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**ST. BRENDAN'S
COLLEGE**

**OLD BOYS'
NEWSLETTER**

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Nick Scully Principal St Brendan's College



I am shortly leaving St Brendan's as Principal, but would like to leave you with a challenge in the form of a Christmas wish. I'm not sure whether I will offend anyone. I hope not and I apologise if I do. I guess I can get away with it because I am leaving to go back to Melbourne as Principal of Kolbe Catholic College, Greenvale Lakes.

While it does feel quite distant, Christmas Day will be upon us very soon.

I ask you to visualise a Nativity scene. We may pull a set out of a box each year and place it under a Christmas tree. With this image in our minds, here is my Christmas wish:

God's Son could have arrived in power, glory and wealth; instead he came in weakness, vulnerability and poverty. By coming in weakness, he made us aware of our own power. By coming in poverty, he made us aware of our own richness. This is the great paradox and we celebrate the same paradox at Easter by coming to new

life through suffering and death.

Part of the paradox is that the God who's born into our world at Christmas is always being born into a world that doesn't have room for him; into our crazy world he has come uninvited. Because he's so much out of place, even though he must be here, his place is with those others for whom there is no room. His place is with those who are discredited, ignored and rejected

That's a key message for our culture; for us to hear. The poor and the marginalised more easily make a place for God in their lives.

I have been blessed to experience an example of this on a very large scale in India. The city of Kolkata is called the "City of Joy". Spending time in a place such as Kolkata challenges one's most fundamental beliefs. It pushes past your head and reaches your heart. Spending time with people who have nothing makes one ask "why are they so joyful?" They have little or nothing, their lives are so difficult and yet there is a distinct presence of joy. It appears evident that their stables/mangers, their sheds/farms are more available for God's birth than our homes not to mention our boardrooms, talk shows and centres of influence.

In our world and so often in our lives, there's no room at the inn; no place to welcome the God who wants to be born there. As it was at the first Christmas, the Christ child must be born outside our cities, among the poor.

For us to find him we must let ourselves be led by the poor, the children or some other guiding star to the mangers in our world today. My prayer for all of us for this Christmas is that we look beyond the First World glitz of marketing and consumerism and find some space to be led by a guiding star to a 2017 manger and consider what gifts God has on offer for us. I propose that many of these gifts exist within the St Brendan's family. As with my rather extreme personal example earlier, these gifts aren't usually on the surface. You need to look

beneath. I have been drawn to those depths in my last six years. For this I have been truly blessed. Thank you and good bye. Nick Scully

Early Education at St Brendan's in the 1940s

This review is an assessment of the academic achievements of St Brendan's students in the first ten years of the College.

In a letter to the principal of St Brendan's in 17 May 1941 Bishop Hayes wrote, that he hoped one day in the future, St Brendan's would be a great Centre of Education. Again, before a large crowd at the official opening of St Brendan's College on 18th August 1940 Bishop Hayes, assisted by Archbishop Duhig and other members of the clergy, expressed the view, "that St Brendan's would one day attain the high education standard set by other Christian Brothers Colleges and it was their endeavour to turn out their youth as scholars and gentlemen."

In 1940 57 students were enrolled with 15 day boys and 42 boarders. Classes were from Grades 3-7 (Primary) and Sub-Junior, the first year of Secondary School. In 1940 in Queensland there were three Public Exams with the State Scholarship (Grade 7) taken at the end Primary, Junior (Grade 10) and Senior (Grade 12). Scholarship was set and corrected by the State Educational Department, while Junior and Senior were carried out by the University of Queensland. To successful Scholarship students a government grant was offered of 40 Pounds per year and an extra 24 Pounds per student, if unable to live at home and attend a Secondary School. For Junior holders a similar Extension Scholarship was available. This was to be a great financial help, particularly to families living in country areas, as there were no secondary schools west of Rockhampton at the time. Apart from the financial help there was always the belief that consistent hard work and dogged determination would bring results.

SCHOLARSHIP CLASS OF 1940

(L-R) Tom Murphy, Dick Woodcock, Bill Conaghan
(L-R) Des Glover, Vince Murphy, Lionel Zinga, Brian Leahy.
(L-R) Peter Durston, Bill Brittain, Fred Cooley, Harry Hooper.



Eleven students were successful in 1940 in the State Scholarship and 16 candidates passed Sub-Junior in the Christian Brother's Examinations. Cedric Sammon from Clermont was Dux of Sub Junior, at the time being the highest class in the school.

In 1941 students were presented for the Public Junior Examination with all successful. This entitled students to apply for the Public Service.

They were Gordon Cahill, Colin Evans, Richard Fitzgerald, Brian Hickey, Edward Hogan, James Murphy, Ron Mazzer, Des McKenna, Cedric Sammon, Neil Watson and Maurie Webb. Five students won State Scholarships: Les Dwyer, Brian Lennon, Rubert Mitchell, John Davis, and Brian White. Twenty-seven Bookkeeping certificates were secured. Gordon Cahill and Cedric Sammon were awarded places in the Railway Clerkship Examination. In

the Queensland University Music Examinations Richard Fitzgerald gained honours in theory and practical, Grade 111, Kenneth Albion Credit in Grade V and John Moloney a pass in Grade V1.

The schools on the coast were kept closed early in 1942 because of a fear of Japanese Invasion and so St Brendan's did not open until the 2nd March 1942 with only 37 boarders. The defeat of the Japanese Navy in the Battle of the Coral Sea, May 4-8, lessened that fear. By mid-year the total number of boarders reached 57 with 10 day boys. The Annuals of 1944 relate that Frank Johnston, Pilot Officer, Kevin Ryan and Robert Ranger had joined the RAAF.

In the Junior Public Examinations the following were successful, Patrick Cass, Pat Cramb, William Burns, Percy Devries, Peter Durston, Les Glover, Edward Hauff, Francis Johnston, Vincent Lawrence, Kevin Meehan, Keith McKeon and Edward Quirk with Extension Scholarships won by Patrick Cass, Pat Cramb, William Burns, Peter Durston, Les Glover, Edward Hauff, Vincent Lawrence and Edward Quirk.

Success attended the College efforts in the Public Examinations in 1943. Sydney Burns, Les Dwyer, Earnest Heusten, Rubert Mitchell, Tom Murphy, James Ranie, Ken Roberts, Noel Ryan, Gordon Rothnie, Peter Shaw, John Shelton and Brian White secured their Junior Certificates and also qualified for Extension Scholarships.

In 1944 ten students securing passes in the State Scholarship: Edward Arthur, Kevin Fitzgerald, Ralph Hickey, Percival Hislop, Stephen Katte, Laurence O'Connor, Michael Peterson, Jack Rissen, James Watts and Glenn Wotter. It is of interest to note the Headmaster, Br Gettons, at Speech Day that year, urged the parents not to be in a hurry to take their boys from school, but allow them to complete their Senior and gain entrance to university. Affordability to continue with little government support and WW2 raging in Europe and New Guinea at the time were factors in the drop off of numbers.

