



DE LA SALLE  
COLLEGE

110

YEARS

110

STORIES

1912 - 2022



# FOREWORD

Dear Old Collegians,

Welcome to this wonderful publication, celebrating our 110th anniversary of De La Salle opening its doors to students for the very first time on 5 February 1912. While it covers a great deal, this outstanding collection, *110 Stories 110 Years*, represents but a small percentage of the extraordinary achievements of so many Old Collegians over our 110 year history. You will read of terrific accounts of De La Salle graduates' work in virtually every area of society and industry, in all corners of the globe.

A decade has passed since the publication of the College history (1922 – 2012) penned by Br Julian Watson fsc in the May 2012 Centenary issue of *Roll Call*, and it would not be an understatement to say that the last decade has represented a period of significant change for the College.

No one could have foreseen in 2012, that in less than 10 years, the College gates would be closed for months on end, as multiple school lockdowns were enforced across the country to protect students, and staff from the deadly COVID-19 virus. The rolling lockdowns lasted for almost two school years, with staff and students working remotely. Thankfully, life is returning to normal, and we can take time to reflect on this past decade, the first in the College's second century of operations.

Despite the disruptions to the College's normal operations, De La Salle is flourishing and continually striving to advance our students' learning, faith, spirituality and wellbeing through a strategic and innovative approach to education.

The second decade of the 21st century creates a raft of new

demands for educators as we prepare our young men for a future where many of them will work in jobs yet to be invented. Indeed, our excellent VCE results for 2021 place us in the top four Catholic boys' schools in Victoria. This is a most impressive achievement, given the 2021 Year 12s were also absent from onsite learning for most of their Year 11 in 2020. The Lasallian tradition of close and supportive relationships between students and staff underpinned this success. You will read many examples of this Lasallian tradition in the following pages as Old Collegians' reflect on their formative years being educated at Malvern.

As the world-wide model of Lasallian education works through its fourth century, the values, traditions and practices of the Founder and his fundamental themes and teachings remain at the core of all our operations in Malvern today. St John Baptist de La Salle emphasised respect and inclusivity, the imperative to identify a need and address it and to support all students. In 2022, these simple yet all so effective principles still provide contemporary direction for staff and students alike.

Attempts to address the pain caused by historical sexual abuse at De La Salle College, Malvern has been an ongoing issue this decade. Following ongoing consultation with survivors of abuse, the Trustees of the De La Salle Brothers and the College Board, a Dedication and Memorial service was held in March 2021. Two sculptures were commissioned and installed, dedicated to those courageous survivors, especially those who have been able to come forward, tell their stories and seek justice – just wanting their story heard. We remain committed to acknowledging and owning the crimes of decades past, and now strive to provide survivors with



whatever healing we may and ensure this never happens again.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the three founding Brothers and the many visionary, dedicated and spiritual De La Salle Brothers who served at Malvern since 1912. Their legacy is embraced and relived every day through the contribution of our Lasallian lay partners, who continue the Lasallian mission to guide the College through the 21st century.

I encourage you to read through this publication's stories of Old Collegians' extraordinary achievements. It is certainly a wonderful testament to what De La Salle graduates have contributed to society here and abroad. I must extend my thanks to *Roll Call* Editor, Kerry Martin for her tireless work in bringing this terrific publication together, a creative and superb record of our 110 years.

Let's see what the next 110 years brings!

Peter Houlihan,  
Principal

# FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to this special commemorative book to mark the 110th anniversary of De La Salle College. *110 Stories for 110 Years* is a celebration of our Old Collegians, as told through interviews published in *Roll Call* magazines over the years.

The stories have been selected to represent the depth and diversity of the life experiences of some remarkable men, including lawmakers, scientists, artists, academics, entertainers, corporate leaders, builders, educators, writers, wine makers, sporting legends, engineers, politicians, religious, barbers, anglers, pilots, diplomats, small business owners, social justice advocates, military personnel, and magicians.

Before we could decide on which stories to publish, we reached out to the College alumni, asking you to nominate Old Collegians who should be included. Thank you for your responses, some of your nominations appear as stories and others as brief entries, not sourced



*Kerry Martin with former Old Collegians' President, Tony McIlroy (1969) at an Old Colls' Reunion in 2019*

from *Roll Call*, but are nevertheless important and are scattered throughout the book.

*110 Stories for 110 Years* does not claim to be a history of the College, but more a celebration of the lives and experiences of Old Collegians. While it is not possible to include all published interviews, we hope we have provided a representative cross section of our alumni. As to date, there is yet to be a written comprehensive history of De La Salle College – therein lies a

challenge for the next generation. As always, we are looking for stories of our alumni community and we welcome any contributions that which to date have not been published.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories of the last 110 years and we look forward to many more to come.

Kerry Martin,  
Editor

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editor would like to thank all the Old Collegians, who have been profiled in *Roll Call* over the years and appear in this publication. It has always been a privilege to share the stories and experiences of their lives after De La Salle College with you.

I would also like to thank the many people who have contributed to this commemorative book in some way.

Thanks to Br David Hawke fsc, Br Peter Smyth fsc, Br Gerard Rummery fsc, Br Julian Watson fsc (dec.), Br Bill Firman fsc (1960), Br Quentin O'Halloran fsc, Br Tim Peter fsc, Br Paul Rogers fsc, Principal Peter Houlihan, Richard Mullaly (1974), Genie Scott, Trish Woodman, Nicholas Quinn (1963), Steven Stefanopoulos (1992), Tony McIlroy (1969), Costa Haritos (2015), Christine Thompson, Paul Culliver (2007), Tom Buick (1965), Tom McIlroy (2003), Greg Barns (1979), Alexander Hay (2010), Jonathan Hewett, James Eracleous (2013), Peter Pearce (2022), James McPherson, Sarah Pudelko, Dee Houlihan, Michael Bohan (1973), Pauline Nolan, David Fegan, Tanya Claudius, Marian Jenkinson, Sandy Wreford, Tom Ryan (1976) Shane Mackintosh, Mark Gustincic, Jessica Alger, Rana Brogan and Cate McIlroy. Also, thanks to Matt O'Callaghan (1986), Sue Ellen Mackintosh, Troy Buntine (1996), and Marty Kelliher (1981) from the DLSOCAFC. I am also grateful to the Hawthorn Football Club, The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, Splitting Image, the Law Institute of Victoria, and The Herald Sun and AFL Photos for the use of photographs. Special thanks to the Morgan family, and Leo Morgan in particular, who were generous in responding to my enquiries, whilst grieving the recent loss of John Morgan (1978).

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HISTORY  
OF THE  
COLLEGE

## 1912 - 1918

De La Salle College started as the boys' primary school for the parish of St Joseph's, Malvern, on 5 February 1912, under the care of the Vincentian Congregation. The College's founding staff, were three young Irishmen, Brothers Dunstan Drumm (32), Leopold Loughran (34) and Jerome Foley (26) who sailed from Ireland on the *Frederick der Grosse*. It berthed in Melbourne on 4 February 1912, only one day before they started classes. The Brothers brought very little with them, but they did bring their Brotherhood's 200 year old tradition of running good schools. Two relevant elements of that tradition were a genuine respect for their pupils and offering a program of studies which addressed the future needs of their clientele.

The year before the founding Brothers arrived, Fr Simon Hegarty CM the Parish Priest, started building a new school and enrolled prospective pupils. The building, on the former Coldblo Estate in Stanhope Street West, Malvern, was not quite finished by the time the Brothers arrived so the classes were housed for three months in makeshift areas in the Parish Hall. After the Easter holidays, the students and Brothers moved to their new accommodation.



*Brs Jerome Foley fsc, Dunstan Drumm fsc, Leopold Loughran fsc (1912)*

On the first day there were 54 students, and by July that year, enrolments had climbed to 147.

All the Brothers were fully trained, qualified teachers, and each had honed his teaching skills over some years in various schools in Ireland. Their competence was plain for all to see when, in their second year they successfully presented candidates for the Merit Certificate Examination. Fr Hegarty had plans beyond a primary school, he wanted a secondary school as well. That was to be another tile in the mosaic, the Vincentians

were piecing together as they methodically built up a model parish at St Joseph's, a kind of one-stop shop where all the needs of reasonable parishioners would be met from birth to burial.

The Brothers however had a problem, their Rule forbade them to teach Latin, which at that time was compulsory to gain admittance to Melbourne University. (It was thought the teaching of Latin would turn the Brothers' attention to the more affluent classes of society, thereby abandoning their care for the poor and ambition for the priesthood). That was a problem for them everywhere, but especially in English-speaking countries where the bishops also wanted Latin taught to prepare their prospective candidates for admission to the seminary. The usual solution was to have it taught by someone else, often off the school property. That was the solution at Malvern and a priest taught it in the presbytery. In fact, few boys wanted Latin as the Catholic population of that period was more concerned with job security than academic pursuits.

## 1918 - 1939

The first secondary classes at the College started during WWI, in 1918, and were immediately successful. Considerable effort went into commercial subjects and preparing boys for the Public Service Exams. The Latin question was bubbling away all the time and finally boiled over when the French Superiors took a very hard line and interpreted the rule in a way that meant not only were the Brothers not to teach Latin, but that virtually no boys in the school could learn it and they were loyally supported by the Provincial in Australia at that time. The result for De La Salle was that the best and brightest students who intended to go on to university had to go elsewhere, and that is what they did. It also meant that there was a lessening of confidence in the school.



*De La Salle Campus, Stanhope Street West (1912)*

At that time, there were six Brothers in the community and some were so upset that their health was affected. In September 1920, four of them suddenly returned to Ireland. There were no Brothers to replace them and the Provincial ordered that De La Salle College revert to be a primary school only. The root cause of the trouble was solved around 1923 when Pope Pius XI, at the request of several bishops, changed the Brothers' Rule and told them to teach Latin. For three years De La Salle was a primary school only. Despite the set-back, the number of pupils continued to slowly increase, and some new classrooms were added.

Secondary classes were restarted in 1924 and were again successful. The College regained its breath and the first candidates were presented for the Leaving Certificate in 1927. That year, too, De La Salle entered the inter-college sports for the first time and the following year secured second place in the Combined Secondary Schools Sports, including records in the 220 yards Under 16 and the Junior High Jump.

Student accommodation was becoming critical and Fr Meenagh CM developed a bold plan to sell the Stanhope Street West land and building to the tramways, buy the property on the corner of Stanhope and Dalny Streets and erect a new building (at present known as the Tower Block). All that was accomplished and the College transferred to the new site at the beginning of Term 3, 1929. At the same time, the Brothers shifted into Manresa from their previous residence, Tiverton, which opened for 18 boarders the following year.

The boarding department lasted for eight years when lack of opportunity for expansion caused the Brothers to buy a former school at Mentone in 1937, and open Saint Bede's College in 1938.



*First De La Salle boarders (1930)*

Let us return to the beginning of the decade. With the coming of the thirties, the founding stage of the College was over. A period of steady growth followed and the number of students and of Brothers teaching them increased. It was also a time for consolidating its academic profile and cementing its place amongst the Catholic boys' schools in Melbourne.

It also felt the effects of the Great Depression that dominated most of the decade and made it impossible for many families to pay for their children to attend secondary schools. It is impossible to know how many students did not enroll for that reason, but it is known that a good number were offered places at reduced rates or free of charge at the time.

In the late 30s, two events, both largely unnoticed by the general populace, had a significant effect on De La Salle. The first was the extension of what were known as Diocesan Scholarship Schools as adjuncts to several Order-owned Colleges. Around 1938, De La Salle accepted an invitation to open one, which was known as St Leo's. For the next 30 years, it provided a steady stream of talented and motivated students whose examination results undoubtedly raised the College's academic reputation. The other event was the

change in ownership of the College. At the end of the decade, Saint Joseph's parish sold the College to the Brothers, who naturally assumed complete financial responsibility for it from then on.

In 1929, the first Old Boys' Association was formed. Dissolved during World War II, the Association was re-formed in 1946 at a meeting attended by 236 ex-students. This is thanks to the wonderful loyalty and persistence of men like Jack May, Hilary Hayes and Bert Newton.

## 1940 - 1950

The forties opened in the austerity, turmoil and insecurity of WWII. Early in the strife, the government invited schools to establish Cadet Corps. De La Salle chose to establish a unit linked with the army. Most boys from Proficiency (Year 9) to Matriculation (Year 12) volunteered to join and took their training seriously. Selected volunteer members of the staff trained as officers and commanded the unit. Senior students trained as Cadet officers and carried out their duties most efficiently. Warrant Officers from the army helped with the training.

The Corps enjoyed an excellent reputation for the next 30 or so years until it was disbanded in 1974.



*De La Salle Cadet Corps (1945)*

One event stands out in the history of the Cadet unit. On 27 August 1948, the College was deeply saddened when one of its senior students, Robert John Myers, known as 'John', was accidentally shot and killed in a mock night battle while in camp at Puckapunyal. Fr Van Prooyen SJ, commanding officer of the Xavier College unit, was a tower of strength that night to those who witnessed the tragedy, including Captain P. Corbett (Br Cassian), our commanding officer, and Lieutenant J. Murdoch (Br Oswald). There were thousands of Cadets in camp that week.

At John's funeral at the end of the week, every school that had a unit in camp at the time sent busloads of Cadets to represent them. That dull Saturday morning, there was scarcely a dry eye when the haunting notes of the Last Post floated over the Brighton cemetery as John's coffin was lowered into the grave. Expressions of condolence and sympathy flooded into the College from the most unexpected and unknown sources for weeks following the sad incident. It was evident that De La Salle College was highly regarded by the whole of Melbourne and throughout Victoria.

The major event of the 1940s was, undoubtedly, the end of WWII. The College joined in the festivities and celebrations. Fathers, brothers and friends of College students were demobilised quickly in most cases. However, peace time was not always a happy time for some Old Collegians. The camaraderie of the defense forces and the deep friendships generated by looking after mates and being looked after by them, as well as by dangers shared, was replaced for some, especially those who had gone straight from school life into the forces, by the anonymity and rugged competitiveness of civilian life, many sought consolation and guidance from their old school.



*Student assembly in front of The Tower Building and Manresa (1948)*

It took time for manufacturers to convert their enterprises from producing weapons, ammunition and other wartime supplies back to peacetime products. Materials were in short supply and immediate needs for housing and employment were, rightly, higher priorities than the needs of schools and education. De La Salle suffered along with all other educational establishments.

Towards the end of the decade, Arthur Caldwell's immigration policy was moving into gear, and the College was as unprepared for the influx as every other school. On the positive side, the Old Collegians' Association was revived in 1946 and led by a very able and devoted management team. In 1948, Archbishop Mannix blessed and consecrated the College's Shrine of Remembrance erected to honour the 50 ex-students who lost their lives in WWII.

## 1950 - 1960s

The early 50's was an amazing time, the spirit of De La Salle was never higher; the government immigration scheme was in top gear; staff shortages were chronic and massive; it was virtually impossible to curtail enrolments; teaching students who did not know a word of English was a new experience; there was no government assistance to non-government schools; many migrants, known as "New Australians," were as poor as proverbial church mice and could not pay tuition fees; class sizes were huge, sometimes as many as 80, 90 or even more students. Nevertheless, there was an atmosphere of optimism, co-operation and effort; the students, especially the "New Australians," worked hard, helped one another and scored well in the public examinations.

The perseverance of the College authorities eventually bore fruit and



expansion in ways that could not even be dreamed of a decade before gradually gained momentum.

In the late 40s, the possibility of moving the whole College operation to a more spacious site was seriously considered and 40 acres was bought in Ashwood in 1949. There was an architect's sketch of possible buildings and ovals and a creek running through the property was straightened. The idea of relocating was eventually abandoned because of the lack of public transport in the Ashwood area. Subsequently, the property was sold. More significantly, the first part of the Kinnoull Campus was purchased in May 1953, and Years 3 and 4 moved to that site at the start of Term 2.

A policy was also inaugurated of buying up properties adjacent to the High Street and Kinnoull sites as they became available and was pursued for the next fifty years. As properties were acquired, the existing buildings were demolished and replaced with school buildings and other facilities. The noise of the bulldozer and concrete mixer became an established accompaniment to the more usual classroom sounds.

Another significant event in the 50s was the establishment of the Old Collegians' Football Club. Its immediate success brought positive publicity to the College.

Another feature of that time and the following decades was the number of ex-students who entered the professions. That was particularly the case in the legal profession where leading judges in all kinds of courts claimed De La Salle as their alma mater, as did others who gained prominence as doctors, dentists, accountants and scientists. It was an era of diversity when the College produced everything from an Olympic high jumper to a Rhodes Scholar.



*Media class (1970)*

It was about that time that another event, so far not publicly reported, occurred. An invitation was extended to De La Salle College to join the GPS group of schools. It was seriously considered, but, in the end, declined by the Brothers on the grounds that acceptance would be inimical to their mission "to provide a human and Christian education especially to the poor." Specifically, it was thought that to accept would inevitably lead to De La Salle becoming an elite school, and that would betray its ideal of inclusiveness.

Historically, De La Salle schools accept students from the full range of social classes, and they learn that more important than social class is their common, God-given humanity. Thus, the poor come to see that not all the wealthy are arrogant and selfish, and the better-off that not all the poor are scheming and envious. In the Brothers' schools, social divides are bridged, and the students learn to be accepting of differences. Not surprisingly, the mixing leads to employment opportunities for some who traditionally earn their living by the labour of their hands.

## 1968 – 1990s

In May 1968, the Paris Revolt broke out. Originally, it involved only university and secondary school students, but quickly spread to other groups, and its repercussions were felt throughout the world.

By October they had reached Australia and affected De La Salle. The truth is that many senior students were influenced by people standing outside the College gates on High Street peddling Purple Hearts and Chairman Mao's Little Red Book, and exhorting them to "take no notice of what those Brothers are telling you, but do your own thing."

It was a hard time for the College administration and the staff. Some say that is the explanation for the dip in exam results at that time, some also say that the leadership of the College at the time was comparatively ill-prepared. The position was gradually retrieved when a charismatic Principal was appointed in 1971 in the person of Br Damian Harvey, a former student. He was famous for emphasising the proud tradition of study and service of the College. His term lasted until December 1977.

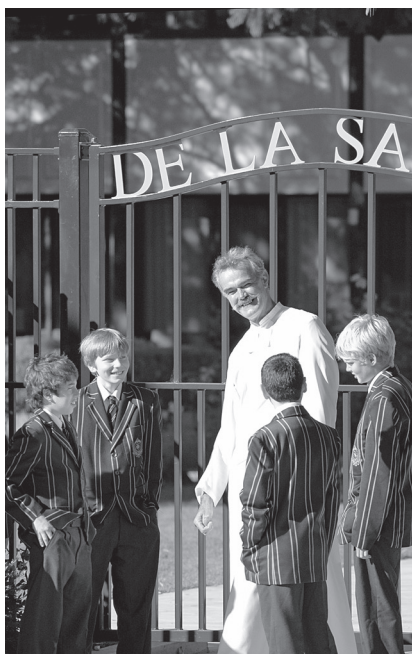
Probably the most important event for the College in the 1980s was a root and branch audit of the educational offerings of De La Salle, inaugurated by the next Principal. It found deficiencies in what was offered in music, drama, technology and counselling. The College administration accepted the recommendations and some of the recommendations were enacted, for example, re-writing courses and appointing a full-time school counsellor. Others could only be carried out as finance became available to provide the buildings and equipment needed and took some years to come to fruition.

## 2000 – 2012

In 2002, it became possible for Year 10 students to do some units of the VCE course. That, and considerations of better use of time for the teaching staff, led to the transfer of Year 10 to the Kinnoull Campus once a whole new block of classrooms was built to accommodate them.

The story of De La Salle would not be complete without some reference to transcendence. The College operates under the auspices of the Catholic Church and is more than an institution to prepare its students for secular careers. One measure of the awareness of the Almighty is vocations. From its early days, the College has produced a constant stream of men willing to serve God and others in the priesthood and religious life. There are many priests in the Archdiocese of Melbourne and in some other dioceses who claim De La Salle as their alma mater. Among them have been two bishops, and an archbishop. There has also been a fair scattering of ex-students in religious orders, most as priests but also some as lay Brothers. In the Institute of the De La Salle Brothers in Australia, there have been more Brothers from De La Salle College than from any other school; among them can be counted four Provincials.

Acknowledgement must be made of the contribution of lay teachers to the College. In the early days they were a minority on staff simply because there was no money to pay adequate salaries, whereas the Brothers could live on a meagre stipend. With the delivery of government assistance in the middle of last century, the situation quickly changed. However, it would be demeaning to lay teachers to limit consideration solely to financial matters. They have made valuable contributions to the “human and Christian education of youth” in so many ways. Lay teachers introduce students to a wider range of



*Br Denis Loft fsc and Year 7 students (2010)*

personalities, a better gender mix, non-religious role models and, in them, students see religious practice as a normal part of living. De La Salle has been fortunate in having so many dedicated lay teachers, and acknowledges the benefits their competence, generosity and concern for the welfare of the students and one another have brought to the College.

During the 100 years of the existence of De La Salle College the world has changed almost beyond recognition: the motor car, the aeroplane, wireless, television, transistor radios, mobile telephones, computers and all the gadgetry they have spawned are now commonplace.

Australia has been engaged in seven wars, there has been a constant procession of Prime Ministers and governments as well as Principals at De La Salle. Various events such as the Melbourne Olympics, the launching of satellites, space exploration, the Moon landing, Prime Minister Rudd’s “Sorry” speech and a thousand other happenings have all had some influence on the College. It is hard to specify the influence and harder still to quantify it.

At the same time, many groups and individuals have had to be omitted from this story because of limits of space, their contributions are known and will be acknowledged when the history of the College appears within the next few years, in the meantime, we offer our apologies. May De La Salle College continue to prosper for the next 100 years.

*By Br Julian Watson fsc (dec.)  
First published in Roll Call May 2012*

## 2012 – 2022

The 10 years since the College’s centenary have been characterised by change. Perhaps of most significance was the departure of the Brothers from their leadership role at the College. In 2013, the College bid farewell to its last Brother Principal, Br Paul Rogers fsc. The following year, I took up my role as De La Salle’s first lay Principal. This exciting and challenging role has given me tremendous pride and satisfaction, and I am enormously proud of the Lasallian community it has been my privilege to lead.

My vision for the College has always acknowledged the need to preserve and celebrate all that is great about De La Salle, but to also have the courage to create the future of our choice.

The delivery of education at the College has been transformed through digital learning. The 2015 ICT Strategic Plan delivered universal laptop access and online learning capacity for all.

Today’s students learn via a variety of modes, which allows flexible delivery and content. It was certainly this capacity, which enabled the College community to transition so efficiently in its response to the COVID -19 school lockdowns.

At the same time, academic standards of the College have seen steady improvement. Over the past 10 years, VCE outcomes have continued to improve across the board – with the best ever VCE results in 2018, and further growth since then. Indeed, the 2021 VCE data places us as the fourth highest achieving Catholic boys’ school in Victoria. This has been largely due to the dedication of our teaching and support staff and a more strategic approach to pedagogical approaches, cutting edge utilisation of data, alongside initiatives such as a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program.

Alongside the continuous development of improved academic programs, the College’s built environment continuously undergoes improvements. Of historical significance, the College opened the Holy Eucharist Year 9 Campus in Malvern East in 2019, providing an experiential approach to learning and teaching, to enhance student engagement during those important middle school years.

The Year 9 program represents a critical development in the further improvement and competitiveness of the College moving into the future, providing inviting, modern engaging spaces to support an innovative curriculum.

The College’s Science facilities received a notable boost in 2018, with the opening of the Rheims Centre for Science and Technology at the Tiverton Campus. The new centre provides state of the art Science laboratories, interactive classrooms with bright and inviting spaces for student collaboration and presentations.

The front courtyard underwent a makeover at the same time, adding greenery, seating, decking, and colour. The third major project in 2018 was to demolish the Dalny St flats to provide bus parking spaces, which in turn meant increased playing area for students in the Tiverton yard.

In 2020, the iconic Tower Building, which had retained much of its original condition since it opened in 1929, was completely refurbished to provide students with contemporary learning spaces.

In 2021, the Murdoch and Duffy Buildings were renovated to a similar standard. The transformation of tired, old rooms into bright, modern and spacious learning environments was remarkable and our Year 7 and 8s now enjoy excellent facilities. A new Primary hub opened in the renovated Duffy Building this year, to cater for the growing enrolments



*Year 9 Holy Eucharist Campus*

in Years 5 and 6. A new fitness, weights and cardio centre provides the latest strength and cardio exercise equipment. Complementing all these building upgrades have been significant painting projects and laying of colourful Astroturf in various areas around the Tiverton Campus to provide more attractive and safer outdoor recreation areas for the Year 5 – 8 students.

The street frontage of Tiverton has been painted and new backlit signage installed to provide more visibility and identity for the College. Most recently, the 60 year old Kinnoull student toilets were decommissioned and brand-new facilities built in old changerooms under the Chapel Building – a welcome result for the senior students!

The faith life of the College remains central to all our operations. In an increasingly secular world, we have taken initiatives to enhance our families’ experience and appreciation of what our Catholic, Lasallian experience offers.

Regular Community Masses are held in neighbouring parishes with many students attending. A Mass to welcome new families is celebrated at the magnificent St Patrick’s Cathedral each year, where we now also hold the Year 12 Valedictory Mass. Year 12 Retreats are a central component of the students’ final year as is the innovative Religious Education Seminar Program.



*The Rheims Centre (2018)*

An increasingly contemporary Religious Education curriculum and Reflection Days are provided for Year 5 – 11 students. In March 2021, the College held a function to acknowledge and commemorate the victims of historical abuse at De La Salle. The Dedication and Memorial service and the installation of two sculptures were dedicated to those courageous survivors, just wanting their story heard in the pursuit of justice.

De La Salle maintains a strong focus on social justice, with our immersion programs expanding to cover supporting Lasallian communities in India, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines and Wilcannia, providing senior students with opportunities to volunteer and help others. Younger students are involved in community service programs and social justice initiatives, such as Mission Action Day, which has raised in excess of \$1 million since 2005 alone.

An increasingly vibrant Arts program has entertained and



*Students at the annual Athletics Carnival (2021)*

delighted our community through joint ventures with OLSH College, Sacré Cœur and now Siena College, producing outstanding musicals and plays. The Music program has also grown and developed in breadth and quality over the past decade.

In 2015, the College initiated a vertical House system for Years 10 – 12, to support students' transition to the senior school. The House spirit is flourishing and nowhere is it more visible than at the College's sporting carnivals.

The last decade has seen the College build its involvement in

the Associated Catholic Colleges competitions to include Music, Arts, Technology and Debating.

In the last 10 years alone, the College has won 29 ACC pennants in athletics, football, swimming, cricket, soccer, basketball, golf, chess and debating, and the fledgling High Performance Program for football, soccer, basketball, cricket, swimming and athletics will further enhance our students' co-curricular experience.

In 2019 we celebrated the 300th anniversary of the death of St John Baptiste de La Salle. A series of commemorative events and functions were held to honour the tercentenary with all staff and students involved at various times.

Our rich 110 year history and those who have served before this time have set the College up to achieve great things in the coming decades – just watch us and support our endeavours!

*By Peter Houlihan, Principal 2014 – present*

## REFLECTIONS OF DE LA SALLE, MALVERN

I arrived at Malvern in January 1951 from NSW with Brothers Edward Gehrig, James Thomas and Celestine Gavin. For all of us this was our first appointment after four years training and we soon learnt that the unexpected was always waiting to happen.

Br Celestine took his 5th class to cricket at Glen Iris but was unaware that one of his pupils, Guy Gianni from France, had little English and certainly no experience of cricket. Having been directed by his captain to field close to the bat, poor Guy copped a full-blooded hit from the bat across his forehead! Br Celestine recalls the wholesale panic from some boys who insisted that "if the blood reaches his eyes, Brother, he'll go blind!"

New to his surroundings, Br Celestine advised by his class, took the bleeding Guy to a nearby doctor's surgery and then had the task of getting his flock and Guy back home without a car. And that was only the day after beginning at school!

By 1962 De La Salle had made great progress in becoming a "singing school". Brothers Cormac, Candidus and Gerard took charge of training the boys so that all classes were covered.

Founder's Day Masses at St Joseph's had become very full-throated events so the College was ready to celebrate its first 50 years in the same style in St Patrick's Cathedral. There was a special acapella choir which had previously won its section at the Dandenong Festival. For the 50 Years' celebration day the choir was augmented by the famous tenor, Lorenzo Nolan whose son Paul was one of the choristers, together with Br Cormac Brophy,



a fine tenor and Ron Conway who sang bass with the cathedral choir. The performance of the choir on this occasion was so outstanding that one of the presiding bishops was led to remark that he had never heard the cathedral choir in such fine voice! But it was also the singing of the whole school which made this a very special occasion.

*Br Gerard Rummery fsc  
Teacher at De La Salle College, Malvern  
1951–1964*

110  
STORIES



# 1912

## THE MORGANS

*The Morgan family, 1911*  
*Back Row, L-R: Myra and Dennis*  
*Middle Row, L-R: Vera, Fred (father), Brigit (mother), Dehlia and Frederick*  
*Front Row, L-R: Leo, Harold "Howie" and Leslie*

One hundred and ten years ago, four Morgan brothers, Leo (1918), Leslie (1918), Denis (1919) and Harold "Howie" (1920) started school together at the newly opened De La Salle College in Stanhope Street, Malvern.

From the humble beginnings of the first modest hessian classroom in 1912, to the extensive facilities of the College's two campuses today, the Morgan family has had a presence at the College for four generations.

The oldest Morgan boy, Frederick (Jnr) (1893 - 1952), did not attend the College, as he was already past school age by the time it opened in 1912, but all four of his younger brothers did.

The second oldest Morgan boy was Denis, (1899 - 1962) who went on to work as a salesman after his studies at the College.

Following Denis were twins, Les (1901 - 1952) and Leo (1901 - 1941). Leo started his career as a "lad porter" for the railways, before going on to work as a motorcycle salesman for Milledge Brothers in the 1920's. Following a motorcycle accident, he opened a motor garage business in Elgin Street, Carlton.

In the 1930s and 1940s, he held a variety of roles as a salesman, first in the confectionary industry, including Bester Chocolates in Carlton and at Bush's Sweets in Burnley. In the 1940s, he was awarded Salesman of the Year for Rickard's Brothers, a commercial refrigeration company in Melbourne. His twin, Les (1901 - 1952), worked in timber yard in South Melbourne during the week and barman at Rye Hotel on weekends. Tragically, Les was killed in train level crossing accident in Middle Park.

The youngest Morgan brother was Harold (1903 - 1961) (known as Howie), who went on to be the first Old Collegian to be ordained as a De La Salle Brother. Harold entered the Novitiate in Cootamundra in 1926 at the age of 23 and was ordained Br Damian Anselm, also known as Br Damian Morgan.



*Br Damian Morgan fsc, foundation student and the first Old Collegian to join the De La Salle Brothers*

Harold was a gifted painter and one of his paintings, 'The Tower Building' hangs in Morgan Hall at the Kinnoull Campus.

The next generation of Morgans was represented by Leo's son, Ray Morgan (1943) (1927 - 2015). After graduation, Ray became a Postmaster General at the former PMG Department, then a draughtsman for the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works, and before he retired in 1986, was a Director for the Victorian Building Regulations department.

In an interview with *Roll Call* in 2012, Ray Morgan reflected on his years at the College in the 1940s. "Students were required to learn a lot of French and Latin words by rote. You would stay in after school and one after the other you would go up the front and answer the questions on your French and Latin words. The Principal at the time was Br Jerome Foley, who, with his thick Irish brogue was one of the

founding Irish Brothers. Br Jerome taught Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics and was fondly remembered by many of my generation for his strengths as a teacher."

The next generation of Morgans to enroll at the College was Ray's son, John Morgan (1978) (1960 - 2022). John had a long career as a parliamentary chauffeur for the Victorian State Government, up until his passing this year.

John's two sons, Leo (2010) and Ben (2016) also attended the College. Leo (junior) has worked at St Vincent's Private Hospital for the last 10 years, and is in a management role as afterhours hospital co-ordinator - Nurse in Charge. While Ben is a graduate trainee accountant and commerce student.

As members of the College's foundation students, the four Morgan boys could not have

imagined at the time that their family name would live on to become such an important part of the College's rich history 110 years later.

*By Kerry Martin with assistance from Leo Morgan (2010)*



*L-R: John Morgan (dec.), Leo Morgan (Jr.) and Paul Mullaly (dec.) (1946) at the College Centenary Celebrations in 2012*

## HARRY MORGAN

"**Harry Morgan** - Always looked up to as a splendid example to the young men with whom he was associated. Harry Morgan has capped a very edifying career by "abandoning all" to "labour in the master's vineyard." He received the habit of the De La Salle Brothers at the Novitiate, Cootamundra recently.

Harry's charming personality and frank disposition made him a universal favorite. His qualities of leadership and his organising ability rendered him an invaluable assistant at social gatherings and church functions, where he is now sadly missed. Yet his friends realise that he has chosen the better part, and they admire the sacrifice he has made.



We too take the opportunity of wishing Harry every success in his new career, and we pray that the master may grant him a long and fruitful apostolate and the abundance of the "Hundredfold" promised to those who leave all to follow Him. Before his departure, Harry was entertained by his pals at a "send-off".

*Send off for Harry Morgan L-R back row: Eric May, Jack Hunt, unknown, Brian Morgan and Harry Morgan (centre)*

The photograph here was taken on that occasion." (Page 14, *Blue and Gold* December 1926).

*First published in the Old Boys section of Blue and Gold (1926)*

# 1912

## THE QUIN FAMILY



L-R: Leo, Bernard, Ken, Charles and Maurice Quin

The Quin family has been connected to the College since its beginnings in 1912. Nicholas Quin (1963) who recently retired from a career in fashion and commercial photography, started taking photos while a student at the College, under the watchful eye of Br Denis Crowe. In this issue of *Roll Call*, Nicholas reflects on his family's connection to the College.



Ken as a Corporal during WWI



Maurice and his wife Dorothy with their two eldest children, Jennifer and Sue (circa 1930s)

“The Quin family connection began when my Uncle Maurice, my father’s younger brother, started at De La Salle on the first day the College opened in 1912. My father was too old, as he turned 16 that year and four years later would be on a ship to England, on his way to the Western Front.

Two other younger brothers, Leo (1917) and Ken (1919), also attended the College, although Ken’s time at De La Salle was cut short when the senior school was closed for a period during the Spanish Flu.

Maurice was to spend most of his life running a sheep station in WA’s Pilbara, Ken spent his as an accountant for Younghusbands stock and station agents in Wagga and Leo was in charge of catering at the Shell Oil Refinery in Geelong, during and after its construction.

During World War II, my three cousins: David Quin (1945), Peter Quin (1945) (later Fr Peter Quin SJ) and John (1946) started at the College.

Their father was Dr Bernard Quin, who was stationed in Nauru during World War II and was executed by

the Japanese after their occupation of the island. When news of his execution became public at the end of the War, Xavier College, which had been Bernard’s old school, offered my three cousins’ scholarships, and so they moved.

My three brothers, Christopher (1958), Robert (1959) and Damian (1966) and I were the next generation of Quins to attend the College.

Our family lived at 80 Stanhope Street, on the College doorstep so it was an easy decision that we should attend De La Salle. During this time, our Principals were Brs. Peter, Oswald, Stanislaus, and Edward. We all followed the same path, two years at Kildara Convent in ‘Bubs’ and Grade One, then a jump to Grade 3 at De La Salle. We also all spent three or four years in the College Cadet Corps.

My brother Robert and I both dipped out of the College for a year in Year 8 to attend Scholarship Class (Junior Government Scholarship) at St Leo’s run by the colourful Br Abban. It was held in one of the St Joseph’s Boys School classrooms next door.





*L-R: Damian, Bob, Nick and Chris Quin*

the Brothers most mornings before school. Living so close to the College and the Brothers gave our family a great sense of community and connection to De La Salle.

appreciation of family and it's place in the community.



*L-R: Michael, Anthony & Ben (c.1994)*

In the 1990s, my three sons, Anthony (1995), Ben (1997) and Michael (1999) fulfilled their secondary education at the College, all doing well and going on to university.

With some fifteen members of the family having attended De La Salle College over the past century, the Quin family certainly holds the College dear to its heart.”

*First published in Roll Call September 2020*

Our current connections to the College are Harrison and Archie Baum in Years 7 and 11 respectively, whose grandfather is my eldest brother, Chris.



*Chris Quin's grandsons: Archie Baum Year 7 & Harrison Baum Year 11*

Living so close to the College had its rewards, such as being able to go home for lunch each day and enjoy reheated 'leftovers,' although it meant that we missed the delights of Boss Bounds' tuck shop! We were altar servers at St Joseph's Church next door which meant that we saw

De La Salle gave me a sound set of principles to live by: discipline especially from the cadets, a sound education and a willingness to learn new things – and, of course, a career in photography, thanks to my mentor, Br Denis Crowe who prepared me well for RMIT Photography School. Being at the College with my three brothers and living so close to the De La Salle Brothers gave me a great

# 1920

## THE HORRIGAN LINE

The Horrigan family has been associated with De La Salle College for more than a century. Joseph Horrigan (1920) was in the first intake at the Stanhope Street West campus when it opened in 1918, and since then a long line of Horrigans have followed in his footsteps.

In May 2019, we published this article in *Roll Call* in which his youngest son, Barry (1957), recalled his family's relationship with the Blue and Gold tradition.

The Horrigan family is synonymous with Malvern. Joe Horrigan established the family business, J. Horrigan Firewood in 1932. The business remains in the family under the management of his grandson, Mark.

Sadly, Joe passed away in the 1980's but his legacy lives on through his extended family and for son Barry, the College remains a part of his family.

Barry and his older brothers, Ron (1953) and Kevin (dec.) (1955), spent their early years in East Hawthorn and attended St Joseph's Primary School. Subsequently, the Horrigan family moved to their new home in Malvern, not far from the College and Barry later moved to his own house but still very much a Malvern resident. Barry said that he enjoyed living so close to his old school. "It is wonderful living so close to the College as my grandchildren would pop in on their way home from school and visit me," Barry said.

As young boys, the Horrigan brothers would walk from East Hawthorn to the College, quite a distance. "I remember walking home each day after school in my blue and gold blazer. "The 45 minute walk home was always an adventure," Barry recalls. In those days newer suburbs like Mount

Waverley were considered a long way away. "Nowadays students come from all over Melbourne, a reminder of how successful the College has become," he said.

Barry recalls how different school life was in the 1950s without the luxury of central heating or air conditioning.

"There was a little heater in the corner of the classroom to warm the teacher, the rest of us would be sitting with our coats on shivering and trying to learn," Barry said. As a student he played tennis and even sang in the school choir. "Everybody was in the choir; it didn't matter whether you could sing or not."

Like the choir, there were many other activities to keep students active. "There was a great camaraderie between the students and the De La Salle Brothers, particularly at lunch time. Br Jerome Foley was the Principal at the time and encouraged us in numerous sports."



*Class circa 1920s – Joe Horrigan pictured front row 5th from left*



*L-R: Peter Horrigan, Matthew Horrigan, Kevin Horrigan and Br Julian Watson fsc*

Br Jerome also taught Barry's father and Barry remembers how Br Jerome would often remind Barry that he had taught his father, a very sobering thought for a young boy.

Being the youngest of three, Barry would always get the hand me down uniforms from his two older brothers, but he didn't mind. It was just the way things were done.

He studied English, Maths, Science, Geography and Latin. He admits however he wasn't a brilliant student, but he did manage to pass. Like many students, Barry decided to take on a trade and after passing his Intermediate Certificate, he went into plumbing.

"They asked, 'what do you need to become a plumber?' and I said, 'Year 9' and then they said 'great, you've passed!'"

Barry met his wife Pat, who was a school librarian, 57 years ago and together they had two sons, David (1980) and Mark (1987). David followed in his father's footsteps and took over the plumbing business, while Mark took over the

family wood yard started by his grandfather Joe all those years ago. Barry also ran the business for a period.

"Dad was originally a carpenter," says Barry. "In the 1930s there were seven other wood yards by the railway line near Malvern Station and the wood came in by train." Horrigan's, however, is the only one still operating.

Barry is proud that the family business has provided employment for numerous Old Collegians working during their university studies.

"When I ran the wood yard, I had several De La Salle boys working for me part time. They'd be out there playing footy, going up for marks, they were all good fun," Barry said. These days the tradition continues, and Mark still employs many Old Collegians at the wood yard.

