



Alumni News

Issue 7 - April 2011. Catholic College Bendigo Alumni Newsletter

Welcome

In recent years we have worked hard as a College to reclaim our history and become more aware of the valuable role our past students play in who we are today. We have developed a database of over 3000 people happy to belong to our Alumni. Congratulations to Barb Lomas and all those who have helped spread the word about being part of our extended Catholic College Bendigo community. Hopefully each of you feels part of our College regardless of which of our former colleges you attended. You are all part of the history of our College and you are all welcome to attend any function our College provides.

In 2011 our College has grown to have an enrolment of more than 1880 students. We employ 150 Teachers and 90 School Officers. The facilities at our College continue to grow with a new English Learning Centre being constructed at Coolock and an Agriculture and Horticulture centre nearing completion at La Valla. Our College is now entering the third year of structured Pastoral houses which are named to reflect our Heritage.

Our Opening Mass for 2011 was held recently and it was very moving to see our community gather over 2000 people to pray for blessings on our new year. The student Leaders presented a tribute on the life of our much loved and recently departed Bishop Joe Grech. Our young people had such deep affection for Bishop Joe and this was felt quite poignantly when the whole congregation sat in silence for some time at the end of this tribute.

After 15 months of work we have just released our new College Mission Statement. As our College grows it is important we reflect on who we are and what is central to our reason for being. The new Mission Statement is below for you to read. We hope that all members of our community are able to identify with the vision, beliefs and commitments this document proclaims.

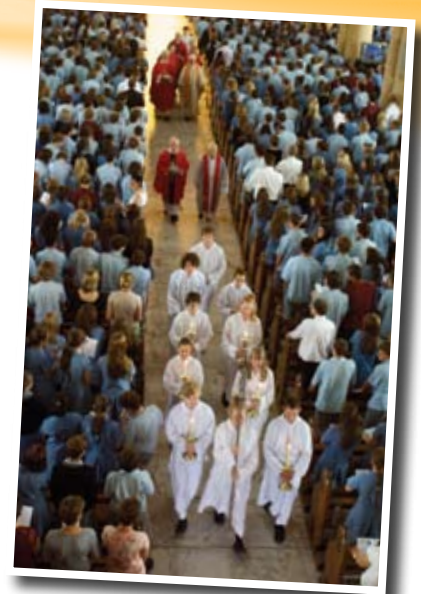
When we began the Alumni I could not have hoped for a better beginning. It is my hope and dream that we can now take the next step and try to have all members feel they are truly part of our College. We have tried for a few years to have an annual gathering for the alumni and different events have had varied levels of success. What do you think would be a good way to gather each year? What can we organise each year to assist you in returning to your alumni? Barb and I would welcome your suggestions. I hope you enjoy this version of the Alumni News and I look forward to catching up with you as the year unfolds.

Darren McGregor, Principal



Founders' day 2010. (l to r) Bishop Joe Grech, Emily Smith and Darren McGregor.

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Catholic College Bendigo Mission Statement

Catholic College Bendigo is a Catholic Secondary College developed in the Marist and Mercy Traditions, in partnership with the Sandhurst Diocese, on the land of the Jaara people. Our learning community strives to provide each young person with the best educational opportunities to experience personal success. Making Jesus Christ known and loved by all in our community, especially by our young people, is central to our mission. This love of Jesus is reflected in the daily lives of all in our community.

At Catholic College Bendigo we believe:

- Life is a gift from God
- Learning brings fullness of life
- Relationships are built on love and respect
- In the goodness of young people

Therefore we are committed to:

- Living the Good News
- Enabling personal excellence
- Listening, reflecting and responding
- Caring for God's creation
- Celebrating our story
- Building community within and beyond our college
- Promoting lifelong learners
- Developing confident, courageous and hope-filled people





St Vincent's College 55-Year Anniversary of Foundation

On Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 October 2010, past students of St Vincent's College celebrated 55 years since the foundation of the College. The reunion was a great occasion for St Vincent's Alumni to come together as they are now scattered across southern Australia and have few opportunity to reconnect with their school and each other.

The weekend featured a gala dinner where the guest speaker, Ron Storey, encouraged reminiscences from representatives of each decade including the first and last years of the College.



The Reunion continued on Sunday morning with Mass celebrated by Fr Rom Hayes in what was formerly the Chapel at St Vincent's and is now the La Valla library at Catholic College Bendigo. A highlight of the morning was the presentation to Catholic College Bendigo of a Technology Scholarship funded by the St Vincent's Past Students Association.



