It was an absolute joy for me to take my flute students to see this concert. Most had never seen an orchestra perform live. I look forward to another opportunity to take a group of our talented musicians to see our State’s beloved TSO.

Book Week Models

This year’s Book Week theme, ‘Read Across the Universe’, lends itself so well to space. With this in mind, Ms Stary and Mrs Sutton challenged the boys at the Junior School to create something using as much recycled materials as possible in the process. Many boys took this challenge up and have produced some very imaginative and creative displays obviously using recycled materials. Well done boys for so enthusiastically taking up the challenge.

Grade 3 Camp - Montgomery Park, Conningham

On Monday September 23, Grade 3 went for their first overnight camp during their time at St Virgil’s. The students and staff had a thoroughly enjoyable time and arrived at school on Tuesday afternoon very tired. On Monday we visited the Channel Heritage Museum and Dru Point playground. This was followed by a visit to the Grandvewe Cheese Factory where students learnt about how cheese was made using sheep’s milk. In the afternoon we also walked the beautiful Snug Falls bushwalking track.

On Tuesday, students participated in a range of craft, sports and beach activities organised by parents and staff. Many thanks go to those who assisted during the camp; Mrs Leesa Maxwell, Mr Ross Aulich,
Mrs Kelly Read, Mrs Diane Jones, Mr Chris Lukianenko and Mr Mark Westbury. A special thanks must go to Mr Les Strong who organised all meals throughout the camp, all boys (and staff) were very thankful for the wonderful meals provided. Thanks to all for providing the class with such a great range of enjoyable educational activities and congratulations to the students who participated with great enthusiasm and with a positive attitude over the two days.

Junior School Fair

In a change to tradition the 2013 Fair was held on a Sunday, with all visitors enjoying the sunshine and the company of many in our College community at the Junior School Fair. From fairy floss to the chocolate wheel (with special guest host, a very tanned and relaxed Mr Messer), to extreme make-overs and face painting, the spirit of the day was well and truly captured. There was a very hotly contested auction of wonderful student artworks and as always the boys were very enthusiastic as they took charge of their class based stalls.

The College sincerely thanks Mr Michael Moschogianis, President of the Junior School P&F and the hard working members of the Junior School Parents and Friends Association. Thank you also to staff and the many others who assisted to make this a very special event that adds a great richness to our College community.

Clarence Eisteddfod

In October many of the Junior School students competed in the Clarence Eisteddfod. The boys in the choir competed very well achieving high praise for their efforts from the adjudicators. Unfortunately, this year, they were not in the final placings but, with continued development based on the adjudicators report, things are looking, and sounding, great for the future.

The Grade 5 and Grade 6 Bands competed in the Clarence Eisteddfod also. The boys performed very well in their category which was “Ensemble or Band – Primary School” against some very good opposition. After all performances the Grade 6 Band was placed first and the Grade 5 Band placed second. Very well done to all the boys, their teachers and tutors - we are all very proud of you all.

National Boys Choir of Australia Hobart Tour

The College was afforded the great privilege of billeting members of the choir during their three day visit to Hobart. The National Boys Choir joined with boys from the Junior School and Senior School choirs for a workshop in St Mary’s Cathedral. This was a wonderful opportunity for the boys who displayed their learning and talent at a stunning performance at St Mary’s Cathedral in front of a very appreciative audience. A special thank you also to all the families who have opened their homes to billet members of the National Boys Choir to make this rich learning experience possible.

Sport

Dr Ian Lillico

The Value of Sport for Boys

Sport (done correctly) is a valuable way for your son to get life-skills that he may not get through other avenues.

Sport should teach our sons:
- How to be a good winner;
- How to be a good loser;
- How everything improves through practice;
- How to give their best and work hard; and
- How to work towards his personal goals.

When picking a sport for your son - you should actually pick the coach! Coaches transform boys from isolated competitors into bonded teammates. Young boys often prefer to work alone, but the right coach can assist him to work with others towards a mutual goal. The coach should be a mentor to your son and teach him the skills of getting on with others and striving for excellence.

The wrong coach, however, can turn your son off sport forever. Coaches who put down boys or call them names when they do the wrong thing are to be avoided, as boys can be seriously affected by such negatives and often internalise these jibes.

One of the greatest things sport can teach our sons is how to fail or lose gracefully. Boys hate to fail or lose and a well-constructed team shares that sense of loss when a boy is bowled out at cricket or misses a goal in football. The loss becomes a communal one in a well-trained team and other team-mates share the sense of failure with boy - again though excellent team building by the coach. Dealing with loss or failure is a problem for males, generally, and if the boy is part of a good team this will help him throughout life.

A further advantage of sport is emotional expression where his sorrows, joys etc are refined through active participation. Close bonding should also occur between him and his team-mates and between him and his coach - giving him good peer and senior role models. With a good coach, boys become more trusting of adults and form closer associations with them. Boys often reminisce on their sporting teams later on in life as some of those bonds last a lifetime.

Special Olympics

On Wednesday September 11 a number of students participated with great enthusiasm and skill at the Special Olympics Day at the Moonah Sports Stadium. The team performed well and were a great credit to the College.

Oliver Nolan won bronze in the Indoor Bowls. In accepting his award he summed up the sentiments of the day - “It was fun!”
St Virgil’s College
Four Hour Mountain Bike Race - The Launch of our Track

September 1 was not only Father’s Day, the first day of spring, but also the long awaited and much anticipated ‘Dirt Devils’ 4-hour mountain bike race at the St Virgil’s College Austins Ferry mountain bike track. Eight of our keenest riders took to the grid in teams of two and tried to complete as many laps of their home track as they could in four hours. In testing conditions (an unseasonal 24 degrees) the powerhouse combination of Mitchell Gittus and Kade Applebee emerged exhausted but victorious in the Junior Division. All the other St Virgil’s teams were quite close behind and should be very proud of their excellent efforts.