In 1945 History was made with Rubert Mitchell becoming the first St Brendan's student to be presented and successful in the Senior University Examination, inaugurating the beginning of a new level in education. Rubert, despite helping his Mother run the farm and with little help in a classroom situation, except for tutoring and help from the Brothers, did most of his studies privately. Rubert writes:

As I was the only student doing Senior I was given a corner room upstairs in the two storey building next to the tennis courts. The teachers gave me a list of things to do each week and I would review progress with them three or four times a week, when I drove to the College about 6 pm. It soon became obvious that I was very much on my own, but the Brothers were second to none, when it came to care and advice and with their help I succeeded. Br. Le Breton even got me through French! Fortunately, I found Maths easy but it would have been better in a class situation.

Thirty one students passed the Junior University Examination, nineteen Sub-Junior and eight State Scholarships. Two Teachers Scholarships and one Commonwealth Public Service

Scholarship were also awarded. One outstanding scholar, Thomas MacGinley, secured 8As in the Junior University Examination.

The roll call reached 141 in 1946. The first class presented for the Senior University resulted in five students being successful: Hudson Benchley; Brian Byrne; Leslie Dwyer; James Feeney; and Bernard McGuire.

Fifteen Students passed Junior University: Edward Arthur, Edward Boston, Brian Erickson, Rod Ferguson, Kevin Fitzgerald, Ralph Hickey, Percival Hislop, Brian Jester, Stephen Kate, Lawrence O'Connor, Michael Paterson, John Risen, James Sutton, James Watts, and Glenn Wolters.

The Roll Call in 1947 reached 221 with 201 boarders and 20 Day Students. In the Public Examinations four students were successful in Senior University: Thomas MacGinley; James Shelton; Richard Shepherd and Brian Byrne. Of the 31 successful Junior class of 1945 only four continued on to Senior! Brother Jackson, the Principal, again stressed the importance of the Senior University, as there had been an unfortunate tradition in Australia that a boy's education finished at Junior!

Brian Byrne was the first representative of St Brendan's to study at Queensland University graduating in Engineering. Both Thomas MacGinley and James Shelton also entered Queensland University in 1947, graduating in Engineering and Veterinary Science.

On passing the Senior Examination Thomas MacGinley won one of the recently offered Commonwealth Scholarships to the University of Queensland and graduated Bachelor of Engineering in 1952. In 1964 he gained the degree of Master of Engineering. Following the award he was employed at Mt Isa Mines (M.I.M.) from 1952 to 1957, Brisbane City Council, 1958 to 1959 and Broken Hill Proprietary Company at Newcastle from 1960-1964.

He then left Australia to join an international firm of Consulting Engineers, Merz McClelland, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England. After some years with Metz McClelland he joined the Sunderland Polytechnic, Durham, as a Senior Lecturer and later becoming Principal Lecturer. He was also an Associate Professor of Engineering at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Among other positions held in England he was in the early 1980s the Chairman of the Institute of Structural Engineers, Northern Counties Branch. In addition to his journal articles, before his untimely death 25 February 1996 in England, he also published a number of text books on structural engineering and design.

James Shelton attended St Brendan's College from 1943 to 1947 and then the University of Queensland obtaining a Doctor of Veterinary Science and at the University of Sydney, Doctor of Philosophy. Other professional qualification included the Fellow of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists.

From 1952 to 1958 James carried out research activities related mainly to fertility and nutrition. At the University of Sydney, his major interest concerned the physiology and endocrinology of the oestrous cycle of sheep and cattle. The period between 1972 and 1978 was spent in the commercial development of embryo transfer in cattle for the Australian

Transplant Breeders Pty Ltd. This was the first cattle embryo transfer centre in Australia. A similar facility was established in New Zealand. A major achievement was the introduction to Australia of non-surgical procedures for the collection of embryos. The commercial team also collaborated with scientists from the University of Sydney in the first successful importation of frozen embryos.

Apart from the many activities in Australia, Jim in 1986 was a member of a Ten Day Mission to Japan on Reproductive Physiology with particular reference to IVF in humans and animals, sponsored by the Australian Japanese Foundation. He was also a member of a mission to China under the auspices of the Australian-China Agricultural Co-operation Programme to advise on the development of the beef cattle industry. In 1987 Jim presented a paper at the 33rd World Veterinary Congress Montreal and in August 1992 a paper at the Asia and Pacific Congress in Beijing on Agricultural Biotechnology. In 1994-95 he was consultant embryologist to Agricultural Development Project at Tamil Nadu, India.

Over the years Jim has produced over one hundred publications in scientific journals, books and proceedings, which dealt mainly with reproductive biology, embryo manipulation, immunology and lymphatic drainage of the reproductive tract.

Twenty four Students passed the Junior University with sixteen in the State Scholarship. Junior students were: Herbert Bailey, Ian Birchley, Anthony Bopf, Anthony Camilleri, Keith Carston, Trevor Cunningham, Brian Finn, Errol Ganter, John Gordon, Vincent Hayes, Kenneth Illott, Brian Jesberg, Joseph Jefferis, Oliver Landers, Paul McCosker, Brian Martin, Terrence Moloney, Malcolm Nasser Thomas Pyne, Darcy Quinn, John Rowan, Victor Sealby, Raymond Whitehead, and John Woolcock.

In 1948 a railway strike which began in the first weeks of the term, lasting ten weeks prevented many students from attending school on time. Early boarding numbers were 160 and by end of the year there were 209 with 30 day students.

The University Examination classes were very successful with six passing Senior University, twenty-six the Junior University and twelve the Scholarship Examination. Senior University results were: Edward Baston, Kevin Fitzgerald, Percival Hislop, John Murphy, Gerald Rissen, and James Sutton.

Junior University results: William Allen, Ken Baker, Eric Black, Peter Doyle, Terence Duffy, John Gibbs, John Gordon, Wilf Gregg, Merv Horn, Francis Hickey, Vin Hooper, Cleland Hutton, Colin Jackson, Len Jensen, Arthur Kirk, Allan Little, Denis Marrinan, John Micallef, William Murphy, Brian Oberhardt, Robert Pyle, Graham Robinson, Vin Ryan, Keith Sealby, Marty Shelton, George Wright.

In 1949 the College with 229 (26 Day Boys) on the Roll the Senior class reached ten with a drop out of 14 from Junior in 1947. The following were the successful students: Jack Auty, Ian Birchley, Errol Ganter, Joseph Jefferis, Brian Jesberg, Stephen Katte, Terrence Moloney, Malcolm Nasser, Lawrence O'Connor, and Richard Shepherd. The following student continued on to University: Jack Auty (Veterinary Science); Errol Ganter (Medicine); Malcolm

Nasser (Medicine). Thirteen students obtained Junior University: Neville Black, Les Brown, Frank Dettrick, Des Ferguson, Damian King, Patrick Monckton, James Murphy, Terence Smith, Paul Stewart, Victor Taaffe, Dan Thompson, Douglas Tucker and Eric White.

In 1950 with an enrolment of 225 with 32 Day boys the University results were very gratifying, one of the highest yet reached at Senior level in the short history of the College. Fourteen students were successful in the Senior University Examinations. They included Francesco Agius, John Gibbs, John Gordon, Wilfred Gregg, Cleland Hutton, Leonard Jensen, Arthur Kirk, John Micallef, Terence Moloney, William Murphy, Paul McCosker, Patrick Phillips, Graham Phillips and George Wright.