Many descendants of Joe Horrigan have attended the College over the last 110 years. Barry's older brother Kevin ran Horrigan Panels in Malvern Road for many years but

sadly passed away in 2017. Kevin's sons Peter (1982) and Nathan (1996) are both Old Collegians, as is Peter's son Matthew (2014) and grandson Edward McMahon who is currently in Year 10.

Barry Horrigan saw his last grandson, Joseph (2018) graduate from the College last year, after four generations of direct involvement with the College, while another grandson, Lewie Holmstrom, graduated in 2016. Barry believes that it won't be long before their name returns to the College, making it the fifth generation of Horrigan boys to wear the blue and gold.

It is heartening to know that Barry and Pat religiously read and keep all the past editions of *Roll Call*. "It's great when it comes out, we read it from cover to cover. It's lovely to see what the boys are doing these days."

Barry is also most impressed by the development of the College. "It has come a long way since the days when I was a student in the Tower Building."

*By Costa Haritos (2015)  
First published in Roll Call May 2019*

# 1926

## ALBERT HIGGINS



In 2009, when this article was originally published in the September issue of *Roll Call*, Albert Higgins was about to celebrate his 100th birthday and was the College's oldest Old Collegian. Sadly, we lost Bert in 2010, but his legacy lives on through the Albert Higgins Scholarship.

Throughout his life, Albert 'Bert' Higgins was driven by a sense of duty, duty to his country, his family, his community, and his College. He started at De La Salle College in 1917 at the original College campus located in Stanhope Street West, which later became the old tramways depot.

At school, Bert's favourite subject was arithmetic and to this day he has never used a calculator and does all calculations in his head. At school, he played football, and was a champion sprinter at the Glenhuntly Club, running both the half and the mile.

He remembers his school days with a twinkle in his eye, especially the tricks he and his friends would get up to in the schoolyard.

Like the current school-yard antics which take place around the peppercorn tree at the Kinnoull Campus today, life during Bert's tenure evolved around a similar peppercorn tree.

"There was an old peppercorn tree at the entrance to the school and Br Peter would stand guard each day making sure that we stayed out of the tree," Bert said, "But if I had a shilling for every time, I climbed that tree I'd be a very wealthy man. A pea-shooter came in handy to fire peppercorns across the yard."

"In those days we would get the strap for misbehaving, and I remember getting it a few times, but I can't remember what for," (probably for climbing the tree).

"There was no tuck shop and we got by with a sandwich — we wouldn't dream of leaving the school yard at lunch time to buy lunch."

Bert lived close to school and always rode his bike from his home in East Malvern. However, even after all these years he is still a bit upset that his bike was "nicked" one day from the schoolyard. Bert said he loved his school days at De La Salle. "I only ever had one school. It was always De La Salle, and I was very happy."

In fact, Bert's life was spectacularly stable; he worked for one company, lived in one house, in one suburb, prayed at the one Church and studied at the one College.

In those days money was tight, and Bert worked part-time to contribute to the running of a large family — he was one of six children.

"While still at school, I had a part-time job at Pollard's Newsagent selling newspapers. It was a fairly profitable job to have in those days. I also had the position at Caulfield Racecourse where I sold race books and pencils to the punters. My other school job was working at the Crystal Palace cleaning out the stalls — that was quite a prize job as you got to see the movies for free."

Bert's first and only full-time employer was A.J. Healing, a large retail shop in the city that sold bicycles, radios, and spare parts for the automotive industry.

"My first pay packet at A.J. Healing was 12s 6/- (about \$2.50 today) and I worked there until I volunteered for the Armed Forces."

In 1939, duty called, and Bert left home to enlist in the Army, leaving his beloved home and family behind him.

"During the four and half years I was in the Army I was stationed in Malaysia and was mainly involved in search and destroy missions."

Bert rose through the ranks and was involved in many successful rescue wartime missions. "I started as an ordinary private and was made captain." Although based in the Southeast Asian region he once made it as far as America.

"One time our battalion was under attack, and we swam to a nearby island to escape enemy fire. After being marooned on the island for quite some time we were eventually picked up by a Navy ship. The thing was it was an American navy ship, so we ended up going home via America."

While in the army, Bert recalls that he was instrumental in helping his beloved Carlton win a Premiership. "Ken Jacobs, a well-known Carlton player at the time, was under my command and one day he asked for permission to go to Melbourne to play in the Grand Final. I was glad I said yes because he kicked the winning goal that day and I always felt that, indirectly, I had contributed to Carlton's win that year."

Like so many Australian soldiers, Bert sacrificed a lot during the war; including two of his brothers, one of whom was the first Australian to be killed in WWII. "Towards the end of the war, I announced that I was retiring to look after my mother who was ill. To get me to stay, the Army offered me a Major's commission, but I declined."



**Albert Higgins with Br Bill Firman fsc in 2009**

As was typical of Bert, his duty to his mother came first so he came back to Australia.

On his return to Melbourne, Bert wasted no time getting back to work at his old employer. "I remember I came home from the war on a Thursday and was back at work at A.J.Healing on Monday."

All his life, Bert has been a member of St Mary's Parish, Malvern. "When I came home from the war my mother made me wear my full uniform to Mass at St Mary's and, to my surprise, I got a standing ovation from the congregation."

One thing that strikes you about Bert is his sense of duty. He recalls one instance before he went to war, when he was part of a rescue team which walked for 10 days through dense Queensland rainforest to rescue several survivors of a light plane crash. Bert said he'd heard about the rescue mission in the local paper and decided he would put his fitness to use and offer his support. The rescue effort became legend with the publishing of Bernard O'Reilly's book *The Green Mountains*.

Until his death, Bert remained active in the community and attended a reunion at De La Salle College in 2009 where he spoke to the crowd about his days at the College and in the war. His warmth, kindness and generosity have benefited many. "I'm happy with the work I've done, and I think I have served my country as well as I possibly could." Bert said. "I really am very, very lucky."

**Albert Higgins Bequest**

When Albert Higgins passed away in 2010 at the age of 100, he was the oldest living Old Collegian. Albert was very active in his later years and a year before he passed away,

he was the guest of honour at an Old Coll's reunion at Tiverton Campus where he spoke fondly of his old school.

During the reunion he posed proudly with current students in their Blue and Gold uniform. The College community was saddened by Albert's passing and his memory was honoured by a large contingent of Blue and Gold at his funeral. Albert Higgins bequested \$500,000 for a scholarship fund to provide financial support for students in the future.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call September 2009*



*Albert Higgins with Peter Magree and students at his last reunion in 2009*



# 1933

## FRANK TOOHEY

On 24 January 2018, Frank Toohey celebrated his 100th birthday surrounded by his loving family and friends. Still living in his family home in Malvern with his wife Norah at the time, Frank Toohey (dec.) (1933) recalled his life for our *Roll Call* readers. Sadly, Frank passed away later in 2018.

Frank started at De La Salle, Malvern in 1926, then a little, local Catholic school located in Coldblo Road, off Stanhope Street West alongside the Malvern tram depot. Despite his age, his memories of those days are as vivid as ever. "The area was full of Catholics and all the students lived in the neighbouring streets. I lived at 8 Irving Street, Malvern and when the Brothers purchased 'Tiverton' things got a lot easier for me because I only had to walk 100 yards to school."

"Many of the kids had nicknames – 'Fat' Fisher, 'Pud' Jennings, 'Buck' McHenry, 'Ginger' Gill, 'Snacker' Hanley, 'Rats' Rahaley and a chap called 'Fangs'." Frank, who was known as 'Too's,' got off lightly, considering.

Frank's memories of life at the College in the 1930s are still very clear. "I remember one occasion when two kids were mucking around in class so much that the teacher curtly ordered them to "Go see the headmaster!" The door to the headmaster's office was closed when they got there, and so they just peeked through the keyhole to see him before heading straight back to class. Naturally, and innocently, they answered 'yes' when asked if they'd seen the headmaster."

"Handball was popular in the playground and I made many friends, including Bernie Callanan, Ray [later Br Damien] Harvey, Harry Temby and Arch Downey. I was taught almost exclusively by Brothers including Brothers Jerome

Foley and Peter Duffy. I was inspired by the example shown to me daily as each Brother lived out his life of dedication to his teaching vocation and community."

Frank excelled at athletics and academia – winning various annual sporting trophies and Dux of Year 8 and Year 9. His results earned him a Junior Government Scholarship and later a Senior Government Scholarship enabling him to complete two further years of Matriculation.

Frank also recalls how vastly different from today his home life was during his school days. "At home we were fortunate, because Dad was a solicitor, we had a telephone. We also had a radio in the home, but no TV."

In 1936 when Frank was 18 years old, he won another scholarship which meant that his family could afford for him to go on to university. Frank reminisced that "there was no such thing as free education back then and only wealthier people or scholarship winners could afford a university education. I enrolled in a Bachelor of Law (Honours) Degree at Melbourne University and actually did well enough to graduate with a Masters of Law Degree."

In 1940, Frank joined the small city law firm of Gavan Duffy & King run by his father and uncle. Apart from time in Navy service during WWII, Frank worked at the firm his whole life. After the death of his father in 1946 and his uncle in 1962, Frank ran the firm until his retirement in 1998 at the age of 80 years.

On 17 April 1952, Frank, in what he's often declared as "the best decision I ever made," married Norah Turner at St Joseph's Church Malvern thus commencing an extraordinary partnership now extending into its 65th year. They have been blessed with five sons and three daughters. Their daughters; Mary, Anne and Elizabeth attended Sacré Cœur and the boys all followed in Frank's footsteps attending De La Salle; Paul (1969), De La Salle Brother, John (1974), a solicitor, Tim (1978), a self-employed service technician,

# 1932

## JACK DYER

John Raymond Dyer Sr OAM (dec.) (1932), always known as Jack Dyer, was one of the colossal figures of Australian rules football during two distinct careers, firstly as a player and coach of the Richmond Football Club between 1931 and 1952, and later in the broadcast media for more than four decades.

He was offered a sporting scholarship to De La Salle College and graduated in (1929) with a swag of sporting trophies.

During his lengthy career, he came to symbolise not just the Richmond Football Club, but the entire working-class area of Richmond during the privations of the Great Depression and World War II.

"Captain Blood", famous for his 312 games in the AFL with his beloved Tigers and then a dominant figure in the media for years to follow, is almost as old as the College.

Born in 1913, and one of our earliest students, he honed his skills in the playgrounds of Stanhope Street.



Justin (1980), CEO at Legal Practitioners Liability Committee and Damian (1986), General Manager, Strategy and Finance, and Director at Qenos Pty Ltd.

Frank and Norah also have 21 grandchildren and are expecting their first great-grandchild as *Roll Call* goes to print.

In 1976, Frank was granted Affiliation to the Institute of the De La Salle Brothers for his “generous and dedicated service over a long period of years to the Brothers, particularly at St Bede’s College, Mentone and De La Salle College, Malvern”. The connection had already been affirmed when his oldest son, Paul (1969), joined the Brothers in 1970 and took his final vows in 1979.

Frank was also a great servant to the St Vincent de Paul Society in Victoria, providing pro bono legal services as Honorary Solicitor to the Victorian State Council, advising on important works such as Ozanam House and the ever-increasing number of aged care and disability services.

Over the last 100 years Frank has seen the introduction of cars, television, cinema, refrigerators, air-conditioning, penicillin, domestic use solar power, computers, air travel, space travel, the internet, mobile telephones, social media, open heart surgery, IVF, the United Nations, the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the abdication of King Edward VIII, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, two World Wars, the split and reunification of Germany, the

rise and collapse of the USSR, the end of apartheid, the emergence of the European Union, the birth of the Peoples Republic of China, independence for India and more nations than can be listed here, 24 Prime Ministers, 18 US Presidents and nine Popes, plus the birth and death of such notables as Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Junior, Margaret Thatcher, John Lennon and the rise and fall of the DLP, the Australian Democrats, the Australia Party and the Communist Party of Australia.

Frank has maintained his support for the Melbourne Demons and lays claim to being the only person still living who was at the MCG in 1926 to see Melbourne defeat Collingwood. He remembers that his uncle took him into the rooms at half time where he witnessed the Melbourne players getting their rub downs with goanna oil. He still ‘believes.’

Frank’s faith is his hallmark. A deep-seated commitment to Christ’s teaching has been generously practiced as a son, sibling, husband, father, grandfather, friend, mentor, solicitor, and benefactor.

*By Kerry Martin & John Toohey (1974)  
First published in Roll Call 2018*

# 1935

## THE LOUGHNAN FAMILY

When cousins Bryce (2019) and Timothy Loughnan (2019) arrived at the College in 2014, they became the fourth generation of the Loughnan family to attend De La Salle College.

The family dynasty started with the boys’ great grandfather, Bryan (1935), who arrived at the College on a scholarship from St Anthony’s in Glenhuntly. Next in line was their grandfather, Ken (1963),

who had a long career in finance and telecommunications and is now a senior company Director and International Vice President of Variety, the Children’s Charity.

Ken was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) in 1994 and received an Honorary Doctorate from Victoria University in 2013.

Ken and his wife, Jan (former Treasurer of the De La Salle Mother’s Auxiliary in the early 90s), are semi-retired and live in South Gippsland. Ken’s sons Anthony (1988), David (1990) and Matthew (1995) all attended the College. Anthony (Bryce’s father) is a Project Manager at the Australian Tax Office. David (Tim’s father) is the

Service Improvement Manager at Melbourne Airport Corporation and their Uncle Matthew, is Emirates Airport Services Manager at Melbourne Airport. Bryce and Tim’s aunt, Jennie Loughnan, has also had a long association with the De La Salle family.



*Bryce and Tim Loughnan*



# 1939

## JOHN LOURDES SHORTAL

Last year the College rededicated its much-loved Memorial Shrine to our fallen Old Collegians. Among the guests of honour were Reg Shortal and his wife, Colleen. Reg is the nephew of John Lourdes Shortal (Jacky) (1939) who was killed when his plane crashed in Belgium in 1944. His name is among those remembered on the Shrine. In this issue of *Roll Call* Reg has generously provided some information on his uncle for our readers. In this, the centenary year of the start of WWI, we remember all those Australians who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. We are grateful to Reg for this touching story of bravery.

On a hill overlooking the Meuse River in a corner of Belgium close to the German border stands an imposing stone cross. This cross marks the area where Lancaster NE135 crashed after bombing a target in Russelsheim, Germany. The Avro Lancaster left Skellingthorpe (RAF base in England) at 21:29 hours on Saturday 12 August 1944 with Flight Sergeant John Lourdes Shortal in the position of mid-upper gunner and nothing further was heard from the aircraft after take-off.

Lost that evening were seven airmen including John. The remains of the crew were recovered by the villagers of Bas-Oha and buried in a collective grave in the Bas Oha Community Cemetery.

*“They gave  
Their Soul to God  
Their Heart to their Country  
Their Body to Belgium.”*

This is part of the inscription on the headstone of the private memorial in the community cemetery that also incorporates a stone cross and the Royal Air Force badge. Each year the villagers conduct a remembrance ceremony at the gravesite.

John, known to his family as Jacky, was born on Wednesday 29 August 1923 at Armadale, Victoria. He was the youngest of four children and the only son of Edward and Mary Margaret Shortal of Armadale. His older sisters were Joan, Margaret and Patricia. The family lived in Armadale for many years and Jacky attended De La Salle College during the 1930s.

On leaving school, Jacky was employed at the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation on the clerical staff. He was keenly interested in athletics and sport, being an all-round cricketer, footballer, golfer and tennis player. After enlistment in the RAAF in April 1943, Jacky trained in Victoria and New South Wales before embarking at Sydney in November 1943 for England. After further training in England, Jacky was appointed to 50 Squadron (a RAF Squadron based at RAF Skellingthorpe, Lincolnshire) on July 14, 1944. The early sorties that he participated in were on V1 rocket bases in France that were subjected to intensive Allied bombing. He was lost on his sixth sortie.

Many relatives of John have visited his final resting place over the years and in 2013, the then Australian Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr Bob Carr, accompanied a cousin of John's to Bas Oha as part of the 2013 ANZAC commemorations.

John Shortal is commemorated in the cemetery in Bas Oha, Belgium; at a bronze panel in the Roll of Honour, Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra; at the War Memorial incorporated into the Shrine of Mary near the rear gate of the Tiverton Campus, De La Salle College, Malvern and in the memories of his cousins, nieces and nephews along with their children and their grandchildren.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2015*

# 1940

## JACK HOOBIN

Our first Olympian, John 'Jack' Hoobin (1940), was a student at the Junior school at De La Salle in the 1930s. After only two years at the College, he and his family left to live in Western Australia.

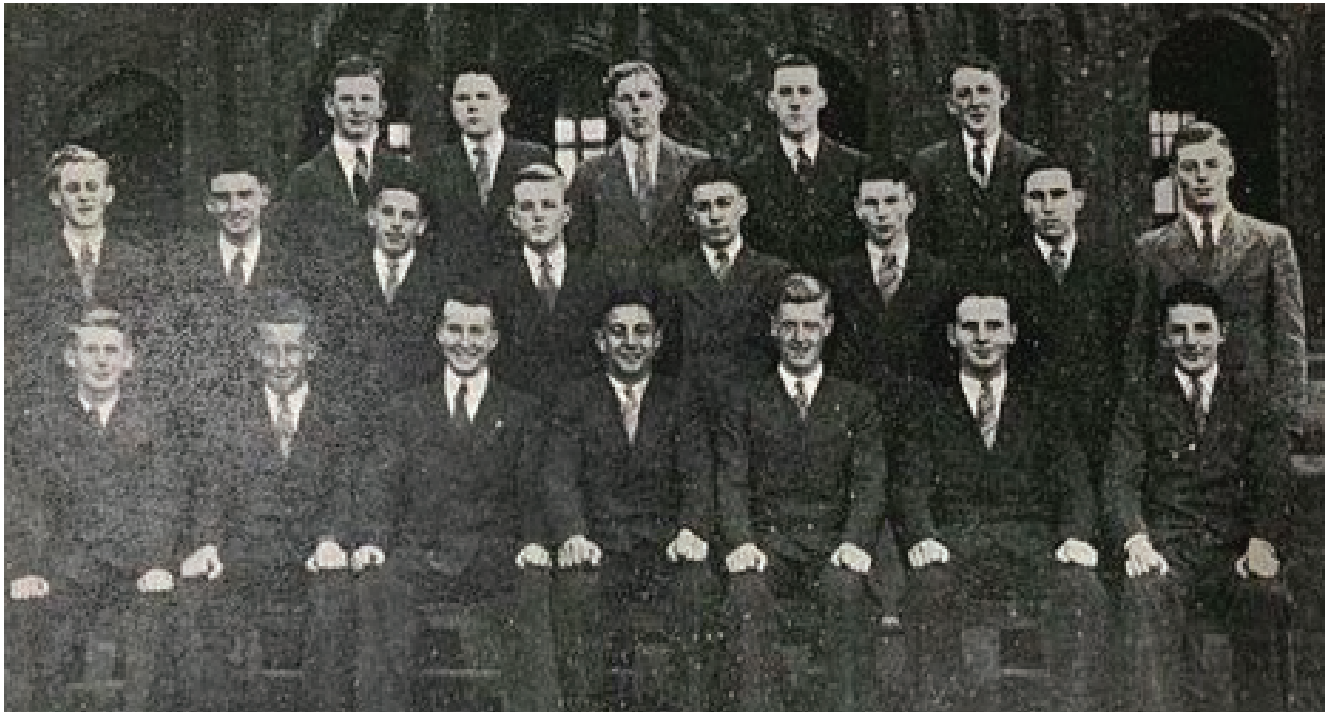
Jack represented Australia in the cycling at the 1948 London Olympics. After wins in the 125-mile Sun Classic (Victorian) and the Victorian championship he was also placed second over ten miles in the 1948 Australian Amateur Track Championships and third in the five-mile event. Despite a series of punctures, he finished sixth (the first Australian) in the 124-mile Olympic event at London's Great Windsor Park.

Hoobin returned to Europe in 1949 and 1950 to contest the world amateur road title but was plagued with illness and injuries. He did well to finish seventh in 1949. In 1950 he tried again, under the coaching of Alf Strom, and performed the near impossible when he took out the title and beat the best amateurs in the grueling 175km race at Moorslede near Ypres, becoming the first Australian to win the world amateur road cycling championship.

Cadel Evans attributes Jack as his inspiration. Jack was asked to open the Sydney Olympics but sadly passed away before the Games. Jack's brother Barry (1948) was also an Old Collegian.







# 1942

## THE MULLALY FAMILY

For more than 80 years there has not been a decade when there was not one of the Mullaly family on the College roll. Since 1940, when the first Mullaly started at the College, 25 decedents of the family have enrolled. The first of the Mullaly family, John Mullaly (dec.) started at the College in 1942, and two years later, his younger brother, Paul Mullaly (dec.) (1946), joined him. Now retired, the former County Court Judge shared some of his recollections of the College with our readers.

Paul Mullaly's five brothers, John (1944) (dec.), Adrian (1952) (dec.), Peter (1953), Kevin (1956) and Mark (1960) all Old Collegians. His older brother John was College Captain and Dux in 1944.

His four sons, Richard (1974), Gerard (1978), Andrew (1979) and Timothy (1981) and his grandsons Gerard Twomey (2007), Eugene Twomey (2010), Mathew Mullaly (2012), James Mullaly (2016) and Aloysius Moore (2020) are also Old Collegians. Ten nephews and grand-nephews have also been on the College roll at various times.

Paul's daughter Rosemary Mullaly married Old Collegian Paddy Moore (1981).

Like all the Mullalys, Paul Mullaly was a talented athlete. "My father was a VFL (AFL) player for South Melbourne in the early part of the 1900s and all of us were good athletes and footballers," he said.

"In 1942, I won a diocesan scholarship to study at De La Salle, Malvern. My elder brother John was a student there at the time. I went on to study law at The University of Melbourne, graduating in the early 1950s."

At only 24 years of age, he was admitted to the Victorian Bar and was eventually appointed as a Crown Prosecutor and was later Chief Prosecutor (in what is now known as the DPP). In 1977 he was appointed as Victorian Crown Counsel and in 1979 was appointed as a Judge of the County Court, where he remained until 2001.

Earlier in his career, he wrote Victoria's Sentencing Manual and the Victoria Trial Manual – both are still in used today, albeit in digital formats.

Paul was also instrumental in the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's The Judge Willis Case Books website. Judge Willis was Victoria's first judge. Launched in 2014, the website supports the collection and maintenance of historical

*John Mullaly, pictured front row far left*

documents: The Judge Willis Casebooks – Royal Historical Society of Victoria ([historyvictoria.org.au](http://historyvictoria.org.au)).

Mullaly acknowledges the College for informing his love of learning and his strong sense of social justice. "The College instilled a strong sense of religion and a keen interest in current affairs as well as a strong sense of social justice, and fairness in the community."

Like so many of the Mullalys, he understands the importance of serving one's community. "I was on the De La Salle College Council in 1970s, and with my wife, Genevieve and Greta Houston (mother of Tim Houston, 1974), we established the College Uniform shop." Today this tradition is carried on through his son, Richard Mullaly (1974), who recently completed a term as the Chairman of the College Board. Before retiring from full-time employment in 2019, Richard was a clinician at the Royal Children's Hospital, before moving into hospital administration and finally health practitioner regulation.

In his early 90s, Paul Mullaly has 14 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. He is in good health and resides at Cabrini Aged Care in Ashwood.

*First published in Roll Call May 2021 with additional information from Richard Mullaly (1974)*

# 1942

## ROBERT SEMMEL

Robert Semmel (1942) joined the RAN when he was 17 and served in the Pacific on *HMAS Gladstone* and *HMAS Kuramia* as an Able Seaman for three years. Based mainly north of PNG, his crew's role was to escort the troop ships en route to the Philippines. After he left the navy, Bob studied law, practised as a solicitor in Brighton and for 17 years lectured at the former Chisholm Institute, now the Caulfield Campus of Monash University.

# 1944

## MICHAEL KENNEDY

Michael Kennedy (1944) celebrated his 90th birthday earlier this year surrounded by his five sons, all Old Collegians, his daughter, his grandchildren, and many friends, including two of his former classmates. Despite his age Michael's memory is better than most half his age and he was gracious enough to invite *Roll Call* to his Ormond home recently to share some of his recollections of his days at the College.

Michael started at De La Salle College in Grade 3 in 1935. He was a good student and loved Maths and Physics and was the Dux of his year twice. He modestly says he was a better student than a sportsman, yet he captained the Second XVIIIIs.

He enjoyed the College Cadets which may have been his motivation for joining the Air Force after he matriculated in 1943. "I especially liked my time in the Cadets as it gave us a chance to interact with the Brothers whom I hold in the highest esteem," Michael said.

He vividly remembers his first night after being called up as an air force volunteer. "We spent our first night sleeping on the ground at the MCG before going off to training school in Shepparton."

He subsequently spent two years in the air force as an air traffic controller before deciding to study pharmacy.

"My first job as a pharmacist was at the Royal Melbourne Hospital but I didn't enjoy hospital pharmacy as I knew I wanted to work with people." He moved into retail pharmacy, first at the St Kilda Junction. "As a good Catholic boy, I didn't know what had hit me; one customer asked me if I owned a gun and when I replied no, he said, 'I'll get you one.' St Kilda then was full of rogues and gangsters." While at his St Kilda pharmacy he met his future wife Margot, also a pharmacist. "I actually fired her before I realised I loved her," Michael said.

"When I bought into the business, we couldn't support a third pharmacist, so I had to let her go." Luckily for Michael, she forgave him, and they married in 1954.

The young couple settled in Mount Waverley where they had six children. Peter (1973), a store man; Robert (1974), a Japanese Consulate Officer; Brendan (1976), a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Sydney; Caroline, recently retired; Christopher (1979), an industrial relations manager; and Matthew (1981), a chef based in Metung.

Michael is very proud of the fact that his wife Margot is the only woman to graduate from De La Salle. "Margot was a keen history student and Br Damien allowed her attend classes at Malvern. She matriculated from De La Salle in Australian History."

It is obvious that Michael values education. Graduation photographs of his family adorn the walls in his Ormond home which he lovingly refers to as "the rogue's gallery".

Michael, who is an Honorary Life member of the De La Salle College Old Collegians' Association, believes it is more important to give back and has devoted many hundreds of ours contributing to the life of the College. He was a founding member of the Old Collegians' Association when it reformed in 1946, serving as President and supporting fund raising efforts to develop the Kinnoull Campus.

"We used to have three or four general meetings a year and meet in the old classrooms in Stanhope Street. We even had preferential voting during meetings."

The main event of the calendar was the Blue and Gold Ball which was held at the St Kilda Town Hall. "It was by far the biggest ball of the year. We didn't have emails so we would send out newsletters for every meeting and event."

Michael worked as a pharmacist for 43 years in various pharmacies until he retired from his East Bentleigh pharmacy in 1988.

Sadly, Margot passed away two years ago but Michael's sense of fun and enthusiasm for life continues. This nonagenarian has survived cancer, a heart attack and two armed robberies but the De La Salle spirit lives on. He still enjoys the races and regularly visits his daughter and grandchildren in Sydney.

Michael recalls some advice once given to him by Br Damien Harvey, "Whatever you do, do something in your Parish." Michael has heeded the advice and is still involved in his parish, St Aloysius, where he has been Chair of Parish Council and is a Special Minister.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2016*



*Michael with this fellow classmate, Geoff Banks (1944)*

# 1945

## JOHN AND LEO KENNEDY

John Kennedy Snr (dec.) (1945) and his brother Leo (1947) completed their years at De La Salle College. Both young men exhibited similar characteristics from an early age; they were determined, honest, hardworking men with a deep faith. Teaching was to be the chosen career for both men but practised in very different circumstances.

John trained then taught in schools throughout Victoria becoming principal at Stawell and Swinburne Technical Schools. He served as Chairman of the Teachers' Tribunal for twelve years then as Chairman of the Teachers' Appeals Board. He also contributed in the sphere of industrial relations as Chairman of the Board of Reference for Australia Post during the late 1990s.

John began his football career with the Hawthorn Football Club in 1950 winning the Best and Fairest four times in nine years. In 1960 he assumed the role of coach, winning the club's first ever premiership in 1961. Considered a magnificent speaker whose philosophies and approach to training were inspirational, John became one of the game's great coaches. John is regarded as the architect behind the Hawks becoming one of the AFL's most successful modern day clubs. His coaching career spanned 14 years, with five Grand Finals and a further two premierships in 1971 and 1976.

John heads the list of players, coaches and administrators inducted into the club's Hall of Fame. He was named coach of the Hawthorn Team of the Century. In his later years, John became an elder spokesman for the game, serving as Chairman of the AFL Commission.

In his spare time, John enjoys reading, listening to famous tenors and is a keen gardener. He and his wife Dulcie have four children and seven grandchildren.



*John and Leo Kennedy with sister Maureen*

Leo joined the De La Salle Brothers at Oakhill at the end of his Matriculation year and took the name Br Ignatius. After his four years of training he taught at the Brothers' schools in Coogee and Cronulla and was then transferred as the Principal (and Director of the Brothers' communities) for their schools in Cootamundra and Dubbo in rural NSW.

Br Ignatius welcomed the chance to undertake further study at Sydney University for three years before embarking on six years of leadership of BoysTown in Queensland. His appointment as Director of Vocations for the Australian Brothers over the next two years included a three-month sojourn at the Motherhouse in Rome, undertaking a renewal course.

In 1985 he arrived in Papua New Guinea and has been there ever since. He was Director of the Brothers' community and Principal of the De La Salle High School in Bomana for nine years and is in his eleventh year at Holy Trinity Teachers' College in Mt Hagen. Br Ignatius commented "For some, teaching for fifty-odd years might appear intolerably boring, but for me, thank God, I have experienced only happiness and great variety: rural and city schools, day and boarding, co-educational institutions, 'normal' students and boys who have repeatedly broken the law, inland and at seaside establishments.

Obviously, there are hundreds of anecdotes, humorous, sad, tragic, as I review my teaching career, but God has continued to provide me with a lifetime of influential interaction with young people.' Br Ignatius hopes to continue his work for a few more years, caring for the Lasallian family in PNG.

Both these men have been wonderfully people-oriented and selfless, with talents to influence, guide and develop others, yet with a very humble appreciation of themselves.

John's son, John (Jr.) (1977) also played for Hawthorn and his grandson, Josh Kennedy, was recruited to Hawthorn under the father/son rule in the 2006 AFL Draft.



*John Kennedy Sr*

# 1945

## JOHN HORAN

Question: What happens when you teach a 91 year old to ‘Slam the Tim Tam?’ Answer: A lot of laughs. John Horan (1945) is now an expert ‘Tim Tam Slammer’ thanks to Year 9 students who were part of an Intergenerational Project organised by St Joseph’s Parish, Malvern and the College’s Lasallian Service Program.

The project matched students with older parishioners to learn about each other’s experiences and ultimately produce a record of their life in a *Celebration of Life* booklet, which was launched by the Mayor of Stonnington City Council and Old Collegian, Councillor Steven Stefanopoulos (1992). When Horan graduated from the College there were no Tim Tams, in fact there were few treats of any kind. The one-time teacher said the project brought

back a lot of memories of the past and opened his eyes to the ways young people see the world. “The whole experience gave me a chance to relive some of the things I have done in my life,” he said.

“One of the main things I got out of the project was having a reason to look back over my whole life and I found that was being reminded of the things I did as a child and a young adult,” he said.

Horan’s recollections of his days at the College are crystal clear. He recalled one memory as if it was yesterday. “I was a member of the De La Salle football team in 1944. I only just made it onto the team but managed to play out the whole season. My only regret was that my socks were down in the team photo.”

Horan said he really enjoyed the experience and learnt as much about himself as he did about young people. “I got a real insight into the way that young people think these

days. These days, young people have a lot of technology to help them remember, so much different to my day.” Horan, who still lives in Malvern, remains active in the Parish through the St Vincent de Paul Society. His three sons Anthony (1984), Christopher (1985) and Timothy (1989) all attended the College.

Horan was one of five parishioners who participated in the Intergenerational Project. Others were Ms Claire Kelly, Ms Maureen O’Bree, Mrs Mary Thomas and Mrs Marie Grafen who were bravely led by 15 Year 9 students along voyages of remembrances in this project, recounting their life stories.

Principal Peter Houlihan acknowledged the importance of these types of projects, both for an understanding of the past but, more importantly, for the creation of community.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call September 2018*



L-R: John, Peter, Patrick and Michael Bohan with their father Michael in 2019

# 1945

## THE BOHAN FAMILY

Leo Bohan (dec.) (1945) arrived at De La Salle College from St John’s Marist Brother’s School, Hawthorn, after completing Intermediate, to do his Leaving and Matriculation in

1944 and 1945. He was just 16 years of age when he finished school and was always full of praise for the Brothers who taught him including Stanislaus Carmody, Christian Moe and Joseph O’Dea (later Fr Joe O’Dea). He always looked forward to renewing those connections in the intervening years, until he passed away in 2016.

Leo’s son Michael (1973) commenced at De La Salle in 1965 in Grade 4, starting in the old house

at Kinnoull. Michael has great memories of some marvellous lay teachers, Brothers and of course Fr Les Troy.

He completed his HSC in 1973. Michael was the Honorary Secretary of the Old Collegians Association from 1980 to 1990 and an early Editor of *Roll Call* which was in those days, published four times year.

Michael’s four sons, Michael (2010), John (2011), Patrick (2018) and Peter (2021) spanned 16 years at the College. Peter was College Vice Captain in 2021, Michael was Lasallian Captain in 2010 and Choir Captain in 2009 and Patrick was First XVIII Captain in 2018. Their closest mates are the friendships they made at De La Salle. One of the highlights of their time at the College was the Coolies and PNG Immersions.

Michael Jnr is now House Coordinator Years 10 – 12 La Salle House at St Bede’s Mentone. Patrick has been playing Football with the DLSOCAFC since 2018 in both U19s and seniors.

# 1946

## PETER STRICKLAND

Peter Frank Strickland (dec.) (1946) arrived at his home in Nairn St, Glen Iris to begin his 84 year journey with his parents Frank and Athenie, or “Binnie” to all who loved her. His early life was full of achievement and adventure.

After learning the meaning of life in the mean streets of Glen Iris, the precocious five year old decided he should impart some of this wisdom on to others, and enrolled in St Mary’s Primary School, East Malvern.

He always knew that this was just a stepping stone to his true calling, and a few years later he moved a few miles up High St to De La Salle College, Malvern. This school became a major part of his life, and he spent over 70 years of it involved in the College in some way.

Peter contributed to the College throughout his tenure there, including his starring performances in both the football and cricket teams. The one thing he didn’t do was become College Captain, but in his typical magnanimous way, he sacrificed his own chances to pave the way for his little brother, John, to become captain in 1946. These two brothers became legends of the College for decades after and made it impossible for any grandson to leave an indelible mark there.

After finishing his studies, it was off to war and the perilous trenches in the Brisbane Morse Code Office. In Brisbane, he represented his country with distinction and



following an honourable discharge he started at one of his other great loves, the Sigma Company, where he worked as an overseas representative.

In 1951, he married Ellen Ely at St Augustine’s Church, and soon after they moved into their new home in Railway Parade, Murrumbena, where they remained for 50 years. No good house was complete without a few children and on 6 June, 1952, my mother, Mary Ellen, was born. She was soon followed by Catherine Margaret and Anne Louise, which meant Peter was the proud father of three lovely girls.

In 1960, he became president of the Old Collegians Amateur Football Club in a bloodless coup. That year, he secured for the Club an honour which they had never achieved before — promotion to A Grade. In ’61, he decided to continue his reign and guaranteed a life free of speeding fines by appointing future Supreme Court Justice Bernie

Teague to the position of Captain. The last 23 years of Peter’s life have been blissful retirement, after he finally hung up the boots at Sigma in 1987. The first decade he dedicated to his sporting loves, the Old Collegian’s Football Club and golf.

Peter also used his retirement to help those who were not as well off as himself and was an active part of the De La Salle College delegation at Sacred Heart Mission in St Kilda. This was something he was extremely passionate about, and most Sundays he could be found in St Kilda helping those who did not have the means to help themselves. This shows the man he will be remembered for, a bit cheeky, but always putting others first.

Over the last few years, the highlight of his week was heading down to the football club to watch his beloved Old Collegians. He was thinking of the Club to the end, and the last smile I saw on him was when I let him know De La Salle had won yet another game in A Grade.

I would like to leave you with a quote from John Hickey. “Peter was a wonderful man, who epitomised the spirit of De La Salle. The Brothers always say that their successes are best seen in those who make a positive difference in the life of others. ‘Stricko’ was a success in any measure.”

*An extract from the Eulogy delivered by his grandson, Simon Alder (1999), at the funeral of Peter Strickland (1946)*

# 1948

## LAURIE RYAN

The Ryan family has been part of the Mount Waverley community since the early 1800s, when they farmed much of the land east of what is now Mount Waverley Village, including Valley Reserve. Well-known Ryan descendent and Old Collegian, Laurie Ryan (1948) celebrated his 90th birthday this month and still lives in the area. As a long-time local Councilor and Mayor, and 40 years as a Justice of the Peace and community volunteer, he has devoted most of his life serving his community. Recently he shared some of his recollections about his life with our readers.

Laurie Ryan attended De La Salle College from 1943 to 1948, including a year at St Joseph's Malvern, where he won a Junior Government Scholarship. "I was fortunate to receive the wonderful tuition provided by the Brothers, from Br Declan through to Br Peter," he said. "My favourite subjects were Mathematics and Physics but he also did well in other areas."

"After I graduated from the College days, I studied Civil Engineering at RMIT and went on to work with the former MMBW (later Melbourne Water), for the next 36 years. This was a period of substantial growth for Melbourne's sewage system as it expanded to cope with an ever-growing urban population. "At one stage I managed of the Sewage Urban Development Division with a staff of approximately 130 including 11 civil engineers," he said.

In 1964 Ryan married June, an Occupational Therapist, and they had four children, two boys, two girls, and five grandchildren.



"I sent both my sons to De La Salle College, Nick (1986), now the General Manager at Bob Stewart's in Kew and Chris (1986) a statistician with the United Nations based in Fiji. Our daughter Ursula is a cartographer with the Antarctic Division in Hobart and Edwina is a doctor and academic at Victoria University."

In 1972 Ryan was elected to the then Waverley City Council (now Monash) and served the municipality for 20 years, including two terms as Mayor. He has continued to serve the local community as a Justice of the Peace for over 40 years and still supports voluntarily the work of the police particularly at the Glen Waverley Police Station.

He was a keen cricketer and umpire. "I was a founding member of the

Mount Waverley Catholic Cricket Club and enjoyed playing and umpiring cricket and did so for more than 40 years with the club," he said. He went on to chair the Umpire's Tribunal for many years when he finished umpiring.

Ryan was also a foundation member of the Waverley Historical Society and served six years as chairman and remains an Honourary Member. For 64 years he was a Knight of the Southern Cross and a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which supports the Catholic Church within the Holy Land. He is also still involved in activities at the Holy Family Church in Mount Waverley.

Living his whole life in Mount Waverley, Ryan still enjoys growing vegetables in his productive garden. Since retiring in 1990, he has traveled extensively mainly throughout Asia, acting as a tour guide on many occasions in China. Only recently he enjoyed a weeklong train trip on The Ghan, traveling from Darwin to Adelaide.

He remains in good health and still enjoys attending the College reunions and catching up with classmates from the 1940's.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call September 2021*



*Laurie Ryan with his son, Nick (1986)*

# 1948

## PATRICK LEANE

Pat Leane (dec.) (1948) represented Australia in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics as a pole vaulter.

“My training started at an early age when I learnt to pole vault over the clothesline in the backyard at home.”

“As a student at De La Salle I was very involved in the sporting life and took every opportunity to be outside playing football, cricket or handball,” Pat said. “I was in the College football team and also participated in the House and Combined Catholic school sports.”

“If you asked me at the time, I would have said that my only interest in those days was sport, but on reflection the education I received, particularly in the languages of French and Latin would plant a seed of interest in languages that would last a lifetime,” Pat said.

“I thank the Brothers for the way in which they balanced my education.



*Pat carries the Olympic torch during the Sydney 2000 Olympics*

I always remember the time when, after being unable to answer a question during a chemistry lesson, Br Jerome, for whom I had great respect, gave me his steely gaze and said in his strong Irish brogue, ‘Leane, you will be sadly mistaken if you think you can jump your way through life’.

“At the time I never dreamed that one day I would represent Australia in the Olympics. In those days there was no funding or sponsorship money for Olympians.

I worked during the day and went to training at night.” Pat, like many others at the time, had to rely on family and friends to raise money to pay for airfares and expenses.

“Travelling to Helsinki for the 1952 Olympics was an amazing experience. I qualified for the High Jump and Decathlon,” he said. “Before leaving I injured my heel on a long jump board, but it didn’t heal and after jumping 6ft in the High Jump and landing on firm sand I was unable to continue.”