This race was a great event that showcased not only our fantastic MTB track, but also the College and its generous community. All of the parents, staff, students and Old Virgilians who came out to support on the day deserve plenty of thanks for helping to make the event a success. A special mention must go to Pete Gittus, Gerard Applebee and Kurt Simaan who have all been tireless in their efforts - be it helping out and riding on Thursday nights, or coming in on weekends assisting the boys with track work. Also special thanks must go to the staff who generously gave their time to the coffee and cake stall - particularly to Mrs Wakefield for her butterscotch biscuits which were a hit with everybody. Over a $180 was raised for the Mary Rice Centre and the Menzies Research Institute’s Cancer Research group.

The boys are excitedly looking forward to hosting more MTB races at our fantastic track in the future.

Sailing Success
Br Peter Flint

Great Success for the sailors over the holiday break with the SVC team finishing third in the National Team Racing Titles,
to Scotch College in Perth and St James’ College in South Australia. The boys won races against both these teams during the competition but not enough of them.

Helms for the Titles were: Jonny Cooper (GYC), Tommy Cooper and Angus Price from SVC.

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

Coach was Olly Nicholas whose knowledge and skills in Team Racing earned us the success.

An additional success was the winning of the Inaugural Tasmanian Schools Match Racing Series. This is one boat against one boat. Keel boats are used. Our winning crew was:

Jonny Cooper (Helm), Angus Price (Main Sheet and spinnaker trimmer), Blake Nicholson (Jib) and Tommy Cooper (foredeck).

Interdominion Team Racing Championships, Moreton Bay 2013

Recently six boys from SVC and an old scholar from GYC were one of three open teams selected to represent Australia against three open New Zealand teams as well as two Australian all-girl teams, at the 2013 Inter-Dominion team racing championships organised by the Royal Queensland Yachting Squadron and sailed on the waters of Moreton Bay Queensland.

The team consisted of Johnny Cooper (Team Captain and Helm), Tommy Cooper (Vice Captain and helm) Angus Price (helm) and Blake Nicholson, Joshua Eggins, Harry Dwyer and Jack Kennedy as crew. Their selection to the Australian team was as a result of having won the State titles and then placing third in the National championships. This result was achieved as a result of the considerable talent that the boys possess, and the enormous amount of hard work that they put into sailing all through the cold Tasmanian winter.

The team was accompanied by old scholar and Coach Ollie Nicholas and fathers Brendan Dwyer, John Kennedy and Darren Eggins. Mr Chris Thomson, himself an experienced sailor was the teacher in charge of the team.

Racing on day one was held in initially ideal conditions and the SVC team were holding their own. As expected, St Joseph’s College from South Australia and the Kiwi teams were the ones to beat. During the day, the breeze gradually built and the heavier Kiwi teams began to dominate. When the wind speed reached 25 knots, the race officer called the event off for the day. The boys all slept well that night - after eating everything in sight.

Day two began with a light and variable breeze. The SVC team started the day well wining most of their races including races against two of the Kiwi teams but still not able to beat the third one and St Joseph’s.

Day three and the competitors were again greeted with light winds that delayed racing. When eventually racing began, SVC had a day of mixed fortune, but managed to beat the third New Zealand Team. On an international level, the team results were too close to call and the regatta finished with no clear winner and we had to wait for the presentation dinner to find out who had won.

That night, the teams were all in attendance and St Joseph’s (Australia) were announced clear and very deserved winners. Kerikeri (NZ) were second, Westlakes Boys High school (NZ) Third, Mahurangi College (NZ) fourth, SVC fifth, The Friends school sixth, Moreton Bay College seventh and Fahan School Eighth.

The results were very close with SVC losing equal fourth spot to Mahurangi on a count back and third placed Westlakes was only one point in front of SVC. Australia emerged as the winners of the Trans Tasman Teams Racing Challenge Trophy and so the Aussies teams celebrated vociferously with the Kiwis accepting defeat graciously.

All in all, the event was very successful and our predominantly young team gained much valuable experience from the regatta. Well done boys on your racing skills and exceptional behaviour in representing the College and Australian sailing.

I would like to thank Mr James Dalton and the school for the considerable support shown to the team during the campaign. I would also like to thank the parents for getting the boys to training and for their help with fundraising, especially Suzi Kennedy who co-ordinated our transport and found and then organised the magnificent accommodation that was the envy of all the other teams. We eagerly look forward to the 2014 racing season!

SATIS Athletics

In November the SVC Athletics Team competed in the State SATIS Athletics in Launceston. In what proved to be an outstanding day for the College, all the boys are to be congratulated on not only their performances, but their whole approach to the season. The win was set up by excellent commitment to morning trainings and great competition in lead-up events.

After many great performances throughout the day, the scores for each age group were read out:

**Under 13**
- 1st Place St Virgil’s College

**Under 14**
- 1st Place St Virgil’s College

**Under 15**
- 1st Place St Virgil’s College

**Under 16**
- 1st Place St Virgil’s College

**Junior Boys Shield**
- 1st Place St Virgil’s College

Congratulations to Jesse Clements who set a new competition record in the Under 15 javelin competition and to Athletics Captain Jacob Despard who won the 100 and 200 metres double as well as bringing the Under 16 relay team home in first place.
1st XVIII Football

Well done to the College’s 1st XVIII who comprehensively won the ‘Tassie Hawks Cup’ with a resounding 61 point win over Queechey HS.

The team coached by Mr Mark Beck enjoyed an undefeated season.