Marist Brothers' Annual Reunion

Another good crowd of just under 100 'old boys' attended the Marist Brothers' College Annual Reunion in early April 2010. Br Tom, Br Linus, Br Regis were all welcomed into the old school grounds (now the Doxa School). The oldest past student in attendance was Jack Kelly who began at MBC in 1937. The crowd heard that the previous reunion had raised \$1000 for Marist missions. In 2011 the Reunion will be held on Sunday 24 April from 11am to 1pm in the former grounds of the College.



Luke Shavak

Former Catholic College Bendigo student Luke Shavak (CCB 1993 -1997) is currently undertaking the adventure of a lifetime as he attempts to climb Mt Everest.

Luke's good friend Amanda Ghirardello was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 25. She has battled the illness for 18 months and is now a survivor. Amanda, Luke and nine others are trekking into Mt Everest Base Camp before climbing to over 20,000 feet above sea level, to attempt to raise \$1 Million for the Australian Cancer Research Fund. The project is called 'Remission Possible', which has been created by Amanda. As this publication goes to print, the group is in Nepal making their attempt on Mt Everest.

Luke also runs a successful online Internet Marketing business and plays in a band called the Yellow Stallions. In November 2010, the Yellow Stallions rocked the Melbourne public at Federation Square in tumultuous weather



In 2010, Luke visited classes at La Valla to explain the project.

to raise nearly \$6000 for cancer research for Amanda's 'Remission Possible' project. The band played for 24 hours nonstop, playing approximately 192 songs over the 24 hours to an estimated 10,000 people that walked past. The band kept playing through some intense wind and rain, and warnings of possible floods.



The group approaching 5000m

To learn more about 'Remission Possible' or to donate to cancer research, go to the project website: www.everydayhero.com.au/RemissionPossible.

Reunion Noticeboard

Marist Brothers' Annual Reunion

Marist Brothers' Old Boys are invited to attend their Annual Reunion on Easter Sunday, 24 April in the grounds of the old College following 10am Mass at St Kilian's.

SMC/MBC/CCB Class of 1986

This amalgamated year level will hold a 25-year Reunion on 2 April 2011 at the Metro Lounge. A tour of the College will be included. Contact the Alumni Office for details.

SMC/MBC Class of 1976

Plans are underway for a 35-year Reunion in October 2011. Details will be announced, make sure you are registered with the Alumni Office.

Where are they now?

Dr Damien Keating (CCB 1987-1992) is midway through a prestigious Future Fellowship from the Australian Research Council for ground-breaking research on how human cells communicate. The Flinders University neuroscientist explained that as well as increasing fundamental knowledge of cell communication, the research has the potential to increase understanding of neurodegenerative diseases including Down Syndrome and Huntington's and Alzheimer's diseases. Dr Keating, who has authored 11 scientific papers said he also saw the Fellowship as recognition of the strong research generated by a community of talented neuroscientists at Flinders University in South Australia.



John Gaskell (CCB 1994-1999) is the Interpretation and Education Officer, Diver and Sea Jelly Aquarist at Melbourne Aquarium. After leaving Catholic College Bendigo, John gained a Bachelor of Science (Fisheries Management and Aquaculture) and Bachelor of Education at Deakin University, Warrnambool. His love of marine life and passion for educating people about the amazing aquatic world of Port Phillip Bay led him to co-write and produce a book with Christopher Smith and Evan Coker called *Beneath Our Bay: Discovering the*



Secrets of Port Phillip which was published in 2009. The book is an underwater photographic and snorkelling guide to the shallow waters of Port Phillip Bay. The aim is to give people an insight into local marine animals, while teaching concepts that relate to underwater life and ocean habitats. John hopes that the book encourages all Victorians to grab a snorkel and take a look at Port Phillip Bay for themselves.



Josie Lowerson (Staff MBC 1983, SMC 1985, CCB 1990-1999) recently featured her sculptural works in a solo exhibition at the Cairns Regional Gallery. The life-sized figurative work is the result of three years of physically demanding work. Josie has been teaching and exhibiting for over twenty years and is currently based in the Atherton Tablelands of Queensland. Josie's connections with Catholic College Bendigo go back long before she taught art at the school, as her mother and aunts – Beryl Dillon, Marie Hogan, Betty O'Brien and Valda Hickmott (all nee Shepherd) are past students and boarders of St Mary's College.



1980



▲ St Mary's College Class of 1980 held a 30-Year Reunion in April 2010. This was the first opportunity this class had to come together in thirty years and they made up for lost time with a great turn out and nearly all members of the year level contacted.

► In November 2010, the St Mary's College Proficiency Class of 1945 enjoyed a lunch to celebrate 65 years since finishing school. This group has met every year since 1995.