Four years later in 1956 at the Melbourne Olympics, Pat represented Australia again. “I was happy to be able to break the British Empire Record in the Decathlon after two days of tough competition.”

The Melbourne Olympics was a time of mixed emotions for Pat who learnt of his mother’s terminal illness just before the Games began.

Many years later during the Sydney Olympics Pat was honoured to carry the torch through his local community. “It was a time of great celebration,” he said.

*By Genie Scott  
First published in Roll Call September 2002*



# 1949

## PETER DRAKE

Professor Emeritus Peter DrakeAM, (1949) was the Australian Catholic University’s foundation Vice-Chancellor. Professor Drake is a respected scholar of economics, an author of many books, and an expert advisor to the World Bank, the governments of Papua New Guinea and Nauru and Australia’s overseas development agencies on issues of economics and financial

development in Asia and the South Pacific.

It was under Professor Drake’s leadership that the first professors at ACU were appointed, awards such as the Excellence in Teaching were instigated, and campuses were consolidated and developed with facilities for university teaching and research.

In 2003, he was awarded Australian Catholic University’s highest honour, Doctor of the University (honoris causa).

# 1949

## THE ANDREWS FAMILY

As I reflect on the association my family and I have had with De La Salle College, I try to recall the very first time I heard the name. I clearly remember visiting both sets of grandparents who lived in Harvey and Jordan Streets, Malvern, respectively and listening to the stories of life inside the walls of that large and quite threatening edifice on Stanhope Street. Initially, the talk was from my father Frank Andrews (dec.) (1949) and my uncle Brian Gleeson (dec.) (1947), who spoke of large class sizes, the odd incident of corporal punishment and the nicknames students at the time had for each other. There were funny things that students did, and solid friendships forged, yet I can remember thinking “This place sounds a bit scary. Thank goodness I do not have to go to that school.”

Anyway, time marched on and as a young, impressionable girl at Kildara College, my eyes drifted towards ‘De La.’ Suddenly, the place to be avoided was the place we all wanted to visit, and this was made possible as certain subjects were offered to combined classes of both De La Salle and Kildara students. Two things had changed, the classes were slightly smaller, and punishments of the strict nature certainly did not take place whilst “the girls” were present. Yet, the nicknames, the funny situations in the classrooms and the strong friendships were still evident.

My inside information on the school and the boys (which was inadvertently passed onto my friends) was kept up to date by two impeccable sources — my brother Philip Andrews (1979) and my cousin Paul Gleeson (1982). The numerous parties of De La Salle boys and Kildara girls held over the years at our family home were always hilarious affairs, some of



*L-R: Michael Bazely, Frank Andrews, Philip Andrews, Brian Gleeson, Paul Gleeson, Christine Thompson and Charles Thompson*

the more memorable occasions having taken on legend status and are still laughed about when we get together.

I left school and decided that a profession in teaching was the way to go. During Dip Ed, my final round was to be at De La Salle. The joy of being in a boys’ class when I was in Years 11 and 12 was now gone and replaced by a feeling of sheer terror at the thought of having to teach a whole class of boys who towered ABOVE me (even when they were sitting down!). I was now passionate about education and was delighted when offered a position at the College for the following year. 1981 was my first year of teaching at the Junior School at Kinnoull.

Whilst learning how to encourage young boys to develop a love for English, History, RE and Drama, a young Maltese man, named Charles Thompson, came into my life. We were married in December 1982. As I got to know the Thompson clan, I realised that they also had a strong connection with De La Salle in the person of Charles’ uncle, Br Michael Buttigieg, who was a member of the Brother’s community in Malta.

Uncle Michael spent some time teaching in Melbourne in the mid-1960s, prior to returning to Malta

and then eventually to Nigeria where he spent many years working in schools.

Both Charles and I have been extraordinarily lucky in our time at De La Salle. We have had the privilege of working with wonderfully dedicated and talented people, who have been tireless in their efforts to enhance the learning experience of the boys within our care. The curriculum has broadened and now allows boys to find their niche and develop their talents and skills in any number of areas. The students who have passed through the classrooms over the years have provided us with some amazing experiences, for which we are mostly the wiser.

How different is school now in 2006? The class sizes are smaller than they used to be and there is certainly nothing corporal about the reminders we give the boys when on the “odd occasion” they step out of line. Only some of the boys have nicknames, but there is still that bond between boys, which for many lasts well into their adult life.

*By Christine Thompson,  
De La Salle College Teacher  
First published in Roll Call May 2006*



# 1949

## THE CASH FAMILY

Dr Michael Cash (1949) is the former Head of the School of Management at the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand and lecturer in management at Victoria University, Wellington.

With colleague, Wayne Taurima, he completed a series of groundbreaking monographs exploring the cultural basis of Maori businesses. Michael's brothers all attended the College; Leo (dec.) (1947), Patrick (dec.) (1946), and Brian (1953).

Michael's nephews are Dr John Cash (1967) who lectures in psychoanalytic and social theory at the University of Melbourne and Justin Cash (1985) who is Head

of Drama at Avila College, Mount Waverley, and the current President of Drama Victoria. Leo Cash's sons are Damien (College Dux 1974) and Justin (1985).

Leo's brother-in-law is Professor Syd Ingham (1941), and his nephews are John Cash (1967), Michael, Gerard (1979 College Captain), Chris Ingham (1988) and James Shelton (1989).



L-R: Terry Gorman, John "Darcy" Dugan, Gerry Gill, Bruce Merritt, Fr Bren Donohue, Kevin Busch and Principal, Peter Houlihan

# 1950

## JOHN 'DARCY' DUGAN AND FRIENDS

John Milton "Darcy" Dugan AM (1950) is one of the Court's best-

known and most widely respected Chief Magistrates, John "Darcy" Dugan began his career as a clerk of courts in 1950. He rose to become Inspecting Clerk of Courts, was appointed Special Magistrate of the Children's Court in 1969, and in 1973 became a Stipendiary Magistrate. Successive appointments to Deputy Chief and Chief Magistrate followed in 1982 and 1985.

Mr Dugan retired from the Victorian Magistrates Court in September 1990 after 40 years in the court, the

last five as Chief Magistrate. He was known as "Darcy" after the notorious NSW criminal and jail breaker who was in the headlines in the early days of his career.

Dugan is one of a group of Old Collegians, who for the last 70 years have remained close friends and meet up regularly to reflect on their days at the College. The group also includes Terrence Gorman (1950), Bruce Merritt (1950), Fr Bren Donohue (1950), Kevin Busch (1950) and Frank Carroll (1950).

# 1950

## THE O'CALLAGHAN FAMILY

The O'Callaghan family has three generations of Old Collegians. Tony O'Callaghan (dec.) (1950) and his three sons John (1985), Matthew (1986), and Patrick (1988), and Matthew's sons Liam (2014) and Sean (2016), all attended the College.

In 1955, Tony O'Callaghan was a founding member of the DLSOCAFC 'Old Boys' side. He played 83 games for the club, before turning his hand to club administration.

He served two terms as Club President from 1968-69 (B Grade) and from 1976-78 (A Grade), overseeing the club's first A Section senior premiership against North Old Boys in 1977. He was awarded a VAFA Certificate of Merit in 1980 for his services to the club before being inducted as a VAFA Life Member of the Association in 1996. Tony took pride in ensuring the original player group kept close ties with the club, some of these ex-players still turn up to the occasional game. A chronic asthmatic, Tony was known to slip out of hospital to watch his beloved Dees.

Patrick is a real estate executive and has been the Managing Director at POC Commercial for over eight years and has over 20 years of real estate experience. He is another proud member and ex-player of the DLSOCAFC. Patrick spent a period of time on Hawthorn's list and has recently re-joined the club as a Senior Assistant Coach after



*O'Callaghan family L-R: Liam, Ray, Sean and Matt. Front L-R: Ray's grandsons, Joe and Danny Camilleri*

coaching the inaugural DLSOCAFC Woman's Masters team in 2019.

John "Jock" recently retired from global professional services firm PwC, where he was a partner for 20 years. He is currently President of Paralympics Australia and a Trustee for Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust. Jock was recently appointed as Vice President of the Organising Committee for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Jock, Matthew and Patrick played for the 'Old Colls' and even played together in the 1990 A Grade Reserve premiership. Matthew and Patrick played in the club's last A Section flag. Patrick then went on to play in the club's last senior premiership team in 2003 with a victory in B Grade.

Matthew is continuing his father's legacy and is the current President

of the DLSOCAFC, leading the club through the challenges of the pandemic years.

A senior supply chain and logistics practitioner with 30 years' experience across Asia Pacific in leading supply chain consultancies, Matthew is a co-founder of a fourth party logistics company, Active Supply Chains, which has provided logistics services and advice for 20 years.

Matthew's sons Liam (2014), who is an Area Lifesaving Manager at Life Saving Victoria and Sean (2016), a commerce graduate, and now an Associate with PwC, both held student leadership roles at the College and played for the Old Colls.

*By Kerry Martin and Matt O'Callaghan (1986)*

# 1951

## JOHN HARBER PHILLIPS

John Harber Phillips, AC, QC (dec.) (1951) was a former Chief Justice of Victoria. During his tenure he was instrumental in a number of innovations including, the introduction of electronic courtrooms and for pioneering a system called “Pegasus Two” designed to streamline the conduct of criminal trials.

He instigated the notion of Open Days where members of the public were invited into the courts. He was also the Chairman of the National Institute of Forensic Science and the Victorian Institute of Forensic medicine. He was later appointed a Professor at the Sir Zelman Cowen Centre at Victoria University.

Perhaps his most high-profile role was as the legal counsel for Lindy Chamberlain on a charge of murdering her baby Azaria.

He was the first Director of Public Prosecutions for Victoria and was also a Director of the National Crime Authority.

Harber Phillips, who attended De La Salle College when the school was quite small and the only playing area was the concrete yard of Stanhope Street, retired recently after 12 years’ service as Chief Justice of Victoria. In all, John was a Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria and the Federal Court of Australia for nearly 20 years.

Although Irish in background, he has been involved with the Victorian Greek community for many years and has been twice awarded the Hellenic Distinction for service to that community.

John has had a deep interest in Forensic Science for many years and is currently Chairman of the National Institute of Forensic Science and the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.

He married Helen Rogers in 1962 and they have three children and five grandchildren. The grandchildren will be 5th generation Collingwood barrackers as John has already put in hand their indoctrination.

On his retirement, John accepted a post of Professor in the Sir Zelman Cowen Centre at Victoria University.



This is a partnership between Victoria University and Cambridge and is Cambridge’s only outpost in Australia. De La Salle is proud to acknowledge the outstanding career of an eminent Old Collegian.

*By Genie Scott  
First published in Roll Call May 2012*

# 1952

## FR ANTHONY YOUNG

Drastic times call for drastic measures and when Fr Anthony Young (1952) arrived at Nimowa, Milne Bay (PNG) in 1964 he soon realised the wisdom of Hippocrates. Charged with helping to look after a remote and very poor parish in the middle of the Coral Sea, he put the skills learned during his years as an army cadet at De La Salle College to good use.

When Fr Young arrived in Milne Bay there were still odd pieces of equipment left behind by American troops after the Pacific war. Among them was an American GI carbine and some ammunition which he appropriated.

When on his pastoral boat patrols around the islands he and the boat crew used to go crocodile hunting in the evenings. “I sold the skins and used the money to build permanent houses for the crew,” he recalls.

When news of his ‘Crocodile Dundee’ tendencies reached his superiors, he was reigned in for a spell and sent to the mainland.

“News of my shooting crocs made its way to my superiors, and I found myself being appointed to teach at a minor seminary near Rabaul, far away from my island parish. Fortunately, I could return after a year.”

Fr Young said that PNG is often called the ‘land of the unexpected.’ “There’s a bit of truth in that, every day can hold surprises”, he says.

Every day was different. “On patrol days I would pack my bag, get my Mass kit, and head for a dinghy or the launch, with the company of some men and women who would come with me to help organise the Mass and sacramental liturgies,

hold meetings to discuss parish affairs, take census, and – in earlier times especially – a nurse to hold a clinic for mothers, children, and sick people. They were the happiest days of my life.” A tour of the parish would take several weeks.

Whether it was hunting crocodiles, servicing the diesel engine of his boat, or trying to fix the mission generator, Fr Young was able to turn his hand to most things.

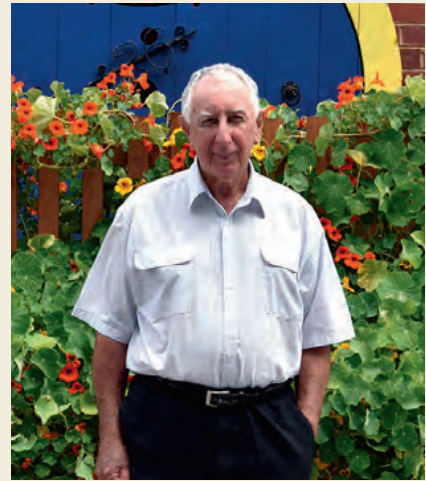
“My father worked as a welder when he was a young man. He was also a good carpenter and mechanic. We had a big garage at home full of tools and junk to fiddle with, so I grew up a bit handy”.

“Much later in life I saw a violin repairer working in the window of his shop in Richmond. I was fascinated and decided to try and learn how to do it. It was something I did while on leave in Melbourne to give my hands some work and my head a badly-needed rest.”

Even though Fr Young retired from formal parish duties three years ago, it hasn’t deterred him from working in an online education centre called Hope Academy, which he created to help students access high school studies online.

Many students in PNG are forced to leave school at the end of their primary schooling (Year 8) because there is no room for them in the existing high schools. Hope Academy helps them to complete their education to Year 12 and beyond. “There are currently about 200 students enrolled at two Hope Academy centres, one at Nimowa, and one on the mainland.”

“We are also working on a new project called the Education Box which is an Education Hot Spot powered by solar panels. People, wherever they are, will be able to access the Box with their phones to download classes and continue their education.”



As a student at the College, Fr Young was Dux of his year and loved football. His advice to the young men of today: “Don’t live on the surface: take time to listen to what is deepest in yourselves. There is a voice there, and it will guide you, through the years, to become someone who is a blessing for some small part of this earth and its people.”

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call September 2018*

# 1952

## THE TEAGUE DYNASTY

The Teague family has been associated with De La Salle since the 1940s when Willis Teague chose the school for his three sons, not realising what a memorable impact they and his seven future grandsons would have on the College.

Willis was a remarkable man in his own right as he represented Victoria in five sports — tennis, bowls, volleyball, basketball, and badminton — and was one of the MCCs longest-serving members before his death aged ninety nine in 2003.



*L-R: Bernard, John and Gerry Teague*

Gerry Teague (dec.) (1952) won a Commonwealth Scholarship to Melbourne University after a successful academic and sporting career at De La Salle.

After graduating as a Mechanical Engineer, Gerry taught at Melbourne University while doing

his Masters. After returning from a sabbatical in Canada, there was no vacancy at Melbourne, so he took a temporary post at Swinburne which extended to twenty eight years and saw him become Associate Dean of Engineering and Head of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering before retiring in 1994. A loyal and gracious Old Collegian, he served on the first College Council.

Like his father, he is a fifty year old member of the MCC for whom he plays representative bowls.

In his final year at De La Salle (1954), Bernard Teague AO was both College Captain and Dux. A genuine all-rounder, he was Dux of his class each year, a brilliant debater, President of Our Lady's Society and the YCS and represented the College in athletics, tennis and football where he was a rugged centre half-back. A foundation member of the Old Collegians' Football Club, he served as captain in 1961.

After graduating in Arts/Laws with Honours from the University of Melbourne, Bernard practised as a solicitor with Corr and Corr becoming a partner prior to his being the first solicitor appointed to the Bench in Victoria in one hundred and twenty three years. As an esteemed judge, he leads the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court.

As well as holidaying and cycling with his wife, Patrice, and family,

Bernard plays bowls and is a fifty years member of the MCC. He regularly attends Old Collegians reunions.

Like his older brothers, John (1957) excelled at school, winning a Commonwealth Scholarship and was a member of the First Eleven and the athletics team. After completing his Engineering degree at Melbourne University, he worked in Canada for several years where he met his wife, Anita. After returning to Australia, they settled in Sydney. Now semi-retired after a career in computers with IBM, he enjoys cycling and refereed basketball for many years.

Living next door to Kinnoull, Gerry's four sons attended De La Salle and have chosen a variety of careers. Owen (1983) operates a B&B known as 'Cape Tribulation Retreat' while Brian (1986), after graduating in Mechanical Engineering is now a consulting engineer in refinery installations. In his last year at the College in 1987, Michael edited the *Blue and Gold* edition honouring the school's seventy-fifth anniversary.

A graduate in Architectural Technology, he works for Telstra. Still an active basketballer, he plays with the Brazilian All Stars with schoolboy friends — Julian Duncan, Justin Martin, Andrew Seager and Anthony Del Monaco. Colin (1988) has sought a warmer climate and, if you are holidaying in Cairns, you will find him as Pit Boss at The Reef Casino.

Three of Bernard's sons also attended the College in the '80s. After matriculating in 1982, Leon studied acting at W.A. Academy of Performing Arts. As well as his appearances in television productions, he has the fascinating role of Clown Doctor at the Royal Childrens' Hospital. Richard (1986) is a Commerce graduate and resides in W.A. where he works for Woodside Petroleum, while Jonathan (1988) has pursued a career in computing and lectures at TAFE.

*By Genie Scott  
First published in Roll Call May 2006*



*Br John Mitchell (centre) with his brothers Peter, Paul, Mark and David*

# 1953

## BR JOHN MITCHELL

Br John Mitchell (dec.) (1953) is the eldest of five boys (all born wearing a St Kilda jumper). He was a student at St Anthony's

in Glen Huntly before winning a diocesan scholarship to De La Salle College.

Br John entered the Juniorate in 1954, joining Br Kevin again, and after following the strict regime of the novitiate he completed a teaching degree.

His first appointment was to the junior school of St Bernard's in

Katoomba. He was transferred to Oakhill College for the next eleven years. He found these years very happy and professionally satisfying.

In 1971 Br John was transferred to the Armidale community where Br Kevin was Director and Principal of De La Salle College and studied as a full-time student at the University of New England.

He then taught at several of our schools in Sydney before being appointed to Dandenong the year Br Kevin became Principal there.

After eight years, Br John went to De La Salle Malvern for two years then spent four years at Derby in WA. He has been stationed at Marrickville for the past seven years.

Apart from his teaching, Br John is a supporter extraordinaire of the missions. He puts his whole heart into anything he takes on.



# 1953

## TOM FROST

Throughout his life, music has taken Tom Frost (1953) to a lot of places. As an accomplished jazz pianist, he has played in just about every town hall, hotel and piano bar in Melbourne. These days Tom hangs out after dark in a very different setting — on the streets of Melbourne taking his message to the city's homeless.

Tom discovered his gift for piano at an early age thanks to a Sr Helen from Oakleigh who nurtured his talents throughout his primary years. When he started at De La Salle in Year 7 it was Br Anthony who assumed the role of music tutor. Tom fondly recalls Br Anthony's encouraging influence while at De La Salle between 1949 and 1952.

"He had the choir and always encouraged me with my exams and practice and that sort of thing. He cared for anybody who had musical skills," says Tom, who recalls the Brothers as being "just outstanding".

Encouraged by Br Anthony, Tom continued to study privately whilst at De La Salle, and eventually was introduced to the world of jazz through a Mr Bradley, who was a professor of music at the University of Melbourne. "I studied with him and then somehow I wandered off into the world of jazz."

In the 1990s, Tom was selected as the Melbourne rehearsal pianist for Barbara Streisand, having been a regular accompanist to performers around Melbourne. In the 1970s, he was the backing pianist for Allison Durbin for her numerous gigs in Melbourne.

Nowadays, Tom plays church music, as well as adding choir singing to his musical repertoire. This year, he will be doing the ministry of music at Holy Spirit Community.

Between gigs, Tom has worked in a range of roles including the manager for RCA records in the late 70's and national sales manager for Gillette. These days Tom works three days a week with the Preston Motors Group in Oakleigh to keep his mind active, but with all his close mates from school gone, he has found himself looking for a new challenge. "I'm the only one left and I keep on asking, what do you want me to stay here for? I know why, I'm doing what I'm doing, and I need to do it because I love doing it," says Tom.

Tom found his challenge with a group called the Holy Spirit Community Street Ministry and

every Friday night he sits himself down on Swanston St, in between McDonald's and Hungry Jack's, providing an ear for the homeless.

"Just sitting listening, that's our function, it's not to go and give them religion. Our function is to listen to them, let them talk to us, let them talk about all sorts of things." Tom is joined by two or three other Holy Spirit members on these nights.

"They (the homeless) are very, very kind and caring people. Once they've got your trust, they trust you. Friday night is a fantastic, lovable experience and I intend to do it as long as I can, every Friday night," says Tom. Tom talks at length about several of his regulars, mentioning about one woman in particular "I learnt more about that lady's life in two hours than most people would in a few months."

Tom was introduced to the Ministry through a very special friend whom he almost married. "Her name was Francis and I met her when I was in rehabilitation for a hip operation."

When Tom finally came out of hospital after a year, Francis would visit him every Saturday at his home in Hughesdale. He said they would pray together, and it was Francis who showed Tom a type of Catholicism that nobody else could have done, not even his local priest.

"She changed me a lot I tell you. I mean I was an individual, probably like a lot of the men — I lived for today, I worked for today, religion was good, it was there, but it wasn't that important. Now my religion is vital."

*By David Fegan  
First published in Roll Call May 2013*

# 1954

## TREVOR VINCENT

Trevor Vincent (1954) has broken numerous records for Australia in Track and Field. In 1952 a meeting with another Old Collegian, Pat Leane (1948) inspired him to take up running. Trevor well remembers a talk he attended one day when he was in Year 8.

“In 1952 an ‘old’ De La Salle boy who had been selected for the Australian Team for the Helsinki Olympics came to talk to our class. It turned out to be Pat Leane (1948) and his talk had a profound effect on me at the time. It sparked my interest in athletics,” he said.

“In 1954, my last year at De La Salle, ‘out of the blue’, I won the 800 yards and One Mile events — it was then that I found I could run a bit.” Ten years after Pat Leane’s pep talk to his Year 8 class, Trevor was chosen to represent Australia at the 1962 Commonwealth Games and ultimately won the Gold Medal in the 3000m steeplechase event. “It was a very exciting time,” Trevor said.

“In 1964 I was selected to represent Australia at the Tokyo Olympic Games in the steeplechase event. I was one of the highly fancied international competitors in the event. Injury, however, intervened and I was unable to produce my best in Tokyo and was eliminated in my heat.”

Nevertheless, Trevor said it was a tremendous and unforgettable experience. “The thing I remember most about the Games was meeting so many great people and participating in the opening and closing ceremonies.”



In 1966 Trevor suffered a serious injury (a ruptured Achilles tendon) which sadly put him out of action at the time of the Commonwealth Games in Jamaica and forced him to curtail his involvement in the Steeplechase event. He continued running, however, and was most successful in later years in events ranging from the 1500m to the Marathon.

*By Genie Scott  
First published in Roll Call 2002*



## INSPIRING RUNNERS

Since his Olympic and Commonwealth Games successes, Vincent has continued to participate in athletics and nurture the next generation of athletes.

Over the years he has been participated in numerous Australian and a Victorian Teams at many major international and national athletic events, including two world Cross Country Championships and a Montreal Marathon.

He has enjoyed a long-time relationship as a coach and team manager with the Glenhuntly Athletic Club, where he is a Life Member, Hunter Legend and Member of the Club’s Hall of Fame. He has been awarded an Australian Sports Medal and the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to athletics and is a life member of Athletics Victoria and Athletics Australia.

In 2000, Vincent was part of the Olympic Torch Relay for the Sydney Summer Olympics. He was also a part of the Queen’s Baton Relay for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, as well as the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

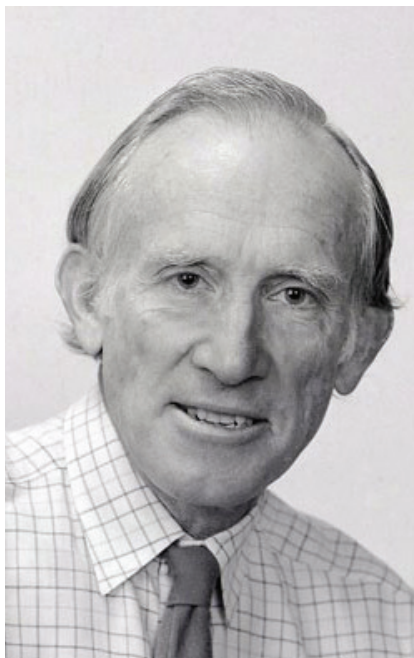
In 2006, he took the reins of a small running group called Run Monash, based at the Clayton Campus on Monash University. This running group has gone from strength to strength since then and is still operation.

Since 2007, he has acted as a guide at the Australian Sports Museum. While Vincent no longer runs, he does long walks two or three times a week in the Dandenong Ranges. He has three sons and eight grandchildren and not a runner amongst them.

*Additional information by Kerry Martin and Trevor Vincent (1954)*

# 1955

## PETER McCULLAGH



In 1962, Dr Peter McCullagh (1955) became the first De La Salle College student to be offered a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University. A leading immunologist, and a Visiting Fellow at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, at The Australian National University in Canberra, Dr McCullagh spoke to *Roll Call* from his home in Bungendore, NSW in 2012.

### **What are your recollections of being a student at the College in the 1950s?**

My earliest recollections of De La Salle are of the 'scholarship' class with Br Julian Watson. We were pushed to work hard — a change from my primary school days. I also remember seeing the younger Brothers catching the tram after school to go into Melbourne University to undertake their own studies. For us this was a great example of commitment to their vocation.

### **What were your achievements at De La Salle?**

As a student my achievements were mainly academic, enough to get

me into Medicine at the University of Melbourne. At the College I didn't take sport very seriously but later at University, I joined the University Athletics Club.

### **How did your College life help prepare you for your adult and professional life?**

The Brothers were our role models, and they were committed to work and manifesting a practical Christian commitment. This set me up for life.

### **How were you chosen to be a Rhodes Scholar?**

In 1962 I was in Sydney competing in the Australian Athletics Championships and was able to catch up for a meal with Bill Mullins (Br Frederick). He suggested that I should apply. At the time I was a junior resident medical officer at St Vincent's Hospital with every intention of going into research.

Fortunately, I was very young for a first year student, so I was still within the age requirement to apply for the Oxford Scholarship. The selection process sought broader involvement than academic results, which in 1962 usually meant sport. Fortunately for me I had good marks in Medicine and had won some State and Intervarsity championships.

### **Could you describe your experience at Oxford at the time?**

I spent three years at Oxford undertaking research. I had intended to do cancer research but was advised by Florey to enter the new field of cellular immunology. My experience was probably not typical for a postgraduate student as I spent a great deal of time on the weekends competing in athletic competitions around England.

I made many friends during this time and recall the chaplain at Oxford, Michael Hollings, who was one of the most impressive clerics I have met.

### **What set you on your career path?**

My career was almost totally unplanned. My scholarship resulted in my going to Oxford. I intended to undertake cancer research, but Florey changed that. I intended to

return to Melbourne afterwards and apply for a position at the university. But after bumping into the head of the relevant department at Heathrow I decided we wouldn't be a good match, so I withdrew my application.

Subsequently, the Head of the Pathology Department at Oxford knew people at the John Curtin School of Medical Research and arranged a position for me there.

I considered myself very fortunate to be in research but the way I got there in the end was not so much a plan but a series of events.

### **What are your most important achievements in both a professional and personal sense?**

One of my personal and career highs happened in 1966 in London. In the course of a fortnight, I was awarded my Doctor of Philosophy at Oxford, passed the entrance exam for the Royal College of Practitioners, and won the British 10 Mile Championship.

Professionally, I consider my research and discovery of 'suppressor cells' in 1969 as a significant achievement. Up until then the belief was that immune responses against body 'self' tissues were prevented only by elimination of white cells which could have attacked self. Suppressor cells represented a new, unsuspected way of inactivating anti-self-white blood cells.

During the period 1980–2000, I was fortunate to have laboratory resources to undertake many experiments examining the development of the immune system and self-recognition in sheep fetuses. This hadn't been done before and is unlikely to be repeated as most of the labs working in the field have subsequently closed.

### **What advice would you give to De La Salle students today?**

My advice would be to appreciate, acknowledge and value the opportunities you are offered and commit to 'putting something back' in the course of your careers.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2012*



# 1955

## JOHN TINDLEY

John Tindley (dec.) (1955) was the first Principal of Catholic Regional College, Camperdown from 1973 until 1983. He stands as a towering figure in the history of the school, now Mercy Regional College. He is remembered by former staff and members of the Board of Management for his efforts in overcoming the early challenges that faced the school and its establishment in the local and wider education community.

Catholic Regional College was opened in February 1973 and grew out of a crisis in the local education landscape where Catholic secondary education, which had been previously offered to Second Form level by the Sisters of Mercy, was withdrawn because of the decline in the availability of Sisters. This had led to financial constraints caused by the employment of lay staff. The school was established in hurried circumstances and faced enormous challenges from the outset.

Tindley was employed in December 1972 and immediately set about establishing the school in several classrooms at Camperdown's St Patrick's Primary School. One former member of the Board of Management remembered calling into the school to find him laying carpet tiles in the classrooms. He quickly assembled a staff and the school began at the opening of the school year with 120 students.

The early challenges were many but the reliance of the school on the bussing of students from far-flung corners of the district was a constant cause of anxiety. A former staff member who began as a young teacher in Tindley's time, remembered learning that it was unwise to approach him after school until all the buses and students were safely home.



*John Tindley (1973), pictured front row*

Tindley's leadership was critical to this role, many believe that without him the school may not have survived. These leadership skills were evident in his years as a De La Salle College student. The 1955 edition of *Blue and Gold* describes him as "popular with the boys and Brothers alike".

He arrived at the College as a Year 5 student in 1947 and quickly engaged with school life where he was prominent in sporting and scholastic activities. As a student, he successfully gained a Junior Commonwealth Scholarship, his Intermediate, Leaving and Matriculation Certificates.

His determination to succeed was such that, having gained his Matriculation in 1954, he returned in 1955 to improve his marks and try for a Commonwealth Scholarship. Following his studies at De La Salle, he completed a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne, then a Diploma of Education at Monash University where, in later years, he also gained a Bachelor of Education.

In 1955, Tindley was St Mark's House Captain and, at the annual House sports carnival, he was the "outstanding athlete", winning the Mile, the 880 yards and the High Jump. Later, at the Associated Catholic Colleges meeting, he was the Captain of the Athletics team and won the 880 yard's and Mile events. In the Mile, he set a record for his time of 3 minutes 45.4 seconds. He also set a record in the 880 although this was disputed at the time.

At the All Schools Meeting in October, in the 880, Tindley came second to the Public Schools Champion, David Houseman from Geelong Grammar, after a rough start, which saw him drop to last place early in the race. Tindley was also a member of the College's First Eighteen football team and was a member of the handball team.

The combination of determination and ability that Tindley demonstrated in his sporting and scholastic endeavours was developed in his years at De La Salle College and further refined at university and in his subsequent teaching role at St Bede's.

These skills and abilities he brought to the challenges at CRC in that important first decade, during which he helped lay the foundations for the school's longevity and ongoing success.

John Tindley left Catholic Regional College in 1982 and, eventually, left the education world altogether, moving into the hotel and hospitality industry. He passed away in 2009.

Mercy Regional College, Camperdown and the education it has provided for thousands of young people of Victoria's south west, stands as legacy to John Tindley's education career. De La Salle College can be very proud of him.

*This article is an extract from a history of Catholic College Camperdown, written by Lachie Lee, which will be published in 2023, to mark the College's anniversary*

*By Lachie Lee*

# 1955

## PETER JULIFF

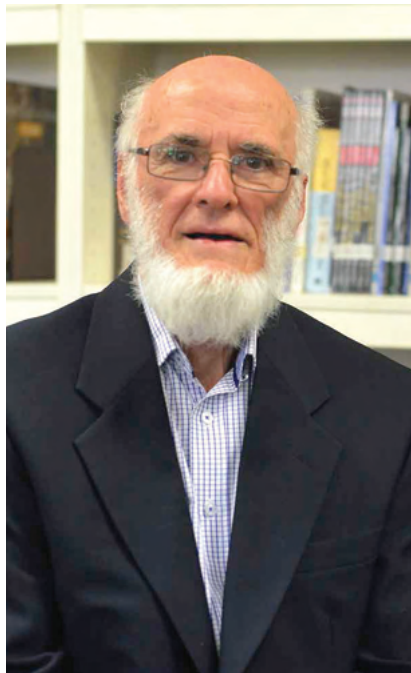
In 2015, Emeritus Professor Peter Juliff AM (1955) received a Member of the Order of Australia this year for his pioneering work in information technology.

Throughout his professional life, Professor Juliff was something of a trail blazer. He was the first Emeritus Professor in Information Systems at Deakin University, he was the first Professor and Head of School of Management Information Systems in the Faculty of Business and Law at Deakin University, and the first Head of Department of Computing and Quantitative Methods at the former Prahran CAE.

In 1999, he was appointed as Deakin University's first Emeritus Professor of Information Systems and although as the title suggests, he is technically retired, he still works for the Australian Computer Society assessing applicants under the Australian Government's Business Migration Scheme. So far, he says he has personally processed about 50,000 applicants, not bad for someone who he is 'retired'.

After graduating from De La Salle College, Professor Juliff joined the public service and quickly rose through the ranks in the office of the Government Statistician to become a Public Service Inspector. At the same time, he completed his academic studies at Monash and not long after moved into academia at the then Caulfield Technical College, now Monash University, graduating with degrees in Applied Science and Accounting.

Professor Juliff was amongst the first crop of computer science graduates to complete what was then a new discipline. It was



only in the 1960s that Monash and Melbourne universities first introduced courses in computer science.

In fact, Professor Juliff remembers going to an Open Day at The University of Melbourne in 1955 and seeing the first computer ever built in Australia. It was designed by a team which included Mr Trevor Pearcey and was one of the first computers in the world. Little did I know at the time that Pearcey would one day be my boss at Caulfield Tech." He recalls when he was in the Office of the Statistician everything was recorded by hand. All births, deaths and marriages were recorded in 'the book' which was the only official record kept. Hard to imagine these days when computers are at the centre of our most basic daily actions.

It didn't take Professor Juliff long to progress in academia and by 1980 he was put in charge of a newly formed department specialising in electronic data processing at Victoria College. By 1990, he was Head of Department of Software Development at Monash University.

Professor Juliff has occupied a number of senior roles in the IT industry including Chair of the

Victorian Branch of the Australian Computer Society, where he served as a member of the executive for over 20 years.

He was the Chairman of VCE Examiners for Computer Science, and the Chairman of an international Working Group on Professional and Vocational Education.

It is not surprising that in 2001 he was awarded the Silver Core by the International Federation for Information Processing for service to the international IT community.

These days Professor Juliff, although officially retired from academia, works as a member of a group of academics who, on behalf of the Australian Computer Society, assess overseas applicants under the Government's Business Migration Scheme.

"We work through an online system managed from the ACS office in Sydney, using the online qualification verification system managed by the National Office for Overseas Skills Recognition in Canberra. Aspiring migrants who might be working in their home country, or might be studying here in Australia, apply through the ACS to have their educational qualification assessed. So, we're the first hurdle they have to jump in the migration procedure."

Despite all his academic accolades, Professor Juliff refers to himself first and foremost as an educator. "Despite appointments at professorial level, I have always regarded myself primarily as a teacher," he said.

Professor Juliff has taught many thousands of students — some even behind bars. In the early 1980s, a colleague of his from Melbourne University launched a program to offer IT training to Pentridge Prison inmates in the hope that it might help them into the workforce upon release.

“I took over the program and formalised it with the Victorian Government as a recognised training scheme for prisoners who saw the emerging IT industry as a possibility for eventual employment,” Professor Juliff said.

“Information technology is essentially a practical discipline, and my aim was to educate students to be able to have a rewarding career, both intellectually and financially and to achieve their potential.”

“Some of the prisoners passed examinations set by the Australian Computer Society and went on to

pursue successful IT careers and, in at least one case, a university degree.”

Professor Juliff has fond memories of his days at the College, although he says he was not a ‘stand out student’; “I was pretty quiet and didn’t play sport.” But one thing that De La Salle taught him was that anyone could succeed if they worked at it.

“Achieving your full potential, I believe, was the legacy of the De La Salle Brothers who taught me at both St Joseph’s and then at the College. I have Br Julian Watson to

thank for helping me win a Junior Government Scholarship that got me into De La Salle College in the 1950s.”

“Another rewarding legacy has been the friendships with classmates which have lasted down the years and make our periodic reunions so enjoyable.”

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2015*

Postscript: Professor Juliff was one of the 140 Old Collegians at the recent 50+ reunion.



# 1956

## BRUCE CHAMBERLAIN

Bruce Chamberlain (dec.) (1956) was a barrister and former President of the Legislative Council of Victoria. His political career started when he was elected the Liberal Member for Western Province and served three years

first in the Lower House and then moved to the Upper house where he remained for 27 years. Bruce was College Captain in 1957.

He was born in Brighton in Melbourne to Peter Henry Chamberlain, a railways paymaster, and Eileen, née Haddad. After attending De La Salle College in Malvern, he studied at the University of Melbourne, receiving a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Law.

On 6 February 1965 he married Paula Swan, with whom he had four children.

In 1965 he became a partner with the solicitors’ firm Melville, Orton & Lewis, while also acquiring farming property near Hamilton. He served on Hamilton City Council from 1969 to 1973. In 1973 he was elected to the Victorian Legislative Assembly as the Liberal member for Dundas.

His seat was abolished in 1976 and he won election to the Victorian Legislative Council for Western Province. Appointed Shadow Minister for Conservation and Planning in 1982, he became Shadow Attorney-General in 1985 and Leader of the Opposition in

the Upper House in 1986. In 1988 he moved to the portfolio of Local Government and Major Projects, afterwards taking Industry, Technology and Resources (1989–90), Planning and State Growth (1990–91), and Local Government (1990–92). From 1992 to 2002, 17th President of the Legislative Council of Victorian Parliament.

He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 2005. He died in Hamilton on 1 October 2005.

On his retirement in 2002, when asked what advice he would give to young people possibly interested in a political career, Bruce responded: “Know our political system, the material is available. You have to go through one of the major parties. Make your choice; it’s a personal decision. Join the local branch. Ask questions; get them to give you reasons why you should join their party. Most successful politicians are active in community life. Young people with political ambitions should do the same.” Sound advice from one of Victoria’s foremost politicians.

*By Genie Scott  
First published in Roll Call May 2012*



# 1956

## GERALD MURNANE

In *The New York Times*, Mark Benelli has described Gerald Murnane (1956), as one of the best English language writers' alive, and with a nomination for a Nobel Prize for Literature, a Patrick White, a Prime Minister, and a Victorian Premier's awards to his name, he is showing no signs of slowing down. Last year, Murnane turned 80 and published his first book of poetry, *Green Shadows and Other Poems* and a novel, his fourteenth, *A Season on Earth*.

The 1956 edition of the College Yearbook, *Blue and Gold* testifies to Murnane's abilities. He topped his class in every subject, was the Dux of the Matriculation Class, captain of the senior debating team and Vice Captain of St Edwin's House.

His poem *Before the Dawn*, won the College's top literary prize revealing the deep seam of gold of this now celebrated writer's literary imagination.

Melbourne historian Val Noone, (1956) a classmate and friend of Murnane remembers him as a good student with a sense of humour.

"He was capable and committed, keen on English literature, an opponent of the prevailing emphasis on sport, and sceptical of the value of Maths and Sciences," Noone said.

"Gerald was witty, inclined to be sarcastic, and had a sense of fun."

"Our last day at school was the day after the Olympic Games had started in Melbourne, and three days after two Afro-American Olympians, Ira Davis and Lee Calhoun, graduates of a De La Salle College in the United States, had visited the College. Things were fairly quiet, but Gerald brightened up the atmosphere by running around the school yard with a make-believe Olympic torch."

At school, his nickname was Lou, but Noone can't remember why.

"Like most of the class, Gerald was serious about the Catholic faith. In religion class we took it in turns at giving short talks. I made a note in my diary that on one occasion Gerald went for half an hour on human liberty."

"He and I discussed whether we had vocations to the priesthood or religious life. Gerald was interested in joining a contemplative monastery and won a prize that year for his poem about Cistercian monks. I went to the diocesan seminary, while Gerald went, for a few months only, to the Passionist Fathers' seminary. That's treated at length in his latest novel."