Twenty four students were successful in the Junior University Examination: Alan Anew; Omar Ansknewiz; Barry Collins; Peter Green; Edmund Hanrahan; Charles Haswell; Cres Howard; Stan Jackson; William Kehoe; John Kelly; Peter Landers; Alan Moss; William Murray; Robert McCall; John McCosker; Noel Philips; John Price; John Ridley; Les Scharf; Laurance Scott; Robert Spanner; Eris Vale; Gerald Watson; Peter Wright.

The academic achievement the success of a few of this class gives some indication of their standard reached in the community.

Paul McCosker qualified in Veterinary Science at the University of Queensland in 1955 and was employed as a lecturer in animal husbandry. He was awarded a Wellcome Fellowship in 1957, which enabled him to conduct research on copper metabolism in domestic ruminants, obtaining his PhD in 1960. For the next two years he worked at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Cambridge, England, following which he returned to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Queensland as a lecturer in veterinary clinical pathology.

He was seconded to FAO in 1967 for one year as an Animal Health Officer in the Veterinary Education Project in the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico where, apart from lecturing on clinical pathology, learned Spanish in which he became fluent. Later Paul stationed at Rome again worked for United Nations mainly in Africa until his retirement.

Wilfred Gregg served in the Royal Australian Army particularly in the early stages prior to the Vietnam War.

Alan Agnew, Doctor of Medicine, became a noted Surgeon in the Rockhampton region.

Alan Moss, Doctor of Education, Christian Brother, served in the Catholic University in Brisbane for many years.

John McCosker, Agricultural Science at Queensland University, returned home to "Codanwarra" to help set up new techniques in farming, installing irrigation and developed the present Wargi Stud.

Peter Wright, Dux of the College in 1952, did Engineering at Queensland University, specialising eventually in research in the Sugarcane Industry in Mackay.

Since the opening of the College in 1940 it has provided many opportunities to students with the belief there are many pathways to a successful career. Not all opted for an academic career but to other career options, be it in the city or the country. However, it has been gratifying to observe that the promise to turn out scholars and gentlemen to meet their needs gradually but surely materialised in the early years of the College. St Brendan's has offered the opportunity to students to improve their status preparing them for their place in the world and to face the future with confidence.

I have tried to acknowledge the achievements of many students of those early years. Unfortunately, very little is known about student after graduation.

In the near future the Education Department will again introduce external examinations for Year 12. I have every confidence that St Brendan's College will continue to be a great Centre of Education. Ne dubita dabitur. Ed.

A Little History Mackay Showing the Way

It was at the beginning of the school year in 1954 that five young chaps from Mackay entered St. Brendan's College for the first time, to commence their sub-senior year (now known as year eleven). They were Neville Capra, Sarino Ferlazzo, Kevin Johnson, Mick Piccolo, & Jim McAlonan and they all reach the age of 80 this year in 2017. At that time, the College was preparing for the construction of new buildings and it must have been presumed that the new students from Mackay were physically well equipped to undertake the tree clearing on the site of the proposed new buildings. Anyway, the five young chaps accepted the task enthusiastically and spent most of the first term felling trees and digging out tree stumps. The task was onerous, but the lads didn't mind because it provided an escape from college class time! The job was managed safely and efficiently.

The Senior year of 1955 held a mixture of challenges. Those five students from Mackay were happy enough to achieve a basic pass in all of their public exam subjects at the end of the year. Kevin Johnson had his heart set on becoming a priest; Sarino Ferlazzo derived from a sugar farming family and had his heart set on farming; and the others held rather open minds about their future careers. To the absolute delight of all students in their Senior year at the time, no one had been allocated the task of teaching the subject of Physics. As it turned out, the Rector, Bro. Duffy, presumed that Bro. King was teaching that subject and Bro. King thought that Bro. Duffy was teaching it! The students in that class were awestruck at having no teacher for their class for that subject every school day for most of that year! They uttered not one single word of protest. But the crisis came when, at the start of the final term, students names in every subject had to be submitted for the State Public Exams at the end of the school year. Bro. Duffy approached Bro. King about the matter and only then did they discover that the Senior Class had received no tuition in Physics for that entire year. Thankfully that class had

received excellent tuition in that subject under Bro. Baumgartner in the previous year and that enabled some class members to gain a pass in Physics in the State Exam.

St. Brendan's was a truly wonderful College and it provided much more than academic satisfaction. It developed many life-long friendships and prepared students admirably for the challenges of the future. **Kevin Johnson**

Everyone has a story Swimming in the Creek

St Brendan's first swimming carnival is believed to have taken place at Ross Creek. The 1940 College Magazine has eight photos taken on this occasion.



The
first

entry into the Inter-School Swimming Carnival took place in 1944, at the Rockhampton City Baths in Bolsover Street with Tony Brown winning the Breaststroke and Tom Salmon the Freestyle. Training for such events made use of Ross Creek or at Limestone Creek near the then Railway water tank.

In 1946 a make shift pool was made in the grounds about 200 metres behind the old bus shed by damming up the creek by dropping large logs across the creek. Many a mini-training and trials were to take place here until in 1954 the swimming pool was opened on the 14th March by Bishop Tynan.

Is this the site of that mini-pool? Note the concrete slab on the left. Has anyone a photo taken at the time? The above photo was taken this year.



Photo taken in 1948 possibly Stoney Creek or Limestone Causeway

*We sometimes went for a walk into the bush, out to the first creek for a swim in the dam (logs across the creek), until the new flash swimming pool was built in 1954. In winter the pool became full of green algae. **Clive Franks, 1953-60.***

Another swimming pool along the Cross Country!



The water fall along the Cross Country.

The pool has been always out of bounds but wonder how many in the past have jumped into the flooded creek!

Back Entrance to St Brendan's



The photo shows the road from the Dining Room joining Limestone Creek Road. On the right of the photo is the area where the old mini-pool was located.

College Captains 2018



Steele Howard, Vice Capt., Billy Collins, Captain, Fletcher Kendall, Vice-captain

Steele comes from Tambo a relative of the Sheltons of Emerald. Billy is the son of Tim Collins, Headmaster of St Benedict's, Yeppoon. Fletcher is also from Yeppoon. Congratulations.

Emerald Agro July 2017



Debra and Gene Tucker, with daughters, SBC 1989-93, Teacher at Marist College, Emerald.



Chris, Kate (Clare's daughters) Joe and Patricia Mahony. Peter Mahony, College Captain, 1988-92, from Blackall, now Theodore, "Gyranda " Santa Gertrudis Stud.



Amelia, Kurt and Nicole Sullivan with Shayla and Lacey. Kurt, SBC 1995-99, “Old Malvern”, Capella.



Glen Sullivan, SBC 1997-2001, “Talagai”, Capella, mother, Helen.



Peter and Mitch Small, “Fairburn”, Dingo. SBC 1997-2003.



Scott and Casey Conway, SBC 1988-92, “Stockade”, Capella. Home Town, “Laurel Hills”, Moura.



Remi, Lok, and Blake Conway, Mitch and Macklin Baker. Children of Scott Conway and Mark Baker. Mitch is currently boarding at St Brendan's.



Megan and Mark Baker, SBC1998-92, Springsure. Parents of Mitch and Macklin.



Zoe and Richard Borg, SBC 1996-2000, “Marklands” Sarina, now Mirani. Brother of Charles, 1990-94, Stewart 1997-2001.



Jim McIver, SBC 1971-74, Home Town Springsure now Blackwater.