SVC 11.10.76 defeated QHS 2.3.15


Best: Nick Dodge, Jordan Hayden, Heath Thompson

Grade 9 Cricket: Coyle - Clingeleffer Cup

St Virgil’s 6/202
(Liam Devlin 84 not out, Jacksyn Mann 25, Henry Pritchard 23)

Defeated

St Patrick’s College 10/99
(Liam Devlin 4/6 off 4.4 overs, George Cripps 2/15 off 6 overs)

In December the St Virgil’s Grade 9 cricket team played a team from St Patrick’s College, Launceston. In its second year the annual match is recognition of the College’s shared Edmund Rice Traditions and recognises the long tradition of friendly sporting rivalry over many years. The Cup is named after Tim Coyle (SPC) and Sean Clingeleffer (SVC) who moved from school cricket into playing and coaching the State. Sean was an integral player in the inaugural Tasmanian Sheffield Shield winning team.

After winning the inaugural match in 2012, the St Virgil’s boys were keen to retain the cup. Captain Liam Devlin started the day by winning the toss and elected to bat, and the team didn’t look back. After a 50 run opening partnership between Jacksyn Mann and Henry Pritchard, the batsmen continued to build the total despite the slow outfield. Liam Devlin and Liam Tollard-Williams combined for the largest
partnership of the day, scoring quickly in the last ten overs, ensuring we posted an imposing total.

With confidence high the bowlers, backed up by a great team fielding effort, restricted the St Patrick’s batsmen, never letting them challenge the required run rate. As the required rate increased wickets began to tumble, and an easy 100 run victory was secured. Liam Devlin was a deserving Man of the Match recipient, however all boys are to be congratulated on their performance and most importantly the manner in which they represented the College.

1st XI Cricket Tour to Victoria

The St Virgil’s College cricket team concluded a highly successful tour of Victoria with a strong 63 run win over The Geelong College. The game was played in exceptional conditions with many boys describing it as the best ground they had ever played on - complete with an electronic scoreboard!

The team played excellent cricket throughout the tour but more significantly were outstanding ambassadors for the College receiving high praise everywhere they went. The feedback from host families from St Patrick’s College Ballarat was particularly glowing and highlights the strong links we share through our charism as a Catholic school for boys in the tradition of Edmund Rice. The tour in its second year continues to improve as a cricketing and educational experience for boys and will be further refined for 2014.

Match Details

Game 1
T20 v St Bernard’s College Essendon (EREA) SVC 4-91 defeated SBC 3-88
Liam Devlin 38 retired, Caiden Workman 17 and Joe Randall 10. Lachlan McLeod made 46, Caiden Workman 14, Jacksyn Mann 11 and Joe Randall 10. Alex Blair set the tone bowling fast and straight and we were always in control of their run chase. Our fielding was much better today on the carpet like outfield. Jacob Arkley took 3-23, Austin Keeling 2-11, Caiden Workman 1-5, Brad Percey 1-10 and 2 run outs. Nick Hayden, Reece Williams, Declan Waddington and George Cripps bowled tight, disciplined lines to restrict the opposition to under 100 in an emphatic win against a high quality side.

The trip was a great experience for all participants and the boys are to be commended upon their outstanding behaviour and sportsmanship. We eagerly look forward to the 2014 tour and the possibility of these schools visiting us in the near future.

In reply the batsman scored at a steady rate reaching the target in the 34th over. Lachlan McLeod made 38, Liam Devlin 16 and Luke Webb finished the job off in no uncertain terms with a hard hitting 47 from 42 balls. Nathan Percey finished the innings with 14 not out.

Captain Isaac Salter led the team extremely well and was very proud to receive the Di Venuto - Saunders Shield - his final accolade in a highly decorated cricket career with St Virgil’s College. Thank you to all Grade 10s for the way in which they have represented the College over the past four years. Good luck to each player as they continue with their studies and development as cricketers in school and club cricket!

Congratulations to:

• Jarrod Hunter of Grade 7 returned from his trip to Brisbane for the Junior National Championships with three Gold Medals and a staggering nine new championship records! Jarrod also competed in the Indoor Nationals over the weekend won the Gold Medal for the second year running.

• Jack Welch of Grade 10 represented Tasmania in the National Under 16 State Hockey Championships held at the Tasmanian Hockey Centre in August.

• Well done to Jonty Killick who won the Grade 10 SSATIS Badminton Boys singles plate final at the Schools Championships. A wonderful achievement given the depth of the competition and the demands of the playing schedule.

• Well done to Ainsleigh Gray and Oscar Bannerman who were selected in the Tasmanian Road Cycling Team to compete at Wagga Wagga in the National Junior Road Cycling Championships.

Victory over Hutchins! 1st XI Cricket

The St Virgil’s College cricket team maintained the Di Venuto-Saunders Shield with an emphatic seven wicket win against The Hutchins School. Bowling first the team bowled tight and disciplined lines and wickets fell regularly on an excellent batting pitch, restricting Hutchins to 10/130. Liam Devlin took 2/9, Nathan Percey 2/20 and Sam Leon 2/31.
• Tom Rasmussen and Harvey Bessell represented Tasmania in the National Under 12 Hockey Championships in Canberra.

• Will Oliver and Aiden Van Staden of Grade 7 were selected in the Under 13 Boys State Hockey Team.

• Gobindraj Gill represented Tasmania in the National Under 17 Hockey titles in Darwin.

• Codie Mann, Abraham Ngawhare and Callum Cooper-Ngawhare were selected to play for the Tasmanian State Rugby Union Under 14 team in September in Melbourne.

• Callum Polanowski was awarded the Most Valuable Player in the Grade 7/8 Schools water polo competition for the 2013 winter season.

• Jack Fairhurst, Bini Hagos and Jed Morgan represented Tasmania with distinction at the National Cross Country titles at Symonds Plains. All ran excellent times with Bini being part of the Bronze Medal Under 18 boys relay team.