"As a student, Gerald was an enthusiast for poetry and tried to persuade me to take it up. A couple of months ago, sixty three years later, at age 80, after many fiction books, he published his first book of poems. I have not become a poet, but I enjoyed mulling over his," Noone said.

“I find Gerald’s fictions thought-provoking yet puzzling – they concentrate on the images and ideas in his mind, often about colours, horse racing and the plains of western Victoria, all the while reflecting on his processes of writing and the meaning of life. His criticisms of his unnamed fictional secondary school have been severe,” Noone said.

For the past 10 years Murnane has lived a remote life in the small township of Goroke on the edge of the western plains of Victoria, where he maintains meticulous records of his life in metal filing cabinets. Much has been written of his insular existence and reluctance to travel, his dislike of cinema and refusal to learn to use a computer. His existence could be said to account for the interior and eccentric characters who inhabit his novels.



*De La Salle Debating Team 1956. Standing L-R: Michael Cleary, Brian Parker, Russell Meehan, Michael Shadbolt, Val Noone Seated L-R: Brendan Broderick, Gerald Murnane (Cpt), Mr Conway, Morgan Murphy*

He speaks Hungarian, plays the violin, enjoys brain teasers, and golf and horse racing, which is a passion inherited from his father Reginald. However, he has never travelled out of his home country and rarely leaves Victoria. In Goroke, he helps run the Men’s Shed and pulls beers behind the bar at the Golf Club.

Before devoting his life to his writing, he spent 13 years as a public servant, teaching in primary schools and working as an editor in a government office. In 1966, when he was 27, he married Catherine Lancaster, who also worked as a teacher. They settled in the northern suburbs and fortunately for Murnane, his

wife supported his decision to quit his day job and take care of their three sons.

He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne in 1969 and lectured in Creative Writing. In 1974 he published his first book, *Tamarisk Row* and two years later *A Lifetime on Clouds*. Since then, there have been 13 more, his last in 2021.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2020*

**In 2020 Murnane wrote the following letter to our Roll Call readers.**

*Dear Roll Call Editor,*

*I appreciate your interest in me and I believe you must have gone to a great deal of trouble to compose the set of questions that you sent me. I’m a polite person who doesn’t like to disappoint people of goodwill. Rather than address the questions, I’ll send you a few paragraphs that may interest you.*

*The letter, by the way, is being typed on a Remington Monarch bought in 1965 and used almost daily since the mid-1970s, when I overcame lifelong fear for technology and taught myself to type using the index finger of my right hand to press the keys and the middle finger on my left hand to press the key that brings the upper-case letters into play.*

*When computers were coming into use, friends of mine would urge me to adapt to them. My friends pointed out how much faster and efficiently I could write with new technology. I used to reply that efficiency was of little interest to me when I wrote. I preferred to compose my sentences at my own pace and in keeping with the rhythms of my thoughts.*

*Until three years ago, I could not use a mobile phone, but living in a remote district obliged me to change my ways. I now own a smart phone and I can make use of its basic functions, although I’ve never learned to install any of the mysterious-looking apps arranged in a row on my screen.*

*When I finally learned how to send text messages, a momentous achievement which took place in mid-2016, I sent a brief, humorous message to each of the two sons of mine who live in Melbourne. They conferred by phone*

*at once and then contacted the police in the district where I live. My sons believed that someone must have broken into my home or assaulted me and stolen my phone. Both agreed it was impossible for their father to have mastered the art of sending text messages.*

*Many people recall their schooldays with fondness, speak gratefully of the sound education they received, and even single out one or more teachers who inspired them and set them on their way to their future success. I am not one of those people. My five years at De La Salle were by no means the best period of my life, although this was no fault of my teachers, of whom I recall with gratitude, Brs. Edward, Colman, Julian and especially Br Gerard Rummery fsc.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Gerald Murnane (1956),  
Goroke*

# 1956

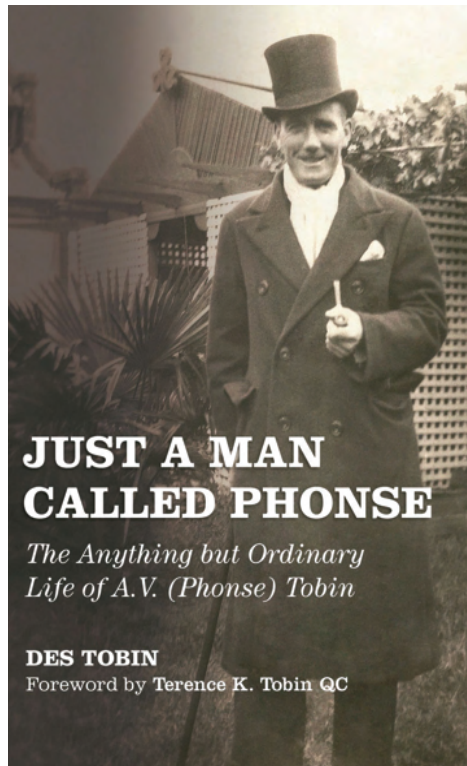
## THE TOBIN CONNECTION

In 2018, Des Tobin (1956) launched *Just a Man Called Phonse, The Anything But Ordinary Life of A.V. (Phonse) Tobin* – the biography of his father, Phonse Tobin, who along with his brothers, founded Australia’s most successful family-owned funeral service company, Tobin Brothers Funerals.

The Tobin family have been connected to De La Salle College for almost 80 years. All three of Phonse’s sons, Barry (1954), Des (1956) and Gavan (1965) attended the College, as did three of his grandsons. Phonse also played a pivotal role in the evolution of the College as we know it today. In this issue of *Roll Call*, Des shares some of his father’s story with our readers.

Before Tobin Brothers was established in 1934, Phonse worked as a storeman, a salesman, a soldier, and a firefighter. Gifted with a fine singing voice, he also produced many amateur theatrical productions. He was also a natural sportsman, particularly as a successful professional foot runner. He was also a long serving member of the North Melbourne Football Club committee. Phonse was one of those rare characters who could communicate with people from all walks of life, whether it was a prize fighter or a prime minister, a grave digger, or a Governor, but it was a keen eye for business, that in 1953, led to a decision that would help shape the future of the College.

At the time, our family lived in Sorrett Avenue opposite the original ‘Kinnoull’ homestead and dad had befriended the gardener, who told him the owners were putting the property on the market but did not want it to ‘fall into Catholic hands.’ Slipping the gardener, a 10-shilling note, Phonse got hold of the keys, called the College Principal, and



suggested he come straight around and look at the property. Thirty minutes later, two Brothers in ‘civilian’ dress, escorted by Phonse, unofficially inspected the property.

At the time, the De La Salle Tiverton Campus was bursting at the seams and there was little room for expansion. The Brothers quickly realised that acquiring Kinnoull would solve the space problem so, after an offer ‘too good to refuse,’ even by ‘anti-Catholic’ vendors, the property changed hands and the rest is history!

In 1935, Phonse married Vera (Crough) and in the ensuing years Barry and I came along. In 1943 we moved from North Melbourne to Malvern, where Denise and Gavan were born. When it was time to go to school, De La Salle was the natural choice for Barry, Gavan, and me – as was Kildara for our sister Denise – and thus began a long, happy, and continuing Tobin connection with the College.

Barry excelled at sport and represented the College in athletics as well as cricket and football. I also played football and cricket and was a member of the 1952 ACC Championship Swim team. Gavan

played under-age and first XVII football and was the only one of Phonse’s sons to Matriculate and attend university. Barry was ordained a priest in 1965 and, before he retired in 2017, was the parish priest of the Ormond/Murrumbeena twinned parish.

Gavan worked for RMIT University in their accounting division before joining Tobin Brothers in the mid-1980s, where he worked until his retirement, while my sister Denise trained as a teacher and interestingly taught at the College’s Kinnoull Campus for several years. Her sons Patrick (1991) and Michael Shine (1994) also attended the College.

My son, Martin, (1983) also an Old Collegian, did well in sports and academically and succeeded me at Tobin Brothers as the CEO. He left the company in 2011 to set up what has become a successful business consultancy practice. Phonse’s great-grandson, Daniel Shine is enrolled at De La Salle to commence Year 7 in 2021, continuing the 80 year strong connection between the Tobin family and De La Salle. Deo Duce.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2019*



*Des Tobin*



# 1956

## VAL NOONE

In 2013 the National University of Ireland has conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters on Dr Val Noone OAM (1956) “for his contribution to Irish studies in Australia.”

Val, who is one of only three Australians to receive an Honorary Degree from NUI (the others being Tom Keneally in 1994 and Cardinal Gilroy in 1950) was conferred by the Chancellor of the University, Dr Maurice Manning, at the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin.

Val has long been a champion of Irish history and cultural studies in Australia and has held several key roles including the chair of the Melbourne Irish Famine Commemoration Committee and founding editor of *Tain*, the magazine of the Australian Irish Network.

Before retiring, he lectured in Modern Irish History and Irish Migration at The University of Melbourne, where he is currently a fellow in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies.

In 2009, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to education and to the community.

Mr Noone said the Honorary Degree was a great honour. “In accepting with pride and gratitude the honour of a Doctorate of Letters from the National University of Ireland, I do so on behalf of the many people I have worked with over the years. I want to thank especially the members and officials of the community groups of which I have been part. Moreover, I am grateful for the secondary education which De La Salle College, Malvern, provided.”

Val started at the College when he was 10 after he was awarded a scholarship from St Paul’s, Bentleigh. “That year, under the guidance of Br Julian Watson, many

of us won a further four year State Government scholarship to put us through to Year 12”

“I have not forgotten that ninety per cent of my contemporaries did not have that opportunity and, as a rule, I have tried during my life to use the advantages I gained for the common good. De La Salle also gave me an opening to learn about magazines, writing, editing, printing and distributing. I was part of a group who worked on *The Lyre*, an official monthly school magazine.”

Val completed undergraduate studies in philosophy, scripture and theology at Corpus Christi College, the Melbourne diocesan seminary 1957–1964. In 1988 he returned to study, completing a doctoral thesis at La Trobe University, which was published as *Disturbing the War: Melbourne Catholics and Vietnam*. His latest book, entitled *Hidden Ireland in Victoria* is about the words, songs, stories, poems, prayers, conversations, gestures and accents of the Irish language and culture, as well as all the associated ideas, events and monuments and more.

“My concern about the history and future of the Irish tradition springs from two main sources. Firstly, people who have Irish ancestors are trying to recover the history and the memories that have been lost. Second, the Irish Australian culture matters because the human species benefits from having a variety of cultures. The search for roots and meaning is not a fad, it is not nostalgia, but it is a way of resisting the pressures for global sameness.”

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2013*



# 1958

## STEPHEN McINTYRE

Stephen McIntyre AM (1958) Associate Professor of Music, University of Melbourne, is known nationally and internationally as one of Australia's most eminent pianists and teachers. After initial studies in Melbourne, McIntyre worked in France and Italy with Nadia Boulanger, Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli and Guido Agosti.

He has performed as soloist and chamber music player in many countries and was Head of the Piano department at the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne from 1977 until 1992.

He is particularly known for his performances of French piano music, and his cycle of the complete piano music of Ravel won the National Critics Award.

McIntyre was a founding member of Australian Chamber Soloists, Principal Artistic Advisor for Musica Viva during 1995–96, and Director of the chamber music program for the Melbourne International Festival from 1989–99.

In 2003, he was awarded the Sir Bernard Heinze Prize for distinguished contribution to music in Australia.

# 1958

## ANTHONY FENELON

Anthony Felon OAM (1958) is unquestionably Australia's most successful Theatre Organist with 24 albums to his credit and the only four gold records presented in Australia for an organ record. Known as a champion of the mighty Wurlitzer Theatre organ both here and overseas, Felon was appointed as the resident theatre organist at the Regent Theatre in 1965 and remained there until it closed in the seventies.

Music isn't his only passion, Felon made a significant contribution to science as the former head of the department of biomedical engineering at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and a joint designer of Australia's first implantable cardiac pacemaker.

### ***What were your passions and extra-curricular interests at De La Salle?***

During my earlier years at the College, I was already deeply involved in music. The difficulty in balancing my piano studies with many other passionate boyhood hobbies soon became quite a challenge.

My Music teacher seemed to have a sixth sense in knowing just how much time I devoted to building radio sets, restoring old film projectors, photography, which involved building my own darkroom under the house and, in what spare time was left, constructing and flying model aeroplanes. The passion for these hobbies was certainly stimulated to a significantly high level by having schoolmates who shared these creative attributes.

### ***What was your professional pathway since graduating from the College?***

I embarked upon a Bachelor of Science Degree so "boyish hobbies"

were put on hold, however I did devote a major component of my "extracurricular" time to piano, under the tuition of Mr. Roy Shepherd at the Conservatorium of Music. During this time, I was fortunate to win the Victorian Finals of the ABC Concerto and Vocal Competitions as well as winning the Bach and Open Sections of the National Eisteddfod in Canberra in 1961.

Surprisingly enough, it was music that played an uncanny role in steering me towards my career in Biomedical Engineering. I spent a lot of time at the Conservatorium during my Science Degree as many of my friends were studying music. A close friend and French Horn player, Peter Davies persuaded me to be his accompanist and during a practice session at his home, I met his father who was a Director of Thorn Atlas, the television manufacturers. This fortuitous meeting resulted in a vacation job at Thorn where I was introduced to a gentleman who had recently left Thorn to form a "medical electronics" department at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. A year later he offered me a part time position which turned into a career of 35 years of countless memories and joint achievements with a unique team of engineers and technicians.

While working at the hospital my interests and passion for the majestic sound of a theatre organ were stimulated by an invitation to visit the Regent Theatre very early one Saturday morning, with the opportunity of actually playing one or two tunes on the magnificent Wurlitzer theatre organ for a small group of enthusiasts, who were the driving force behind the eventual growth of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia. As a direct result of this early morning event, I was offered the position of resident organist and remained with the Regent from 1965 until the theatre closed in 1970.





**What have been your career highlights so far?**

Probably my most exciting and memorable career highlight was my first concert tour of the USA in 1969. The enthusiasm and passion of the American Theatre Organ enthusiasts was almost unbelievable. One of my most vivid memories was playing to an audience of over 3,000 in the Ohio Theatre in Columbus.

On the Biomedical side, we were involved in and designed and built equipment for many leading-edge procedures initiated by some of the leading surgeons and doctors in the fields of cardiology, neurology and open-heart surgery. Most memorable was the design, construction and implantation of one of the first Australian built pacemakers.

After retiring from the Royal Melbourne Hospital in 1998, I was invited to become a Roland touring artist, performing on Roland pianos and organs on tours to the UK, Japan, USA, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Taiwan. I retired from this hectic schedule in 2014 and now enjoy music at an easier pace and at engagements I really enjoy.

**You are highly regarded in both the fields of science and music as a pianist and organist, how have you balanced both?**

That was never really a problem. Surprisingly, during my career, I continued to be amazed by the number of doctors and surgeons who cherished music as a sideline or, just simply, for relaxation. Music became a great balance in my life and, because it wasn't a "formalised" profession at that stage, I was always able to schedule musical activities, such as concerts and tours, when it was convenient for me to do so without causing any disruption to my work at the hospital.

**What sparked your passion for the theatre organ?**

Without a doubt, I owe all that to my dad who loved theatre organ with a passion. As a child, he would take me to one of his closest friend's house, in which he had installed a small theatre organ, originally from the Majestic Theatre in Flinders Street. By Regent Theatre standards, it was tiny, but I can still remember being mesmerised by the sight of three keyboards on top of one another and, even more daunting,

a large keyboard below played by the feet!

Dad and his friend would spend the afternoon playing this unbelievable creation and also listened to many theatre organ records which remember shook the walls and floor.

**What are your interests outside of work?**

Music is still obviously a passion, along with sound recording, playing theatre organ and piano concerts (still!). However, my wife Noella and I have for many years shared the passion of sailing in the Whitsundays on chartered yachts and catamarans that we always sailed ourselves. Last year, we took delivery of our new 45' catamaran and in May this year we will be heading north to explore the east coast of Australia at our own pace and adhering to no schedules.

**What legacies have your days as a De La Salle student left you with?**

To me, De La Salle was always an extended family which made my schooldays some of the happiest in my life. One of the most memorable was the opportunity of becoming involved in the musical activities of the College.

The Brothers taught with enthusiasm, driven by their passion for every subject we studied. There was discipline, of course, but there was respect in both directions, as evidenced so dramatically by the love and friendship we observe time and time again among the Old Collegians at reunions.

De La Salle gave us the tools and skills for further learning but, more importantly, our respect for one another which, no matter what profession we pursued, has been the greatest legacy of all.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2021*

# 1959

## ALLAN DRUMMOND

Allan Drummond (1959) believes in the power of words. The former teacher once wrote history books for his students and more recently spent several years teaching in South Sudan, where he encouraged his students to write about their experiences. Nowadays he keeps up his love of writing, through his publishing endeavours and via his popular Facebook page.

It was his interest in history that launched his career as a writer. “In the mid-90s, I was teaching Year 8 History and the English faculty decided that all students up to Year 10 should spend 10 minutes a day reading after lunch,” he said. “There wasn’t anything suited to young readers of history, so I decided to write something for them. I ended up writing four medieval biographies, which were a hit and Green Barrow Publishing was born. Over the years Green Barrow published more than 40 titles for the young adult market. My best seller was the story of Mary Gilmore.”

Drummond’s history books are enjoyed by teachers and students alike for their accessibility and human interest. His book on John Monash, earned high praise from the likes of football legend Ron Barassi and former Prime Minister John Howard, who said. “John Monash is a lively presentation, easy to read and a nice accessible tribute to a great Australian.”

When Drummond’s wife passed away in 2015, after 43 years of marriage, he was at a bit of a loose end. Br Bill Firman (1960) asked him to join him in South Sudan as part of the Solidarity with South Sudan project, where he spent three years training new teachers.

“Being in South Sudan was an extraordinary privilege, and a life changing one,” he said.



“So much poverty, so much suffering caused by civil war, tribalism and bad governance, but so much optimism, resilience, generosity and gratitude.”

“Trainee teachers have to spend two years in Yambio, which means leaving their families for two years residential study. Nearly half of the students are mothers and fathers themselves. There are so many challenges to education with students having had their schooling interrupted by violence, losing many years in some cases.”

“I encouraged students to write of their own experiences,” he said. “One of them wrote at length about when he was a little boy, fleeing to Uganda with his family. His father disappeared, presumed killed, on the way. Rebels intercepted their party and raped and murdered his mother in front of him.”

The power of his account was so moving. “It was a shock to read this account from a quiet, studious young man. He has since been selected as one of our graduates to complete further studies in Nairobi, after which it is expected that he will take up a teaching position at Solidarity Teacher Training College, Yambio.”

“None of our students in South Sudan are far removed from tragedy but, somehow, they remain

resilient, optimistic and extremely grateful. Solidarity Teachers’ College is a powerful model of what South Sudan should be, with students from a variety of tribes, who might otherwise be at war, learning and living together in harmony.”

It was his historical bent that led him to compare the situation in South Sudan with that faced by St Baptist de La Salle. “South Sudan is eerily reminiscent of France in the days of John Baptist de La Salle – like 17th century France, it faces similar levels of poverty and a lack of trained teachers and schools.”

Drummond said he was constantly aware of the dangers of living in the war-ravaged country. “Living in South Sudan there was the constant threat of danger and despite the barbed wire and high walls, terrible things happened. One nun was raped and another murdered shortly before I arrived.”

Grounded in Melbourne by COVID-19, Drummond is currently waiting for a visa to be able to travel to Papua New Guinea to work alongside the Brothers in Mount Hagen. In the meantime, he is converting some of his more popular titles such as *Joan of Arc*, *Richard the Lionheart* and *Charlemagne* to eBooks.

*By Kerry Martin*  
*First published in Roll Call September 2021*

# 1960

## BR BILL FIRMAN

In 2012, Tony McIlroy (1969) interviewed Br Bill Firman (1960) about his work in South Sudan. The following article appeared in the May issue of *Roll Call* that year.

In April this year, Br Bill Firman returned to Malvern after 10 years in South Sudan, completing another chapter in his life of commitment to the De La Salle Brothers and their mission.

Former Principal of the College and Old Collegian, Br Bill grew up in Wattleree Rd, Malvern, with his elder sister, Patricia and two older brothers: Ron (1953) and John (1957). He commenced his life at De La Salle College in Year 3 and nine years later graduated as the College Captain, Captain of the First XI and Captain of the First XVIII.

He entered the Brothers in 1962, and after graduating from the University of New South Wales, took up a position at De La Salle Ashfield in 1968, where he remained for five years. He came to Malvern in 1972 for a brief period, before moving to St Bede's Mentone in 1973. A year later he was appointed Principal, at the age of 31, a position he held for 14 years.

He was subsequently elected Provincial of the De La Salle Brothers for the Australian and Papua New Guinea District for a four-year term, followed by appointments to BoysTown in Queensland and New Plymouth in New Zealand.

In 2004, Br Bill returned as Principal at De La Salle College Malvern. Not one to shy away from a challenge, while at the College, he oversaw many building improvements including the completion of the St Miguel Theatre at the Kinnoull Campus. Br Bill's return to the College was the completion of the circle, which for him started in Year 3, but it was the beginning of a new circle that would be perhaps the most challenging in his career.

That challenge came in 2009 when he was appointed to war ravaged South Sudan to take up a mission known as, "Solidarity with South Sudan." The Mission was to rebuild. Br Bill accepted the challenge to walk with the people of South Sudan as they endeavored to recover from many years of civil war. "The mission brought together a collective of religious from many different congregations and nationalities responding collaboratively" Br Bill said.

"The collective was known as "missionaries of hope" following the example of Christ in his public life reaching out to the poor and needy, helping children receive better tuition and ensuring more effective health and pastoral care."

In 2013, the Solidarity Board relocated the role of Executive Director from Rome to South Sudan, and Br Bill was invited to accept the role assuming overall responsibility for the whole organisation. Unfortunately, this coincided with the country imploding into a civil war.

"Six years on, all of South Sudan, was sucked into widening violence, a disintegrating economy, declining law and order, lack of food and a much lower standard of living. The future of hope and optimism have given way to uncertainty and insecurity."

Despite these conditions, Solidarity has built two campuses for teacher training and opened a Health Training Institute. Each College has over 110 students in residence who come from different tribes and live and train together to become teachers, nurses, midwives, and agricultural officers who will work to provide the food required for this young country.

Today, Solidarity comprises 30 religious men and women of 19 nationalities from 20 different congregations.

When I asked him what he thought were the highlights of his 57 years in the De La Salle order, Br Bill said his involvement in the running of boarding schools for a total period of twenty four years and his most recent experience in South Sudan.

I'm sure all our Old Collegians join me in congratulating Br Bill on his achievements in seeking to create sustainable educational, health and pastoral programs that will help to empower the South Sudanese people to build a just and peaceful society. We welcome him back to familiar territory for a well-earned break.

*By Tony McIlroy (1969)  
First published in Roll Call May 2012*



# 1960

## THE LEITL BROTHERS

The Leitl Brothers, Georg (1960) and Steve (1960), arrived in Australia from Austria in 1949, as part of the post-war migration program. Georg, the eldest was eight and Steve was six.

After wandering rented accommodation, the family eventually settled in Kew and the brothers enrolled at the College. With the support of their teachers, they excelled in their studies and today are both successful surgeons, Georg specialising in cardiology and Steve in orthopaedics.

**Georg Leitl (1960)** “As a student I was more interested in sport, earning pocket money and girls. Our parents were academic types, so they didn’t encourage extracurricular activities, particularly sport. We found this difficult at the beginning, but eventually I concluded that with two left hands and two left feet, I was better off as an onlooker than a participant.

Being naturally lazy, I was always in trouble because of a lack of application to work. Brothers Stan, Denis and Conway were always at me, to do more work and to work harder. Br Stan had the most influence and inspired me with his love of mathematics and sciences. Eventually the penny dropped, and I realised I would have to apply myself which paid off in the long run.” Georg was College Dux.

“Initially enrolling in Engineering at the University of Melbourne, I soon realised that despite my love of mathematics, chemistry and physics, I was not suited to engineering and switched to Medicine. I graduated in 1972 with a medical degree and post-graduate studies in cardiology

before moving to the United States for further studies at Johns Hopkins University.

When I returned to Australia in 1982, I took up a position at St Vincent’s Hospital. It was an exciting time to be in cardiology. A new world was opening, for cardiac patients; bypass grafting, valve replacement and the development of coronary artery stenting, was part of the explosion in cardiac technology. This together with pacemakers had changed the entire focus of cardiology.

It would seem to me that the schooling we received at De La Salle was the springboard for where my brother and I are today. Our values, our beliefs and the way of life were embedded in us very early on. A lot of it resulted from the education that we had at the College. We owe a lot to our schooling our Catholic education and upbringing.” Georg boasts six children and nine grandchildren.

**Steve Leitl (1960)** “Being staunch anti-communists, our parents felt that Austria would fall to the Russians, so they decided to immigrate to Australia.

At the College in the 1950s I worked hard. I wanted to become a doctor, so I knew I had to do well at school.

I particularly remember Br Joseph who was memorable for his focus, Br Edwards for his patience and gentleness and Br Gerard for his tolerance and sporting ability and of course Br Stanislaw for his great interest in all things sporting. I wore glasses for short sightedness from the age of 12. I was quite “blind” so to speak so I couldn’t play sport and that was disappointing.

After graduating from the College, I completed my medical studies at Melbourne University and worked as an Intern at St Vincent’s Hospital before joining the Navy. Soon after I served in Vietnam



*Georg Leitl*



*Steve Leitl*

as a junior surgeon based at an American Army Hospital for which I received a Navy Board commendation and later worked as a surgeon in Singapore for the ANZUK forces.

After leaving the Navy in 1972, I completed surgical studies, gaining a FRACS in General Surgery in 1974 and then a FRACS in Orthopaedic Surgery in 1977. I believe it has been a lucky life and I owe a lot of my success to the Christian education that I received at De La Salle.”

Steve Leitl is an Orthopaedic Surgeon in Wangaratta. He has two sons and four grandchildren.

*By Br Gerard Rummery fsc  
First published in Roll Call September 2017*



# 1960

## FR MICHAEL CASEY

Ordained in 1968, Fr Michael Casey (1960) celebrated his 50th anniversary as a priest in 2018. Commencing at De La Salle College in 1955 and coming from St Joseph's, Chelsea, he matriculated in 1960 and entered Corpus Christi Seminary in Werribee the following year. College Principals during that time were Brothers Oswald and



Stanislaus. Fr Michael singled out Br Gerard Rummery from his teachers for his encouragement and enthusiasm and as the major influencer of his vocation.

Fr Michael's younger brother Desmond also entered religious life entering the Brothers Juniorate in 1961. He took the name Br Jeffrey and taught in New South Wales. At the College, Fr Michael was in the Matriculation Choir, a Cadet Under Officer, a member of the 2nd XVIII and St Austin's House Vice Captain in his final year. He was also President of the YCS.

Fr Michael's first appointment was to a parish in Geelong following which he was appointed Chaplain of the YCW remaining in the position for five years. Other appointments were as Assistant Priest at Flemington (1977—1980) and Parish Priest of Collingwood (1981—1996). He has been the Parish Priest of Brunswick since 1997, where he still presides. In 2009, he also took over responsibility for East Brunswick.

He recalls the most satisfying period being in the late 60s and

early 70s when there was a strong feeling towards religion and faith. From a pastoral perspective he highlights the linkages to people over the last 50 years.

The two parishes keep him very busy with more than 40 weddings and many more funerals every year and he is grateful for the administrative support he receives, which enables him to complete his pastoral commitments. At 74 years of age, Fr Michael is very fit and regularly cycles in nearby Princes Park in the mornings.

The Old Collegians' Association congratulates Fr Michael on his 50th anniversary and wishes him a happy and healthy retirement in the not-too-distant future.

Interestingly, the 1960 College Annual Report notes that there are 52 past students in training as seminarians or Brothers. Coincidentally, that was the same year that the College opened its new Science Block in May.

*By Tony McIlroy (1968)  
First published in Roll Call May 2018*

# 1963

## JOHN LE MARSHALL

Dr John Le Marshall (1963) graduated from De La Salle College in the 1960s. Since then, he has established a successful career working with satellites and weather forecasting, both in Australia with the Bureau of Meteorology as well as in various research centres around the world. He is currently a Senior Principal Research Scientist at the Bureau of Meteorology.

In 2006, Dr Le Marshall was awarded 'NASA's highest award in recognition of unusually significant scientific contributions toward achievement of the NASA mission'. This was in recognition of his innovative work in the use of Atmospheric Infrared Sounder hyper spectral data in numerical weather prediction models, which resulted in a significant improvement in creating weather models. Put simply, he was able to utilise the data from AIRS instruments in an extremely effective way to improve weather forecasting around the world.

I spoke to Dr Le Marshall and tracked his career path from his early days at De La Salle College right through to directorship of the biggest weather forecasting centre in the world.

### **What is your memory of De La Salle when you first went there?**

"It was a fantastic school. I did Latin until Form 5 (Year 11) and Maths, Physics, Chemistry, and English to Form 6. I played football and did gymnastics. They used to teach gymnastics and have the concerts at St Josephs. I also played some tennis.

It was a good all-round education. Br Denis Crowe (RIP) was my Physics teacher, and he was just



*Dr Le Marshall with Ben Culliver*

fantastic. Br Edward Gehrig taught Mathematics, and Br Stanislaus Carmody taught Chemistry. They all taught us well. I tutored various people in chemistry when I was in Madison, Wisconsin working in the Space Science and Engineering Centre there. That was because I was taught so well at school.

### **How did you find yourself heading towards a career in weather forecasting?**

I already had an interest in science, I guess. Career guidance in those days was more rudimentary than it is now. It was a bit like: "You're good at Maths and Science so we think you'll make a good physicist or chemist, so keep it up." It was good advice. Monash University had just started then so I was the first intake. People came out from the university to ask us all to sign up.

### **What did you study at university?**

I thought I'd do a Science Degree in Physics. I always knew I liked Physics. When I got to the end of that, there were a few openings at different universities where I could have done a PhD. But I ended up going back to Monash after looking at the other places and that's where I did my PhD.

### **You started working at the Bureau of Meteorology soon after that. What was that like?**

The weather bureau was interesting because satellites were just coming

of age. It was a chance to put together classical physics and quantum physics because with satellites you are dealing with both. When you join the bureau, you had to do a WMO (World Meteorological Organisation) class, which is like doing an MSc in Meteorology at the University of Reading. It is about the same level. That's the minimum qualification you can have to be considered at the Bureau of Meteorology.

### **You are back working with the Bureau now, but you have just recently returned from the US (United States).**

#### **What has your work involved?**

I have been working in the US for three years running a project called NASA, NOAA and Department of Defence Joint Centre for Satellite Data Assimilation.

Satellite data is used for environmental models, weather forecasting models and models that determine climate change. When the data comes down, we must manage the way the instruments are used through calibration and feed it into weather forecasting models and use that to improve the weather analysis and forecast.

Satellite data is pretty important in the Southern Hemisphere as it doubles the length of the useable forecast.

### **So why is it that your centre is made up of three different US bodies?**

The processing of the data from these advanced satellites is

impossible for one organisation. One organisation just is not big enough. When you analyse the atmosphere and try to work out the temperature, moisture, surface pressure and wind throughout the various levels of the atmosphere, you must use data from about forty different satellites, and the data is coming in continuously. It's probably only the big analysis centres that can take data from forty satellites and use that to analyse the surface and the atmosphere and then do the forecast.

**So how does our Bureau manage these days?**

We've moved on from the time when we used to plot the observations, draw the charts and manually forecast. It is now done with supercomputers. The Bureau and the CSIRO work together now.

We are a smaller weather service, but we have a strong tradition in this area. But even we can't do it by ourselves.

**What about the cost for Australia to use these satellites? Surely the US wants us to pay our share if we're using their data for our weather forecasts?**

Most of the software and the data are free. The US has been launching satellites since 1960. The data has always gone to the rest of the world for free. This year the Europeans launched their first operational meteorological satellite. The idea is countries contribute to the satellite system according to their Gross Domestic Product.

In 1960, in the middle of the Cold War, when the Americans launched

their satellites, they still gave the data away to everybody, which probably saved many lives.

**For anyone interested in taking a similar career path to yourself, what advice would you offer?**

In a country like Australia, Remote Sensing has a strong future. If you want to survey Australia for mineral exploration, doing a lot of that from space is the way to do it. I mean, farmers can count their sheep from space these days.

*By Paul Culliver (2007)*

*Paul Culliver is the Breakfast Presenter for ABC Capricornia at The Australian Broadcasting Corporation.*

*First published in Roll Call September 2007*



**1964  
VIANNEY SHIEL**

In 2020, Vianney Shiel AM (1964) was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for his significant service to electronic engineering and education.

Shiel has distinguished himself in the field of electronic engineering and education. A leader in his profession, his recognition in the recent Australia Day Awards was well deserved. Shiel said he was honoured by the award. "It means "a hell of a lot" to receive an AM", he said. "As an engineer and educator, it means that all

those hours preparing lectures, developing courses, learning new things, stretching the mind outside the box and being away from my family are valued."

"I am most proud of knowing that a lot of my past students have actually learnt a lot of practical things from my lectures which has helped them to get good employment. I am proud to have represented Australia in many situations around the world and I am very proud to have been able to help Australian and New Zealand companies involved in electronics embrace the SMT (Surface Mount Technology) revolution of the 80s and 90s in electronic design and manufacture."

Shiel spent 45 years in academia, first at RMIT followed by the AEDC (Australian Electronics Development Centre) and then at La Trobe University, where his expertise led to many new initiatives. His innovative streak emerged as a student at the College, where he and another student made a Demonstration Cathode Ray Oscilloscope for the Physics Lab. It was on the Physics syllabus at that time. The unit ended up having a provisional patent on it.

Fast forward several years, and as a final year Communications Engineering student, Shiel was a trail blazer in community television. "I was asked by the University to help oversee, what is now the Channel 31 Studio, during their first test broadcasts. "I was in charge of the studio during the week-long live transmissions test of broadcasts, it was very exciting."

In 1989, Shiel was seconded from RMIT to the AEDC as one of the founding staff members. Working for the AEDC, he travelled extensively learning from industry leaders and developing training programs here in Australia and around the world.

Alongside his academic career, Shiel established Airtronic Circuits Pty Ltd in 1969, which provides company specific training and expert consulting in all areas of electronics design and manufacture as well as low volume electronic design and manufacture. He is currently the CEO.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call 2021*

# 1965

## BARRY BREEN

In 1966, Barry Breen (1965) kicked a wobbly punt that bounced through the point posts at the MCG to win the first grand final for St Kilda against Collingwood, and to this day, St Kilda's only winning premiership.

To mark the anniversary of that historic match, St Kilda played, and won, a rare home game against Collingwood at the MCG last month in front of a capacity crowd and the surviving grand final team players, including Barry Breen.

Recently *Roll Call* spoke to Breen about his life at De La Salle College and his career in and after Australian Rules Football.

Barry Breen graduated from De La Salle in 1965 at the end of Year 11.

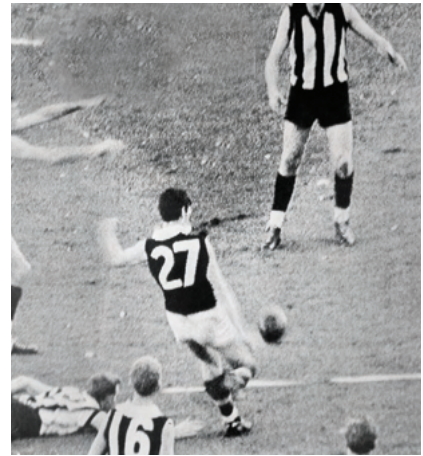
"At the time I thought football was more important than education," Breen said. He soon realised it was not and subsequently completed his matriculation at Taylors College before going on to La Trobe University where he studied arts and economics.

During his eight years at De La Salle, Breen said he was more interested in playing sport than studying. "Cricket in summer, football in winter, athletics in between," he said.

Breen admits it was a thrill competing in ACC championships in those days at venues like Olympic Park and the new Olympic pool, conjuring up memories of the Melbourne Olympics.

"Competing at those venues was a thrill so soon after the 1956 Olympics much like the MCG many years later." His performances, however, were not exactly remarkable back then.

"Swimming for the school at the new Olympic pool in the ACC



Carnival. 25 yards Under 12. Not placed. Ross Thompson should have been in the team, he was a better swimmer than me. Running at Olympic Park in the ACC Carnival. Under 14, 100 yards again unplaced."

His love of sport was nurtured at the College. "The Brothers, especially Brs. Celestine, Rupert, Sixtus and Cormac were all great educators who loved their sport."

Breen's love of football was ignited when his father took him to a St Kilda game at the Junction Oval when he was four years old.



The 1966 Premiership team





*Barry (right) and Kevin Neale holding the 1966 Premiership Cup at the anniversary match at the MCG*

“That was it, I was hooked. My Irish family had a rich tradition of football – Gaelic and soccer. I was fortunate enough to get the footballing gene.”

Breen’s grandfather was a talented Gaelic footballer with the Kerry Senior team, winning an All-Ireland Senior Football Championship medal in 1914.

After playing Junior Football with Mentone, in 1965 Breen joined the Saints as a centre-half at the age of 17. After only 12 months with the club Breen found himself playing in the grand final side. That historic game against Collingwood which St Kilda won by a one point margin would see Breen’s name go down in the record books forever.

The deciding point came at the 27 minute mark of the final quarter when Ted Potter, after a tackle, managed to pass the ball to Breen, who kicked an unremarkable bouncer through the behinds post to take St Kilda into the lead. Moments later the siren sounded,

etching Breen’s name forever into the quintessential ‘who’s who’ of football.

Fifty years on, Barry still remembers that historic day and ‘that’ kick like it was yesterday.

“I never imagined that 50 years later I would be responsible for a kick which awarded St Kilda its one and only premiership win to date. With the team we had I thought that there would be many more opportunities and there was, but we just fell short.”

“The seven point loss to Hawthorn in 1971, after leading by 23 points at three quarter time still hurts.”

Breen went on to play 300 games with St Kilda, kicking 308 goals. His career highlights include: “The premiership in 1966; playing in the most successful period of the football club; 301 games which was a club record for 20 years and the first St Kilda player to play 300 games; Captain; Hall of Fame; Team of the Century and the many friends that I have made over the years.”

He also captained St Kilda in 1979 and is a former club games record holder. Barry puts his success down to luck, but others describe him as the quintessential clubman – honest, hard working, and utterly loyal.

After leaving the Saints in 1982 he was appointed playing coach of Balmain and was successful in steering the team to their first Sydney Football League Grand Final since 1916.

His next career move was to take on the job as Swans General Manager. He later became the President of the Tasmanian Football League where he remained until 1992 before returning to Sydney to take a non-football role at Valvoline Australia where he still works.

Breen is a member of both St Kilda’s and Balmain’s official ‘Teams of the 20th Century’.

These days in his time away from work he spends time at New South Wales Golf Club where he has been president for the past five years. “Golf is now my sporting passion,” Breen says. “Any other spare time is spent with my family and a bit of travelling, mostly for golf. Turkey most recently.”

Breen often returns to De La Salle for reunions and has great memories of his time here. “The College has given me some great memories, but you lose contact too easily, particularly living in Sydney. Life was far simpler in those days,” he said.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call in 2015*

# 1965

## TOM BUICK

In 2012, Tom Buick (1965) and his wife Liz travelled to the remote Aboriginal community of Balgo in Western Australia for a two-month stint as volunteers at the Brother's Luurnpa School. In this issue, Tom shares some of his experiences of his trip with our readers.

"It was our sixth trip to Balgo and, as before, we were anxious about the onerous 900 kilometre journey via the Tanami Track. It's dangerous, dirty and never easy. On the way up to Balgo we lost our roof rack. Due to the ingenuity of our friend John, who joined us for the trip, we managed to secure it back onto the roof. However, our efforts were short lived. We lost it again and were forced to hide it by the side of the road behind a termite mound, with a Qantas bag on top to mark the spot. It was still there when we returned but we lost a windscreen and a mirror on route after an ill-fated meeting with a big red kangaroo.

Our trips to Balgo are a highlight for us. Liz is a retired primary school teacher and she enjoys tutoring the students, many of whom already have three or four indigenous languages, while I get a chance to use my handyman skills. I am always kept busy with repairs to the buildings which deteriorate quickly in the extreme weather conditions.