***Tyrel Spence**, SBC 1994-98, “Inveresk”, Muttaborra. Father **William**, SBC 1969-72, brother to **Cody**, SBC 1996-2000 and **Orrin** , SBC 1999-2000.*



***Luke Hardgrave**, SBC 1997- 2001, Emerald. College Captain 2001. **Paul Horan** Deputy Principal.*



Peter and Maree Hutton, SBC 1977-80, “Togara” Comet. Nephew to Clelland Hutton, SBC 1945-50 (Deceased 9/12/2011) and brother to Greg, SBC 1978-82.



Alban Woolcock, SBC 1949-52, “Oakey Creek”, Springsure. Kevin Smith, SBC 1950.



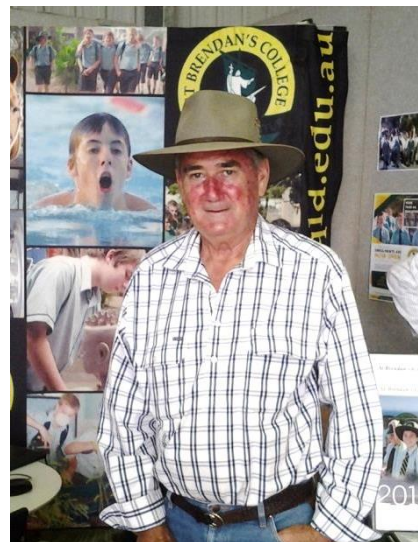
Kevin Smith and Warrick Daniels, 1997-01, "Stoneybrook", Springsure.



Margaret and Michael Sullivan, SBC 1969-72, "Glenora", Springsure. Sons- Maurice and Sean, SBC 2000-04



***Justin Hauff, SBC 2007-11, "Colart", Blackall with Paul Horan Deputy Principal.
Greg Hutton, SBC 1978-82, "Togara", Comet.***



***Flynn Brosnan, SBC 2012-16, Emu Park.4710. Harrison Sullivan, SBC 2012-15,
"Springton", Springsure. Ray Roberts, SBC 1954-61, Emerald.***



Mark Cheal, SBC 1976-79, Blackwater. **Leon Greer**, SBC 1981-91, Emerald. Leon stressed the importance of taking advantage of the opportunities offered to students now at St Brendan's. Never available in his time!



Ken Gersbach, SBC 1955-69, "Humberstone", Capella.



***Orrin Spence**, SBC 1994-98, “Pinnacle”, Muttaborra. One of five Spences to attend St Brendan’s. **Peter** 1970-1974. **Charles Hatte**, SBC 1999-03, “Rambola”, Anakie.*

Other visitors included:

Brian and Evie Milner (1955-56) “Pinnacle”, Springsure. Brother of Fr Noel.

Mrs Tindale-Smith, mother of Regan (2012-16) Morven.

Bill O’Brien (1971-72) of “Springhurst”, Capella.

Nich Brown (1968-71) of “Pleystole”, Mackay. Brother of Br Owen.

Geoff and Julie Beak, parents of Jesse (2007-11) and Logan, current student, of “Dunluce”, Bluff. Jesse has now completed his apprenticeship.

Scott Bradford, Sons Dan, 1999-2003 and Mitch, 2006-10, of St Lawrence.

Cody Foxlee, (2012-2013). Yeppoon.

Anne Hand, mother of Robert (2000-02 and Ryan (2007-09) of Koumala.

John Shaw, (1992-96) of “Wanditta”, Capella.

Scott and Cass Bradshaw, sons Dan (1999- 03) and Mitch (2006-10) of St Lawrence.

Kody Smith (2011-14) of Wowen now living in Theodore.

Patrick Kavanagh, (1953-54) of Rainwell Station now living in Springsure.

Reunion of 1967 Senior/1965 Junior Class Weekend July 8/9 2017

Twenty-five men, who were at St Brendan's in one or more of the years 1965-67, thirteen wives and three former teachers, gathered in Brisbane on July 8/9. Updated contact details were gained from Br Kevin Smith's files, from Linked-In, from Google, from Telstra White Pages and from personal contact. These details have been supplied to the men present, are listed below, and will be made available to Br Smith for College records and to other men who weren't able to make the weekend. Already, phone calls, emails and meetings are happening among individuals as a result of the reunion. The noise was amazing in the room at Homestead Tavern, Zillmere Road, Virginia (some men stayed at Brisbane International Hotel on the corner) as men greeted one another after 50 years. Graham Smith entertained with true stories, Ed Olsson sang Chad Morgan songs, men including Ron Cochrane gave tributes to Brothers and teachers, and Reg Kavanagh and Phil Cranny reported on visits to Mervyn Ziesing, since deceased, in Toowoomba. It was very special that Br Terry Kelly, now 90, and with a remarkable story of survival from cancer, came to the lunch on Saturday. He lives at Viridian across the road from Nudgee College playing fields, at the end of Zillmere Road, after many years of service in Papua-New Guinea, along with several other retired Brothers. It was equally special that Phil Ganley and his wife Maree attended, and spoke beautifully of Brendan's days, and also that former teacher Peter Allery attended. Gerry Nathan spoke of his friend and our classmate, John Turner, who is deceased. John Chambers, who was overseas, sent a video message which was played at the Saturday lunch.

Mr Nick Scully, Principal, sent an excellent message which was read at the Saturday lunch. He wrote:

"My assumption is the most cherished gift you received from your schooling at St Brendan's has been and still is mateship. The brotherhood that began at St Brendan's and often continues on for life, as we see here today, must be nurtured and nourished. St Brendan's can provide the deep friendships that can ward off the fake, the synthetic and the hopelessness. It is with great pleasure that I can report St Brendan's continues to produce real mates who will look after each other".

On Sunday, Graham Smith organised an excellent barbeque lunch at Kalinga Park and men and wives who had been unable to attend the Saturday events came along there also.



Front: Peter Allery, Peter Webb, Br Terry Kelly

Second row: Phil Cranny, Peter Wendt, Ron Cochrane, Mick Boland, Alan Grant, Phil Ganley

Third row: Gary Aspinall, Maurice Neill, Reg Kavanagh, Arthur Willemse, Bill Holmes, John Appleton, Dereck Wheeler

Fourth row: Dennis Heinemann, Ed Olsson, Peter Brown (Sixfoot), Des Pearson, Gerry Nathan, Graham Smith (Psycho), Dennis Smith, Joe Bonser

Senior Class of 1967



Front: Phil Cranny, Peter Wendt, Ron Cochrane, Mick Boland, Alan Grant

Second row: Maurice Neill, Reg Kavanagh, Peter Webb, Bill Holmes, John Appleton, Dereck Wheeler

Back: Ed Olsson, Des Pearson, Gerry Nathan, Graham Smith.

Absent: John Chambers, Con Healy, Peter Williams, Brian Dunne, Michael Walmsley



Sunday picnic at Kalinga Park (organised by Graham Smith)

Front: Jeannie manning, Annette Aspinall, Alan Grant, Clare Grant, Janine Nathan, Graham Smith, Mick Boland

Rear: Gary Aspinall, Peter Webb, Ron Cochrane, Tracey Wendt, Chris Manning, Reg Kavanagh, Peter Wendt, Phil Cranny, Peter McDade, Tammy Cranny, John Hutton, Gerry Nathan



David Tighe Glen Shore Arthur Willemse



Peter Webb Mike Piccollo



Ron Shaw Merv Bartlett



Roy Moore Don McKee Neal O'Connor



Bill Simpson



Kev Roberts Mario Pennisi

Class of 2007



The Seniors of 2007 visited their Alma Mater on 4th November as part of their reunion.