• Grade 9 student James Freeman who followed up his win in the 2013 national titles in July by winning the Tasmanian State .22 calibre Three Positional and Field Rifle title last weekend. His brother Harry (Grade 7) placed third. James was introduced to the sport by teacher Mr James Ayers and competes each weekend at the Tolosa Park range.

• Liam Roach won the Tasmanian Amateur Boxing Under 36kg Championship of Tasmania.
Sport Awards

Athletics
Junior Athlete Award
Dusty Rankin
Most Points - SATIS Carnival
Dusty Rankin
Most Determined Athlete
Mitchell Salter
Captain of Winning SATIS Team
Mitchell Salter
Jacob Despard

Soccer
Best & Fairest
Ryan Goldsworthy

Rugby
Best & Fairest
Zach Mahmoud

Tennis
Most Successful Player
Daniel Groom

Cricket
Michael DiVenuto Trophy
Caleb Jewell

Badminton
Best & Fairest
Jonty Killick

Rowing
Scott Brennan Trophy
Will White

Basketball
Best & Fairest
Heath Thompson

Swimming
Most Successful Swimmer
Thomas Gauden

Sailing
Most Outstanding Sailor
Tommy Cooper

Football
Best & Fairest
Jordan Hayden

Obituaries

Mr John Messer RIP

Following John’s passing on Friday December 6 the Messer family gathered in Perth to celebrate the life of a much loved and admired husband, father, grandfather, brother and mentor.

On the following Monday morning, students from both campuses gathered to pray for the repose of the soul of Mr John Messer, father of our Principal Mr Damian Messer. John Messer passed away in Perth on Friday afternoon and the students and staff of the College were united in praying for Mr Messer and his entire family at this sad and difficult time.

As many of the boys know, Mr Messer has often spoken with great emotion about his dad who he missed terribly living on the opposite side of the continent. He described him as a quiet and gentle man with a very deep devotion to his faith. He was a devoted and much loved Grandfather to Tom Grade 6 and Meg, father in law of Assistant Head of Junior School Jo and the patriarch of a large extended family, all of whom take great inspiration from his well lived life.

I am sure all in our community join us in offering our sincere condolences to the whole Messer family and as the staff and students did on Monday, pray: “God of mercy, through the resurrection of your Son you have given us hope of eternal life. We place the Messer family in your care. Bring them to a place of light and peace so that even as they mourn they know comfort and peace”.

Pictured below: In 2012 old scholars Jack Harrison and Alec Paterson were photographed with rowers from Trinity College Perth at the John Messer Rowing Shed.

James Dunsby
College Head Prefect 1997

The College was deeply saddened to learn of the tragic passing of James after a military training accident in the UK. James was a much loved member of the College community and continued to have close ties with his peers, despite living overseas and the demands of his work. He was a great mate to many boys from the Class of 1997, had a significant impact as a leader upon others at the College.

The passing of a young, fit, much loved and respected man with the world at his feet, is hard to understand and accept. Whilst we take some comfort that he died doing something he loved, our prayers continue to go out to his wife, family and friends.
1. James Dunby RIP
2/3. Construction of the new Boat Shed at New Town Bay
4. Callum Pokowski was awarded the Most Valuable Player for Grade 7/8 water polo this season!
6. SSATS Athletics
7. Drew Aggenbach recently graded for National Level 7 gymnastics which means he now qualifies for National Titles in Sydney in 2014
I begin this report ever mindful of what many at the end of any year, “Where has the year disappeared to?” This may be a case to defend promises that may not have been able to be fulfilled or activities that were simply unable to be completed. In the case of the Old Virgilians Association as President, I too query the disappearance of 2013 but I do this proudly in that the Association has worked hard and achieved a great during the year and has grown to have important projects in progress that will certainly be relevant to the past scholars of St Virgil’s and the Tasmanian community.

I am indebted to my Deputy President Mr Dan Reardon for the his support and guidance throughout the year as well as to my fellow Committee members, Peter Imlach, Rene Sluyters, Bruce Woods, David Clark, Bill Roach, Michael Ball, Graeme Rainbow, our North West representative Kim Chen as well as our Northern representative Mr Michael McGee. 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 committee meets monthly in Sandy Bay at the Catholic Parish Centre and is grateful to Associations Chaplain, Fr Michael Tate for his hospitality as well as his spiritual support and very wise counsel.

In the last few weeks the Association has welcomed into its ranks the 2013 Grade 10 students. To be invited by the Principal of the College, Mr Damian Messer, to have past scholars be involved in celebrating the time that the Grade 10 students have had at the College has provided me with a reassurance of the relevance the Association. The Old Virgilians participating with College students, staff and family members at the mass celebrating the feast of St Virgil was a
powerful experience. The service began with the lighting of the Remembrance Candle a reminder to all, of those scholars who attended the College that have passed away especially in the last twelve months. This was indeed close to the hearts of these young men as only a few weeks prior they had lost one their own and who along with all Virgilians will not be forgotten.

2013 did see a number of achievements.

- A Memorandum of Understanding being formalised between the College and the Association enabling a closer working relationship for the betterment of the Association and College.

- The Associations Constitution being reviewed and changes being implemented.

- A procedure established of tabling a Memorial log book of all known deceased Virgilians along with a liturgy incorporated the OVA Remembrance Candle at Associations events.

- Providing funding for a number of scholarships that are given to students of St Virgil’s to assist with fees and activities.

- Providing assistance with fund raising for Edmund Rice Camps.

- Development of the Association’s Web page.

- Representation on the St Virgil’s College Board along with the Tasmanian Edmund Rice Network.