Tap fittings are quickly corroded and blocked with a thick coating of minerals. Hoses need constant repair, sewers unblocking, and doors and locks mended. Graffiti removal is one of my talents. Students are very friendly, and they delight in "knocking off" my precious tools and have me



*Tom and Liz at Balgo*

chasing them in (what they think) is a game. One of my favourite pastimes is avoiding a resident death adder on the veranda of our hut where we sleep. On weekends we sometimes make short trips into the desert and stop at amazing places to observe bird and animal life around permanent waterholes or Lake Gregory.

Often children and elders from the local community join us and show us how to harvest food products such as bush nuts, tomatoes and a great tobacco product. Wood is collected to take back for "Sorry Camp" and an attempt is always made to catch a goanna or bush turkey. This process usually involves setting fire to the surrounding desert while we stand by watching. Their skills are extraordinary, and we always returned with a good harvest from this harsh environment.

On one trip, a walk down a dry creek bed produced two buckets of frogs which they dug out of the dry mud and took back to Camp. The frog meat is saved for the "Sorry Camp" as only white meat can be eaten at this time.

During our trip we were invited to join a school excursion to a Sacred site where we saw some rock art drawings dating back 30,000 years. The local children guided us to the site along a very rough creek bed, leading to a small gorge with a permanent water hole.

Attendance is an ongoing issue at the school and the staff is often busy with duties outside the curriculum such as providing breakfast and lunch and washing the students' hair once a week.

A small swimming pool, built from funds raised by students at De La Salle, Malvern and La Salle College in Perth provides a luring incentive for students to come to school, especially during the hot season where the temperature is in the high 40's.

My wife and I are extremely privileged to have the opportunity to work in this community and we thank the De La Salle Brothers for giving us the chance to share in such an ancient culture."

Tom started work at De La Salle in 2008, and remains an invaluable member of the maintenance team.

*By Tom Buick (1965)*

*First published in Roll Call May 2013*

# 1965

## BR DENIS LOFT

In 2010, when Br Denis Loft (1965) left Australia for Southern Sudan, De La Salle College, Malvern said goodbye to one of its favourite sons.

During his six year stint at De La Salle, Br Denis initiated a variety of projects which will continue long after his departure. Of most significance is the Coolies project, which Br Denis set up in 2004. Coolies is an alternative to Schoolies Week and sends Year 12 graduates to India to work on social justice programs under the Lasallian Brothers' umbrella. In the brief time it has been running, Coolies has attracted much community interest, and each year more than a dozen boys take up the opportunity to go to India. Coolies is only one of Br Denis' ideas that have been launched into successful projects.

Br Denis Loft was baptised Terence Frank Loft. His mother was a pharmacist and his father, an engineer. His three siblings always called him Terry. He grew up in Burwood and went to school at St Michael's, Ashburton, before starting at De La Salle in Year 4, where he continued until he was in Year 10.

He told his parents that he wanted to be a Brother, and they agreed he could complete Years 11 and 12 at the Brothers' Boarding School in Bowral, NSW. Once he became part of the Bowral community, he never really left, taking his final vows at 28 years old.

"The community life of the Brothers appealed to me while I was at school," he said. "In those days there was a large, young community of Brothers who were actively involved in sports after school, and I knew that I wanted to be part of that community spirit."

His sister Mary, who once attended De La Salle when Kildara College could not offer Maths as a subject, spoke to *Roll Call* about growing up with Terry.



"Terry really hasn't changed since he was a boy," Mary said. "Early photos show his caring nature to all creatures great and small, as well as his enjoyment of life and the laughter and smiles he brings to others," she said.

"He and I have a particular bond as my other brothers tended to try and rile me (I am a redhead!) as a youngster and he was always there to smooth the waters and provide a helping hand. One of his main jobs as a youngster was to make sure I got to and from school safely."

"We were always a strong Catholic family, and after Terry joined the Brothers, Mum went to early morning Mass every day."

"I guess you could say that Terry has always been a bit of a dreamer. Mum used to say that if the toast was burning, he would stand and fan the smoke away. As a child and even now he loves playing tricks on people. I remember once he took me to a staff function at De La Salle and introduced me as the woman he used to live with before he joined the Brothers. Some people were quite shocked."

"I was only seven when Terry went away to Bowral so I can hardly remember him as a child, but I do remember that we always had more food on our plates because Mum kept cooking the same quantities of food each night. Mum would serve gigantic meals because she couldn't get used to the fact that there were only five for dinner and not six. I also lost my dish washing partner when Terry left home, my older brothers were one team, and we were the other."

Br Denis says that his only misgiving in moving to Sudan is leaving his sister, Mary.

His kind-heartedness towards others was evident from an early age and he says he was interested in missionary work when he was very young. "When I was young, I wanted to go to the Missions, I even tossed around the idea of joining the priesthood to pursue missionary work," he said.

Naturally, he was pleased to be offered a posting in New Guinea in 1979, where he stayed for 10 years. Later in 1986, he returned to New Guinea for another five years. While in New Guinea, Br Denis' reputation as an accomplished educational leader was established. He was the Principal of Bomana High School and the Hohola Youth Development Centre, both of which thrived under his guidance.

Since returning to Melbourne in 1989, he was involved in various teaching and administrative positions. Being home in Melbourne also gave him the opportunity to be close to Mary, who was his regular Bridge partner. When I asked Mary about Denis leaving for Sudan her eyes filled with tears, "I was devastated when I heard he was leaving and I will really miss him," she said.

Over the years, Br Denis' fundraising schemes have become celebrated — he kept the staff supplied with chocolate year round, he attracted tens of thousands of dollars in donations for the Coolies Program, and his prowess at the blackjack table on Founder's Day is legendary.

"When he was in PNG, he once bought a container load of honey that was going cheap and re-bottled it and sold it off." He was known as the 'Deal-and-Sell' Brother.

Mary said he has always been a schemer; "He loved the freedom of PNG in being able to initiate schemes. He gets very frustrated by red tape."

*By Kerry Martin*  
*First published in Roll Call May 2010*

# 1965

## JOHN HOGAN

At a special ceremony in Parliament House in June 2018, John Hogan (1965) was recognised for his contributions to the Lasallian mission in Australia with a Certificate of Benefaction awarded by the Provincial, Brother Ambrose Payne fsc AO.

John left De La Salle in 1962 and joined the Juniorate where he completed his secondary studies. He left the Brothers in 1966 but the impact of those formative years was to stay with him until today.

In the late 1970's John established the 'De La Salle Old Boys' Canberra Group Mass and Dinner for alumni of Lasallian schools. In this venture he had the support of Br Aloysius Carmody (1933), and former Director of the Federal Catholic Education Office in Canberra.

In more recent years the Canberra reunion dinner has been held in Parliament House, at the invitation of those members of Parliament who are Lasallian alumni.

John Hogan has been an active member of the parish of St John the Apostle, Kippax where he is an acolyte and trains altar servers. He and his wife Cathy are also active in the parish RCIA program.



Brosnan said that he first became aware of the plight of those less fortunate when he was in Year 10 at the College. "I was actively involved in everything the College had to offer, Sport, Music and Cadets but it was volunteering at the then Kew Cottages which opened my eyes. I was confronted with the needs of others less fortunate than us," he said. He later went on to work at Ozenam House helping to feed the elderly and homeless.

He recognises that growing up in Melbourne was very easy compared to some. "My education was a privilege and I became aware of others who had fewer opportunities."

After graduating, Brosnan studied at Monash University and joined the Victorian Education Department as a teacher. He held various roles in the Department in both the English and Technical Divisions, and at one point was the Executive Officer of the English Standards Committee.

"My first school was the former Glenroy Technical School in Melbourne's north. It was another world," Brosnan said. "I became a Probation Officer to learn about the young people I was teaching."

"Those years as a probation officer opened my eyes to social issues that I didn't even know existed. The school had a sizeable indigenous population which had been relocated to the city from Lake Tyers. They were housed in a

hostel with very little support away from their families which was a dire situation."

Brosnan still regards teaching as his strength. "Teaching was my career highlight. I really enjoyed working with kids in need."

In 1982, Brosnan and his family had a sea change, relocating to Pambula on the Sapphire Coast, NSW. Soon after settling in the area he met a young Nigerian Priest who got him involved in local social justice issues and subsequently, with some encouragement, he formed the Social Justice Advocates Sapphire Coast. The Group assists homeless people in the local area by providing several crisis accommodation options including six caravans. "The caravans are not ideal, but they are better than sleeping in your car," Brosnan said.

The Group is also active in a range of initiatives across the shire including migrant and refugee support, asylum seeker support and programs to assist young and indigenous people. It also runs an annual pop-up op shop which helps fund its programs.

Brosnan said the demographics of the shire are changing. "We now have over 50 nationalities in the area and each year we organise a multi-cultural festival." Brosnan, who shows no signs of slowing down, also works with Lasallian schools in Papua New Guinea, travelling frequently to assist with local projects. Last year he went to PNG six times. He is a strong advocate for the We Care Foundation, an initiative where PNG women support women and children in 'settlements' which are like slums.

Brosnan does not anticipate that the demand for community service will decline any time soon. He believes there will be a growing need.

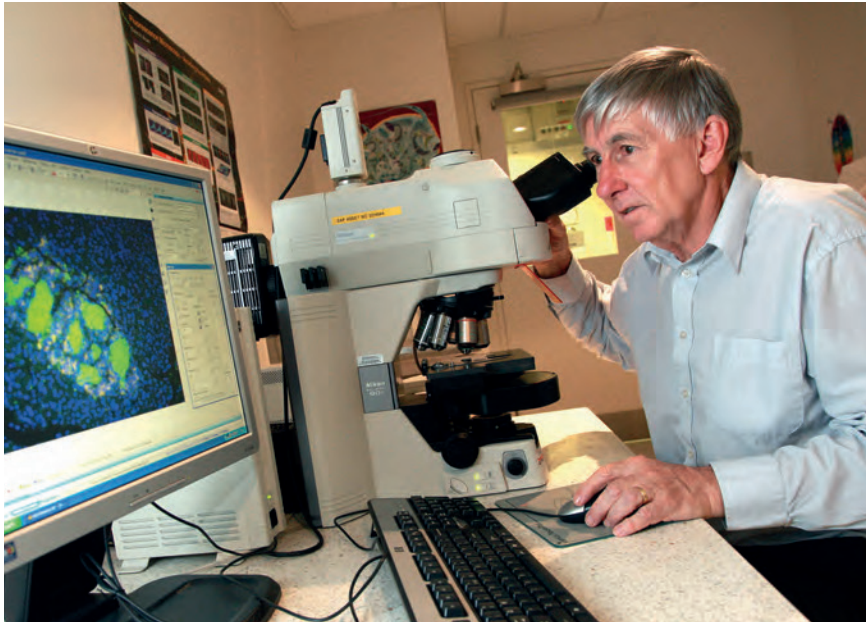
"There is a growing number of people in the community who are marginalised and need support. I want people to get involved to try and help those in need," he said.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2019*

# 1966

## MICHAEL BROSINAN

Michael Brosnan (1966) was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 2019 for his services to the community in the not-for-profit sector. Brosnan, a longtime community leader in the Sapphire Coast region, chairs local social justice group, Social Justice Advocates, which provides crisis housing for homeless people in the shire.



# 1967

## PETER MOLLOY

When Dr Peter Molloy (1967) was a student at the College he loved Mathematics and Physics, so it is not surprising that he went on to complete a PhD in Biochemistry and Genetics and devote his life to studying cells.

After completing his PhD, Molloy spent three years of postdoctoral research in the Department of Human Genetics at Yale University in the USA where he focused on genes controlling mitochondria, the energy powerhouses of cells. He returned to Australia in 1978, to the Department of Biochemistry at Adelaide University where he spent three years as a Postdoctoral Fellow, and where he also had the good fortune to meet his wife, Sue.

In 1982, Molloy moved to CSIRO laboratories in Sydney where he spent most of his time studying the mechanisms that switch genes on and off in different cell types. Molloy's work has been part of

the growing field of "epigenetics" that has contributed to our understanding of development of cancer and other diseases.

"In collaboration with medical researchers, our work has focused on prostate cancer and subsequently colorectal (or bowel) cancer," Molloy said. This has led to the development of tests that can detect DNA from cancer cells in blood plasma. "More recently I have been part of a large team working to understand the role of epigenetic changes in the development of obesity and diabetes."



Molloy was fortunate to be part of a team that developed technology for accurately mapping the "epigenome." The method has been very widely applied and contributed significantly to the understanding of the development of cancers. Molloy says a recent highlight has been the development of a diagnostic assay for detection of bowel cancer which has recently gone on the market in the USA for monitoring patients for relapse after surgery.

In the health area where his main efforts are, Molloy says the biggest challenge is the steady increase in rates of obesity and its impact on health, particularly diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

"Our sedentary lifestyle and abundant energy-rich food are major contributors, but so far it has not been possible to develop effective prevention measures." Obesity is a risk factor for several diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension and coronary heart disease and comes at a cost to the Australian community of \$8 billion each year (Access Economics Report commissioned by Diabetes Australia, 2006 and 2008).

Molloy says that funding research is a major challenge. "Government support and interest in research has waned significantly across time. The CSIRO had 8,000 employees when I joined, it's down to 5,000 now," he said. Molloy is passionate about his research and improving the lives of others. "I still have a real commitment to true Christian values which were a major part of my education at De La Salle," Molloy said.

Dr Peter Molloy was the Dux of his 1967 class.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2017*

# 1967

## TERRY SPITHILL

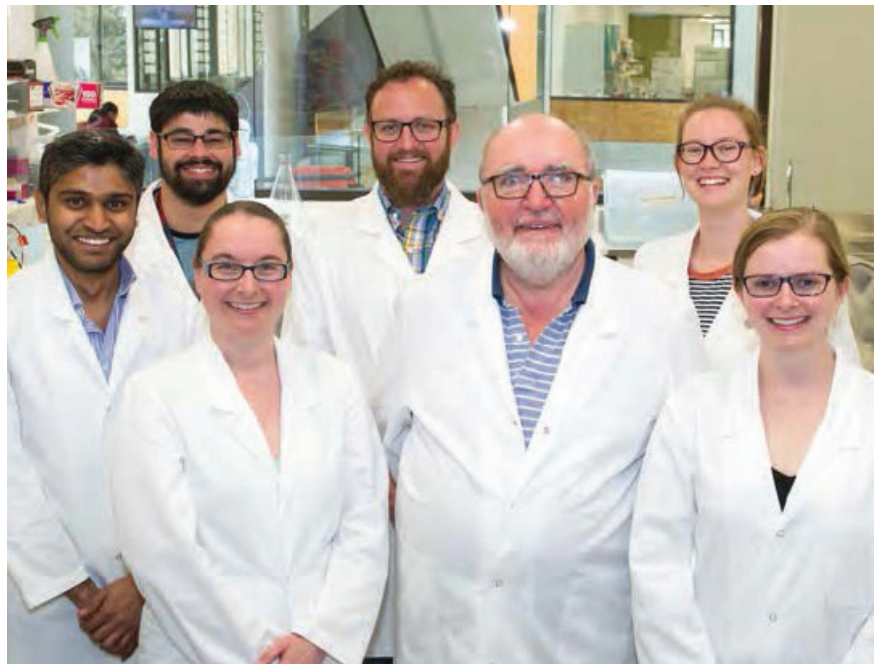
Professor Terry Spithill (1967) has devoted his career to fighting pesky parasites. Spithill has led a research team to develop an effective vaccine for parasites such as *Fasciola* (liver fluke) and *Plasmodium* (malaria). Liver fluke, a worm parasite which is endemic on sheep and cattle pastures in southeastern Australia, also affects pigs, goats, alpacas and deer, as well as humans who live in fluke-infested areas.

The parasite costs the global farming economy more than \$3 billion (USD) per year. Malaria, a protozoan parasite, is a major human disease that particularly impacts the health of young children.

Spithill's research focused on these parasites, studying areas such as host immune responses to parasites, parasite immune evasion mechanisms, drug resistance, parasite proteomics and vaccine and drug target discovery. "This involves characterising parasite molecules that determine virulence and pathogenesis using genomic and proteomic approaches, with the long-term aim of developing vaccines based on these molecules," he said.

"Animal health and welfare is a big issue. Both companion animals and livestock suffer from viral, bacterial and parasite infections, and drug resistance threatens our ability to control infections," he said.

After graduating from De La Salle, Spithill completed a Bachelor of Science with first class Honours and a PhD, both in Biochemistry, at Monash University. His studies then led him to the US when



*Prof. Terry Spithill (pictured fifth from the left)*

in 1978 he began research into animal parasites at Colorado State University and then at UCLA, where he worked the human parasite (*Leishmania*) as well. From 1981–1989 he worked on *Leishmania* at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne. He then developed an interest in creating a vaccine for the animal parasite liver fluke in 1989.

"In 1993–2001 I received significant Australian Government funding to work on this parasite in Indonesia where fluke is a major problem in cattle," he said. From 2001–2007 he was a Professor at McGill University in Montreal where his team worked on vaccines for liver fluke and malaria. Spithill has held numerous academic and senior scientific management positions in Australia including the Director of the Centre for Agri Bioscience at La Trobe University and the Director of the Institute of Parasitology at McGill University in Montreal.

Throughout his career he has held over \$10 million in research grants. He has also published more than 120 papers in international scientific literature. He was President of the Australian Society for Parasitology

(2009–2011) and held the prestigious Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (2002–2007) in Montreal.

He has also devoted his time to be a mentor and teacher to others and has trained 20 PhD students throughout his career. "I have a strong belief that education is critical for the development of the individual student as well as for our society."

Spithill says while he was at De La Salle, he was a bit of an all-rounder. "I played cricket and football and dabbled in Drama, Science and Roman History, and horse racing after hours."

He believes that essentially research is a team effort. "I value teamwork and the idea that everyone has a role to play in the team effort irrespective of their position in the team."

"I have a strong sense of the 'fair go' and a concern for those less fortunate. I have a good work ethic and enjoy the feeling of doing a job well." In 2016, Spithill was appointed an Emeritus Professor at La Trobe University.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2017*

# 1968

## PAUL O'GORMAN

When he was 13 years old, Paul O'Gorman (1968) discovered he had talent and with encouragement from a fellow student, he entered a College amateur talent show and performed publicly for the first time.

Now an accomplished musician and entertainment lawyer, O'Gorman believes he wouldn't be where he is today without the support of that mentor who would become a close friend, Roger Wilson (1965).

Tragically, Wilson was killed in 1980 as a victim of crime but O'Gorman still attributes him, along with his family, as the major influences in his formative years.

"All those years ago it was Wilson's encouragement that gave me the confidence to do a solo in *Five Hundred Miles* at a talent night. My parents were in the audience and they didn't even know I could sing," O'Gorman said. "By the end of the year my parents had bought me my first guitar and my career as a performer was born. I never considered music as a full time option at that point, but I was hooked...all I did was write songs, play sport and study."

Together with his brother Christopher (1969), they performed as a duo at various functions around town in their younger days.

O'Gorman said music helped him overcome his shyness. "I was a very shy young boy, but from a young age I loved to sing, mainly school choirs. Learning guitar changed my life forever."



After graduating from De La Salle College, O'Gorman didn't really know what he wanted to do, so he worked for a year in the public service during which time he reacquainted with his childhood mentor, Wilson.

Before he knew it, they had teamed up in a musical trio called the Manston Trio. "We were quite successful appearing on *New Faces* and other television programs at the time. Wilson wrote the songs and introduced me to song writing and the belief that I could make it on my own."

Wilson was also instrumental in introducing O'Gorman to the Articled Clerks law course which Wilson was doing at the time. O'Gorman followed in Wilson's footsteps and graduated as a lawyer in 1975. "I decided I wasn't ready to settle down as a lawyer, so I became a full time singer, songwriter and subsequently publisher and manager for the next 20 years."

In the mid 70's, O'Gorman appeared regularly on TV shows such as *The Don Lane Show*, *The Early Bird Show*, and other TV variety shows. He won the 1977 Yamaha Song Contest with

his song "Ride, Ride America" and a performance and song writing award at the *World Popular Song Contest* in Japan. With a hit song and album to his name, he appeared on the iconic ABC program *Countdown* and toured with artists such as Cliff Richard and Peter Ustinov.

"I enjoyed a couple of hit singles as a solo artist, playing to international audiences and cutting an album, *The Poet and The Painter*," he said.

Now a successful entertainment lawyer with Sanicki Lawyers, O'Gorman combines his love of music and his legal expertise looking after musicians and artists.

In today's complex legal world even entertainers need legal representation. O'Gorman's work involves everything from contracts for management, recording, publishing, musicians, live shows, and production. He agrees it is rarely boring. "The variety of tasks is endless but enjoyable mainly because of the characters I've acted for and against over the years."

O'Gorman has managed other successful musicians including Tommy Emmanuel, Russell Morris and The Badloves. He has also been involved in music publishing, writing songs for specific projects such as Moomba and the 1986 Papal Tour (which also involved singing the song at the MCG in front of 70,000 people).

O'Gorman says De La Salle has left him with many fond memories, a couple of long lasting friendships, solid values, and provided him with the opportunity to be musically creative for the very first time.

*By Kerry Martin*  
*First published in Roll Call September 2018*

# 1969

## MICHAEL GRIFFIN

In 2013, after a distinguished career spanning 38 years in the army, Brigadier Michael Griffin AM (1969), was appointed to the position of Director of Military Prosecutions for the Australian Defence Force. This put him in charge of all disciplinary matters in the armed forces ranging from insubordination to war crimes and murder.

After joining the army in 1975, he quickly rose through the ranks to become a Section Commander of 3RAR doing active service in Somalia, Kuwait and Iraq. He graduated from the University of New South Wales with a Bachelor and Master's in Law and specialised in federal administrative law and criminal law and was a Member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

In 2007, he was appointed as the Principal Member of the Veterans' Review Board and has been a Senior Member of the Migration Review Tribunal and a Member of the Refugee Review Tribunal. In 2009, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to the law.

Michael completed the United Nations Staff Officers course at German Staff College Hamburg and the NATO peacekeeping course at the NATO School Oberammergau.

All of this must have seemed an awfully long way away for a young high school dropout.

At De La Salle in the 1960s, Michael certainly had academic credentials. He was admitted entry on a scholarship and enjoyed English, French and History and was not



bad at Maths and Science, but all he wanted to do was to leave school and have fun.

"It was the summer of '67, after Sergeant Pepper was released, and someone said, 'Tune In, Turn On and Drop-Out', so I did," Brigadier Griffin told *Roll Call*.

Against the advice of his teachers, his parents, and the Brothers at the time, he finished Year 10 and "dropped out." He says he is pleased to see that schools these days have more intervention programs for young people to keep them at school.

"I am glad to hear that the College now has a VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) program," Michael said. Although he doubts it would have been enough to deflect him from his recalcitrant ways at the time.

After several years working as a brick layer, the building industry collapsed, following the 1974 oil shock and subsequent credit squeeze, so he decided to enlist in the army and a distinguished career in military law was launched.

One of the things he recalls about his time at the College was being in the De La Salle Army Cadets.



“The Army Cadets had a great tradition, people like Rod Earl, who later went on to become Brigadier Earl and commanded the cavalry in Vietnam.”

“I remember Michael Maidment was the senior cadet, and very capable at that, and Br Cormac – who was my favourite – was the Commanding Officer and a shining example of soldierly bearing.”

“Br Cormac was also coach of our undefeated De La Salle football team and I admired him greatly. He was as hard as nails but also incredibly supportive and encouraging.”

Michael recalls parading in the old concrete yard, which today adjoins the Tower Building at Tiverton. They would even practice with rifles over at Kinnoull. “We had annual bivouacs at Puckapunyal in winter and I can remember certain humorous escapades there.”

While he was at the College, Michael, like his older brother, Phillip, who was a celebrated Junior Student Athlete, was good at sport and was a talented footballer. “I was a Ruckman in the undefeated Under 15 football premiership team, a group of very talented boys. I remember my fellow teammates, Brudenell, Peart, Dwyer and McIlroy, whom I would love to hear about.”

Michael draws his inspiration from his family and the De La Salle Brothers. “I was motivated by my hard-working parents and older siblings and the values instilled in me by them and by my time at De La Salle, even though I rebelled at the time.”

“I have also been incredibly fortunate to be in the right place at the right time on several occasions.”

“My role models were the Kennedy brothers, JFK and Robert, Br Cormac, Roy Wright (Richmond Ruckman) and my big brother, Phillip, who went on to become an eminent orthopedic surgeon but sadly passed away from cancer in 2008.”

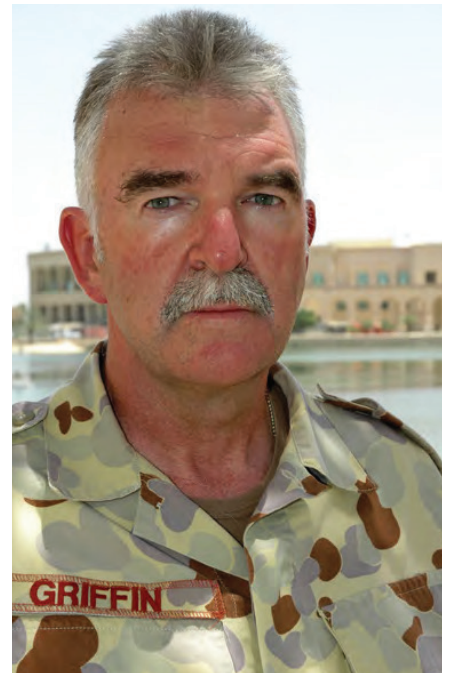
The top job in charge of Military Prosecutions puts Michael in charge of a statutory office akin to that of the State and Commonwealth Directors of Public Prosecutions. “I am independent of the chain of command, and it is my responsibility to decide whether or not charges for disciplinary and criminal offences should proceed against Defence Force members.”

“I have a staff of twelve prosecutors and six paralegals. I also utilise the services of Defence Reserve members.”

He is also the Australian Defence Force representative on the European Union-funded Torture Prevention Project in Asia, for which he is the Principal Facilitator. He has had stints in active service in Somalia in 1993 and with the peacekeeping missions in Kuwait in 2005 and in Iraq in 2006.

Michael has also served as a Foreign Attorney Consultant in Guantanamo Bay Cuba (for David Hicks) and in the UK, Malaysia, USA, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, France, Germany, Thailand, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

In 2004, he was appointed as the Subject Matter Expert in Administrative Law for the Australian Defence Force and in 2005 was engaged by the President



of the Senate as legal adviser to the Senate Inquiry into the Military Justice System.

Michael is currently based in Canberra and commutes home on weekends. He enjoys a nice wine and reading history and politics. His only regret is that he does not get to see many home games of his beloved Tigers. Michael’s advice to the Class of 2014 is to be thankful for what God has given you and make the best of it that you can.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call September 2014*

Postscript: Since this article was published, Michael Griffin was appointed as the Integrity Commissioner and statutory head of the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI).

# 1969

## TONY McILROY

In 2019 Tony McIlroy's (1969) term as the President of the Old Collegians came to an end. His son Tom McIlroy (2003), who is the political reporter with *The Australian Financial Review*, paid tribute to his father's contribution to the Old Collegians.

After four years, Tony McIlroy is stepping down as president of the De La Salle Old Collegians Association, his latest chapter in a lifetime of connection with the College.

When he was invited by Principal Peter Houlihan to help reinvigorate the long-standing organisation for former students in 2016, Dad described De La Salle College as being part of his personal DNA. His father, Charles Ross McIlroy, was a member of the Class of 1929, attending classes in the Tower Building alongside future De La Salle Brother and College Principal Br Damian Harvey.

His own brothers and nephews attended the College, and I graduated in the Class of 2003. Soon after, one of Dad's three daughters, my sister, Cate McIlroy, joined the teaching staff.

Some of his fondest memories and strongest friendships come from years as part of the Old Collegians Football Club, including a decade on the committee and two years as secretary in 1978 and 1979. He was also active in the Old Collegians Athletics Club.

Dad served as Chairman of the College Council from 1999 until

2003, working closely with the Board and Br Tim Peter during a time of growth and development. He has maintained a close association and warm friendship with many of the Brothers in Melbourne and beyond – men who shaped the hearts and minds of thousands of students because of their commitment to the teaching vocation.

At the end of 2018, Dad retired from a long and successful career in local government in Melbourne and regional Victoria, including working at the City of Camberwell, Bayside City Council and most recently completing 15 years as the Chief Executive of Benalla Rural City.

Now with a bit more time on his hands, he is enjoying new challenges in Melbourne. He loves looking after his three grandchildren, rarely misses Collingwood games and is never far from the races at Caulfield and Flemington.

His willingness to help others with small or significant tasks is legendary. During his time as president, Dad has attended countless College events and reunions, helping foster the future sustainability of the Old Collegians and grow the spirit of De La Salle. He has enjoyed and valued the role, helping others keep up associations with the College and their peers. As Br Damian Harvey famously said, "You can take the boy out of De La, but you can't take De La out of the boy".

*By Tom McIlroy (1969)*

*Tom McIlroy reports from the federal press gallery at Parliament House for The Australian Financial Review*

*First published in Roll Call September 2019*



*Tony McIlroy with grandsons Billy and Jimmy*

# 1970

## JOHN KELLEHER

As the Head of Victoria Police's Fire and Explosion Unit, John Kelleher AM PSM (1970), has spent the last 30 years investigating the factors that lead to disasters caused by fire and explosives.

Early in his career, Kelleher was a young forensic investigator on the Russell Street Police Headquarters bombing, regarded at the time as Melbourne's first experience of urban terrorism.

Since then, Kelleher, now an international expert in his field, has investigated almost 5,000 fire and explosive incidents here and overseas, including as a forensic investigator assisting the AFP/ Indonesia National Police response to the 2002 Bali Bombings.

This year Kelleher marks 30 years of service to forensic investigation for Victoria Police.

Kelleher's forensic career started in the Explosives Branch of the Victorian Mines Department, which later came under the WorkSafe Victoria umbrella. After five years learning about the making and commercial side of explosives, he moved to the Victoria Police Forensic Department where he has worked ever since.

The role of a fire and explosives investigator has its challenges often involving complex and confronting scenes and Kelleher has had his fair share, including the Russell Street Bombing, the Longford Gas Plant explosion, the Bali Bombings, and the Black Saturday bushfires.

As an expert in the field, who has been published and referenced, he is often called on as an expert witness in the prosecution of incident perpetrators, some high profile.

In 2009, he was called as an expert witness at Australia's largest and longest terrorism trial of the Melbourne home-grown Muslim terrorism cell, led by self-proclaimed sheik Abdul Nacer Benbrika, and last year he testified in the case against four men accused of plotting to use homemade bombs to attack Melbourne landmarks on Christmas Day.

Kelleher's service has not gone unrecognised. In 2003 he was awarded the Public Service Medal, and in 2014 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his significant service to the community, as a forensic specialist in the field of fire and explosion investigation.

There is no typical job description for an explosive's expert. "Each morning I look at what fire or explosion scenes need to be attended, and discuss with my team who will go where, and who will stay in the laboratory to analyse samples and write reports.



For example, yesterday I flew to Mildura to investigate a house fire where two people were injured. Today I attended a bomb scene in Geelong and collected fragments of a device to be analysed and reconstructed over the next few days.”

Kelleher is quick to acknowledge that he is part of a very dedicated team of people. “I work with dedicated and talented people who help communities all around Melbourne and Victoria in challenging times.”

With constant improvements to forensic technology, Kelleher says that forensic science has recently gained prominence. “I think Victoria Police, particularly in recent years have recognised and embraced areas like mine, which provide specialist support and advice.”

“The Victoria Police Fire and Explosion Unit is now comparable to that of the American or British police,” he says.

“Results which used to take weeks or months are now available in hours or days, so that forensic results can provide real-time information to investigators. These days Victoria Police is highly regarded nationally and internationally in this area.”

Kelleher has been fortunate to have had opportunities to study overseas and, more recently, to teach in America, Thailand, and Indonesia, where he was a senior lecturer in the Post Blast Analysis Course, Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement.

As a De La Salle College student, Kelleher excelled in Maths and Science. He continued and completed a Bachelor of Applied

Science (Chemistry, Physics) and Bachelor of Arts (Mathematics) at Monash University.

“I was fortunate that the teachers I had at the College encouraged me to study and gave me a foundation in the physical sciences which I have always been grateful for.” Kelleher says STEM subjects can take students in a number of directions.

“The hard Science subjects do not just lead to academic careers but can lead to a wide variety of science-based occupations, such as forensic science.”

To become an explosives expert, one needs a unique set of skills. “Chemistry is most important, and Physics is useful.” He admits that not everybody is suited to the work.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2019*

# 1970

## MICHAEL LUSCOMBE

Michael Luscombe (dec.) (1970) was a businessman and former CEO and Managing Director of Woolworths Limited, the largest retail company in Australia.

Luscombe graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Economics in 1978 and immediately began his career at Woolworths as a graduate trainee in the company's store at Mt. Buller.

He progressed through the company and became Victorian operations manager in 1990. In 2004, he was appointed director of supermarkets and oversaw the company's takeover of more than 150 new stores. In 2011, he retired as the CEO of Woolworths.



# 1971

## ANDREW McKENNA

Andrew McKenna graduated from De La Salle College in 1971 and in 2011 he was appointed to the Victorian Magistrates Court following a distinguished career as a criminal lawyer.

### **Can you recall some of your memories of your school days at De La Salle?**

I remember going to Cadet Camps at Trentham and Puckapunyal; they were scary and challenging but rewarding. Brother Damian Harvey was a great leader, motivator, and educator and along with several of my teachers including Brian Donovan, Ray Hamilton, and Brian Flynn, really made an impression on me. I also recall with immense pride our absolute dominance in ACC athletics and football.

### **What were your interests at the College?**

I was determined to study as hard as I could, recognising the advantages good marks could provide for tertiary entry and later in life. I worked hard and made the most of all the College had to offer. I was active in golf and debating but concentrated on academic studies.

### **What was your career path after leaving De La Salle?**

After leaving De La Salle I started studying architecture at the University of Melbourne in 1972 but quickly realised I was not suited to it.

I worked with an insurance company for a brief time and in 1973 began studying law at Monash. I completed my law degrees in 1978. Immediately prior to being appointed a state magistrate in May 2011, I was



appearing as a criminal barrister, usually for the defence, very often for police officers alleged to have committed criminal offences.

The most widely reported of these cases involved the police officer Paul Dale who was charged with the murder of a police informer, Terrence Hodson. This case was dropped by the prosecution in April 2010 but is still being investigated.

I expect to preside as a magistrate until the compulsory retirement age of 70 years.

### **Who inspires you?**

My greatest inspiration is Nelson Mandela — a man of great understanding, compassion, and forgiveness; John Paul II for the same reasons; and last but certainly not least, Collingwood Ruck Rover, Dane Swan.

### **What are you passionate about?**

I am passionate about justice and fairness and giving young people the opportunity to realise their full potential, and last but not least the Collingwood football team.

### **If you could change three things in the world, what would they be?**

That the first world countries deeply commit to improving the lives of people in third world countries; that all people be treated as equal and have equal opportunity, and that real democracy and freedom would prevail everywhere.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2011*



*Mr McKenna is sworn into the Victorian Magistrates' Court by Marilyn Warren, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria*

# 1971

## GEOFFREY TOZER

Late last year, *The Eulogy*, the story of Australia's 'most accomplished pianist,' Geoffrey Tozer (dec.) (1971) opened in cinemas around Australia. The film, directed by Janine Hosking, was inspired by a panegyric eulogy delivered by former, Prime Minister, Paul Keating, at Tozer's funeral at St Patrick's Cathedral in 2009.

Geoffrey Tozer attended the College until the end of Year 9, when he left for London to take up a Churchill Fellowship to study music. At the time he was the youngest person ever to be awarded the prestigious award.

As a tribute to Tozer's musical legacy, the following extract is an extract of Keating's eulogy:

"Geoffrey Tozer's death is a national tragedy. For the Australian arts and Australian music, losing Tozer is like Canada having lost Glenn Gould or France, Ginette Neveu. It is a massive cultural loss. The kind of loss people felt when Germany lost Dresden. In fact, if you think of our greatest artists, those who are so regarded in world terms, three come to mind: Nellie Melba, Percy Grainger and Joan Sutherland.

In terms of musical comprehension, intellectualism and facility, Geoffrey's talent was simply off the scale. Geoffrey made his international musical debut at the age of fifteen, playing Mozart's *Concerto No. 15* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Sir Colin Davis at the Royal Albert Hall.

Born in the foothills of the Himalayas, Geoffrey's infant years



were filled with music. His earliest memory of the piano was when, as a three year old, he began to play Beethoven's *Appassionata Sonata*, music he had just heard his mother teaching to a pupil.

When Tozer's mother Veronica Tozer, realised that her son was possessed of vast musical ability, in 1958 she relocated with her two sons to Melbourne. It was here, in Melbourne, that the world first discovered the young boy who was quickly dubbed a 'musical genius' by Australia's foremost musicians.

Within five years of his arrival in Australia, Geoffrey's life as a professional musician began in earnest. This was an extraordinary period of his life, one during which he began to receive the patronage and recognition that would enable him to develop the full range of his virtuosic abilities, and become a concert pianist of the highest standard.

In 1963 when Geoffrey was eight, Dr Clive Douglas auditioned him for a concerto performance for

ABC television. The performance, with Geoffrey playing Bach's *Concerto in F Minor* was filmed in February 1964 with Dr Douglas conducting the Victorian Symphony Orchestra. Later the same year he gave at least eight more performances, playing concertos of Bach and Mozart with the orchestra in Melbourne and Ballarat. The phrase 'musical genius' was applied to him right from the beginning.

How was Australia to develop such a rare and prodigious talent, one that was

already nationally recognised? The solution came when the committee of the Churchill Fellowship decided to lower the minimum age by five years and award Geoffrey a Churchill, extending it to two years instead of the usual one.

Four years later the committee awarded Geoffrey a second Churchill as he began to make the difficult and, for many gifted teenagers, usually impossible transition from child prodigy to fully mature artist.

In 1969, the first of Geoffrey's Churchill Fellowships enabled him to travel to England. That year he entered the Leeds Piano Competition and became the youngest semi-finalist. The same year he won the prestigious Alex de Vries Prize, making his debut with the English Chamber Orchestra soon afterwards. In May 1970, he won First Prize out of 157 contestants in the Royal Overseas League competition and was presented to the Queen.

In 1971 Geoffrey returned to Australia to begin the next phase of his career; the difficult years of transition when the musical world had to decide whether he was just another prodigy, albeit one of seemingly superhuman ability, or whether, like Mozart, he was in fact a great musician whose artistry would continue to develop and improve as he gained maturity. At least once a year throughout the 1970s he toured Australia playing concertos with all the major orchestras around the country, while frequently travelling to America, Britain and Europe for concert appearances.

In 1977, Geoffrey won the first of his two Rubenstein medals, being awarded the prize personally by Arthur Rubenstein who described him as 'an extraordinary pianist'.

The 1980s were halcyon days for Geoffrey. In 1983 he decided to base himself in Canberra. He was briefly on the staff of the Canberra School of Music until it became clear that his national and international touring engagements were as incompatible with such a position as some other aspects of institutional life.

By now Geoffrey had become immersed in the music of Liszt. He toured Australia and New Zealand at least twice a year playing concertos and recitals, while constantly expanding his international career.

During the 1980s he began his commercial recording career. In 1986 he made his first commercial recording, the John Ireland *Piano Concerto in E Flat* with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, a recording that is still ranked by most critics as the best recording available of that music.

Geoffrey loved Australia and believed that the time had come when an Australian of international standing could build and sustain an international career from here.

This involved substantial costs and, while he could generate a living from his touring engagements, once he had covered the costs, there was very little left. So it was then that he accepted a job at St Edmund's College, Canberra to help him pay the rent.

It was owing to his decision to work at St Edmund's that I first heard Geoffrey play. The playing was breathtaking. When the formalities ended I made my way over to him to inquire of his playing and career. It was then that I understood the under-realisation of Geoffrey's international standing and of his straitened circumstances; earning \$9000 a year at St Edmund's, relying on a bicycle for his transport.

It was Geoffrey's power and poverty that caused me to realise how little Australia valued artists of accomplishment, especially those in mid-career: in his case, the explosive power of his playing, yet his meagre capacity to afford the basics of life.

This sharp reality caused me to study the circumstances of other Australian artists who, while accomplished, found themselves marooned in mid-career.

This was the inspiration for the Australian Artists Creative Fellowships, a Commonwealth-funded program paid to artists at about one and a half to two times

the average weekly earnings and paid for periods of one to five years. In Geoffrey's case it gave him a chance to develop works in parts of the piano repertoire. So, in 1988, as Treasurer, I made my way down from London to Colchester in the High Commissioner's car to engage the founder and managing director of Britain's foremost recording company, Chandos Records. That person, Mr Brian Couzens, said, 'why on earth would someone like you be making an appointment with someone like me?'