St Brendan's Rodeo 2nd September 2017

A crowd of over 2500 flocked to the 2017 Rodeo for a programme, which included school and full APRA Rodeo events. About 300 competitors including 60 secondary school students took part in the lead up to the APRA finals to be held at Warrick later this year.

C.Q. High Schools took out the Inter-schools Challenge Cup closely followed by St Brendan's Team with New Zealand third. Bradley Fielder was our most successful rider, winning both the Junior Bull ride and the Invitation Bronc ride. Logan Beak and Caleb Elms took out the Senior and Junior Steer. John and Matthew Hedges won the Father and Son Steer Catch. **Cameron Creevey, Izayah Gilby, Brady Fielder, Logan Beak, Jackson Gray, Caleb Elms, Alex Creevey, Bryce Voll**



Cattle Club

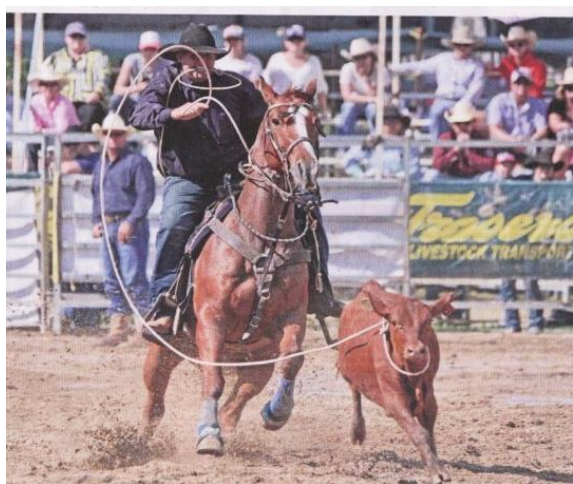
Front Row:

Jacob Carige
 Jake Winston
 Harrison Daniels
 Harrison Rawlins

Second Row:

Jackson Mercer
 Tristan Sypher
 Logan Beak Brady
 Fielder Izayah Gilby
 Jacob Prewett Brock
 Ivey

Third Row: Matt Delforce Lawson Jeynes Luke Steel Bryce Voll Bailey Brigg Caleb Elms
 Cameron Creevey Alex Creevey Campbell Murray



Shane Iker, Old Boy from 1999-1-92, showing his skill in the Rope and Tie. Shane Kenny was the All-Round Cowboy of the Rodeo.

Other Old Boys participating were **Alan Powell, Caiden Sandliland and Jay McNeil.**



Brady Fielder-Junior Bull Ride



Logan Beak-Senior Steer



Brady Fielder-Saddle Bronc



Lawson Jeynes-Saddle Bronc



Ellysa Kenny-Breakaway Roping



**Alex Creevey-Junior Barrel
Caleb Elms-Junior Steer**



Harrison Daniels-Junior Bull



Matthew and John Hedges



Steer Catch

APRA Rodeo Events

1. Winner All-Round Cowboy-**Shane Kenny**
2. Winner All-Round Cowgirl-**Ellysa Kenny**
3. Winner All-Round Junior Competitor-
Amber Patterson

Events Open:

Winner *Open Bull Ride*-Jack McArthur, Cooyar

Winner *Saddle Bronc*-Jack McKenzie, Blackwater

Winner *Rope & Tie*-Shane Kenny, Emerald



Winner **Bareback**-David Worsfold, Wandoan

Inter-School Challenge:

1. Central Queensland High Schools-404
2. St Brendan's College-383
3. New Zealand-366
4. Warwick High Schools-174

Junior Bull Ride

1. **Brady Fielder**, St Brendan's College
2. Sam Agius, Central Queensland High Schools
3. Mitchell Foxlee, Central Queensland High Schools

Senior Steer

1. Cooper Hobbs, Central Queensland High Schools
2. **Logan Beak**, St Brendan's College
3. Lleyton Marks, Central Queensland All-Schools

Junior Steer

1. Clayton Carlsen, Central Queensland High Schools
2. **Caleb Elms**, St Brendan's College
3. Finn Crinion, Central Queensland All Schools

Invitational Bronc

1. **Brady Fielder**, St Brendan's College
2. **Izayah Gilby**, St Brendan's College
3. Arne Thornberry, Warwick High Schools

Junior Barrels

1. Macey Marks, Central Queensland High Schools
2. Tegan O'Callaghan, New Zealand
3. Nikki Burraston, Warwick High Schools

Breakaway Roping

1. Ellysa Kenny, Central Queensland High Schools
2. Nikki Burraston, Warwick High Schools

Many thanks to Aaron Leahy, SBC 1994-96, chief coordinator, Keily Hedges, P & F. and the many other people, who helped behind the scenes. Ed.



Visit of John Momis and Class of 1960

Bernie Shelton again organized the annual visit of his class. This year the St Brendan's was honoured with a special guest John Momis of the class of 1961.

John attended Buin Primary School and St Brendan's College from 1957 to 1961. In 1970 he was ordained a Priest and served as such until 1993, becoming active in politics and elected to Papua New Guinea Assembly in the 1970s. John chaired the the constitutional committee,

which wrote the national constitution for 1975. In 1977 John was elected to the National Parliament and held various positions in Parliament including Deputy Leader and Minister

for Information and Communication. Currently, John is President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and continues to fight for full independence of the region.



Elizabeth and John Momis, Nick Scully, Elizabeth Doyle



*Elizabeth
Doyle,
John Dyer,
Grattan Doyle,
Bill McCosker,
Mal McKenna,
Bernie Shelton*

The class made a quick tour of the College including a visit to the archives in the Library. During morning tea John presented the College with the New Guinea Crest and flag.

Other activities included dinner at Rosslyn Bay and a day's outing to The Great Keppel.



John Momis presenting a New Guinea Crest to Nick Scully.



Bernie Shelton, Mal McKenna, John Momis and John Dyer viewing a photo of St Brendan's Cowboy and Bronco's League Stars.

Awards Night 4th November 2017

Dux of the College: Flynn Barry Yeppoon

Vat Award: Dan McNamara Blackall

Football

It was a disappointing year for Rugby League with the First XIII placed 4th in the Confraternity Shield and Grammar defeating Ignatius Park in the final.

In the local completion Grammar defeated Cathedral College with Brendan's knocked out in the Semi-finals. However, the 8As and 10As were premiers!

1997 Reunion BBQ at McKennarley Residence.



Danny Bampton, Terry Hansen, Ben Ellen , Brett Hansen



Damien Forbes, Paul Howell, Ben Prior, Joseph Twidale

Thanks to Darrel Finlay and Brett Hansen, who organized the reunion, the visit to the college and the social gathering at the Old Boys Foundation Race Meeting at Yeppoon.

Visitors



Shirley Maguire visited the College 27th July to collect the prize for the Raffle at the Musical, “No No Nanette”, held at St Brendan’s Hall 20th July. Shirley is the mother of Michael, SBC 1975-79, grandmother of Brodie, SBC 2003-05, Robbie, SBC 2000-01, Ben Ellen, SBC 1996-97 and Matthew Baldwin, SBC 1994-98.