- The Annual Dinner/Heritage Roll of Honour and Associations Life Membership.

- The Old Virgilians Annual Mass celebrated by the Associations Chaplain Fr Michael Tate along with priests who are also past scholars themselves or who are connected pastorally to the College.

Our meetings continue to focus on what do we recognise our role to be and what changes do we need to make in order to remain relevant and strong? I do want to hear the thoughts of scholars young and old who feel that they may contribute to 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.

In conclusion as we enter a new year I would encourage you to keep in mind the college maxim as you take on the challenges that life presents By Deeds not Words.

St Virgil’s Old Scholars Football Club

Tom Pilkington - President

2013 was a challenging year on the field for our senior side which missed unfortunately missed out on the finals this year. While we had a terrific pre-season and a great first half of the year, we unfortunately dropped away in the latter part of the year to miss the finals in the seniors.

Richard Robinson took the reins as senior coach in October 2012 and along with assistants Ken Hall and Mark Beck, brought a new outlook at our group and to training.

On behalf of the club, I would also like to thank Richie for his efforts in his first year as our senior coach. He put everything into the role and went well beyond what was expected of him in the role, particularly in relation to finding sponsors and we are extremely grateful for that. Things didn’t necessarily go our way this year but I have every confidence things are looking up coming into the 2014 pre-season.

Ken was clearly the stand out player for us this year which lead to him winning our best and fairest and coming second in the Association Best and Fairest which was a fantastic effort and well deserved. Ken has advised the club that he will be hanging up the boots at the end of 2013 and we would like to thank him and recognise his contribution for the year.

Mark decided to step away from the club to take up a great opportunity to further his coaching career at Hobart. He has been at the club for six years and was the Club’s Captain for the last four years. I know this was a very difficult decision for Mark but he was nothing but professional in the way he conducted himself in moving to Hobart.

As I said to Mark from the outset, he goes with our blessing and to use his words, we wish him all the best. He has been a great servant of our footy club over the years, as Club Captain and I know the decision has been very hard as he truly loves the place and its characters.

In the Reserves we had a great year under Benny Hughes and his coaching team of Mark Knott and Leigh Jacobson. It was a massive effort to win the flag in what was an amazing game. Special thanks must go to Benny. He threw himself into the voluntary role and did a great job steering the team to the premiership.

I must also congratulate Nathan ‘J-Pod’ Robinson for his fantastic effort in taking out the Association Best and Fairest and to Brad Hastie for finishing the roster year as leading the goal kicking.

We have had a great year off the field this year thanks to the efforts of Brad ‘Maxy’ Weston. Among our great events this year we have had a golf day, flight night, casino night, quiz night, back to front draw and the ball all of which were hugely successful.

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 2013 committee Neil Rhodes, Matthew Rice, Tim Nicholas, Joe Brooks, Jon Gill and Brad Weston.

I would also like to thank our match day volunteers Bob Hope (Head Trainer), Toddy Appleby (Runner) Rodney Smith (Trainer), Chris Noye and Jeremy Ackerly. 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.

The 2014 playing group is now well into their pre-season and the club is thrilled with the number of guys, old and new, who have turned up and putting in the hard yards on the track. The club is excited to announce that Richie will again be senior coach in 2014. We are also very excited to announce our two new assistants for 2014 in Heath Neville and Marcus Parker. Heath comes to us after a tough run with injuries after being drafted to Melbourne in 2005 from Clarence and then spending the last couple of years with Hobart. Marcus was the 2012 club Best and Fairest winner who spent 2013 playing at centre half forward with Glenorchy in the TSL.

We are very excited to have both on board.

Finally, I would like to thank our fantastic and generous sponsors Barwicks, Marquis of Hastings, Directions Wealth Management, Bruntons Horse Training, The Talbot Hotel, Richard Robinson plastering, Haven Built, Scott Bacon, Butler McIntyre and Butler, Hultons Electrical, Co-Op Toyota, La Porchetta, Milanos and also acknowledge the support and interest of St Virgil’s College and the Old Virgilians Association throughout the season.
In 2012 much of the emphasis was given over to the compilation and production of the eighteen panels that captured the history of the Austins Ferry Campus (1962 to 2012).

During 2013 the bulk of the work in Archives has focused on the digitisation of written material collected over the past 102 years so that it becomes more readily available and increasingly accessible. Much of this has been done, however, it is yet to be completed - an ongoing process.

Details as to how the digitised archival material can be acquired or accessed will, in due course, be conveyed on the Old Virgilians website and within ensuing editions of Words and Deeds.

Hopefully our former students have accessed the site and have added it to their ‘favourites’ list of sites. This is a sure fire way of keeping up with matters pertaining to the Association and the College.

www.oldvirgilians.org.au
Material digitised or in the process of being digitised

- Year Books - The Virgilian
- St Virgil’s Year Books have been published in the years listed below 1911, 1913-18, 1921-25, 1937-38, 1940, 1944 and 1947-51
  1961 ............continuous
- Words & Deeds Magazine - first published in 1993
- The Old Virgilian Magazine - first published in 1963
- Words & Deeds incorporating The Old Virgilian - first publication in 1997.
- Books
  St Virgil’s College 1911-1961 (Golden Jubilee publication)

A Boys’ School (The Centenary History of St Peter’s School Hobart) by the late Marguerite Harris - the family has given permission for this to be digitized and made available in that form.

(St Virgil’s College 1911-94 by Tim Jetson will not be digitised as there are plenty of copies available for purchase.)

Enquiries

Part of our work in Archives has also involved fielding enquiries from former students. Quite a number have been forthcoming and responded to in a timely and informative manner.