I said, 'I have come to introduce to you one of the greatest pianists of world' and he said, 'Who is that?' and I said, 'The Australian, Geoffrey Tozer'. He said, 'Yes, I have heard of him but not recently. Has he done anything I can listen to?' I immediately brought forth a number of audio tapes for his listening. But Couzens said, 'Audio tapes are often compositions themselves, many artists break down and can't complete a full work across the dynamic range of the composition'. I said to Couzens, 'Well, I will get him over here. He will astound you'. Well, Geoffrey did get over there. Couzens rang me to say he was unbelievable.

Geoffrey went on to make 36 recordings with Chandos, which for any pianist is a major recorded legacy."

*First published in Roll Call May 2020*



*Geoffrey with Paul Keating at the Australian Institute of Music in 2004*

# 1971

## TONY (ANTHONY) STEWART

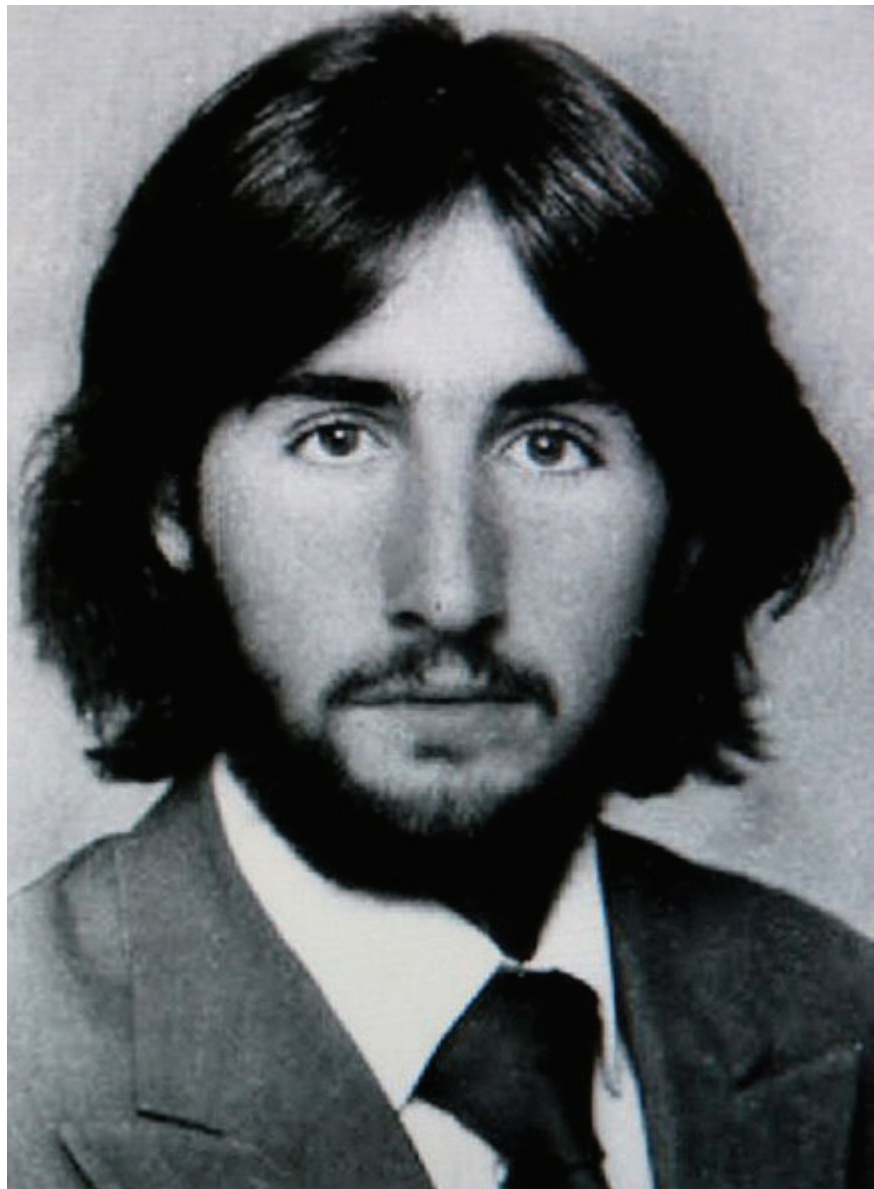
The tragic death of Tony (Anthony) Stewart (1971) was relived recently with the release of the hard-hitting film, *Balibo*, at Melbourne's 2009 International Film Festival.

Tony graduated from De La Salle in 1971 and four years later, while working as a sound recordist on location in East Timor, was killed with five other journalists, now infamously known as the Balibo Five. Two other Australians, Greg Shackleton and Roger East, as well as two Britons, Brian Peters and Malcolm Rennie and New Zealander Gary Cunningham were gunned down by Indonesian soldiers in the East Timorese village of Balibo in October 1975.

The film, which coincides with the 10th anniversary of East Timor's independence, tells the story of six journalists, five who were killed instantly on that fateful day 33 years ago.

The film, directed by Australian Rob Connolly, is quite controversial as it portrays a different version of the events than those since supported by the Indonesian and Australian governments. Both governments have maintained that the journalists were killed in crossfire and not deliberately; however, Connolly's portrayal shows quite clearly that they were murdered.

In 2007, an Australian coroner found that the journalists were in



fact killed as they tried to surrender to Indonesian forces. Tony's younger brother, Paul Stewart (1978) worked as a consultant on the film.

Fr Les Troy, who was the College Chaplain at the time of the tragic events in Balibo said that Tony's death devastated his family and the College community. "Paul was only in Year 9 when Tony was killed, and the news was devastating for him and his family and for the whole community."

*Balibo's* star Anthony La Paglia plays Roger East, an Australian journalist who, at the urging

of Jose Ramos-Horta (Oscar Isaac), ventures to East Timor to investigate the truth behind the deaths of the five men and report on the impending invasion.

The first feature film to be made in East Timor, *Balibo* stars Damon Gameau, Gyton Grantley, Nathan Phillips, Mark Winter and Tom Wright as The Balibo Five, and is directed by Robert Connolly.

*By Kerry Martin*  
First published in Roll Call September 2009



# 1971

## KEN WILSON

Ken Wilson (1971) was awarded an Order of Australia medal (OAM) in the 2017 Australia Day Honours for his service as a volunteer with the Vinnie's Collingwood Soup Van.

Ken's 32 years as a volunteer on the soup van has given him some insights into homelessness and how to fix it. Ken has called on the government to legislate that the developers give one out of every 100 new apartments to public housing. "If governments had the will, these sorts of issues could be resolved very quickly. There should be tax breaks and financial incentives."

Ken said he was reluctant at first to accept the award however he realised that it was just as much about other people as it was about him.

"It's not just about me, it's about my family and all the people whom I serve," he said. "It is an honour for all of us."

His role as a Vinnies volunteer involves visiting the homeless and disadvantaged in Collingwood streets and public housing flats, offering food and human connection.

Mr Wilson said that his volunteer work has provided him with good friends and the pleasure of helping others. He attends funerals for the destitute and takes disadvantaged people on outings.

As well as his volunteer work, Ken still works part time running a small international trading company.

Ken's two sons Brendan (2008) and Matthew (2003) both attended the College, and he is remembered as a very active member of the Parents' Association.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2017*



# 1972

## EDWARD DUYKER

Edward Duyker OAM (1972) is a distinguished academic, historian, diplomat and author. After graduating from De La Salle in 1972 he completed his undergraduate studies in philosophy, history and English literature at La Trobe University.

As a doctoral candidate at the University of Melbourne (where he also studied Bengali language), he was supervised by the Indian philosopher and literary critic Sibnarayan Ray. After receiving his PhD. Duyker was recruited by the Australian Department of Defence in Canberra in early 1981 and eventually worked in the Joint Intelligence Organization.

He left in July 1983 to take up a position as a Teaching Fellow at Griffith University, but ultimately settled in Sydney as a full-time author in 1984. Duyker's books include *Tribal Guerrillas* (1987),

*The Dutch in Australia* and *Of The Star And The Key: Mauritius, Mauritians and Australia* (1988) and numerous books dealing with early Australian exploration.

Duyker is an Honorary Senior Lecturer in the School of Languages and Cultures at the University of Sydney and an Adjunct Professor of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of the Australian Catholic University.

Between 1996 and 2002, he served as the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Mauritius in New South Wales. He is a fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and has been conferred numerous awards, including an Order of Australia, a 2003 Centenary Medal of Australia and 2000 Ordre des Palmes Acadamiques.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2019*

# 1972

## TONY PAGONE

The Hon G Tony Pagone, QC, AM, (1972) has been elected as the President of the International Association of Judges (IAJ). His appointment marks the first time an Australian has held this high office.

The IAJ is the pre-eminent international association of judges, bringing together almost 90 national associations of judges from around the world.

Justice Pagone is a co-opted member of the Governing Council of the Judicial Conference of Australia. He recently retired from the Federal Court of Australia where he served as the national coordinating judge of the Taxation National Practice Area since 2013.

Justice Pagone served as a judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria before his appointment to the Federal Court. Prior to that he practiced at the Victorian Bar.

In accepting the Presidency, at the Annual Meeting of the IAJ, in Marrakesh, Justice Pagone said: "We know and understand the work that judges do, and we know and understand the vital importance of that work to freedom, safety and an orderly society. We know also about the vulnerability under which judges work and live, and therefore of the need to foster and preserve judicial impartiality and the rule of law."

In 2014, Justice Pagone was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) by the University of



*Portrait of Justice Tony Pagone  
by Anna Minardo*

Melbourne. A professorial fellow in the Law School and a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia, Justice Pagone is a central figure in the Law School's tax specialisation and chairs the Advisory Board for Tax studies. He teaches several subjects in the tax program including, in 2014, Tax Avoidance and Planning.

*First published in Roll Call May 2019*

Tony Pagone (1972) was among 155 recipients of a Member of the Order (AM) in this year's Australia Day Honours. Mr Pagone received the Honour for service as an Aged Care Royal Commissioner.

Mr Pagone, who was recognised for significant service to the law, the judiciary, and professional associations, joined the Royal

Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety in September 2019 and became its chair a month later following the death of Richard Tracey.

In October last year, Mr Pagone was appointed patron of a not-for-profit legal support organisation Aged-care Legal Advocacy and Reform Matter.

*First published in Roll Call May 2022*

Postscript: Tony Pagone retired as a judge in 2018, having served as a judge of the Federal Court of Australia from June 2013 until March 2018. Until June 2013, he was a judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria.

# 1974

## BISHOP ANTHONY IRELAND

Bishop Anthony (Tony) Ireland (1974) was born a short walk from St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne. He was ordained a priest in the cathedral and on Saturday 31 July, was ordained a bishop within those same walls.

In his 34 years as a priest for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, Bishop Ireland has served in various academic and leadership roles, but at the heart of his ministry lies his desire to invite people to know and love the person of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Ireland grew up in Caulfield, in Melbourne's inner south, in a home that fostered Catholic life and culture. The eldest of three children, his devoted parents Bernard and Elizabeth Ireland (now both deceased), led the family in Rosary each night. The family attended Mass weekly, and they were all involved in local sodalities, or Catholic groups, that fostered friendship and camaraderie within the context of prayer and service.

He attended De La Salle College, Malvern in his teens and remembers the positive influence of the brothers and the nearby Vincentians. "The Brothers always folded their arms when they prayed. Before doing the Sign of the Cross, they always began their prayer with, "Let us remember that we are in the Holy presence of God", he said. "That stayed with me for a long, long time. It still does. If I'm asked to lead prayer, I occasionally use that phrase."



Only a week after graduating from De La Salle College, Bishop Ireland started work at the then National Australia Bank and later worked for the City of Hawthorn. He also studied Business part-time. In his early 20s, inspired by his Catholic faith and those who had helped shape him, he applied to enter the seminary at Corpus Christi College in Clayton.

"At Corpus Christi College, we were blessed with staff who were good pastoral models. Monsignor Peter Jeffrey was rector at the time, and he always spoke of his hometown Bendigo, and about service of the people. He was and is a good pastoral man." he said.

Bishop Ireland doesn't describe himself as a typical poster boy for vocations. "Initially, I didn't consider 'this is for me', but considered 'I'm going to give this a try'." He said he 'knew' it was going to work when, aged 29, he was ordained a Deacon in 1986.

'When the bishop said, "we choose this man", that's when I knew.' He was ordained to the priesthood one year later and went on to serve in the parishes of Grovedale and Torquay, Mentone, Sandringham, Langwarrin and Frankston. For the last 12 years he has been parish priest of St Gregory the Great in Doncaster.

During his priesthood, he has undertaken academic studies in Italy, receiving higher degrees in Moral and Spiritual Theology, as well as a doctorate. He has lectured in Moral Theology at Catholic Theological College in East Melbourne and was Head of the Department of Moral and Practical Theology for eight years.

He has been a tutor at Corpus Christi Seminary College in Carlton, was appointed its Dean of Studies and was also Rector for several years.

“I can still remember when I first started the academic work at Catholic Theological College. I wasn’t so keen on that,” he said. “But Fr Austin Cooper OMI took me aside and said, ‘Now, you might think you want to be with the people and run the youth groups and do all those types of things, but this is pastoral work too. You, teaching and giving these people a good education and forming good priests for the future is pastoral work too.’ So that was very helpful.”

Along with his parish and academic work, Bishop Ireland has been Spiritual Director to the St Vincent de Paul Society State Council and has been appointed to several boards, committees and councils. He has been Episcopal Vicar for Health and Aged Care and is currently the Episcopal Vicar for the Eastern Region of the Archdiocese.

“The academic [part] has been a large part of my life as a priest—the academic formation of future priests, religious, and lay people for leadership within the church,” he reflected.



“Being of service to the Church in various portfolios of committee work and making a contribution by way of expertise and decision making has also played a key role. But through it all, it’s also been about prayer and life with the people. Most of my ministry has been spent living in parishes, being with people and at the pastoral service of the people. Prayer and life with the people have always been an emphasis of my ministry.”

“For me, the thing that is important is being with people at the right moment, for the right moment. Being with them in the right moment. It could be with someone who is vulnerable on their death bed, or someone who is joyful about the announcement of an engagement, or the celebration of their marriage. It’s about being with the people in those moments.”

This was illustrated during a recent visit to a local hospital to anoint a sick parishioner. “I was in the lift leaving and a gentleman stepped into the lift with me. He asked, ‘Are you a Catholic priest?’ I said, ‘Yes, I am.’ He said, ‘We’ve been hunting and hunting for a Catholic priest. My father needs to be anointed up on the fourth floor.’ I said, ‘OK, let’s go.’ I walked in and knew the man. He was a well-known figure at the Catholic War Veterans Mass, and I knew his daughter. I anointed him and he died shortly after. So that was a case of being there at the right moment.”

“The important thing is to be there at the significant times in the lives of people from womb to tomb, from birth to death.”

As he prepares for his pastoral mission as Auxiliary Bishop for the southern region of the Archdiocese, Bishop Ireland hopes to be a living witness to the words he has chosen

for his episcopal motto – “Confirm, Strengthen, Support” (1 Peter 5:10). He explained, “Peter is writing to the early Christians who are being persecuted and he is saying to them, you will only have to deal with these challenges for a certain amount of time. He then goes on to say, “The God of grace, who called you in Jesus Christ will confirm, strengthen and support you”. The Ministry of an Auxiliary Bishop is to confirm, strengthen and support the priests and local communities in the region to which he is sent.”

Recognising that the Church faces many challenges, and inspired by his own personal relationship with Jesus Christ, Bishop Ireland said he intends to be a bearer of hope ‘in this moment’. “We’re in the wilderness and we’re not alone. God meets us in the wilderness. The wilderness is a place of promise and that gives us hope.”

He hopes to help the Church be a ‘vehicle’ for introducing and reintroducing the person of Jesus Christ to others. “The Church is the vehicle for the proclamation of the Kingdom of God and the person of Jesus Christ, and for introducing people to the love, mercy and healing of Jesus Christ.

Imagine a mirror. On one side of the mirror is you. On the other side of the mirror is the Lord Jesus. You are reflected in him, and he is reflected in you. We want people to see their value in Jesus Christ and his value for them.’

*First published in Roll Call September 2021*



1975

## THOMAS MARWICK

Professor Thomas Marwick (1975) is the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute Director and CEO, Cardiologist at the Alfred Hospital Melbourne and at Western Health in Melbourne. Professor Marwick is Associate Editor of the Journal of

the American College of Cardiology (2014 - current) and JACC Imaging (2007 - current).

He is regarded as a world renowned expert in echocardiology and has received numerous awards for his work in myocardial imaging including, the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand's RT Hall Prize (2006), the NHMRC Eccles Award (1999).

He completed training in medicine and cardiology in Australia, before undertaking an Imaging Fellowship at Cleveland Clinic, a PhD at the University of Louvain, Belgium, and a Master's in Public Health at Harvard.

He is the former Director of the Menzies Research Institute in Hobart and is currently the Director of Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute in Melbourne. He has divided his career mostly between Australia (former Professor of Medicine and Head of Cardiovascular Imaging Research Centre, UQ (University of Queensland)) and the USA (former Head of Cardiovascular Imaging at Cleveland Clinic).

His main contribution has been in clinical research and research training. He has supervised about 30 research higher degree students - clinical - including 22 completed PhDs.

He was one of the initiators of stress echocardiography and has made contributions to the prognostic evidence underlying echocardiography. His main current research interests relate to the detection of early cardiovascular disease and cost-effective application of cardiac imaging techniques for treatment selection and monitoring.

He has published about 600 papers, reviews, chapters, and editorials, and is an Associate Editor at JACC and Deputy Editor at JACC-Cardiovascular Imaging.

Thomas has been the recipient of more than fifty significant research grants and several awards, including the Simon Dack Award from the American College of Cardiology (2009), the RT Hall Prize (2006) and Kempson Maddox Lecture (2011) of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand. Thomas was Dux of the College in 1975.

1976

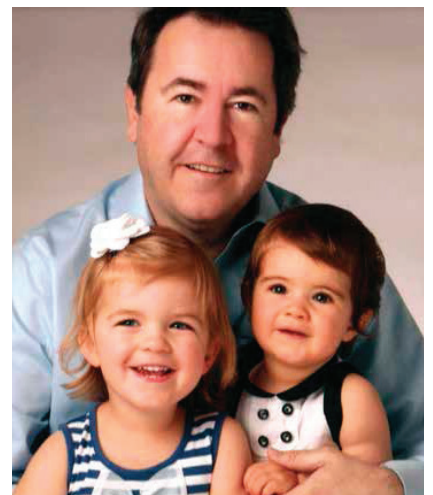
## SEAN HOWARD

For Sean Howard AO (1976), business success goes hand in hand with philanthropy and as the founder of OzEmail, at one time Australia's largest Internet company, Mr Howard has donated millions of dollars to various charities. It is not surprising that he was on the 2015 Australia Day Honours' List for his charitable works.

Mr Howard was named as an Officer of the Order of Australia, for "distinguished service to a range of charitable organisations, particularly youth welfare and medical research, as a major benefactor and supporter, and to business."

His charitable efforts have been particularly focused on youth welfare and health. Since 2001, he has helped troubled and disadvantaged teens as a supporter and fundraiser for the Youth Insearch Foundation. From 2003, he chaired the foundation for seven years and remained a board member until 2011.

Mr Howard's financial support continues to make a difference to the charity for at-risk teens.



As well as cash donations he has also made his private island in northern Queensland available for leadership retreats for the young people whom the charity works with.

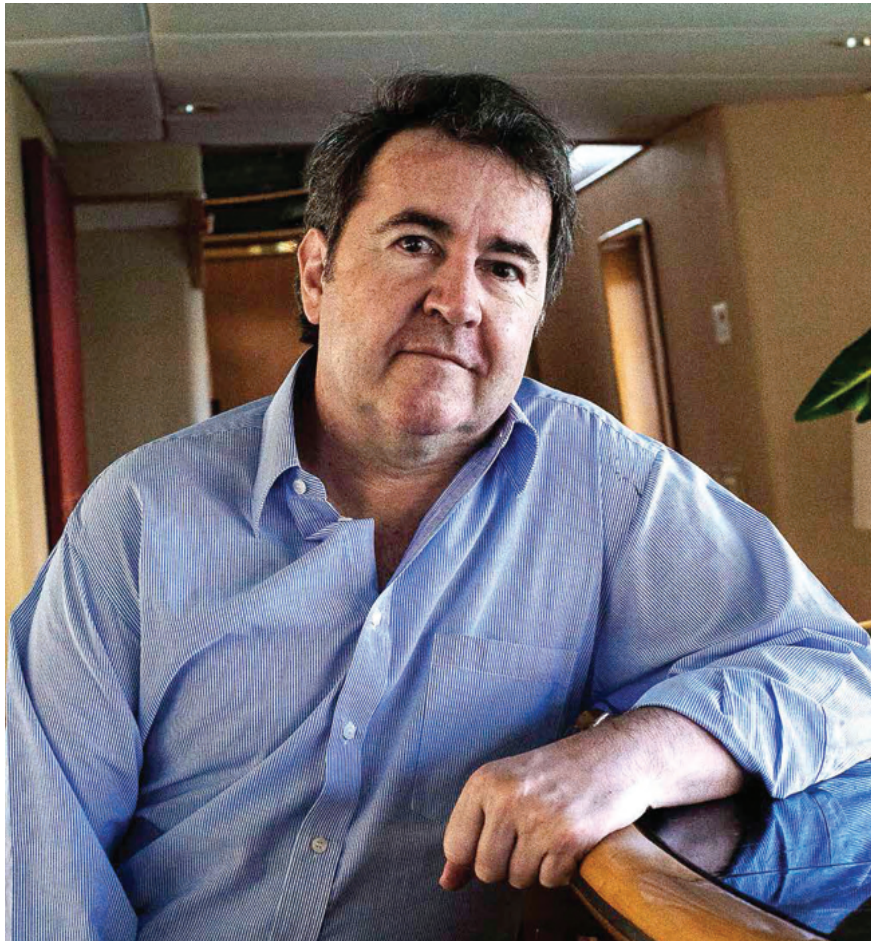
On a personal level, Mr Howard's own life took a turn for the worse two years ago when he contracted encephalitis. The virus damaged his retina and he received eyesight saving treatment from Sydney University's Save Sight Institute.

Days before *Roll Call* spoke to Mr Howard he had suffered a severe seizure because of the condition. Following his treatment at the Save the Sight Institute he pledged to donate \$10 million to establish the Valerie Mary Howard Initiative to advance new research, patient care and teaching and learning facilities.

After graduating from De La Salle College, Mr Howard told *Roll Call* he spent three years studying medicine. "I did three years of medicine but after realising I was not a great fan of blood I decided to leave," Mr Howard said. "My decision to drop out of medical school devastated my mother as she thought I would follow in my father's footsteps and go into academia."

Not surprisingly Mr Howard was a top Science student at De La Salle. "I was awarded the Science Prize in my final year and received 96 for Pure Mathematics HSC exam." After he left medicine, he started a magazine in his bedroom in Camberwell. "It went on to be the top-selling computer magazine, *Australian Personal Computer*, which today is the longest running computer magazine in the English-speaking world."

From that point on Mr Howard's career soared. He sold the magazine to Kerry Packer. As part of the deal, he retained the Research and Development arm of the magazine and newspaper group, and after



Packer turned it down, he bought it back from him for one dollar.

Realising the potential, Mr Howard kept the intellectual property and founded OzEmail, which became, at the time, Australia's largest internet service provider. "I asked him (Packer) if he wanted to buy OzEmail and he said he didn't want to buy it. So, I bought it from Packer for \$1 and sold it for \$523 million seven years later."

Since then, Mr Howard has been a director of a range of companies, including Optus Telecommunications and Isys Search Software.

More recently, Mr Howard refocused his business interests towards retirement and aged care facilities and is the founder and managing director of the Arton Group, an aged care provider. In Victoria, the company owns and runs The Cumberland View Retirement Group.

Mr Howard's charitable nature extends to his business style.

"These days I run aged care and retirement villages and I try to run them ethically and keep happy residents and staff. If the residents and the staff are happy then you don't need to market," he said.

These days Mr Howard lives in Sydney with his family including his two daughters, four and six years old. "I still keep in touch with some of my old De La Salle friends," he said.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2015*

# 1977

## GARRY CONNOLLY

After 30 years of firefighting, Garry Connolly (1977) is putting his experience on the line training the next generation of fire fighters. Connolly (pictured far left) joined the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) in 1986 and was first stationed at the Eastern Hill Fire Station in the city.

In 2001, he moved into community education promoting the work of the MFB at major events around the State such as Moomba and the Royal Melbourne Show.

He was also involved in promotions and coordinated the “Change your Clock, Change Your Batteries” smoke alarm campaign. “The campaign was really important and getting the message out to all Victorians was a real challenge,” Connolly said.

In 2015 he took up his current training position. “My current role is now an instructor on the new Victoria recruit fire fighter’s course at our training complex at Craigieburn. With the combining of MFB/CFA it is an interesting time to be involved.”



*Garry Connolly, pictured far left*

Connolly said one of the challenges for the young men and women who join the MFB is to be able to adapt to the ever-changing environment that they will have to encounter, be it emergency medical response, hostile situations, firefighting, car crashes, or high-rise building structures.

He believes it is also essential for new fire fighters to be environmentally aware. “With our modern equipment we use less water now to extinguish fires, we are aware of environmental impacts that fires have on drains and waterways. We teach our fire fighters that our breathing apparatus needs to be worn at all fires due to the toxicity of modern materials being used in manufacturing. Look after your own welfare and be safe.”

Connolly started his De La Salle years in Year 4 with Mrs Mitchell. He was involved in ACC swimming, football, cross country, and athletics as well extra-curricular activities including the Don Bosco Boys Club where he did judo, eventually instructing for a number of years.

Connolly recalls some of the highlights from his time at the College. “Winning the ACC first XVIII Premiership in 1977 under the coaching of Br James Taylor was a real highlight. I really had a great time at school, and I remember it well.”

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2017*

# 1978

## MICHAEL ORAM

Wing Commander Michael Oram’s (1978) curriculum vitae reads like something out of an issue of ‘Boys Own.’ He is a veteran Black Hawk helicopter pilot who has advised foreign governments and seen active duty.

In 2017 he was awarded the United States Meritorious Service Medal for

his service to his country and next year he will celebrate 40 years of defence force service.

From an early age, Oram was inspired by his father, Johnny Oram, a Lancaster bomber pilot during World War II, who was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar for his service to his country. Following in his father’s footsteps, Oram joined the Air Training Corps Cadet (now known as Air Force Cadets) when he was still a student at De La Salle College.

After De La Salle, Oram was committed to getting his ‘Wings,’

and completed an Air Force Air Traffic Control course and his pilot’s course. He would later go on to do a Flight Instructors course and a Master of Management degree at the University of Canberra.

Oram says that one of his many career highlights was getting his ‘Wings.’ “There is nothing like having your ‘Wings’ pinned on.”

“The pilot’s course is extremely demanding and typically has a 50 per cent failure rate, but the sense of achievement when it is complete is amazing.”



His first stint in the Air Force, in 1979, was as an Air Traffic Controller working in Adelaide and Melbourne. “It was an exciting and challenging career but not my final goal.” Longing for the cockpit he transferred to Army Pilot in 1987, spending the next nine years on helicopters.

Oram has been flying Black Hawk helicopters since they first appeared in Australia. “I was on the first Black Hawk Pilot Conversion Course when they were introduced into service.” He remembers picking up several new aircrafts from the factory. “They still had that ‘new aircraft smell’.”

Oram’s ‘Wings’ took him to active duty, first in the Sinai desert and later in Afghanistan. Early in the 1980’s Oram was posted to the Australian Contingent in the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai Peninsula (the border between Israel and Egypt). “My role there was within the Tactical Operations Centre helping to facilitate helicopter transport of ground troops involved in peacekeeping activities.”

In 2017 he was posted to Task Group Afghanistan in Kabul as the Deputy Senior Advisor to the Afghan Air Force. “My role there was to mentor

senior Afghan leadership in the establishment of an independent Air Force.” Oram was recognised with the United States Meritorious Service Medal for his role in Afghanistan.

In between his tours of duty, Oram worked for the Australian Defence Academy Helicopter School, initially to instruct on the Basic Pilot Course and after the Helicopter Flight Instructor Course.

“Teaching highly motivated young men and women to fly military aircraft is about the most rewarding job I can think of,” he says.

Oram returned to the Air Force in 1996 and flew the Hawker Siddely 748, which is a military version of a civilian airliner, in the Air Combat Officer Training and Air Logistics (transport) roles. Subsequently, he was promoted to Squadron Leader to be a Flight Commander at No 32 Squadron, based in East Sale, Victoria and later as the (Wing Commander) Commanding Officer of the Squadron.

Following a short tour as Officer Commanding Air Training Wing, Oram was responsible for all Aircrew and Air Traffic Control Training across the Air Force as well

as public relations assets such as the RAAF Roulettes Aerobatic Team, RAAF Balloon and RAAF Museum. This role ‘grounded’ him and eventually he managed to convince the Air Force to let him back in the air.

“I managed to get back in the air returning to a flying position instructing on the Raytheon Super Kingair 350.” But Oram admits that all good things come to an end. “I am currently back ‘flying a desk’ as the Manager of Safety and Operational Airworthiness across Air Force Training.” Aside from his operational tours of duty, Oram has travelled extensively but he is looking forward to flying for pleasure. “If you want to see the world, Air Force Pilot is a good career choice.”

Next year Oram will complete 40 years of Australian Defence Force service and says he would like to spend some time travelling with his wife, Carol. “I will probably refocus my attention from ‘Cockpit Class’ to ‘Business Class’.”

Not just a high achiever at work Oram also devotes time to giving back to the community. “I have been involved with Camp Quality in North Queensland as the Camp Coordinator. My volunteer activities these days are limited to my position on the Board of Directors at Gippsland Grammar which I have held for the last five years.”

“I keep in close touch with several friends from the De La Salle era. I have always been impressed with the school’s emphasis on the student as a whole person rather than an academic ‘score’.”

Oram and his wife Carol, have two daughters, Matilda and Kate.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2018*



# 1978

## PAUL STEWART

When Paul Stewart OAM (1978) took up the trumpet in Year 4 at De La Salle College, he never dreamt where it might take him. Years later, his trumpet playing landed him as the lead singer of the infamous Melbourne punk band the Painters and Dockers, waiting for a liver transplant and raising money for a group of nuns in Timor-Leste. A circuitous journey indeed.

Paul's journey began as one of five children growing up in East St Kilda. His father went to De La Salle, so it was not surprising that Paul and his brothers came here also. His oldest brother, Greg (1973), is a doctor and his brother Tony (1971), is one of the "Balibo Five", was tragically killed in East Timor when Paul was in Year 10.

At the time, Tony's death had a profound impact on his little brother, Paul, who drew strength from the support of the Brothers, especially Fr Les Troy, the College Chaplain. "The Brothers were an enlightened group of people," Paul said. "They helped me through a tough time and taught me that I should think about someone other than just myself and share the love around. De La Salle is enlightened in that way."

At De La Salle, he was heavily into Drama and starred in a play *Moby Dick Rehearsed*. He still stays in touch with his first Drama teacher, Wilma Avery. He also loved his footy. "I was Captain of the Seconds, I was never good enough for the Firsts, and the Seconds were all rascals which was a lot more fun."



When he finished Year 12, he was offered a job as a copyboy at the *Herald Sun*, where he worked as a journalist for 30 years, mostly covering the music industry.

In 1973, he met four Melbourne boys at the Pope's Eucharistic Congress at the MCG. These five young Melbourne Catholic boys formed a band which eventually morphed sometime later into the Painters and Dockers. Divine Intervention?

In the early days, the band did not have a name or a permanent gig, it was just a group of guys who loved music and getting together to have some fun.

"At one point, one of the bands had some outstanding parking fines so we organised a gig to raise the money to pay them off. The only pub that would have a bunch of unknown musicians was in Port Melbourne. The pub turned out to be the watering hole of the more colourful members of the Painters and Dockers Union," he said.

"At some point during the gig, the pub's neighbour, annoyed by the noise, burst into the pub with an axe and broke up the mixing desk, which sparked a huge fight.

Eventually someone called the police, and the Painters and Dockers was born."

Seven albums and more than 1,000 international gigs later, the band was well and truly established as punk rock royalty. Their music is still loved by adoring fans and last year they were inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame. Sadly, after years of touring, the band finally folded.

"After the Painters folded, I was at a Timor-Leste rally in St Kilda Road and this East Timorese guy, Gill Santos came up and introduced himself. He was a musician and recognised me. We got talking and ended up launching the Dili Allstars." Since then, they have released two albums and toured extensively.

"Since Tony was killed, Timor-Leste has played a big part in my life — losing him when I was only 15 years old left some emotional scars. His death really freaked me out a bit." "Around the time of Tony's death, my mum was a teacher in a Catholic school, and I remember this nun came around to our house to visit. She berated me for being upset saying that Tony's death was God's wish. I suppose I got angry and turned my back on any kind of religion from that time. I rebelled and took it to the other extreme — sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll." Paul admits that he experimented with drugs during his time with the band.

"Although I only ever tried intravenous drugs a couple of times, I was unlucky enough to contract Hepatitis C which damaged my liver." After a prolonged illness he ended up in hospital on death's bed. "I was so sick, the priest had read me the 'Last Rights' and I was lying in a bed at the Austin Hospital ready to die," he said.

“I was in and out of sleep and I remember waking up and there was this little nun standing at the end of my bed. I did not even notice at first that she was dark skinned. I asked her where she was from, and she said she was from Timor-Leste. Of all the hospitals in all the world I thought, I couldn’t believe she had found me.”

“I explained I was with the Dili Allstars which, it turned out, had once played to raise money for her village.”

“When I told her I was waiting for a liver transplant she said she would get her village to pray for me.” Amazingly, two days later the doctors told Paul that they had a liver for him. Divine intervention? “Her order, the ALMA nuns, work with the lowest of the low, which somehow struck a chord with me. I remember a teacher once told me I ‘was the lowest of the low’ and I thought, well, these are my people, I had better see them.”

After his recovery, Paul visited the nuns in Timor-Leste and his story

was featured on the ABC’s *Compass* program last year. The nuns work with disabled children and Paul discovered they did not have a car to transport them to school. “They would carry these kids around on their bicycles,” Paul said.

“All they wanted was a car.” Since then, Paul has raised over \$80,000 for the nuns. Currently he is touring the country raising money for their work.

In 2020, Paul Stewart was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the community and to the performing arts.

Stewart is a committed advocate for social justice and runs the ‘Just Voices’ program for Jesuit Social Services. A forming member and lead singer of the legendary Melbourne band, the Painters and Dockers, Stewart has been a formidable presence in the performing arts scene in Australia for more than 30 years. Stewart has been a long-time campaigner for Timor-Leste, following the tragic death of his older brother.

Anthony (Tony) Stewart (1971) was a 21 year old sound recordist on assignment in East Timor when he was gunned down by Indonesian forces, along with four other reporters in 1975, known since as the Balibo Five.

Stewart travels regularly to Timor-Leste where he works closely with the Alma Nuns, who are in Australia this month. Stewart and the nuns visited the College to talk to students about the disabled and abandoned children they work with in Timor-Leste.

Alongside his numerous other charitable roles, Stewart is a founding member of the Mirabel Foundation and The Transplants, a band made up of organ recipients who promote the work of Donate Australia.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2010*

Postscript: Paul Stewart now works for Jesuit Social Services and is a regular guest as ‘Professor Paul’, on ABC Melbourne’s Jacinta Parsons’ program.





# 1979

## BR TONY CUMMINS

Recently I had the opportunity of sharing a meal with Br Tony Cummins (1979) who is the youngest Old Collegian Brother. Tony, who came to the College from St Michael’s Ashburton in 1974, was a member of the senior choir and represented the College in ACC tennis.

He said that his Christian values and a desire to help others had inspired his decision to become a Brother. “I always had a strong desire to do something for others,” Br Tony said.

In 1980 he joined a group of 20 postulants in Sydney and took his first vows in 1984. At the age of 22, he was appointed to De La Salle College, Armidale NSW where he was Year 7 Coordinator of a cohort of 95 students. Br Tony remained at Armidale, NSW, for three years before moving to Henley Beach in Adelaide.

In 1989 he was appointed to St Bede’s, Mentone with Br Quentin O’Halloran at the helm. There he undertook responsibility for caring for boarders while teaching part-time before taking his final vows in 1990.

Br Tony was transferred to Malvern in 1992 and spent two years as the Years 8 and 9 Coordinator.

He subsequently attended a formation course in Rome before taking up the appointment of Vocations and Youth Ministry Director for the period 1997 to

2003. He then returned to teaching, first at La Salle College Bankstown Sydney and later De La Salle, Mangere in Auckland.

In 2009, he returned to Malvern as the Director of Postulancy and was later appointed to the Brothers’ headquarters in Sydney, returning to Vocations and Youth Ministry. In mid-2017 he was given responsibility for the District of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Pakistan Tercentenary celebrations. Still passionate to teach, last year he returned to St Bede’s, Mentone where he teaches Religious Education to students in Years 7 to 12.

Reflecting on life as a Brother, he says he has been privileged to walk beside so many people young and old who have simply needed the presence and support of a Brother. Fast approaching 40 years with the De La Salle order, Br Tony said that the Brother’s original purpose of working and living “together and by association” was just as relevant today and will remain the challenge going into the future.

*By Tony McIlroy (1969)*



*Br Tony Cummins, pictured third row fourth from left*

# 1979

## GREG BARNES

Greg Barnes (1979) graduated BALLB from Monash University in 1984. He was a member of the Victorian Bar where he practiced criminal law from 1986–89 and has been a member of the Tasmanian Bar since 2003.

Greg was chief of staff and senior adviser to several federal and state Liberal Party leaders and ministers from 1989–99. He is also the former National Chair of the Australian Republican Movement and was National President of the Australian Lawyers Alliance in 2011–12.

He has written four books on Australian politics, is a former President and now a Spokesman of the Australian Lawyers Alliance, and Chair of the Tasmanian Prisoners Legal Service. He is an adviser to Julian Assange and WikiLeaks. He writes a weekly column in the *Hobart Mercury* and regularly writes on legal policy issues for *Fairfax Media* and is a Tasmanian Patron of the national Justice Reform Initiative

As a long-time advocate for a republic, Barnes wrote the following article for the May 2016 issue of *Roll Call*.

*“The idea that an Australian should be Head of State is not a radical one yet almost 17 years after the failed 1999 republic referendum we are still yet to make that idea a reality. It is time to do so.*

*To put it simply, no person outside of the British royal family can be this nation’s head of state. The best that can be achieved is for an Australian*



*Well, if the flag matters so do the Constitution of Australia and the person who is at the head of the structure set out in it. The British monarchy represents a set of values, if one can call them this, that are antithetical in the modern world. The idea that birth rights and privilege ought to be a qualification for an important governance office is nonsensical and offensive.*

*‘But monarchies work so well’ say those who hang on grimly to “Buck Palace.” That is fiction. Yes, nations like Denmark and Norway function nicely as democratic nations*

*to be the representative of the British monarch. Is that really the best we can do?*

*Do we think that a nation which in theory at least is committed to egalitarianism should be satisfied with this incongruous situation?*

*A former student of the De La Salle brothers, Paul Keating, rightly pointed out that if we want to be a nation taken seriously in Asia then hanging onto the apron strings of the UK through a constitutional tie is not the way to achieve it. Mr Keating as Prime Minister articulately presented the case for an Australian head of state, and it was only the divisive and cynical scare campaign of his successor John Howard and a cobbled together motley crew of monarchists, conservatives and radical republicans who brought the idea of an Australian head of state to a halt.*

*Some in this country say it does not matter. Often these are the same people who think the Australian flag, a piece of cloth that patently discriminates against Indigenous Australians, is sacred.*

*but that is because of the political culture and values such as tolerance, not because of the commitment to a monarch.*

*Until Australia becomes a republic, we cannot truly proclaim ourselves a democracy. It is not a difficult change. We simply decide if we want to directly elect a head of state – a remarkably successful system in Ireland – or opt for a parliamentary process.*

*There are some fine non-executive presidents in the world – Ireland, Germany and India have produced many over the past few decades.*

*They are individuals who unite their nation and who sometimes rightly act as the conscience of society. Until Australia becomes a republic the colonial outpost tag bandied around our region will rightly stick.”*

*By Greg Barnes (1979)  
First published in Roll Call May 2016*

# 1979

## JOHN O'SHEA

As a teenager, John O'Shea (1979) read *The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner*, not long after he joined the College's cross-country team and started running.