Dan Little, SBC 1991-95, from Muttaborra, visited Brendan’s to watch his son play in the Challenge Cup, Primary Catholic Schools. His older son Victor is in Year 9. Danny is currently living in Yeppoon and for the 75th Jubilee he played a prominent part compering the Dinner.



Col Hennessy and Bill Oram ***Old Boy Visitor. Name? Peter Brady of Mt Larcom.***

Recent visitor was Col Hennessy, long time teacher from 1979-2005, met Bill Oram, an old boy, 1978-79. Col recalls the story that Bill bought a grey gelding from the Boyd Family of Yeppoon and at the end of the term rode it all the way home to Baralaba! Bill is now employed as the new Agricultural Teacher. Some years ago he spent two years in England working as a groom in the Queen’s Stables.

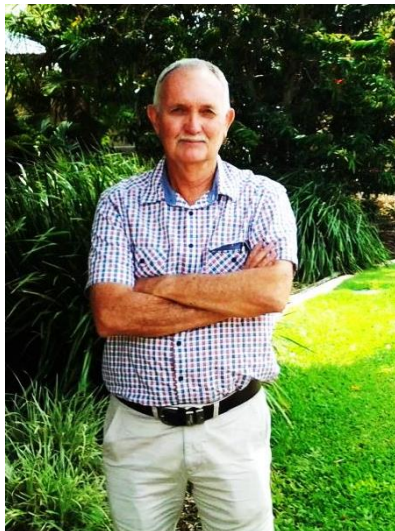


John Stephensen with a group of students from St Joseph's Geelong visited St Brendan's for a few days in late August. John was the R E teacher from 2006-11. The students enjoyed trips to the Great Keppel, Crocodile Farm, Clay Pigeon Shooting and finally Brendan's Rodeo.

Chris O'Connor, SBC 1973-77, visited St Brendan's with daughter and now living near Cairns. It was the first time since leaving in 1977. Many things have changed since then but the mango trees are still a land mark.



Welcome back Chris!



Steve Malone, SBC 1964-68, called in to organise the 50th Year Reunion of his class in 2018. Steve is anxious to make contact with members of his class beginning in Years 8-12. Contact: 2 Fairway Street, Collinsville.4864 or stevemalone23@yahoo.com.au .

William McMillan, SBC 1965-71, Aramac, called in 17 October to start preparations for his 1971 reunion. Bill now lives in Yeppoon.

Letters



My Brother, John Murphy, forwarded me a pdf copy of the May 2017 of the "Bindi-Eye".

Our Father, **James Joseph Murphy**, born 20/2/1926 and then of Edmonton, Cairns, was a Foundation Member (student) of the College commencing on 16/2/1940. The photo of the Foundation Members of 1940 in the May 2017 Issue of Bindi-Eye finds him in the third row from the top, second from the left. Dad was at that time 13 years old but with his 14th birthday a few days later. I don't think Dad actually boarded at the College, but rather was a day student and living with his Uncles George and Fred Holt in Yeppoon.

Dad passed away in Brisbane on 15 May 1973.

I note an intention to develop an Honour Roll for the College. At 17 years of age Dad enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy on 16/5/1943. He was a Signalman and saw active service in the W.W. 2 in Pacific Theatre on H.M.A.S. Castlemaine, a Mine Sweeper Corvette, from October 1943 to August 1944. Following that he was stationed at a number of Coastal and Island Watch Stations including Thursday Island and Booby Island in the Torres Strait as a Communication's Signalman. Dad was demobilised on 12/7/1946, having served 3 years with the RAN.

It was pleasing indeed to see and read your "Flashback from the First Year of St Brendan's" in the Bindi Eye May 2017 edition.

I would be pleased to provide further information regarding our Father James Murphy should you so desire.

Kind regards, **Greg Murphy**.

Pleased to receive your letter and further information about your father. In the near future Brian Mealey is coming to visit the school and hopes to meet up with Michael Byrne and Maurie Webb, both living in Yeppoon all from the 1940 year.

Further research suggests that Peter Durston may have been captain of the football team but not school Captain. Reliable information suggests it was Des McKenna. Ed.

In the article, "A Flashback from the First Year at St Brendan's 1940" (*Bindi-Eye*, Number 55, May 2017), you wrote of the "three Murphy brothers" (Vince, Tom and John) playing rugby league together in the 1940 XV. While Vince and Tom did have a younger brother named John (a future Dux of the College, 1948), the J. Murphy in the 1940 team was no relation to Vince and Tom.

Thank you for a very interesting article.

(Dr) Jeffrey J. Murphy. (Son of Vince, Rockhampton)

Thanks Jeffrey. The 'J. Murphy' was James Joseph Murphy from Cairns. See above letter and photo. Your Uncle John was enrolled 15 July 1941.

Pat Connolly, SBC 1964-66

Just a quick note at this time. Thanks for latest edition of Bindi. I see that Fr Des McKenna's passing is mention as being in 1974. I can tell you it was 1967 and in New Guinea as stated. Brendan's boys were in attendance at his Requiem Mass at the Cathedral in Rocky along with many family members and friends. I can ask other family members for the exact details of Fr Des passing and get a copy to you. I also note your story on Fr Chris Schick sorry to hear he is not well. Good to see also old classmate John 'Cassapullover' (that's what some of us called him) get a mention. Bye for now
Regards, Pat Connolly

Thanks Pat for your mail. Jerry also mailed me. I was at his first Mass at St Brendan's in 1950. The photo of Des taken at the first athletic sports day in 1940 is a rare find, only a mini photo 4x4 cm. I would appreciate more about Des. Fr Chris Schick passed away 30th July. Ed.



Peter Webb, Class of 1967

Recently, I spoke to Merv Ziesing, our former Principal, who became a priest in Toowoomba Diocese some years ago. He is now in Lourdes Home in Toowoomba. He told me he was currently in Low Care, expects to move soon to High Care and wouldn't be able to be at our proposed July 8/9 gathering since by then he may be in (I've forgotten the kind of Care he described

but he meant Heaven). I still use his famous answer (as a teacher with my students) when some boarder asked, after he explained one Friday afternoon, that Saturday morning work would be "building the rock wall up the driveway" (it's still there), "is that voluntary?". Z replied, "Well, it's voluntary for those who want to come and compulsory for those who don't". Do you remember the smoke billy with cow dung to drive away mosquitoes during night study?

Peter, when preparing for his class reunion for his class in July, recalled his recent contact with "Z". Ed.

Vale

Brian Michael Byrne, SBC 1943-46, from Gladstone. Died 1/2/17, Brisbane

Francis Curran, SBC 1950-52, from Gladstone, died 5/7/17, Everton Park Brisbane.

Father Christopher Schick, SBC 1969-75, from Baralaba, died 30/7/17, Yeppoon.

Laurance Perry, SBC 1964-05, from Biloela, no details, passed away some years ago.

Rubert Mitchell, SBC 1941-45, from Yeppoon, died 18/8/2017, Melbourne.

Neville Daniels, SBC 1953-4, from 'Ivy Vale' Gindie, passed away 25/8/2017, Emerald.

Father Merv Ziesing, Principal 1964-69, deceased 2/9/2017, Toowoomba.