Inspirational / Achievement Stories

It is important that stories be told - today’s students and those to come need role models in order realise what is possible and also to aspire to be worthwhile contributors to the society. To identify these stories and to record them has become one of our special tasks. If you know of a former student’s story that should be recorded please forward the details to the Archivists to enable them to undertake additional research and write the story up for inclusion on the website.

History Centre

The Centre was officially open during the 2011 Centenary celebrations. We are currently planning for the first major turnover of material on display - hopefully this will commence early in 2014. Those wishing to visit the Centre should contact the College on 03 62 496555 to organise a time to visit or simply drop in during office hours (9am to 4 pm) during term time.
With the Association’s hundredth birthday not too far away, work has commenced in collating material that captures and celebrates its story.

Any queries or suggestions as to the any of the above matters should be directed to Mr Graeme Rainbow - grainbow@stvirgils.tas.edu.au

Bruce Woods and Graeme Rainbow (Archivists)

During the year, the OVA Committee, after vigorous debate decided upon those to receive the Heritage Roll of Honour Award and chosen were Major General Michael Keating AO Retd, SVC 1955-60, Rev Father Chris Hope, SVC 1952-57, Dr Paul McCartney SVC 1973-77, Dominic Sharpe SVC 1971-1979 and Brian Sertori, SVC 1940-1945.

Brian Sertori’s award was presented to him posthumously, with his son, Matthew accepting the award on behalf of the family, who were present, including his wife Jean and Brother-in-law Brother Jack Higgins.

Dr McCartney was unable to be present as he was in East Timor, and his father Dr Peter McCartney received the award in his absence. Also unable to attend in person was Dominic Sharpe, who was in Cambodia and he was presented with his award personally, as he was in Hobart some weeks earlier.

The President of the Association, Mr Edward Gauden welcomed all in attendance and Mr Tony Fletcher provided a Toast to the College, which was replied to by College Principal, Mr Damian Messer.

The fact that the Hobart Show fell on the same week, meant that some Old Scholars were unable to attend and a decision was made to hold next year’s event a week earlier and a booking has already been made at the Yacht Club, for Friday October 17 2014. This will be confirmed later in the year.
North West and Northern Boarders and Day Pupils

Following a break of several years, the Committee decided to have another Luncheon on the North West Coast, at which the Old Scholars of that region were to be invited. With the assistance of our North West representative, Kim Chen and supported by Pat Leary, a terrific venue was booked at Pier 01, on the banks of the Leven River at Ulverstone.

Some thirty five attended, with a group coming from the South, including most of the Old Virgilians committee, two members from the North, namely Peter and Michael McGee, and some twenty from the Coast, including some wives.

President, Edward Gauden, welcomed those attending and Tony Fletcher, moving a vote of thanks.

The meal was delicious, the service was brilliant, and the banter at each table, was typical of Old Boys, when they get together. Obviously many a teacher name cropped up in discussions, complimentary and not so.

For some of those attending, it was their first time, and each gave an unequivocal assurance that they would be at the next one, and they would try and bring a mate along.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and what was resolved was that the next function, will not take as long to come around as this one did.

Letters to the Editor

An article that was written about Mark Cook when he was made a life member of the Moonah and Glenorchy Businessmen’s Association. Mark was also a life member of the Old Virgilians Association.

Mark Cook - A Legend of Moonah, Life Member

Where does one begin with the overtures of Mark Cook and his membership of the Association dating back to a foundation member in the year 1951. Some of his old mates are also survivors including Ken Lowrie, Keith Dickenson, Doug Wagner and the minutes from the archives reveal early meetings were held at the Brown Owl Club in Glenorchy and various premises in Moonah.

Mark commenced his own business under the well-known household name, Mark Cook Used Cars in the late 1940’s with branches in Charles Street Moonah, Main Road Derwent Park and Launceston with several financial companies providing leasing and hire purchase agreements.

Sufficient to say from a humble beginning Mark traded with high ethical standards and established a well-known and trustworthy relationship with customers ensuring continuing buying and selling with confidence.

It is most interesting to mention several community involvement including foundation members Moonah Rotary Club, Probation Officer and Prison visitor with the Justice Departments, Member and Office Bearer Chamber Commerce, sponsor with car racing, trotting and pacing, cycling and soccer with great loyalty to his religious beliefs and Calvary Hospital.

His renown as a deep sea fisherman over many years hooking the big ones. Marlin in Queensland, NSW, South Australia and New Zealand are well known, not forgetting tuna in Tasmanian waters. Hence, a proud memory bank as a professional angler.

Family history - married Eileen in 1949, brother Owen a competent Accountant, Sister Justin, Calvary Hospital.

From Paul Hudson

A great article on Br Stallard in the July Edition of ‘Words and Deeds’. I remember him as a Brother that concentrated on those boys who were unsuited to the academic curriculum.

It is grossly unfair that someone like that died in an old people’s home of dementia after many years.

Kind Regards
Paul Hudson

On April 2, I departed on a round the world holiday for six months, to places Singapore, Europe, UK, US, Brazil, Mexico and Cuba. I saw so many amazing places and had many wonderful experiences. I stayed in the homes of locals where I got some great advice on things to do and see and gained an insight into their daily lives. In return I shared a bit of Aussie culture.

Highlights in Europe were walking through the Old Town in Lyon, visiting museums in Florence, climbing in the Swiss Alps up to a magnificent lake, enjoying good quality German cuisine and exploring Mont Saint Michel.

Highlights in the US included standing on the launch pad that was used for missions into space, laying on Miami Beach, travelling on a cable car in San Francisco and the vibrant French Quarter in New Orleans.

I attended the World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in July where I joined a group from Brisbane and Canberra/Goulburn. At the final Mass with Pope Francis there were 3.8 million people on Copacabana Beach.