"I loved the solitude of running and the time it gave me to think," O'Shea said. His passion for running led to five years as a VFL/AFL boundary umpire where he shared the same side of the fence with the likes of Lockett, Ablett, Dunstall and Daicos.

"I was never the fastest or most talented runner, but I always knew at the end of training or a race that I had left nothing out on the track. To this day running still gives me time to think and over the years I have resolved many a work or family issue when I've been out on a run."

Later in his 30s, O'Shea ran in the first of his four Melbourne Marathons, in just 2 hours 51 minutes and then in his 40s successfully completed two Oxfam 100km team races, with a best outcome of 15 hours 36 minutes. His four-man team finished 12th out of 250 teams.

O'Shea, who was College Vice Captain in 1979, stopped running long enough to complete an Economics degree at Monash, an MBA at RMIT University and a Company Directors course at the AICD.

He realised he would have to leave his umpiring days behind him in order to establish his career and applying his dedication and passion for running to his professional life, O'Shea rose quickly through



the ranks as a senior marketing manager.

After 12 years as a partner at KPMG, he was appointed to the role of Global Chief Marketing Officer for KPMG International.

"KPMG provided a chance to travel extensively, which opened up tremendous opportunities to travel as a family. The firm gave me great insights into how some very smart people thought about things and went about solving issues in both a community and commercial context. In that sort of environment, you never stop learning."

After KPMG, O'Shea held senior marketing and management roles for Minter Ellison, WHK Crowe Horwath, and the Bank of Melbourne. A year ago he was appointed Chief Operating Officer of the ASX listed company, IPH Group, which owns five of the leading intellectual property firms operating in Australia, New Zealand and Asia, specialising in protecting the intellectual property

of many of Australia's and the world's leading companies.

"We're an acquisitive organisation and no one day seems to be the same. Up until COVID-19 changed things, I was travelling weekly, and, on the days, I was in Melbourne I'd work from home - now thankfully I'm not seeing the inside of a plane, and am currently working 100 per cent at home."

"My current role allows me to draw on so many of the lessons learnt throughout my career and put them into play in an ever-changing environment."

O'Shea said De La Salle also sparked his love of learning. "I came from a modest background and my mum and dad's willingness to pay for a private school education instilled in me the importance and value of education as a means of furthering yourself, wherever and however life takes you," he said.

"My time at the College taught me so much more than what was in the books we read. I learnt the value of hard work; the importance of getting on with people from all backgrounds and the ability to solve life's problems in a way that fosters resilience and a healthy and happy outlook on life."

O'Shea still runs although he admits he's not very fast. He and his wife, Tess, who recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary have three adult children, Ryan, Clare and Liam.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call September 2020*

# 1979

## MATTHEW BROWN

Renowned international swimcoach Matthew Brown (1979), who swam for Australia at previous Pan Pacific Championships and Commonwealth Games, is now working hard outside the pool, coaching some of our top swimmers to go for gold.

As the National Coach of the Australian Swim teams at the London and Beijing Olympics, Brown was instrumental in the gold medal successes of Emily Seebohm and Brittany Elmslie, and when the Tokyo Olympics get underway next year, he is hoping for another medal success.

Brown is heavily involved in Chinese Backstroker Xu Jiayu's Olympics' preparation. "Jiayu won Silver in the 100 Backstroke at the Rio Olympics and since then has won the World Championship in Budapest in 2017. Jiayu is the current national record holder in backstroke in all distances. We are hopeful he will defend his records in Tokyo next year."

Before his success as a coach, Brown made quite a splash in the pool as a swimmer himself. "I made several Australian teams and represented at the 1982 Commonwealth Games in

Brisbane, where I finished sixth in the 400 Individual Medley, and at the 1983 Pan Pacific Championships, I finished in second place in the same event."

"At the College, I was a member of the ACC Swim Squad for three years, from 1977 to 1979, breaking a few ACC records at the old 1956 Melbourne Olympic pool. I swam Victorian State and National championships at that pool. It was always a full house for the ACC championships, it was awesome."

After leaving De La Salle College, Brown completed a Bachelor of Sports Studies and a Coaching and Diploma of Coaching at Canberra College of Advanced Education or Canberra University as it is known today.

"At the same time, I was offered a place at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra which I attended while completing my studies. Towards the end of my swimming career I knew that I wanted to be involved in swimming as a coach."

"My old club coach in Western Australia offered me a job coaching junior swimmers. I stayed in that role for two years and then became Head Coach of a new program in Perth. I was there for 13 years until I was offered a role as Director of swimming at St Joseph's Nudgee College where I stayed for 12 years. I headed back to Melbourne for two years as Director of Swimming at Surrey Park Swim Club and then

returned to Brisbane two years ago as Head Coach of the Rackley Swim Team."

In his role with the Rackley Swim Team, Brown is involved on a range of levels, including managing staff, swimmers' programs, the club, and the swim centre itself as well as training swimmers to compete at School, Club, State, and national team levels.

"I'm up at 4:15 am to be at the pool by 5:00 am for a three-hour training session. There is always administrative work after training and then I am back on deck at 3:00 pm for another four hours of training. This is repeated six days a week and during competition season, seven days a week."

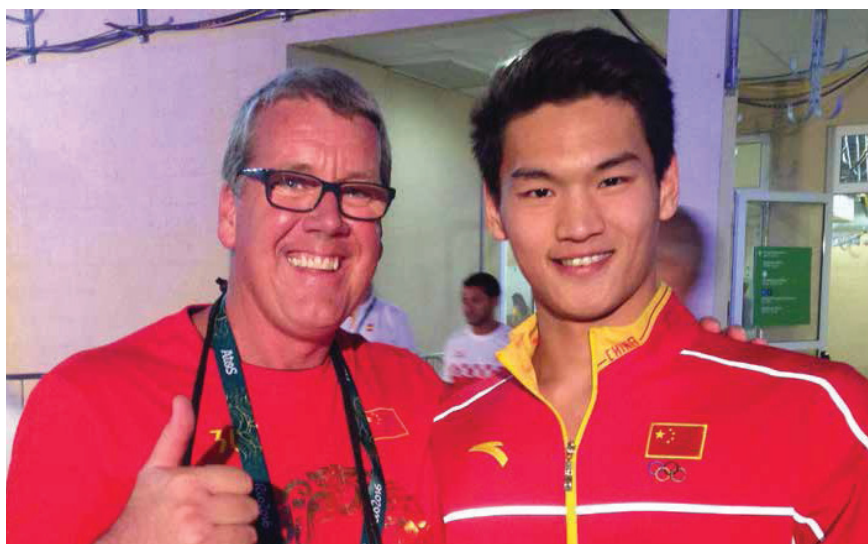
Throughout his career, Brown has notched up an extensive list of Personal Bests. He is proud of his record as coach of the Australian Swim team for the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games, the 2010 and 2014 Commonwealth Games, the 2010 and 2014 Pan Pacific Games and the 1996 and 2000 Paralympics Games.

In 2016, he was the Coach of the Chinese Swim Team at the 2016 Olympics. Similarly, he enjoyed success in the pool, as a member of the Australian Swim Teams for the 2010 and 2014 Commonwealth Games and the 2010 and 2014 Pan Pacific Championships.

When he is not at the pool, and that is rare, Brown never strays far from the water. "I love to fish and still surf as much as I can in the warmer waters of the Tweed River region."

"I have a daughter, Rosie, who recently graduated with a Double degree in Nursing and Paramedicine."

"I think the most valuable legacy that I still cherish from my days at the College, was the camaraderie. I felt valued, both by my peers and teachers in any endeavour I chose to apply myself to."



Matthew with Xu Jiayu

By Kerry Martin

First published in Roll Call September 2019

# 1980

## CHRIS JANES

Moving from the remote South Australian town of Whyalla in 1977, Chris Janes (1980) found himself seated in the front row of the Year 9 Gold class.

Having spent his primary school years in Whyalla, after his father, who worked for BHP, was transferred there, the move to De La Salle College was a big change for Janes. "I look back on my first days at the College and remember being aware of how much bigger a school it was than my primary school in Whyalla. It was massive change for me," he said.

"Remarkably, the boys I was seated next to on my first days at Malvern remain some of my closest and dearest friends."

After graduating from the College, Janes completed a Bachelor of Economics at Monash University and the Securities Institute of Australia Diploma and since then has established himself in the banking and finance sector.

Starting out at the ANZ Bank, after two years he moved to Citibank where he spent 11 years, finally as a Vice President. This was followed by 17 years at JP Morgan Chase, initially as an Executive Director, and then four years as their Executive Director Global Commodities, based in the Singapore office.

Now based in Sydney, Janes has been the Director, Corporate Sales for the Westpac Institutional Bank for the last five years, where he works with major corporate customers in Australia and Asia across resources, infrastructure and utilities managing their financial risk.



*Chris Janes with his family*

"In my current role I am responsible for advising and executing bond issuance and financial derivatives associated with these transactions as well as hedging currency and commodity risk around client revenues," he said. "This role has enabled me to work with both international investment banks in Australia and Asia and now with Westpac in my current role."

Janes says he most enjoys working with clients in the mining sector. "Over the years I would have to say I get most passionate about my time working with miners in the gold and metals sectors."

With the banking and finance sector now being subject to greater regulation, Janes says this has impacted the business. "The heightened regulatory and compliance regime, that now exists within the banking sector, has made our work more challenging."

"Whilst some of this was warranted, the industry will find it very difficult moving forward with the heightened costs involved and its inability to

assist clients due to some of the regulations that are now in place. You might say any of the fun that might have existed has gone."

A typical day for Janes, who has lives in Sydney with his wife Vanessa and his two children Tom, 14 and Maya 11, starts at 7.30 am. "I'm at my desk early seeing how the markets have fared overnight," he said. "Sometimes I work throughout the night to complete a transaction with pricing in the European or North American time zones."

To escape the hurly burly of the finance world, Janes finds his escape on the water. "I love getting out on Sydney Harbour either sailing or more recently kayaking early in the morning whilst the water is pristine. I know how to turn off once I leave work as family more important than work."

"With the exception of four years in Singapore, Sydney has been home for almost to 30 years," he said. "Having renovated a large house some years ago I also get to enjoy my garden and looking after it has become a bit of an interest."

"While life is busy with a 14 and 11 year old, I still make time to enjoy a game of tennis and snow skiing when I can."

"I still have a strong sense of connection with the College and this year my nephew, Sam McNidder, is doing Year 12. My brothers Damien (1979), Timothy (1988) and Simon (1992) are fellow Old Collegians."

Recently Janes flew down for his Class of 1980 reunion in Melbourne. "Seeing the old boys did bring back some very fond memories of the Year 9 Gold days and we all agreed to try and catch up more often."

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2021*

# 1980

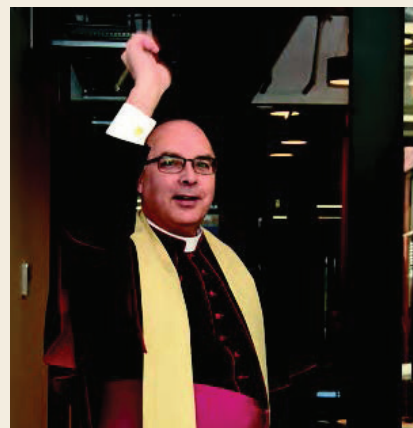
## MONSIGNOR STUART HALL

Monsignor Stuart Hall (1980) is currently the Parish priest at Holy Eucharist and St Mary's in East Malvern. Formerly the Principal Chaplain of the Navy, he was ordained in 1987 and ministered in parishes within the Melbourne Archdiocese.

He began his naval career as a Reserve Chaplain in 1991 and joined the Permanent Navy in 1994. He has had both seagoing and shore-based postings covering both operational and training chaplaincy positions. He was attached as Chaplain to 1JSU (1999) and to Australian Headquarters East Timor (2002), as well as deploying in HMAS ANZAC to the Persian Gulf (2001).

He has been the Command Chaplain for Maritime Command, Navy System Command and Director Chaplaincy Policy and Development.

In 2011 he was appointed as a Prelate of Honour by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI.



# 1981

## LEWIS MARTIN

In his role as the Managing Director of Seven Melbourne and Head of Network Sport, Lewis Martin (1981) understands the value of relationships and the importance of keeping them. With responsibility for more than 250 staff and a career at Seven which has lasted 26 years, let's say he knows a thing or two about playing the long game.

Martin got his break in the media doing surf reports from the 3XY and Bay FM Cruiser and after joining Channel Seven as a sales executive in 1994, eventually worked his way up the ladder to his appointment to the role as Managing Director at Seven in Melbourne 2008.

He admits that academic life at the College took a back seat to cricket and the Kildara girls but that didn't detract from his success.

As well as leading Seven through a decade of remarkable growth, Martin also supports several charities. He is a Board member of the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal, Visit Victoria, and the Cure for MND Foundation and a Director of the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation and Racing.com, as well as an advisor to several Melbourne based not-for-profit organisations.

Martin also plays the long game when it comes to maintaining his personal relationships and since graduating from the College, he has maintained close ties with a group of Old Collegians from the Class of 1981.

"Several times a year for more than 30 years I have had dinner with the

same 13 blokes from the Class of 1981. The group most of whom hail from Glen Waverley and include a couple of 'Johnny-come-latelies, who arrived at the College in Year 11 from St James, plus a couple of add-ons."

"Over the years we've enjoyed and endured sharing the ups and downs of life, grief, marriage, kids, divorce, success and failure, and of course a few beers."

Every year, Martin and the group embark on a trip known as the Daniel Lagastes Memorial Cup, in honour of Daniel Lagastes (2010), who passed away suddenly in 2006, while he was in Year 8 at the College. Daniel's father Marty is also one of the group.

"A joy of the annual Daniel Lagastes Memorial Cup is the selection process of the destination, the seedy silent lobbying and then the parliamentary-like debate of where we will go is not for the faint hearted!"

"Over the years we've enjoyed many trips away and each trip is a special chapter with its own stories, which, like tattoos are there for life, some recalled with discomfort, some with misty-eyed recollection and most recalled way to often with tears of unbridled laughter."





The group has also had its setbacks and in 2001 they lost one of their treasured members. “We lost ‘Kingo’ which was a blow.” John Kingston (1981) was a rising star in the Department of Public Prosecutions when he died after complications from a heart-lung transplant in 2001.

“He made us proud with his remarkable intellect and achievements as a prosecutor, he would also sometimes drive us mad with his rebellious nature and we miss him.”

Martin admits that things haven’t changed much since the group left the College. “We haven’t progressed far from the school yard, The Armadale Hotel, The Orrong, The Nott, The Mansion, or The Bush Inn.”

The relationships with this group are so important. “Sometimes they annoy me, sometimes I don’t like

them, most of time they make me laugh and I always love them.”

Martin also remains passionately involved with the Lyndavale Cattle station NT, where he lived and worked for a year in 1983 and is proud of his Licensed Road Train operator’s licence, which is current.

Martin is not one to ‘pump up his own tyres’. When I ask him if I can have a copy of his Curriculum Vitae, he says. “I don’t have one.” Needless to say, he does have one, and it is extensive. While he didn’t choose the university path he has learned from experience. “I continue to work towards my degree at the University of life,” he said.

Martin’s achievements are considerable. During his time at the helm, Seven has held the top spot as Melbourne’s No.1 Television station for nine years in a row, the most successful era in Seven Melbourne’s history.

He has driven new broadcasting right’s deals with the AFL and Tennis Australia and taken a lead role in setting up the new partnership between the Network and the AFL and AFLW. His contribution in steering the creation and execution of Fight MND ‘Freeze at the G’ has seen the charity raise \$5 million a year for motor neuron disease.

In 2017, Martin told Peter Jones in an interview on *White with One* that he admired people who are high achievers in their field but who do it in their own low-key style – some might say they are the quiet achievers. Martin would be right at home in their company.

Martin agrees he has met some amazing people throughout his career, and he puts people at the top of his career highs. “My career highlights are the people I have the good fortune to work with, everything else is a distant second.”

When he is not working, Martin enjoys time with family and friends, supporting the Magpies and long boarding. Martin lives in Melbourne’s Bayside with his wife, Kellie and children, Joey 18 and Eleanor 16.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call September 2020*

# 1981

## DAN CASALAZ

As the Clinical Director of Paediatrics at The Mercy Hospital for Women, Dan Casalaz (1981) loves working with families and babies, and with 6,000 babies born each year at the Mercy, he gets a lot of practice.

Not surprisingly, his job is all consuming, looking after the clinical and administrative demands of a major hospital, collaborating with other major neonatal hospitals, as well as teaching and research responsibilities, but at the end of the day, Casalaz will tell you, his passion lies with caring for the babies and their families.

Care is the word that springs to mind when describing Casalaz and his work, he is one of those people who immediately puts you at ease with his softly spoken, compassionate approach. When he talks about his work, he does so from a place of genuine compassion.

“I am very privileged to be involved with families during such pivotal, and often incredibly stressful, times of their lives,” he said.

“We deal with many sick and extremely premature babies in our nursery and it can be a very hectic place at times, but we also provide care for “routine” newborn problems on our postnatal wards.”

“We also run extensive follow up programs and outpatient clinics that cater for our nursery “graduates” as well as the local paediatric population. My clinical work



involves ward rounds to look at each baby and plan the management. It also involves talking with parents about their babies regarding progress and plans and any concerns that might be present.”

“We work as a team – medical, nursing, and other staff – and it is an incredibly supportive environment for the families, as well as staff. This is especially important in what can be very emotionally charged situations.”

“We are unique at the Mercy in that we are the only neonatal hospital in Australia and New Zealand that have at least one Senior Neonatologist in the hospital at all times. This is great for the babies and families but means that I do a night in-hospital at least weekly and work weekends regularly.”

“Clinical work is 24 hours a day, seven days a week – babies don’t stick with appointment times – and we all take part in after hours care.”

With a 60 bed neonatal special and intensive care unit, the Mercy cares for nearly 6,000 babies born a year and the constant challenges with the workload, stress on staff and

the provision of ever more complex care – often made more stressful with issues around funding and resources.

“We now deal with much smaller and more premature babies than when I commenced my training in neonatal medicine. It is not uncommon to have babies born at 23 and 24 weeks’ gestation.”

“We can save many more small babies and the challenge is to ensure that they have the best outcomes possible. It can be incredibly rewarding, and incredibly sad at times. The staff are amazing though and really have the best interests of the babies and the families at heart and go beyond regularly.”

As well as his clinical and administrative duties, Casalaz is also involved in teaching and training of medical and nursing staff and medical students as well as keeping up with his own research.

“Leading a wonderful team of people in my department is probably the main highlight of my career and I’ve been fortunate to have found a home at the Mercy Hospital for Women.

My aim is to ensure that we continue to provide the best care for babies and their families. When I step down from being Director, the place will be better than when I started and we'll be in a position to continue to be the safest and best place to have a baby in Australia."

To achieve all this, it is not surprising that Casalaz's day starts early. "My day starts early and after feeding cats, the dog and get the 16 year old off to school, I head to work and take part in the morning handover round where we discuss the babies in the intensive care nursery."

Along the way he has managed to complete a Master of Public Health – majoring in Biostatistics and Epidemiology – from the University of Melbourne and is currently halfway through a further degree in Paediatric Infectious Diseases through the University of Oxford.

Casalaz commenced his medical studies at The University of Melbourne and after his internship headed to the UK to study paediatrics in Oxford and Bristol, before returning to Melbourne in 1991 to complete his initial paediatric training and exams at the Royal Children's Hospital.

Four years later he returned to the UK for further training in Neonatal Paediatrics and attained a Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, and Membership of the UK Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and took up a Senior Neonatal Consultant post in Bristol.

"In 1997, I returned to Melbourne (the desire to come home and see the Saints play was too great) and took up the role of Senior Specialist Neonatologist at the Mercy, where I have become part of the furniture."



This is his eighth year as Clinical Director of Paediatrics. Somewhere in all that Casalaz finds time to exercise and catch up on the day's events with his wife Cath and children.

"My wife is a wonderful and talented GP, whom I met in India in 1986 when working at a hospital in Mysore. She's English and we have four children – three boys and a girl. All of them very much enjoy supporting the Aussies whenever they play against the Poms!"

"My family and sport fill my time outside of work and I love being involved in junior sport. I have been the coach of my children's basketball teams over many years – it gives me a chance to shout at them!"

"I've also been coach and trainer for their football teams and love being out on the field rather than spectating from behind the fence."

Casalaz got his love of sport while at De La Salle College. "I played ACC football and cricket and with the DLSOCAFC junior teams. I also managed one game of hockey when there was a bye in the footy – we lost 14 to one, but I managed to score our goal."

The College taught me how to get along with diverse kinds of people. We had students from diverse backgrounds and situations, and I learned to accept everyone on face value and not be distracted by preconceptions. It made me realise the importance of diversity and the benefits that differences in perspectives and actions can bring."

"The College also taught me that you can go a long way by having a friendly attitude and being kind and respectful, but that sometimes you need to stick up for fairness and equity and try to make things better for all."

We can rest assured that newborns and their families are in safe hands.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call September 2021*

# 1981

## MARTIN HIRONS

Fresh out of university, Martin Hirons (1981) went for a job that would literally change the course of his professional and personal life.

The interview panel for a Promotions Officer at Basketball Victoria included legendary basketball player and coach Lindsay Gaze, who would become a mentor to Hirons, and Canadian basketballer and two-time Assistant Coach of the Australian Women's Basketball Team, Lori Chizik who married Hirons in 1990. Incidentally, Malcolm Speed (former CEO of Cricket Australia and the ICC) was the third panel member who would also become a client, mentor and golf friend over many years.

He got the job and working alongside Gaze, Hirons' journey to become one of Australia's leading sports strategists had begun.

"Lindsay Gaze gave me the first chance and his influence on me, and the industry as a whole can never be underestimated," Hirons said.

"It was the lead up to the 1988 Olympics and a great time to be starting out in basketball. It established my career in the sports industry."

Like his legendary mentors, Hirons is a mover and a shaker. The one-time Captain of the Kingston Heath Golf Club, Hirons was instrumental, in the background, setting up the Australian Masters that brought Adam Scott to town in 2012 - and the '2009 Tiger Woods Australian Masters', also at the Heath.



More recently, he was part of the successful bid team for the Western United's A-League licence, based out of Wyndham in Melbourne's West.

If Gaze gets credit for kick starting Hirons' career it was Chizik who provided the road map.

With an international sport's pedigree, the now head of basketball at Wesley College, it was Chizik who took Hirons to Canada, where he continued to consolidate his reputation as an innovator in the sports industry.



*Martin with his family*

"Working with a merchandiser with the Molson Indy car race in Vancouver and a property developer who owned a golf course - we started, from scratch, the Morningstar Classic, a golf tournament that was part of the Canadian Tour."

For several years, the couple moved between Canada and Australia during which time Hirons also lectured at the Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, the University of Victoria in British Columbia and Monash University in Melbourne.

In 1995, the family which now included two children, returned to Australia and Hirons took up a role at the Sweeney Research Group and over the next three years, he established a new division of the business called Sweeney Sports, which focussed on sports brands, leagues, sponsors, teams and consumer data connected with the sector.

Eventually becoming a partner, Hirons stayed at Sweeney's until late 2007, when he moved to a boutique advisory firm, Sport Business Partners, where he has been the Managing Director since 2012.



*L-R: Rob Gyngall, President of Kingston Heath, Adam Scott after this 2012 Masters win and Martin Hiron*

The firm works in the private, government and the not-for-profit sectors specialising in strategy, market research, consulting and business improvement work.

“We have a young team and are committed to employing young Australians interested in making a difference and working hard,” he said.

Even as a student, Hiron was aware of the need to give back, to contribute to his community and early in his career he started volunteering as the Sponsorship Manager for a WNBL Team, the Nunawading Spectres.

He further explored volunteering roles while at Sweeney’s and became heavily involved in working with an Indigenous based organisation called ARMTour (Athlete’s as Role Models) now

known as Red Dust Role Models. Instrumental in the not-for-profit’s formation, Hiron who has been the Chair of the organisation since 2006, is passionate about improving the health and lifestyle outcomes of young Indigenous Australians – particularly those in remote Northern Australia.

“Red Dust Role Models is a ‘community-as-family’ model of health programming which supports community leaders and elders to create a stronger future for Indigenous youth and their families. Drawing on the strengths of all worlds that surround young people we deliver high impact cultural, sport, music and art-based programs that inspire youth to identify and pursue their dreams.”

As well as his current role at Red Dust, Hiron is also the Chair of

the State Baseball and Softball Centre in Altona and previously held positions as a Councillor of the Women’s National Basketball League and a Board Member of the Stanley Park Zoological Society in Vancouver.

“De La Salle gave me a sense of community, a sense to give back and to make this country better than it has been,” Hiron said.

“As life has gone on, the impact that Lindsay Gaze has had on my life grows in significance.”

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2020*

# 1981

## PAUL LEMIN

As a young graduate of De La Salle College, Paul Lemin (1981) was a passionate photographer who went on to study photography and art. Fast forward 20 years, Lemin sometimes finds himself still working in dark confined spaces but having left the dark room behind him he has taken to the high seas for a career as a marine engineer.

Art school didn't pan out the way he expected, and a change of career led Lemin to the Royal Australian Navy where he initially trained as a Naval Shipwright.

Still yearning to learn, he returned to study and in 2014 graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Marine engineering) from the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania.

23 years in the Navy took him on numerous missions and he rose to the rank of Chief Petty Officer, while stationed on HMAS' Nirimba, Cerberus, Arunta and Anzac.

Lemin enjoyed his time in the Navy and recalls a career highlight was a four month exchange with the Royal Navy in the UK in 2006 where he was based in Plymouth at the Naval Dockyard. "I travelled extensively throughout the UK and also served on two Royal Navy ships the HMS Ocean and HMS Monmouth with visits to France, Portugal, and Gibraltar," he said.

After the Navy, Lemin joined the West Australian Department of Transport as marine surveyor in its commercial vessel section. "This role took me all over the west coast inspecting sea vessels."

He subsequently joined the private defence and security company, BAE Systems at its Rockingham operation in WA and in 2016 took up his current role as a marine engineer with the Federal Government working as a sea going marine engineer on patrol boats and larger offshore vessels.

These days his work varies. "A typical day at sea begins with rounds of all the machinery spaces and a look at the log from the previous night to look for any reported issues or developing trends. I go through the planned



maintenance routines and sort out your day's events as well as standby for any sudden dilemmas, you never know what may happen and when it does it usually happens at 2 o'clock in the morning."

Lemin is grateful to the College for the values instilled in him as a young man; things like honesty, integrity and respect for others. "I continue to still apply these values every day."

Lemin lives in Madora Bay, WA with his wife Lisa and his two children, Gemma and Jackson.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2017*

# 1982

## JEFF AND MICHAEL GLEESON

Brothers Jeff (1982) and Michael Gleeson (1986) graduated from the College four years apart. Both completed their studies at The University of Melbourne, one in arts and the other law, before embarking on their individual careers.

Jeff, a Barrister is the Legal Counsel for the AFL Tribunal and Michael an award-winning sportswriter with *The Age*.

They have managed to negotiate a professional relationship outside the bonds of brotherhood.

As the Legal Counsel for the AFL at the Tribunal, a role he has held for the last eight years, Jeff presents the case to the AFL Tribunal against players who have been reported.

"Some of the more memorable cases have included the Barry Hall case, where he copped a heavy suspension for nearly knocking Brent Staker's head into the third row of the grandstand, the Buddy Franklin/Ben Cousins collision and the Jack Viney hearing and appeal from the incident where he jumped in front of a marauding pack and the pack came off second best."

Jeff appeared on behalf of the AFL in several other matters, including the

Kurt Tippett 'draft dodging' case, the Melbourne 'tanking' case and drug related matters, including the Essendon saga.

Meanwhile as sports journalist with *The Age*, Michael could potentially find himself having to report on matters before the AFL Tribunal. Michael says his professional relationship with his brother must be delicately navigated. It means that on those issues in which Jeff has a role, he does not cover. "We don't exchange information, but the assumption would be if I were to write on a topic he was involved in, that we had done so. Obviously that has meant that in large part I had to stay out of the Essendon drugs story, the Adelaide Kurt tippet case and Melbourne tanking"

Jeff jokingly adds that the only time the talk football is when he needs to give his little brother advice on the game. "For a football writer, he understands little about the game."

The two brothers grew up in East Burwood with their parents and sister, Debbie. Jeff graduated Dux of his year in Year 12. He was admitted to The Bar in 1992 and appointed as Senior Counsel in 2007. He practises extensively in the Supreme Court of Victoria, and the Federal Court of Australia and appears in the High Court.

Michael studied arts and landed a job in the media after a conversation with a sub editor in a pub. Now a celebrated sportswriter he has published two books, won two Cricket Victoria writer of the year awards and in 2014 won the The Grant Hattam Award for his insightful feature on football and religion.

At the College, the Gleeson brothers shared the same interests, cricket and football. Both dabbled in the game, neither of them spectacularly. Michael played drums and loved Bruce Springsteen while Jeff was more of a 'new romantics' kind of guy. "My passion for Bruce became a little all-consuming and created a tension at home as Jeff was into new romantic music, the fashion stylings of Duran Duran and synthesized rock of Flock of Seagulls. Jeff still enjoys singing 'Take on Me' in the car," Michael said.

The two have very fond memories of their times at the College and share a strong admiration for former English teacher and Year 12 Coordinator, Barry Dyball, who sadly passed away in 1995. "Everybody loved Barry, he was gently inspirational. I remember being frequently a little spell-bound by his meandering monologue about a novel or a poem," Jeff said.

Since De La Salle, the two brothers have carved out successful careers for themselves in the media and the law. Their work takes them around the world. Jeff was appointed as an arbitrator in international



Michael and Jeff

arbitrations and has ruled over matters in London and Abu Dhabi. He also completed his post articles in London with Theodore Goddard. He has also been an Independent Commissioner enquiring into Sexual Abuse in the Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese, and the Chairman of the Insurance Committee of the Commercial Bar Association of the Victorian Bar.

Michael has covered the athletics for *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald* at the Moscow, London and Rio Olympics.

It is not surprising that the two have a long list of career highlights. Jeff says a highlight of his career is running trials in the Supreme Court and Federal Court and appeals to the Court of Appeal and High Court.

"The sports law has been interesting. The Essendon drugs saga had many different aspects to it and appearing on behalf of the AFL in the hearings of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Sydney last year was fascinating."

Similarly, Michael has had some amazing career highlights. "Sitting at dinner with Mohammad Ali in London was a particular highlight," he said.

Before moving into sport, Michael worked as a crime writer at the *Herald Sun* and during that time, he wrote a book on the Jaidyn Leskie murder, which he jokes was imaginatively titled *The Jaidyn Leskie Murder*. "I spent a month in

Moe when the boy went missing and it was the most bizarre and extraordinary period." His second book was *Cakewalk - The Story Inside Collingwood's 1990 Premiership*.

"Covering Sally Pearson win the 100 hurdles was great and watching David Rudisha win the 800m and break the world record still remains the best run I have seen – even better than Mo Farah's 5k 10k double. That said, seeing Usain Bolt beat Justin Gatlin a twice-banned drug cheat, for gold at the world championships in Moscow was amazing," Michael said.

The brothers agree that De La Salle has left many legacies, a good education, good mates, and a keen sense of social justice. "De La Salle always had a strong social justice focus, which was for me over and above the academic results was the school's most redeeming feature," Michael said.

The brothers still have a close circle of mates from the College with whom they spend their holidays both here and overseas.

When Jeff and Michael are both in Melbourne, they find time to get together with their families including Michael's two boys, Joe and Rafferty and Jeffery's five children, Alex, Zoe, Tom, Meg and Zac.

By Kerry Martin

First published in Roll Call September 2016

# 1983

## MARK GEORGE

On 22 May 2008, Mark George (1983) reached the summit of Mt Everest, becoming the first De La Salle Old Collegian to stand on the top of the world.

“When we reached the summit of Mt Everest it was about 6:00 am. It was a beautiful sunny day and we had about an hour without oxygen on top of the mountain by ourselves—just taking it all in.”

Mark, and another member of the ten-strong Everest expedition, had spent the previous night at the camp below the summit known as South Col. In sub-freezing conditions at 7950 metres, they waited for the right conditions and time to start the summit attempt. “This altitude is known as the ‘death zone’ where survival without oxygen is hazardous and weather conditions can turn bad in just minutes,” Mark said.

“We started out the final ascent at 4:00 am in complete darkness. It took us two hours to climb 350 metres to the top. As the first rays of sun broke over the horizon, we reached the cross which marks the actual summit, and we knew we had finally achieved what we set out three years earlier to achieve.”

Earlier in 2005, Mark was part of an Everest expedition, which was aborted 350 metres below the summit when one of the climbers, Rob Milne, a good friend of Mark’s was killed. The death of his friend



took its toll on Mark and the 2008 expedition gave closure to the tragedy. “Words don’t do justice to the feelings I experienced on that morning in May when we stood on Everest. Part of me was overcome with happiness and relief but part of me was dealing with the memory of my friend Rob.”

“These emotions made it a very spiritual experience. I was suddenly aware of the sheer power of nature and the importance of the ones whom we love.”

“Climbing Everest makes you aware of your own mortality, at every moment. You need to be psychologically and physically prepared for death at any time. I have written farewell letters to my family twice in my life, once on the 2005 Everest expedition and again on the 2008 expedition. Losing Rob in 2005 made the danger involved

in climbing the world’s highest mountain even more palpable. If I gained anything from the Everest climb, it’s the importance of telling people how much you love them—not just in times of tragedy, but every day.”

When Mark came back from Everest in 2005, he had weeks of nightmares mixed with bitter disappointment.

“Second time around I had to overcome these psychological barriers to do it again.”

Conquering Everest was the final part in a goal Mark set himself in 1990—to climb the world’s seven highest peaks and reach both the North and South Poles. So far, he has knocked off all seven peaks and in 2004 he reached the North Pole. That leaves the South Pole to conquer which, he admits, is going



to take some serious negotiating with his wife, Nicole.

Climbing seven of the world's highest mountains and making it to both poles is not likely to be on the average person's "things to do" list. But Mark George does not strike me as the "average" person.

In preparation for Everest, Mark put himself through a gruelling training program, which included a 50 kilometre a day ride, 300 sit-ups and push-ups and 4-6 hours exercise wearing a fully laden backpack. "To prepare my body I would load up a backpack with telephone books and climb flights of stairs. The climb puts your body through incredible physical and mental pain and requires real endurance and determination."

But it's not only physical and mental fitness. Mark says it's especially important to be aware of one's body. "The difference between success and failure depends on how well you know your own physical and psychological limitations.

The moment you stop being aware of what your body is telling you, is the moment accidents happen."

While most of us would think that climbing Everest was about taking risks – Mark doesn't see it that way. "I believe success comes from meticulous planning and preparation, knowing what your body is capable of, and not taking unnecessary risks."

Despite the obvious calculated risks of tackling a climb like Everest, nothing could have prepared him for a fire which broke out in a tent at Camp Three on the way up. "I was trying to prise a butane bottle out of the ice when it pierced and caught alight." Luckily, no-one was hurt, but it showed how easily things can turn bad.

What makes Mark's Everest climb quite remarkable is that he fears



heights. He managed to overcome this fear with "self-speak," reciting a mantra to himself: "Focus on where your feet are supposed to be not where they shouldn't be."

Despite Mark's success he does not promote his remarkable achievements. A Google search for Mark George draws a blank. There is nothing about either of his Everest climbs or about conquering death defying peaks or successfully making it to the North Pole. For Mark, just the simple act of doing it is enough.

When he is not climbing mountains and traversing rivers, Mark runs his own financial planning business and lives with his wife and two children in Brighton.

When he left school, he thought he wanted to be a Physical Education teacher, following in the footsteps of his former teacher, Peter George (no relation). After he finished his VCE at De La Salle in 1983, he completed a teaching degree at Rusden College, but later changed his mind and went back to university to train as a financial planner.

"I had a good time at school, but I didn't focus very much on my academic studies. I spent a lot of time playing footy and did not appreciate the educational

opportunities at the time as much as I would now if I did it all over again.

When you are at school you don't appreciate it as much as you do after you have finished. I remember we didn't have the resources of the big private schools. but we did well."

His parents worked hard to give Mark educational opportunities. "Financially things were tough for my parents, and they struggled to give me an education with the Brothers." Something for which Mark is incredibly grateful for today.

He is still close to the friends he made at De La Salle and attends reunions for his Year Level. Mark loves football and is a keen Richmond supporter. He works closely with the Club and is involved in team motivation. He even has a photo of himself wearing a Richmond guernsey on the summit of Everest.

"Now we've made the top of Everest we just have to make it to the top of the ladder." he said. Somehow, I think Mark will get to the South Pole before we see Tigers win in the Grand Final.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2008*

# 1984

## ANTHONY BRESLIN

Anthony Breslin (1984) has been described as one of Australia's most original, unique, eclectic, and evocative artists. His artistic career has included production design for theatre, television, film, and music videos, as well as the creation of his own public theatrical installations and mesmerizing events.

His passion, however, is painting and this he has done with much success as the freshness and diversity of his works have seen him achieve a cult-like status with sell-out exhibitions around Australia and shows in Europe, the UK and Asia. The global retailer, IKEA, even sells one of Breslin's designs on its decorative wall-art posters.

Breslin's latest artistic endeavour *Trybe*, which enjoyed a sellout season at Chapel Off Chapel recently, was described by the critics as a "visceral experience—challenging the boundaries of dance, art, music and film." The production took place atop a huge canvas on stage which throughout the course of the evening was transformed by Breslin, as he leapt about with brushes and paint buckets, to create a huge canvas.

*Trybe* was driven by a different form of storytelling incorporating acting, dance, mime, live painting, projection, music, and multi-media. The show explored themes of cross cultural/ethnic unity, and environmental and social responsibility.



"My productions plots revolve around my belief in the beauty of human struggle, and my faith in spiritual/personal transcendence through this struggle."

"With my paintings I want to engage and seduce my audience physically so as they want to touch the work or at least to examine the surface closely through sheer curiosity."

Breslin's sell-out shows in Perth, the Gold Coast and the Melbourne and Sydney Art Fairs in recent years have earned him a cult-like following with many art lovers, from young children to serious art collectors.

His next exhibition opens in July in Western Australia. Breslin's fundamental passion is painting.

Here his innermost visions are colour saturated and object laden onto large canvases, resulting in bizarre fantasy world abstracts, whimsical bugs and commanding off beat heads.

Based in Carnegie in a former Uniting Church, minutes from where he grew up, Breslin has created an artistic sanctuary where artists and the public come together to engage in painting, drama, and soon to open a coffee shop called *Cafe Palette*.

In 2010, the top floor of the church was burnt out and since then Breslin has devoted his time to restoring the building to its original state complete with a gallery and all-purpose arts space.

Breslin said he was always good at drawing, and in Year 10 he was doing Year 12 work. "I loved Art and English and Mrs Slater, the Art teacher would let me work in the Art room during lunch time."

When he left De La Salle, he went on to study Fine Art at the then Huntingdale Technical College. Breslin is extremely interested in philosophy and believes all kids should learn about how they think. "Philosophy underpins everything that we do, and it makes kids question, and not accept everything."

"Ethics is something that we should think of. The inner world versus the outer world."

In his late 20s, Breslin discovered Buddhism and these days he takes his four year old son to Dharma classes. His gallery reflects his spiritual aesthetic. In between Breslin's canvases the walls are adorned with religious icons from many ancient religions.

It is fitting that he has ended up working in a church. "I like churches. They have an inner peace about them and must be appreciated on a spiritual level and an aesthetic level."

His fascination with tribal imagery was ignited when he was incredibly young when he won a five star trip to Africa.

"It was an incredibly significant point in my life. My brother had just died, and Africa really resonated for me."

"These days tribal symbols such as jewellery and tattoos have been

taken out of context by those who wear them. We wear them, but they don't mean anything to us."

At the end of the year, he will travel to Papua New Guinea to spend time with the tribal communities in the Highlands. He will travel with a film crew which will be making a documentary about his work.

The gallery does have a certain spiritual serenity about it. When I arrived, the door was open, and I felt welcome. This is certainly Anthony's intention, and he hopes for the gallery to become a local hub. "I want to support local artists and open up my gallery to the community."

Breslin is an artist who is generous with his talents. He sponsors Yooralla and runs drama and art classes for its members.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2013*



*'Flurry' by Anthony Breslin (mixed media on canvas)*

# 1984

## VINCENT PELEGRINO

Vincent Pellegrino (1984) spent a lot of his time at the College with his head in books (when he wasn't listening to Bruce Springsteen). Now as the Head of ECMO services at The Alfred, part of the hospital's Intensive Care Unit, Pellegrino's academic efforts keep people alive. ECMO stands for Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation, a vital clinical component in treating heart failure.