Norbert Drillis, SBC Teacher 2003-2016, deceased Yeppoon, 30/9/2017

Colin Dzierwicki, SBC 1971-72, Clermont, died 22/10/2017, Emerald.

Mass of Farewell to Chris Schick 4th August 2017



More than 1200 people gathered to say good bye to Father Christopher Schick at St Joseph's Cathedral Rockhampton. Requiem Mass was celebrated by Bishop Michael McCarthy assisted by the priests of the Diocese.

Bishop McCarthy expressed his sorrow and sympathy on behalf of the community: "We have received tremendous outpouring of sympathy and praise for Chris. He embraced every challenge and immersed himself in the people. We have lost a priest, friend, brother and a wonderful human being. Farewell Chris, may you be enjoying life with all the angels and

saints with your mother and father."

Adam Wratten, Deputy Editor of the Morning Bulletin, wrote 1st August: "This tragic death offers us the opportunity to reflect on all the wonderful things we have in our lives and reminds us not to take anything for granted. None of us knows what is around the corner. Father Schick showed us the value of living a life where the focus was on helping other people and giving."

A large number of Old Boys attended Mass to show their respect. As a final tribute Chris was given a Police motor bike escort, which was followed by his club members also on motor bikes including John Moriarty who had travelled from Emereld.



Bill Oram, SBC 1948-1949 and son Paul, SBC 1994-95. John Moriarty, SBC 1971-75

Neville Daniels



Neville was born in Emerald in 1939 of Noel and Amy Daniels, a well-known Pioneering Family. Over a 100years ago the Daniels Family had come overland from Allora in the Toowoomba area and settled in Gindie at “Sandhurst”.

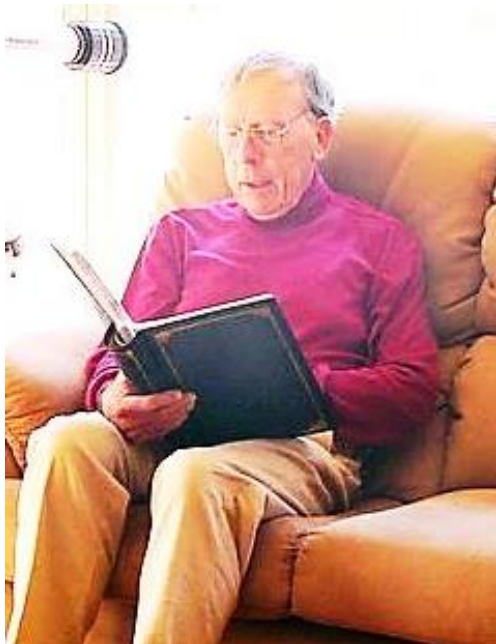
Neville was enrolled at St Brendan’s in 1953 but was only to stay one year as the land drew him back to his homeland, “Ivy Vale”, to assist his father in sheep and cattle raising. With the down turn wool in the 1970s a decision was made to return to farming. Back in the early days the pioneer family had farmed the land and were the first in the Central Highlands to

make use of a one cylinder tractor for ploughing in the early 1900s. This venture with much newer equipment and the support of the family proved successful and continues to do so to the present.

Neville, better known as “Digger”, died 25thAugust 2017, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife Carolyn and family Kelvin, David, Harvey and daughter Tracey.

Rupert Mitchell SBC 1941-1945

Rubert recalled: *"Like all oldies I have a few health problems but I am still able to drive and my mind is still okay. I was married in Sydney and as my wife was from Melbourne we*



moved. We have two children, nine grand-children and two great grand-children are source of joy so I have little to complain about. Unfortunately, I lost my wife of 63 years last year after long years of caring.

My friends from 1941 to 1945 are getting thin on the ground, but Les Dwyer and I contact each other about once a month.

My early home was on a farm outside Yeppoon at St. Valery along Adelaide Park Road. In the early days before Brendan's existed, I used to take a short cut across the bushlands at Coplands, when walking to Yeppoon. Then it was a rundown place with broken sheds, tanks and yards. Our property was next door to the Athertons, early settlers of the Yeppoon area. I lost my father in 1939 and with my two brothers serving in the War II, I had to spend a lot of my time at home helping my mother run the farm.

As I was the only student doing Senior I was given a corner room upstairs in the two storey building next to the tennis courts. The teachers gave me a list of things to do each week and I would review progress with them three or four times a week when I drove to the College about 6 pm. It soon became obvious that I was very much on my own, but the Brothers were second to none, when it came to care and advice and with their help I succeeded. Br. Le Breton even got me through French! Fortunately, I found Maths easy but it would have been better in a class situation. Till next time, every good wish."



Rubert was the first Brendan's student study and pass Senior in 1945.

On 20th September 2008, with two of class mates from the 1940s, Les Dwyer and Jim Arthur, met in a mini-reunion with the class of 1958 in a gathering at the College. The day began at the Mango Trees with a tour of the College with the Principal, Simon Dash and Deputy Principal, Geoff McManus, followed by morning tea in the Dining Hall and lunch at the Sailing Club.

Les Dwyer, Rubert (Mitch) Mitchell, Jim Arthur "The Three Wise Monkeys".

Mitch had travelled all the way from Melbourne for the occasion, it being the first time he had been back for many years. *"I am stunned at the size and diversity of my old school, thanks to the many good souls who have contributed so much over the years."*

Les, 1941-46, originally came from Koumala but now lives in Gympie. Jim, 1944-45, hailed from "Braeside" Barcaldine and for many years lived in Emerald. (Deceased 2016).

Rubert Mitchell died 18th August 2017 in Melbourne.

We give thanks for the life of Rubert and the many who have journeyed with him over the years. May he rest in peace. Ed.



Tribute to Father Merv Zeising

6th Principal of St Brendan's

Some of you would have known Brother Merv Ziesing, Principal of St Brendan's College Yeppoon in the 1960s and Southport and later teacher at St Laurence's in the 70s and then at St Patrick's Shorncliffe before becoming a priest and spending the rest of his life on the Downs. I called in Lourdes Nursing Home this morning to see him, having heard that he was coming to the end of his life, but arrived a few hours after he died.

He was an extraordinarily 'physical' man in his youth, reputedly swimming from Yeppoon to Keppel Island and wanting to play handball for hours on end several days a week even in summer! Fortunately for us, he liked to go surfing most days after school in summer! As he

approached 50, so old in our minds back then, he really faced his personal demons, as he realized that his body was slowly but surely becoming incapable of what he had always been able to do before.

He didn't always win that battle and seemed to become reclusive in the 80s, as he reinvented himself as a manual arts teacher. Then he decided to become a priest and studied at Kensington, Sydney. Years later someone was saying how they had a new priest in Charleville, an outgoing man, full of life and energy visiting his parishioners on his motorbike, which he also rode to Toowoomba and Brisbane over 700km away. It was so good to hear that it was Merv, who had obviously found himself again.

In the last couple of years, as he reached 90, he was becoming rather critical of many things and wrote numerous letters to those he thought were the cause of the problems, mainly leaders in institutions. He retained, though, his gracious attitude and sense of humour and welcomed visitors to his unit at Lourdes Aged Care in Toowoomba. He refused to go to hospital recently saying that he was ready to die and did so this morning.