Upon my return to Australia, I was elected as the new State President of Rostrum Queensland for 2014. It is a personal development organisation that builds self-confidence through developing people’s public speaking skills.

Regards
Chris Horacek
SVC (1993-1996)
Personal Pars

- David Moody has forged an outstanding career in the building industry having completed several building degrees, diplomas and business studies. He has established and operated individual companies such as Crescon Construction, Crescon Joinery and Qualitas Holdings Development. He has been recognised with Presidency of the Master Builders Association of Tasmania and representation on the board of Master Builders Australia, where he has had direct input into formulation of Federal Government policy on behalf of the building industry. He is the current Treasurer of Master Builders Association of Tasmania and greatly enjoyed catching up with his peers from the Class of 1983 at the 2013 reunion weekend.

- Congratulations to James Bourke 99.9 and Daniel Lee 99.55 who achieved the first and third highest ATAR scores for GYC students in 2013. Exceptional results from two very dedicated and talented students who established a strong base of academic excellence during their time at St Virgil’s.

- If you have frequented Hobart’s famous Theatre Royal during the past 35 years, you would have recognised Greg Shelverton. He has decided to call it ‘quits’. Greg started working there in 1978 after he was first introduced to the venue by his late father Arthur, who was an usher back in the 1950s. His brothers Arthur, Kevin, Denis and David have also helped out as ushers over the years, and now his nephew works behind the Bar.

- Derwent Hockey Club Nick Tremayne, claimed back to back Southern Hockey League, Best and Fairest award, by the barest of margins, edging out Canterbury’s James Bourke and Josh Corney.

- New Norfolk Football Club on-baller, Nathan ‘The Weapon’ Ross, was awarded the 2013 William Leitch Medal, for the SFL Best and Fairest player, for the second time, having previously won it in 2011.
handedly pull the 4×400 m team through to the World Championship final in Moscow. Tristan picked up the baton in fifth place before running a brilliant final 200 m to finish in second position just metres from the line.

Tim Reid, managing director of Reid Fruits, was crowned Australian Farmer of the Year and was also named Australian Rural Leader of the Year. It has been a glittering career for Tim, who began in Tasmanian orchards and packing sheds in the 1960s and has evolved the industry and national honours. When he took over the reigns of the family business, which had operated since 1856, he increased its size tenfold, becoming Australian largest cherry producer and a pioneer of the Export market.

Director of Sport Mr James Dalton was selected as one of two AFL Tasmania Ambassadors for his contribution to junior football in the State. James was presented with his award at a dinner before the final at the MCG between Hawthorn and Geelong.

Congratulations to Jake Doran, 2012 College Captain, who has been elected School Captain of Guilford Young College, Barrack St Campus. This is great recognition for Jake’s all round leadership capabilities and the skills he acquired as a student leader at St Virgil’s. Well done Jake!

Congratulations to two Old Scholars and current staff members who achieved sporting accolades in season 2013. Liam Scott was named in the Victory League Soccer Team of the Year and will play in the Tasmanian team that is taking on the Melbourne Victory’s Development Squad at the Kingston Twin Oval on Sunday September 29. Jamie Di Ienno won the Best and Fairest Award for the Hobart Football Club, the second time he has achieved this feat.

A highlight of the Grade 6 Canberra trip was the opportunity for boys to meet Old Virgillian Simon Hollingworth, (ex-Olympian and now Executive Director of the Australian Sports Commission) who stopped in at the AIS for a visit and talk with the boys. Simon is a member of the OVA Heritage Roll of Honour, a Rhodes Scholar and an outstanding exemplar of the academic and sporting traditions of the College. In a heartfelt speech to the boys he left them in no doubt that he would not be where he is today had it not been for the education and life experiences he enjoyed whilst at St Virgil’s.

Congratulations to Board Chair Dr Natalie Brown (mother of old scholar Nick Piscioneri), who was featured in The Mercury upon receiving an Office of Learning and Teaching Award. Associate Professor Natalie was presented with the prestigious award in Canberra. The other winner at the awards, presented in Canberra, was Associate Professor Natalie Brown, of UTAS, who won the Award for Teaching Excellence. Natalie oversees teaching for the whole university.

“I support curriculum development and online teaching in all faculties. It’s also about ongoing evaluation of teaching,” she noted upon receiving her award.

Br Daryl Barclay was kind enough to email the Development Office following receipt of the last edition of Words and Deeds.

“Just a brief note to congratulate you and all involved in the publication of “Words and Deeds” on a superlative production. The latest edition is a wonderful representation of the life and identity of an exceptional school. “As you may be aware, 2013 marks the 20th anniversary of ‘Words and Deeds’ whose Volume 1, Number 1 appeared in 1993 as a four page edition with the unusual extravagance of colour front and back. St Virgil’s still had Grade 12 in those days, of course, and Br Russell Peters was Principal, while I had just arrived as Campus Director at Austins Ferry. Russell and I were of a mind that such a publication would be a great asset to the College in a period when most schools were producing only weekly newsletters and annual magazines. We were also aware, in the pre-restructuring days, that we would need to find ways of increasing our profile in the potentially uncertain times ahead. In 1993, there was still a separate Old Virgilians periodical edited by Bob Hamilton which, of course, was later incorporated into ‘Words and Deeds’ in what has clearly become a happy marriage to this day. With best wishes for the next edition!”
Engagements, Births and Weddings

Weddings

November
- Simon Howe and Lisa Hawthorn, in Melbourne.

December
- Paul Guinane and Nicole de Gouveia.

Births

August
- Duncan and Martina Macfarlane, a son, Daniel Nicholas.
- Marcus and Narelle Synnott, a son, Jobe William.

September
- Joel and Erin Millhouse, a son, Mitchell Joel.
- James and Amy Ramsay, a son, Oscar James.