1945



1985

► Marist Brothers' College, St Mary's College/Catholic College Bendigo Class of 1985 25-Year Reunion was held a couple of months past the actual year in February 2011. This group started separately as Marist Brothers' and St Mary's and came together for Year 12 as one group of Catholic College Bendigo as the first fully amalgamated class. The reunion was a great success with over 100 past students attending the GPO Café in Bendigo.



Reunion
Wrap Up



Katherine Gallagher's new book - CARNIVAL EDGE



Former St Mary's College boarder, Katherine Gallagher (SMC 1948-1950) launched her new collection of Poetry at the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, Kings College London in April 2010. The collection, *Carnival Edge: New & Selected Poems* (Arc Publications, 2010) was launched by Dr Ian Henderson.

Later in 2010 Katherine visited Australia to promote the book and participate in various events. The first of these was as member of a panel to judge the Doris Leadbetter Cup at the Wheeler Performance Centre in Melbourne. Up to forty poets presented one-minute readings on the night. Doris Leadbetter was a Yorkshire poet who settled in Bendigo but who was well-known in poetry circles for her lively events and wit. Katherine also participated in a panel event at the Melbourne Writers' Festival where the creative process was examined under the heading 'Where do you get your ideas?'



Marist Brothers' Band Celebrates Centenary

2010 was an exciting year for the Marist Brothers' Band with the celebration of 100 years since the first appearance of the Marist Brothers' College Band in December 1910. A number of events were held to commemorate this magnificent achievement; foremost was a concert held at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in September which treated the audience to a diverse range of brass band music.

A formal dinner was held at the All Seasons Quality Resort in November. This was an opportunity for current and former band members, as well as members of the College and Church communities to come together to relive their memories of the band over the last 100 years.

During the dinner, current members were presented with commemorative badges and six members were bestowed with Life memberships for their outstanding service to the Marist Brothers Band. Long-time member and ex-student, George Flack launched his book - *Marist Brass: A Century of Music and March*. This fantastic book provides comprehensive documentation of the 100 year history of the band. A relaxed 'open rehearsal' and lunch was held the day after the dinner.



The band still maintains strong links with Catholic College Bendigo and the Sandhurst Diocese as well as the Greater Bendigo community with frequent performances and regular competitions. 2011 will see the band compete at local and national competitions as well as at the New Zealand Championships. For more information about the band or to purchase the centenary book visit www.maristbrothersband.org.au



Catherine McGrath Represents Women in Rome

Catherine Reed McGrath (SMC 1957-1960) has recently been appointed the Australian Board Member of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO). Catherine, who began her education at St Liborius in Eaglehawk before attending St Mary's College Bendigo, has been President of CWLA-NSW Inc for the past four years. "I never thought when I joined Catholic Women's League Australia-New South Wales Inc that I would be in this position of representing all the Catholic Women of Australia." She explains that the WUCWO, which holds its meetings in Rome, works to support charitable and Christian projects. "Raising funds for charity, support of seminarians and promotion of the teachings of Christ and His church are all part of what we do."



Catherine McGrath (right) at the recent World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations assembly in Jerusalem.



Nicholas Tonti-Filippini

On July 30 2009 the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI appointed Prof Nicholas Tonti-Filippini (SVC 1969-1975) a Knight Commander of St Gregory the Great. The Order of St Gregory the Great was established in 1831 by Pope Gregory XVI and is bestowed on Catholic men and women in recognition of their service to the Church and good example set in their communities and country. In announcing the appointment, Archbishop Denis Hart said that the appointment was in recognition of Prof Tonti-Filippini's well-known contribution to Bioethics and his role as an adviser to the Archbishop of Melbourne.

Prof Tonti-Filippini, who was dux of St Vincent's College Bendigo in 1975 is Associate Dean and Head of Bioethics for the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family, a graduate institute associated with the Lateran University in Rome. He is also a member of the Expert Advisory Panel for the Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority. After leaving school Nicholas gained a BA (Hons) and MA from Monash University and a PhD from the University of Melbourne. He has an international reputation and has published widely in Bioethics. His long list of advisory positions and associations include international organizations and all levels of government in Australia.

In 1985, Nicholas married Dr Mary Walsh and they have four children: Claire, Lucianne, Justin and John. Prof Tonti-Filippini has renal failure and has been dependant on haemodialysis for nineteen years and had coronary bypass surgery six years ago.



Prof Nicholas Tonti-Filippini after receiving the knighthood at St Patricks Cathedral with his wife Dr Mary Walsh, daughter Lucianne and son Justin.

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