He was an enigmatic man in many ways. For example, Merv was the kind of leader, who could put you firmly in your place one day, usually on some point of the rules of community life, but give you immense authority, without conditions, the next! He might argue with you for an hour about a decision he had to make, admit that you were right, but then say, that he'd already put his prior view into practice! He claimed he had no memory and we knew he couldn't write well; yet he had degrees in Science, Education and Theology. He was an ascetic man in his own life, but often extraordinarily generous, looking to see what you might need and, without being prompted or asked, offering to get it for you regardless of the cost.

Peter Webb.

Mervyn Joseph ZIESING. SBC Principal 1964-1969

I came to know Merv, when he was a teaching Christian Brother and I was a student at St.

Brendan's College Yeppoon in the 1960s. As a person, teaching Christian Brother and Priest, Merv commanded great respect from all who came in contact with him. When meeting him and asking him how he was going, he would always respond “dangerously well!!” He was physically big and strong, while also being gentle and caring, although as an officer in the College Cadet Unit he was anything but gentle!!

Merv always considered himself as a student and teacher, and as far as I am aware, never missed an opportunity to enrich his knowledge through further study on various subjects in theology or scripture. One could call him a speculative / theologian, scripture scholar

St. Jerome once proclaimed, “Ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ.”

He would study the scriptures, commentaries, and write many articles on his reflections and often give them to his friend and sparring partner, Fr Pat Smith, to proof read.

Many a paper and periodical received Merv's responses and thoughts on subjects such as scripture, celibacy, married clergy, women priests, conscience, and authority in the church, the sacraments, liturgy, pastoral concerns and approaches.

On one occasion he was telling me he had written to the Pope, many bishops and selected others on a particular subject, and when I asked him what did they say in response, he looked at me with a quizzical smile and said, “Nothing, I haven't received a reply from any of them, and probably never will!”.

Merv was a very prayerful and spiritual person spending many hours in solidarity meditation and prayer. He loved celebrating the Eucharist and the sacraments. Homilies of course were well prepared and delivered in his own inevitable style. He would often wear a small alarm around his neck to make sure he didn't go over his five minute time limit. As he aged and his hearing began to fail so naturally his homilies became longer as he couldn't hear his alarm, nor did he notice the parishioners' gestures in trying to alert him of the fact!!

Merv's transition from the Christian Brothers to becoming a Priest was a challenging one.

However, it unleashed in him a youthful enthusiasm for life. He lived simply, which no doubt was characteristic of his days as a Christian Brother. Most of us knew Merv only as a priest came to experience his quirky and larrikin sense of humour, which often betrayed his intellectual and academic ability. He was quick of phrase, and independent of thought. His description and assessment of people and of places was sometimes picturesque and humorous. In his seminary days Merv rode a motorbike, which he would ride everywhere in all sorts of weather. Not long after his ordination Bishop Kelly informed him, that priests of this diocese drove cars and didn't ride motorbikes! Merv duly sold the bike and bought a station wagon,

after the station wagon, he bought a four wheel drive, put a canopy on it, which housed his scooter! However with the change of the Bishop, Merv reverted back to his preferred mode of transport and bought a BMW motorbike, which he rode everywhere, sometimes towing a small trailer!

On occasions, when he was travelling from Charleville though Roma, where I was Parish priest, he would call in for a cup of coffee and four winks. A wink for Merv was five minutes, so he would have his coffee and 20 minutes rest and then continue on his way.

On another occasion I called on him in Wallumbilla, where he was priest, and while having a cup of tea and discussion with him on a very important subject, he interrupted me and said, "Hang on a moment, while I go and get my hearing aids, so I can hear you in case you are saying something sensible!!"

Although he did not teach me any academic subjects at St Brendan's, he did teach and assist me in some gymnastics movements. We made a great duo on the springboard and horse, handstands etc. In recent times Merv would recall some of these activities and pointing at my athletic figure proclaim to all and sundry, "See this young man, once he used to fly like a bird, now he flies like a mallard duck!!"

As he aged and moved to semi-retirement, he sold the big bike and bought a small van in which he could carry his mobility scooter. Not long after moving into Vianney Village, Toowoomba, he sold the van, which left him with only his mobility scooter to terrorize the public of Middle Ridge, and the residents at Lourdes Home!

Merv was happy enough in his unit in Vianney Village. However, one day, he told me he was going into 'high care' and had put his name down for a room in Lourdes Home into 'high care'. When I asked why he wanted to move, he replied, "for fifty years I lived in a box as a Christian Brother, all I require now was my reclining chair, a bed and my computer!"

He saw his new place of residence as a new pastoral venture and ministered to the many aged and infirm, bringing them hope consolation and joy.

I'm sure he would be embarrassed, if I were to recall some of old days and not so old. Of course he would deny any knowledge of them with a quick witted reply.

Merv was no saint and he would be the first to acknowledge that at times he was far from ascetic in his behavior and thought. So, if I could turn Archbishop Chaput's assessment around about Merv, when interviewed during the Bishop Morris's enquiry, as being academically shallow and arrogant, would say he was academically gifted and in personality, wise, humble, prayerful, respectful, clever, talented, full of life, practical joker, gentle and loving with an insightful sense of larrikin humour and a holy fool!!

Merv died on the patronal feast of our diocese, Our Lady of the Southern Cross, and was

buried on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a women he held lovingly in his heart.

I would guess, if Merv was here and sitting there in front of me, he would prefix any critical remarks in this eulogy by saying, “Peter, I can hardly see you, are you standing up?”

“Mervyn Joseph Ziesing, may you be at peace as you live and rejoice and experience your dream of being in top care.!!”

Abridged version of Eulogy given by Fr Peter Doohan, SBC 1961-1963

Colin Joseph Dziewiski



Colin Joseph Dziewiski was born 9th March 1955 Clermont. He attended St. Brendan's as a boarder in 1971 and 1972 completing Years 11 and 12. In 1973 Col gained employment as a cadet overseer with the Emerald Shire Council and later the amalgamated Central Highlands Regional Council. He remained in that employ for the next 39 years progressing to Management of the construction workforce. He was a valued member of the Emerald community for his involvement and commitment to the Rotary Club of Emerald Sunrise. Col died suddenly in Emerald 25th October 2017. The Emerald people gave thanks for his life at St Patrick's Church on 30th October. Fr Terry Loth was the celebrant.

1958 Reunion

Advanced notification of a Reunion for the **Class of 1958**. (1956-58).

It is hoped to take place during the September school holidays (22 Sept-7 Oct 2018).

Contact person: **Brian McLay**

8 Ferrand Street, TARRAGINDI. Qld 4121

07 3848 0938 or bernadetteemclay@gmail.com

Bindi-Eye Publication.

Have you a story to tell? Achievements, Graduations, Marriages, Sporting Events, Reunions etc. All it takes is a page or two or a photo!

Thank you for those old boys who sent in articles.

One of the easiest ways to assist is to send your e-mail address if you have not done so already. When the Bindi-Eye is downloaded on the website you will be notified. Check the College Website for other information.

With the printing of the newsletter at the college and more able to download the publication from the web site, costs will be reduced greatly compared with the present postage.

The Newsletter can be opened on the **Web site:** www.sbc.qld.edu.au

Open and under **Our Community** find Old Boys Association.

Try also St Brendan's Facebook page.

The present postal mailing will continue for those who prefer it. Please make sure your address is current.

If you can assist in anyway please forward any contribution to:

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