October
- Bradley and Tamera Chick, a daughter, Sophie Amelia.
- David and Fiona Morse, a son Patrick James.
- Mark Dixon and Courtney Hunnibell, a daughter, Florence Ruby.
- Simon and Claire Zabel, a daughter, Lottie Frances.
- John and Letitia Hallsworth, a son, Thomas Jack.
- Brock and Diana Ackerley, a daughter, Asher Grace.
- Brendon and Paige Lorkin, a son, Claye Edward.
- Daniel and Anita Osuchowski, a son, Oliver.

November
- Gerard and Julia McNulty, a son, Felix Alexander.
- James and Belinda Howe, In Melbourne, a son, Jacob Mitchell.

December
- Brad and Rachel Conyers, a son, Archie William.
- Peter and Kim Kay, a daughter, Annabel Edith.
- Brad and Allie Canning, a daughter Madeleine Lucy.
Obituaries

July 2012
• William Denis Mark Cook (SVC 1932-1940), husband of Rosaria Eileen (dec), father and father in law of James (SVC 1970-1975) and Donna, and Mark (SVC 1967-1972) and Gina, Catherine Shaw (John Shaw (SVC 1957-1963), Elizabeth McMahon (William), brother of Owen (dec), Mary (Sister Justin LCM)(dec) and Margaret Burrell, son of Charles and Francis Cook (both dec). Member of the School Board 1970-1971, St Vincent de Paul, Knights of the Southern Cross and served in the RAAF 1943-1946 Marine Section.

July 2013

August 2013
• Enid Mary Conley, wife of Bill, mother and mother-in-law of Catherine and Marcus, Paul and Kate. Daughter of Leo and Tot Kingsley (both dec), sister of Kevin, Pat (PVBM), Shirley (dec) and Garlan Bryan, Barbara and Peter Patmore, Barry and Merle. Sister-in-law of John, Ted and Margaret, Myrtle and Dick, Elizabeth and Bill (all dec), Jim and Barbara.

• Mary Jean (nee Wells) (Jean), mother and mother-in-law of Julie and Paul Picone.
• Patrick Langton Dunne (SVC 1947-1949), son of Peter and Elizabeth (both dec), brother of Graham and brother-in-law of Ruth.
• Andrew George (Sandy) Hogarth (SVC 1952-1955), husband of Betty, father and father-in-law of Jason and Leanne, Jacqueline and Heath. Son of Thomas and Marie (both dec), brother of Mary, Thomas (Blue), William (Bill) (dec), Helen, Sandra (dec), Robert (Bob) (dec), Patricia and Michael.
• Maxwell Clifton (Max) Cosgrove, husband of Joan Mary and father-in-law of Stephen and Trish, Andrew and Jill, Frances and Peter Mann.
• Timothy Rogers (SVC 1968-1973), in Hong Kong, son of Jim and Ursula (dec) and Elizabeth. Husband of Sue and daughter Daniella, brother Damian and Sisters Caroline and Lucy.
• Robin Albert Gardiner (SVC 1948-1955), Husband of Janet, father of Michael (dec), Mark (dec), Stephen and David. Son of Vera and Lou (both dec), brother and brother-in-law of Peter and Lynn.
• Paul Thomas Geard (SVC 1966-1969), nephew of Margaret and Tom Carty (dec), father of Joel, Leah and Cara, son of Rhonda (dec), (Nee Best/Rainbird and Watty (dec), brother of Johnny (dec), brother-in-law of Mary and David O’Brien.

September 2013
• Christopher John Burnie Koch OAM (SVC 1946), husband of Robin, father of Gareth, brother of Philip and Lillian.
• Maria Agnes Gerarda de Groot, mother of John and Lyn, Peter (dec) and Coleen, Paul and Elizabeth.
• Margaret Eva Derrick, wife of Vic (dec), mother and mother-in-law of Dennis and Angela, Barbara, Rosemary and Christopher, Christine and Grant, Judith and Alan, sister of Dennis (dec), sister-in-law of Bill (dec) and Dorothy.
• Richard John Purtell (SVC 1950-1968), husband of Wendy and father of Olivia, Ben and Victoria.
• Patrick O’Neill Cusick, husband of Audrey, brother and brother-in-law of

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• Strategic investment advice
• Equity advice and services
• Corporate superannuation.
Peter and Margaret, Frank (dec) and Betty, Vivian (dec) and Don, father of Helen and Jeffrey, father-in-law of Taryn.

- Peter Ivan Thiessen (SVC 1953-1957), husband of Christine, father of Rachael and future father-in-law of Grant, brother of John, Rosalie and brother-in-law of Reginald (dec).

October 2013
- Pamela Headlam, mother and mother-in-law of Peter and Marguerite.
- Colin Robert Gentile (SVC 1990), partner of Beckie and father of Kane, son of Gino and Margaret, brother of Bill, Steven, Gina and Phillip.
- Aubrey Patrick Canning, AM, QPM, grandfather of Bradley and Melissa Thirgood (SVC staff).
- Alan Trevor Bouchard (SVC 1939-1946) husband of Doreen, father of John, David, Carmel, Roseanne, Kevin, Gerard and Helen.
- Marta Koral, mother and mother-in-law of Zbigniew (Bishop) and Bozena.

November 2013
- Guiseppe (Joe) Pignalosa, father and father-in-law of Salvatore and Liliana, Giovanna and Nick MacFarlane.
- Ambrose Lloyd McDermott (SVC 1936 - 1946), son of Cliff and Annie (both dec), brother of Pauline (dec), Fay (Mrs Rex Dwyer) and Ann.

December 2013
The College community congratulates the Class of 2013 for their outstanding contribution to the College. Good luck and may God Bless all boys throughout the exciting journey beyond the College gates.