Pellegrino has had a lead role in the development of ECMO services at The Alfred since 2003 and has provided ECMO training programs nationally and internationally.

After graduating from De La Salle College, Pellegrino completed his medical undergraduate studies, physician specialisation and intensive care medicine subspecialisation at Monash University in the 1990's and was awarded the Matt Spence Prize for research.

Now a Senior Intensive Care Specialist, he has worked in Intensive Care since joining The Alfred over 20 years ago. Pellegrino says every day is rewarding. "The wonder and challenge of critical illness is endlessly surprising and rewarding," he said. "I am privileged to work with a team that is resourced and motivated to support patients that are dependent on life support. I have learned that establishing relationships with patients and families is especially important. It is so important to provide patients and their families a 'human' and empathic relationship."

Teamwork is what it is all about in ICU. "I work with a large team of nurses, medical and allied staff to deliver care that makes a difference.



*Vincent with his wife, Monica*

One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is seeing our team get better every year."

He says patient outcomes are improving, and they are "seeing patients fully recover that would not have been as fortunate just a few years ago."

"Teaching others about intensive care is another part of my role and I am fortunate to be invited to teach and speak in outstanding institutions overseas. It is even better when I can take my family with me," he says. "Teaching has taken me all around the world and I have close relationships with medical teams in Europe, USA, Canada and Asia." Pellegrino is also a Senior Lecturer and Associate Professor in the Monash University School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine.

As an expert in his field, it is not surprising that Pellegrino has a formidable research profile which currently evolves around his ECMO work. "I'm solely concentrating on ECMO and other forms of short-term mechanical support of the heart and lungs. It is a really powerful therapy that allows recovery from the most parlous of states."

Despite the obvious pressures of Pellegrino's work, he loves what he does. "I couldn't think of anything else I would rather do."

When you look through Pellegrino's current commitments on top of his day job, one wonders how he finds time for anything else. As well as his research workload he holds several senior positions at The Alfred. He heads up Undergraduate Medical Student Teaching for ICU and is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for Applied Physiology, the Disaster Planning Group, and the Transplant Management Committee.

He admits he could not keep so many balls in the air without the support of his wife, Monica Rowland, a Speech Pathologist. "I have an amazing partner; she is the magic that keeps the family balanced. She sets up all the pins and allows me to come in and knock 'em over," he said.

Pellegrino and Monica have three children. "Lorna the oldest, is in her first year at Monash, Joseph wants to be a professional sportsman and Luca, well, he is just cool."

Pellegrino first discovered the importance of relationships while he was still a student at the College. "De La Salle taught me that people matter. Relationships are real and important. I received a great deal of support as a student from friends and I was able to realise that I was unique and special in my own way. Without this confidence I doubt I would have got very far."

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2018*

# 1985

## TIM STINEAR

Professor Tim Stinear (1985) was recently awarded a full Professorship at the University of Melbourne in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Professor Stinear started his academic career as a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the Institute Pasteur in 2001. He returned to Australia to Monash University in 2004 as a NHMRC Howard Florey Centenary Research Fellow, followed by an appointment as a NHMRC R. Douglas Wright Research Fellow before joining the faculty of University of Melbourne as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology in 2009. He was promoted to the position of Associate Professor in 2012. In 2011 he was awarded an NHMRC Senior Research Fellowship, an award that was renewed in 2015.

After graduating from De La Salle, Professor Stinear completed a BSc (Hons) Microbiology, Monash University and a PhD Microbiology, Monash University.

Professor Stinear is at the forefront of using genomics to explore bacterial pathogenesis and antibiotic resistance. He decoded the extraordinary genetics of an unusual lipid toxin made by the human bacterial pathogen, *Mycobacterium ulcerans*.

His genomic research helped change the paradigm on the origins of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the



causative agent of human TB. He has spearheaded application of latest technological advances in DNA sequencing to understand the emergence of antibiotic resistance in hospital pathogens *Staphylococcus aureus* and Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE).

He has made several important discoveries including the mechanisms by which *S. aureus* develops resistance to last line antibiotics and a previously unrecognised pathway by which VRE arise. These studies have major impacts for shaping new strategies to stop the rising spread of these and other antimicrobial resistant superbugs.

Professor Stinear has received a number of awards recognising his contribution to immunology including Dean's Award for Research Excellence, Faculty of Medicine, Monash University (2005), CSL award, outstanding PhD student (2000) and the Professor Ed Westaway award, for outstanding Honours student (1995).

Professor Stinear is also a member of both the Australian and American Societies for Microbiology.

Professor Stinear has published over 108 primary papers, book chapters and review articles at an average of forty five citations per paper. Several of the primary publications were published in generalist journals including *Nature Genetics*, *Cell*, *Genome Research*, *The Lancet*, *PNAS*, *PLOS Pathogens*, *Clinical Microbiology Reviews* and *Nature Reviews Microbiology*. The publications have a total of over 4,568 citations.

In 2015, Stinear was awarded a \$1.5 million research grant to study mosquitoes in areas around Victoria where Buruli ulcers have been reported.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2018*

# 1985

## ANTHONY REA

In 2020 Anthony Rea (1985) started his new role as the Director of Infrastructure for the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). Based in Geneva, Switzerland, the WMO is a specialised agency of the United Nations, charged with international cooperation and coordination of the state and behaviour of the earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the land and oceans, the weather and climate it produces, and the resulting distribution of water resources. Rea's new role will be to manage the collection and sharing of weather and climate data from around the world.

### **What were your passions and extra-curricular interests at De La Salle?**

As a student I was a bit of a nerd. I played Dungeons and Dragons and wrote programs on my Tandy TRS-80. By Year 10, I'd discovered music and started buying 7-inch vinyls. In Year 12, I saw Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band and that changed my life. It was my first concert and I was completely transfixed. I thought "I want to do that" and I started playing guitar straight away on this beat up old instrument I'd got from my aunt.

### **What pathways did you pursue after graduating from the College?**

In 1986, I enrolled in Cartography at RMIT but soon realised it wasn't for me, so I deferred for a year. I got a part time job as a storeman and bought an electric guitar. Life was simple and carefree. The following year I went back to RMIT after transferring to surveying. This was one of the best decisions of my life.



After graduation I was working casually for a small surveying firm in Brunswick when I got a call from the Careers Officer from RMIT that would change my life. A US oil exploration company based in Singapore were looking for surveyors. I didn't have a passport, had never been on a plane, but a month later I was on a plane to Singapore to take up a role on seismic exploration ships with Western Geophysical. The hours were long, two-month stints at sea, working 12 hour shifts and the experience was amazing. But after two years it was time to go home. Back in Melbourne I did two years of engineering surveying on a range of sites including the Kyneton bypass and the duplication of the Hume Highway at Holbrook.

I then got a job with Serco which managed the hydrographic contract with Melbourne Water. I worked in sewerage flow monitoring, dirty and dangerous work.

### **How did you get started at the Bureau of Meteorology?**

I'd been promoted to Data Manager at Serco but was still doing a lot of field work. It was around this time I

decided to go back to study. I had been reading books by Carl Sagan, specifically "Broca's Brain" and "The Dragons of Eden", books about the romance and nobility of science and this led me to approach RMIT to see if I could enrol in a research degree.

In 1998 I was accepted into a Master's Program which led to a PhD on satellite observations. My PhD supervisor, Prof John Le Marshall, (1963) got me some part-time work with the Bureau of Meteorology where he was working as a senior research scientist and in 2000, they offered me a full-time position in the Satellite Section.

The Bureau was an amazing place to work. During my 19 years there, I worked in satellites, observations and on the corporate side.

I managed the Bureau's extensive observations network of radars and automatic weather stations for several years and for the past two years was their Chief Data Officer.

### **What is your new role in Switzerland?**

My new role with the WMO is heading up the Infrastructure

Department which has responsibility for the global coordination of meteorological, climate and water observations and also the exchange of forecast and analysis data to assist member countries (basically every country) in delivering services to their people.

**What are some of the challenges facing meteorologists today?**

Like many occupations, technology is slowly replacing humans and the challenge for meteorologists nowadays is to interpret data and to work with decision makers to help them use the meteorological information in the best way.

Demand for more specialised and localised services by the public – for example the delivery of meteorological information via smart phone – is pushing many meteorological services to invest in phone apps and machine-to-machine interfaces to deal with the increasing loads.

Climate change is also driving an increase in severe weather events globally and this is placing pressure on meteorological services around the world.

**What have been your career highlights so far?**

Working for the Bureau provided so many opportunities. In 2011, I travelled by ship to Macquarie Island to conduct a health and safety inspection of its facilities there. An amazing experience.

Other highlights have been travelling by helicopter to an oil exploration ship early in my career, watching as the data from a meteorological satellite was decoded by software I had written, being called to Parliament House to respond to the criticisms of climate sceptics who seek to discredit the quality science undertaken at the Bureau.

One of the biggest things I have done was a strategic review of the Bureau’s observations program – all the weather radars, automatic weather stations and weather balloons – and implementing a major organisational change in response to the review’s recommendations.

**How do you balance a healthy mind and body with such a highly technical and demanding role?**

I still love music – it has been a constant thread throughout my life.

I have played in several different bands and continue to play when I can. My solo album, *Separation Street* is available on Spotify and Apple Music.

I also love sailing and am hoping to pursue this on the waters of Lake Geneva.

**What legacies have your days as a De La Salle student left you with?**

I had some great teachers at De La Salle who gave me a lot of encouragement, particularly in Maths and Science. My love of science continues to this day, and I am thankful for the solid grounding I got at De La Salle.

Check out Anthony Rea’s album at [anthonyreamusic.com](http://anthonyreamusic.com).

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2020*



# 1985

## PAUL JACKSON

Paul Jackson (1985) is an award-winning lighting designer and theatre maker who has worked all over the world creating seminal pieces in theatre, opera, dance and live events. In 2004, he was named as one of *The Bulletin's* Smart 100 and in 2007 he was awarded the Gilbert Spottiswood Churchill Fellowship. With several Green Room Awards and a Helpmann Award for lighting in 2012 to his credit, Paul Jackson is an expert in his craft.

Jackson was a natural student and especially loved studying literature. "I spent a great deal of time performing in and stage-managing College productions and was in the Catholic Schools Drama Festival, and the College revue *Yanginook*," he said.

"My Year 12 literature teacher, Kathy Schneider, was a substantial influence on me; she encouraged my love of reading and poetry and was articulate about the value of the arts and literature. She also helped direct and organise school theatre with the drama teacher, Jo Pappalardo. The late Barry Dyball was also a gifted teacher who was passionate about culture, language and art — his teaching had significant impact."

Jackson was also interested in sport and being tall, played basketball for the College as well as representing the College in public speaking.

After graduating in 1985 he started a Law degree at the University of Melbourne but found it wasn't for him. "I completed an Honours Degree in Literature and History.

After I had been designing for a while, I did Illumination Engineering at RMIT," he said. He is currently in discussions with Monash about doing a PhD in theatre studies.

Jackson started his theatrical career at St Martin's Youth Theatre where he did an internship. He then worked his way through fringe and independent theatre. "These days it is almost impossible to get into professional theatre without training at a college like VCA or NIDA. I am part of the last generation of theatre makers who could come through without a degree specifically in theatre or drama."

It can be quite difficult to make a career or even just a living in the performing arts, especially in Australia. "I'm fortunate enough to work constantly now. My years

are quite full of projects around Australia and New Zealand and tours to Europe or the UK. When I first started, and for a long time after, paid work and money were scarce, but that didn't seem important. I just wanted to make theatre and art."

Jackson's days are hectic. "I'm either in the rehearsal room or in the theatre in technical or dress rehearsals on stage — sometimes both, depending on how projects are developing. I travel a lot and am often running between multiple shows, so days are busy and diverse and there is no routine."

When he is not at the theatre, he reads scripts, is in meetings, or on his computer drawing. "I get to spend a lot of time talking about ideas, art and literature with people I admire and respect. I feel incredibly lucky."



Peter Houlihan with Paul Jackson



Jackson has worked on a variety of artistic endeavours. “I am quite proud of ‘K’, a version of Kafka’s *The Trial*, which was created in Melbourne and then was a key project in the Vienna and Seoul Festivals. *The Shadow King* is an indigenous imagining of *King Lear* which has just toured Australia and is heading to London in 2016. “It is one of my favourites.” He worked on *The Odyssey* in the 2005 Melbourne and Perth Festivals that he thought were extraordinarily successful. The production of Beckett’s *Happy Days* with Julie Forsyth is among his favourites.

He says more popular recent shows such as *Private Lives* and *The Speechmaker* at MTC were a great deal of fun, as was working on the recent Circus OZ show. Productions like Michael Kantor’s *The Three Penny Opera*, *Gypsy* with Caroline O’Connor, or Gale Edward’s *Chess* let him keep his taste for musical theatre satisfied.

Jackson attributes his success to three things, “passion, commitment and perseverance.” His background in history and literary studies is



unusual for a designer in theatre, so he can talk to directors and artists from a broader, or fuller perspective than simply the visual.

“De La Salle gave me an education that had breadth and depth and encouraged and supported all of my passions and interests. The teachers I revere taught me to be committed to values and ideas and to believe that there was more to life than ‘the material’.”

“More than anything though, the College left me with a strong need for, and belief in, community. That is why I ended up in the

theatre, which is so collaborative. The theatre is a strong community.”

In 2017 Jackson was inducted into the ACC Hall of Fame for his work in theatrical design.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2015*

Postscript: In 2019, Jackson was the Lighting Designer on *Solaris* in London’s West End



# 1985

## JASON DONOVAN

Jason ‘Jack’ Donovan (1985) is a celebrated actor and performer. His acting career was launched soon after he graduated from De La Salle College, in the role of Scott Robinson in the long running Australian soap opera *Neighbours*.

Donovan has also starred in numerous Australian dramas including *Skyways* and *I Can Jump Puddles* and won a Logie Award in 1990.

He starred in his first feature film, *Blood Oath* in that same year.

In 1988, he launched his singing career and has sold over 3 million records, and his debut album *Ten Good Reasons* was one of the highest-selling albums of 1989 with UK sales of over 1.5 million copies.

Since then, he has had four No. 1 singles in the UK. In more recent years, he has returned to acting for both television and the stage in London, including *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* and *Sweeney Todd*.

He is still working as a performer and a recording artist and recently starred in *Mary Poppins* and in numerous productions for the BBC.

# 1986

## ANDRE ZERGER

Andre Zerger's (1986) love of geography as a student at the College triggered a career in helping manage the environment. As the head of the Environmental Services team at the Bureau of Meteorology in Canberra, he and his team are responsible for developing the National Environmental Information Infrastructure to improve discovery, access and re-use of Australian environmental data.

Zerger works extensively with external stakeholders such as the CSIRO and the Department of the Environment and Energy to design and implement information systems to manage environmental data.

He is passionate about his work which combines his scientific and information technology skills. "It's a brilliant job that provides me the opportunity to work at the interface of science and operational system and data delivery, he said."

"Although I am firmly in a management role, I often can't help myself and love to still handle environment data, just to understand the flow and delivery a little better."

Zerger's inspiration to move into environmental science came whilst working at the University of California's Natural Reserve System. "It was the passion of my more senior colleagues in this area (ecologists, zoologists, hydrologists) that triggered a serious interest in postgraduate study in environmental science."



Zerger completed his studies in science at Monash and Melbourne universities and later completed his PhD in Flood Risk Modelling at ANU. He believes his career journey was an incremental path to science rather than calling.

Prior to taking up his role at the Bureau, Zerger also held academic and research positions at the University of Melbourne and the CSIRO. Despite his success, Zerger is circumspect about his contribution. "I never felt like I was a "great" scientist, which in the present academic climate I feel one needs to be to sustain a professionally and personally rewarding science career," he said.

"In this sense joining the Bureau of Meteorology has been perfect as it allows me to blend science with systems."

Zerger sees many challenges for Australia in managing its environment. "As a nation we do well at managing and dealing with our rapid onset environmental management challenges whether it be water security, natural hazards or air quality."

"I have concern for those slow onset, creeping crises that don't have the same visibility – climate change of course but also species decline, and soil health are prime examples."

"Ultimately however it's about the environment being considered as having the same consideration as society and economy in our national policy and decision making environments."

Zerger attributes his love of Geography to an inspiring Geography teacher. "I had a brilliant experience at De La Salle and many memorable events and teachers, especially Mr Esler my Geography teacher, who triggered my passion for the subject. De La Salle also provided me a sense of perspective and enjoyment of life – I felt the school always balanced that so well."

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2017*

Postscript: Since 2019, Andre has been the Director, Atlas of Living Australia at CSIRO in Canberra.

# 1986

## ANDREW RONCHI

When Andrew Ronchi (1986) was a student at the College he was passionate about sport and fitness. ACC basketball, athletics, lunch time basketball, footy or cricket and the occasional game of handball kept him busy. These days he has turned that passion into a successful career running a multi million dollar company with an A list of clients including the New York Giants, Manchester United and the English Cricket Board.

Ronchi's company, *dorsaVi*, which he founded in 2008 with his brother Dan (1990), has developed an innovative technology to monitor physical movement to improve spinal movement and reduce back pain and injury.

The *dorsaVi* technology uses wireless motion and muscle activity sensors, which when attached to the body give an instant and accurate assessment of movement, posture, and injury. The sensors can be worn for up to 24 hours so they can track the day's movement during work, exercise and even sleep.

The results are transmitted wirelessly to computer software to build an instant picture in real time of where posture and movement are incorrect and suggest how they can be improved, leading to improved patient care.

The technology, which works in a range of settings including elite sport, workplaces, and patient care, has taken two decades and millions of dollars to develop.

Ronchi first produced the idea to design a medical monitoring device to help diagnose and treat back pain in 1995. Five years later he had



completed a prototype and after patent approval, the first sensor was released in 2012. Two years later he and Dan set up *dorsaVi* to market and manufacture the sensors and the rest is history.

The company quickly established its credentials in Australia securing a strong client base including the AFL, the Hawthorn Football Club, and the North Queensland Cowboys as well as Crown Casino and the Snowy Hydro. The company was listed on the Australian Securities Exchange in December 2013, raising \$18 million through the sale of 41.25 million shares at 40 cents each. In 2016 it was awarded a Victorian Future Industries Manufacturing Grant.

The company now boasts a stable of professional sporting clubs in the USA including the New York Giants, the New England Patriots NFL team, and the Philadelphia Flyers Ice Hockey team. In the UK, Manchester United, Transport for London (TFL) the English Cricket Board and Heathrow Airport are just some of *dorsaVi*'s clients.

Since graduating from De La Salle, Ronchi has completed a Bachelor Applied Science (Physiotherapy), a PhD in Computer and Systems Engineering and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD).

He told *Roll Call* that De La Salle left him with some wonderful legacies.

"I have an absolute passion for the Blue and Gold and some wonderful memories of my years at De La Salle and playing for the Old Collegians Football Club. When I am at home, I often pop down to see the Old Colls' play and catch up with the guys from school and footy on a regular basis."

Ronchi is still based in Australia and lives in East Malvern close to where he went to school. "My wife, Tania, and my three boys, Jackson 18, Indiana 11 and Isaac 9 keep me grounded."

The three Ronchi brothers are remarkably close. Andrew's oldest brother Patrick (1985) is an Anaesthetist at the Western Hospital and other hospitals in the west of Melbourne and lives in Williamstown with his wife Felicity and their three children. While Dan, who lives in Mornington with his three children, has worked alongside his brother at *dorsaVi* since its inception.

Ronchi said that it was still great to work with his brother Dan even after 20 years. "His office is two down from mine and we still love the creative thought and pushing the boundaries to deliver interesting insights to our customers," Ronchi said.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2017*

# 1986

## JASON RICHARDSON

When the Olympics got underway in Rio de Janeiro last month, an Old Collegian was part of the team covering the Olympic stories for Australia. Former Stawell Gift winner and sports commentator, Jason Richardson (1986), was an integral part of Channel 7's Olympic media team as the studio anchor for 7TWO's coverage of the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

Richardson, who is well known to Australian sporting audiences through his on-air and screen roles for Channels 10, 9 and 7 and Foxtel's TVN as well as his radio presence on SEN. "It was an honour to be selected to be part of the Olympic coverage team and something I have worked hard for since joining the media," he said.

Before his career in sports media, Richardson was an accomplished athlete in his own right, winning three consecutive years at Stawell. In 1993 he won the Stawell Gift off a mark of 7.5 meters. The year before he won the 'novice' 100m and in 1994 he won the back markers 120m invitation – becoming one of only two athletes in the history of the Stawell Gift to win in three consecutive years. Two years later he won at the 200 meters at the 1996 British Professional Championships.

After graduating from De La Salle, Richardson studied at RMIT and Deakin and worked in marketing for an eyewear company before starting his own brands importing and retail business.



During his own successful sporting career, Richardson had several dealings with the media, and quickly developed a passion for it.

"My big break was probably a couple of appearances on Channel 10 'Sports Tonight' back at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, which started the ball rolling and opportunities developed from there, and somehow I have carved out a career in media since."

Jason admits there is no formula to being successful in the media. "There is no secret formula, just old fashion hard work and a whole lot of luck."

"The development of social media has allowed media presenters to be very accessible and we receive immediate feedback on every single word we say." While he thinks there are many benefits of being so accessible, he admits it does come with its disadvantages. "I would love to share some of the comments I get, but presume we have a G rating! It is brutal, but I've learned to develop a very thick skin and have a laugh with it."

"Covering the elite events are the highlights, so hosting the TV

coverage of the Melbourne Cup, Australian Open Tennis, and of course the Olympic Games are things that I will always cherish."

Richardson hosted the 2010, 2011 and 2012 Autumn & Spring Racing Carnivals in Sydney and Melbourne, featuring Caulfield Cup and WS Cox Plate meetings.

Richardson says as a young man he loved sport, friends, sport, socialising and more sport. He represented the College in athletics in both the long jump and sprint events and he was a member of the ACC football and cross-country teams throughout his time at De La Salle.

He is still very much part of the De La Salle community and regularly attends reunions and contributes to fund raising events.

"I have so many wonderful memories of De La Salle, and the biggest accolade I can attribute to the school and its community is that it gave me my seven best mates; thirty years on we are still best friends."

"Since school we have drifted off to various parts of the globe, yet always had an incredible strong



connection, and that is a wonderful testament to the culture that nurtured at my time at De La Salle.”

Married to 1998 Commonwealth Games 5000m gold medalist, Kate Anderson, who represented Australia at the 1996 Atlanta and 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, they have three daughters, Ruby, Milla and Cleo.

During the Olympics, Jason worked around the clock as the studio anchor for the 7TWO channel for live Olympic sports, covering all aspects and cheering on some Aussie gold medals. He said his release is being with his daughters at the end of a busy day.

“To wind down after a hectic day at work I enjoy cheering on my three daughters in their very busy lives.”

“De La Salle left me with some great legacies. “Mateship, good health, fairness and respect...all with a huge dose of fun!”

Later this year you can follow Jason on a range of sports programs on Channel 7 during the Spring Racing Carnival and the tennis coverage including the Australian Open and the Brisbane and Sydney Internationals, as well as his regular stints hosting Saturday Arvo Racing, Get On, Correct Weight and live racing on Channel 78. He also hosts Off to The Races with Kevin Bartlett on SEN radio.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call September 2016*

# 1986

## SIMON GRACE

Major Simon Grace (1986) graduated from Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1991. Today he is the Operations Officer at the Land Simulation Centre, Puckapunyal where he coordinates the training and implementation of simulation systems for use in military training.

While he was at the College, Simon studied Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry and was a passionate sportsman. He was a competitive weightlifter during his College days and went on to represent Australia at the 1987 World Junior Championships prior to joining the Army.

In his junior days he was coached by fellow Old Collegians Martin



*Major Simon Grace with Peter Houlihan*

Leach (1979) and Mark Dowse (1977). He is still actively involved in the weightlifting community and officiates at various weightlifting

competitions, notably the Melbourne Commonwealth Games.

He has seen active service in East Timor in 2000 and Afghanistan in 2012.



# 1987

## SURESH CHANDRA

Dr Suresh Chandra (1987) was the first Victorian-based dermatologist to be recognised by the American College of Mohs Surgeons (ACMS). Mohs surgery is microscopically controlled surgery used to treat common types of skin cancer.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery and finishing his dermatology training, Dr Chandra was admitted as a Fellow of the Australasian College of Dermatologists and has since used his expertise to train other dermatologists in the Mohs technique.

Dr Chandra established a Mohs Surgery training facility in Melbourne where he has helped many other dermatologists qualify in Mohs Surgery. While he treats all types of skin diseases, his expertise is skin cancer.

“Setting up Mohs Surgery training in Victoria was a career highlight for me,” Dr Chandra said.

“After completing my Mohs Training in 2003 at DESULA in Western Australia, which was an accredited Mohs centre, I became the first Victorian to be eligible to be a member of the American College of Mohs Surgery”

“I set up the first day hospital specifically dedicated to Mohs Surgery in Melbourne and have since trained dermatology trainees in all aspects of dermatology.” Dr Chandra was also a consultant at Monash Medical Centre.

“Since being accredited in Mohs Surgery I have trained four dermatologists in Mohs Surgery.” Dr Chandra’s practice in Bentleigh remains the only such training programme in Victoria.

Dr Chandra said that Australia needs more dermatologists. Running a busy practice and supporting new surgeons requires a lot of time but Dr Chandra manages to balance his professional commitments

with getting to spend time with his family.

“The major challenge is trying to see everyone in a timely manner, but evenings and weekends are for my family.”

“I love spending the time with my children William and Sophie and I try to get some exercise and catch up with friends.”

Reflecting on his days at the College, Dr Chandra said he really enjoyed his time as a student there. “De La Salle was a great school. I made lots of friends from all backgrounds. De La Salle had a very balanced approach to life and all the teachers were great.” At the College he loved soccer and chess.

Dr Chandra said the 1987 College Captain, Phil Brasher, really made an impact on him. “I still remember his speech at the end of the year was amazing. He was and still is a great leader.”

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2017*

# 1987

## JOHN WHITEHOUSE

John Whitehouse (1987) always knew that killing Orcs and Goblins would eventually pay off, and it has! As a senior lecturer in medieval history at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education he is teaching a whole new generation of history lovers.

Whitehouse graduated with Honours from the University of Melbourne and initially spent a period teaching in the Catholic school sector. “Early in my career, I thought I would like to specialise in curriculum, so I completed a Master of Educational Studies at Monash. Later, I completed a Master of Arts in Ancient History in Melbourne. As an early career academic, I received an Australian Postgraduate Award to support my PhD.”

Currently, as a lecturer in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, Whitehouse prepares future history teachers in the Master of Teaching program.

“I run subjects for both new and experienced teachers in the Master of Education. My engagement work includes advising education authorities, schools and teachers.”

Whitehouse says his career highlights include standing on the stage at the Sydney Opera House to receive a National Award for Teaching Excellence. He has also won the Barbara Falk Award from Melbourne University and received a Fellowship in the Australian College of Educators leadership in ‘pre-service education, research, professional learning and curriculum development work.’ “Most importantly, I’m proud that I have produced over 1000 fine history teachers.”

Whitehouse believes it is vital that he stays connected to contemporary classroom practice, so from time to time, he returns to the classroom to keep up to date.

As a subject matter expert, Whitehouse wrote the VCE Classical Studies and Ancient History Study Designs and acted as an advisor to the VCAA, QCAA and ACARA. “This type of work is not easy as there are many stakeholders involved. Educational research should be

presented in ways that directly support learning and teaching, so I devote time to conference presentations, subject networks and publishing.”

When he is not working, Whitehouse keeps a work life balance spending time with his wife Barbara and four girls: Ciara (9), Alannah (7), Clare (5) and Sarah (2).

Whitehouse says that De La Salle left him with a passion for learning. “Br Mark Murphy, our wonderful Physics teacher, once mentioned his regret at not having had time to complete a degree in history — he already held degrees in theology and science. This resonated with me. A love of learning should infuse the relationships that teachers build with students. This creates new worlds of possibility for the students in our care.”

“The Lasallian principle of faith in the presence of God challenges us to see the world anew. We should also remember the words of St John Baptist de La Salle: ‘God has chosen you to do his work’. See what needs to be done and do it.”

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2018*





# 1987

## NICK HARRINGTON

Nick Harrington (1987) is impeccably dressed in the usual garb of a barrister – pin-striped suit, starched shirt, and tie. His suit is from a hip boutique in London and that tie – it's so green it's almost luminous. This is a young man who knows how to make an entrance, a skill not entirely wasted on a barrister.

I soon realise however that there is more to Nick than a smart sirt and a bright tie. He is a lawyer with passion. Wherever issues of fundamental liberty or social injustice are concerned, Nick is involved. His clients include the disaffected, the “little guys who suffer at the hands of iniustice” He offers his time pro bono to the under- re-sourced, including

the Bali 9, the Aboriginal Justice Agency, and Job Watch, He writes plays about death row inmates and deplores hypocrisy and closed minds. One thing is for sure, Nick Harrington has a fire in his belly.

Growing up in Malvern, Nick started school in Year 4 at De La Salle in 1979 and completed Year 12 in 1987. After graduating from the University of Melbourne with Honours in Law in 1993, he completed his Articles at Dunhill, Madden, Butler and was admitted to the Bar in 1999. He now lives in South Yarra with his wife Mia and their sons Jasper 5 and Jude 3.

As Nick told *Roll Call*, on a recent visit back to his old school, his life so far has taken many detours from his cozy existence in Melbourne's leafy eastern suburbs. While the plot does not read so out of the ordinary—school, university, career, marriage, fatherhood, it is the twists and turns which make his story anything but dull. The gloomy surrounds or Death Row in

Louisiana and the London stage are part of a story which covers vast distances and diverging interests.

Nick confesses he was a bit of a loudmouth" at school. Always outspoken and not afraid to argue the point with his teachers. He admits he was not the "perfect student" but one with an enquiring

“From about Year 8 the blood started to boil a bit and I became quite outspoken and was much more confident at articulating my views.”

For as long as he can remember, he has always cared about social justice and wanted to understand other cultures. “I have always had an overarching sense of social justice. At school I remember thinking that some things in the world were unjust. Even at school I knew I was opposed to the death penalty. I was also motivated by social justice at university too.”

After graduating from university, Nick visited the United States and became interested in a group called Reprieve, an international lobby group campaigning against capital punishment. When he returned to Australia, he established the group's Australian chapter and after six years as the group's President was recently made an Honorary Member.

Long before Nick discovered his passion for law, he discovered his passion for theatre and was involved in amateur theatre from an early age.

“From Year 4, I was involved in the school drama productions or Reviews as they were called in those days. That was the seed of my interest in theatre,” Nick said

After De La Salle, he formed Theatre Tarquin, which has staged successful productions here and overseas. Tarquin has tackled tough issues, which Nick sees as an effective vehicle to promote his opposition to capital punishment.



Nick's first theatrical venture *This is a True Story*, was co-written with Tim Wright, now the Artistic Director of the Sydney Theatre Company. The play enjoyed outstanding success in the United Kingdom.

A subsequent production, *Lorilei*, directed by Harrington, opened at La Mama in 2004. *Lorilei* received international acclaim and won the 2007 BBC Sony Radio Academy Award for best radio drama. *Lorilei* was based on the story of Ricky Langley, who, when Nick met him, was languishing in a Louisiana Prison, awaiting execution.

His opposition to capital punishment made it inevitable that Nick would cross paths with people like Langley. As Nick explained, Langley was tried and sentenced to death for the murder of a six year old, Jeremy Guillory. The dead boy's mother, Lorilei, after whom the play is named, on hearing the story of Langley's tragic upbringing became his strongest supporter and campaigned and eventually managed to have his death sentence commuted to life in prison.

Meeting Langley obviously had a profound effect on Nick as he talks about him with rawness and empathy.

"I met Ricky Langley on death row in 1998. Even though his sentence has now been commuted to life, at that stage he was looking down the barrel, and the experience of being with him was extraordinary. There is so much emotional architecture on death row. During our talk, he was in chains. Sitting face to face with him it all gets stripped away and you know he is a human being. Nick is currently adapting *Lorilei* for radio and it will air on the BBC in July. He also hopes to take the play to America where he believes it will have a substantial impact.

Still not yet 40, Nick juggles 70-hour weeks and fatherhood. But he has never been afraid of hard work. "Even though I might have mucked around a bit at school I always worked hard, spending 3-4 hours a night doing homework."

"I am deeply indebted to De La Salle for a lot of things. And the older I get the more I reflect upon it. My Year 4 teacher (Ms Mary Finn)

opened my eyes and let me discover myself."

Both Nick's younger brothers, Anton (1993) and Luke (1990), went to De La Salle. Luke held the ACC 100 metres record for six years in a row.

Nick's advice to De La Salle students of the graduating class of 2008 is to work hard, keep an open mind and know yourself. He admits the last is the hardest.

*By Kerry Martin*  
*First published in Roll Call May 2008*

Postscript: Nick Harrington appears regularly in the Federal Courts and in the Fair Work Commission and VCAT. He also has experience in federal judicial review litigation.

Most recently, he appeared in the Hird vs ASADA proceeding in the Federal Court. Nick has consulted to some of Australia's largest companies providing occupational health and safety training services. Nick was a founding member and inaugural president (2001 - 2007) of Reprieve Australia.

# 1987

## DAMIAN BROWN

Damian Brown (1987) has competed in the Olympics on three occasions. In 2012 he made a fourth appearance at the London Olympics, but as a commentator for Fox Sports, not a competitor. His previous appearances at the Olympic and Commonwealth Games have won him a clutch of medals for weightlifting.

He is Australia's representative in the 77 kg class and is also a world record holder, holding the record for the greatest number of consecutive World Championship appearances at 11.

While his best lifts put him outside the top 15 in the world, at Commonwealth Games level Brown has enjoyed considerable success. The Kuala Lumpur Games saw him win two Gold and one Bronze. Four years earlier in Victoria British Columbia, he won the full set: Gold, Silver and Bronze. In 1990 he won a Bronze medal in Auckland.

Brown is not just a committed athlete, but he is also committed to the Olympic program. He has chaired the Australian Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission and was the Australian Team Flag Bearer for the Opening Ceremony of the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

These days Damian combines his sporting success with his business acumen as the head of Katapult, a promotions company he started nine years ago.



# 1988

## SIMON RICHARDSON



When Simon Richardson (1988) was 19 years old, he took a year off from his studies at the University of Melbourne to see the world. For a year and a half, he satisfied his wanderlust, selling drinks and doughnuts to tourists on the French Riviera, working on boats in Israel and seeing most of the world.

Eventually he returned to Melbourne and completed his politics degree only to take off again, this time for Washington, where he studied International Relations at Georgetown University, specialising in Middle East and US Foreign policy, within the School of Foreign Service.

Somewhere along the way Simon's passion for the environment was ignited and for most of his professional life since then he has worked tirelessly as a social activist and environmentalist.

Nowadays he lives in Federal, NSW, where he works as a secondary school teacher at the local Steiner School. After four years as a Green's candidate on the Byron Shire Council, Simon's environmental credentials earned him the position of Mayor in the recent local government elections.

During his mayoral campaign he told *The Echo* newspaper that he wanted to "preserve the past successes of the Greens in keeping the shire protected from over-development, and its communities strong."

"I am passionate about the Shire. For all the challenges it faces, it is a wonderful place to live and bring up a family," he said. "I am committed to ensuring we keep the magic of Byron alive; preserving its innovation, creativity and affordability. The last four years have taught me that I can put ideas into action and that I truly love being a part of the process."

After many years on the front line of environmental activism, Simon realised that his skills could be better utilised behind the scenes. "I realised early I was better at the boring stuff — talking, writing and coordinating, so it was a better use of my passion to get into politics, rather than climb trees."

"Working at the Steiner School I was very aware of the needs of our youth and wanted to help them have a positive and beneficial environment in which to live. I believe in developing projects that have clear and tangible benefits for residents."

Simon is active on several fronts in and around Byron Bay. He has campaigned for same sex marriage and rallied to keep big multi-national fast-food chains out of the

area. Currently he is developing a park and ride system to help with traffic and creating an innovation and a design and education strategy for the region.

Simon fondly recalls his days at De La Salle. "I loved my days at De La Salle. I had a great bunch of mates who were open to different things. We all played sport and many of us were creatively involved in school too. I thank the College for providing me with the platform to help discover myself, develop my skills and walk out the doors with high expectations and a healthy self-esteem."

"I played football, cricket and athletics and participated in cross country. I also worked on the College's *Blue and Gold* magazine for about three years and performed in plays and musicals."

While at De La Salle, Simon had already demonstrated his belief in social justice and was the President of the street kids' homeless group. "I was involved in as many things as possible."

Simon is married to Jane and has two girls, Frida, and Matilda.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call in May 2013*

Postscript: In 2021, Richardson stepped down from his Mayoral role after nine years at the helm.

# 1990

## NIC HOPE

Nic Hope (1990) knew he wanted to be a pilot at an early age. “When I was seven years old, I went with my family on a trip to Europe. On the flight I got to visit to the flight deck of a Qantas 747 and from that moment on I knew that was for me.”

So, when Nic started at the College, he rolled out his plan to reach his goal to fly. He studied Mathematics and Sciences and worked hard to be accepted into Engineering at Monash University, before realising that spending four years at university would only delay his dream.

“After I finished Year 12, I went to Monash University for a while but found this slowed down the learning to fly process.”

“I was also interested in the military and spent some time in the Air Force cadets, which I enjoyed, but this also made me realise that this was a roundabout way of getting the pilots position at Qantas.”

Motivated to get in the air as fast as he could, Nic decided to enroll in lessons. “I learnt to fly at the Royal Victorian Aero Club at Moorabbin Airport.”

“Once I obtained my pilot’s license, I worked flying small and medium-sized aircraft around Australia.” Nic has four different pilot licenses.

“In 2001, my boyhood dream came true when I secured a position as a Second Officer with Qantas.”



“My first flight as a Qantas pilot was special, realising a dream and exciting and satisfying to put the extensive Qantas training into practice and fly the Queen of the skies, the Boeing 747. For the next 18 years, I flew the Boeing 747, 737 and the Airbus 330.”

“Recently, I obtained a promotion to that of Captain. After successfully completing 11 weeks of very intensive training, I was issued with that fourth gold stripe, which was fantastic! Currently I am flying mainly domestic routes mixed with a little international.”

While at the College, Nic was a member of the ACC Swim Squad and recently he completed the Pier to Pub swim race in Lorne with his 12 year old daughter, Olivia, who was waving as she sped past him.

“De La Salle taught me patience and persistence, that combined with

some hard work and good things will come. You don’t need to be a rock star just put your head down and do what you do well.”

“The bonds that develop with your mates at school can be carried into adult life. I have helped many people and have had help in return. If you watch your mate’s back, they will watch yours. Having two daughters means unfortunately no more Hopes at De La Salle for the near future. The lessons learned there though have been instilled in my girls and will make up their values and future generations of the Hope family.”

Nic lives in Malvern with his wife, Mel, and daughters Olivia, and Stella. Nic is a keen Richmond supporter and when he is not flying during the AFL season can be found at the MCG watching the Tigers.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2020*

# 1990

## TIM PLACE

Tim Place (1990) joined the army reserves in 1996 and served for more than 11 years as an Assault Pioneer. Assault Pioneers are senior infantry soldiers who conduct obstacle clearances, demolitions, and essentially remove obstacles or create field constructions (such as bridges) to allow the infantry to advance. During that time, he has had some interesting tours of duty overseas, and in 2007 won 'The Slug', for Pioneer of the Year.

More recently, he was involved with the Black Saturday fires where the Assault Pioneer Platoon assisted locals with preparing pumps and generators to get fresh water and

electricity as well as assisting with search and rescue operations.

At the College he was a talented cricketer playing ACC cricket as well as music and remembers breaking his front teeth playing down ball.

After graduating in 1990, he decided to join the Army Reserves to do something different and keep fit. He received Infantry training initially then transferred to Medics where he did Medical-specific training.

He was a Corporal responsible for looking after the health of the battalion, either outfield or in barracks. When the battalion was doing exercises, he would be part of the medical support for those exercises. Tim has recently transferred from Infantry to the 22 Engineering Regiment in Newborough.



Although he also has a full-time civilian job and young family, he enjoys the variety of experiences the Reserves gives him.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call in May 2013*



# 1992

## STEVEN STEFANOPOULOS

Steven Stefanopoulos OAM (1992) served three terms as the Mayor of Stonnington. Representing the South Ward, Steven has lived in the city for more than 40 years and is committed to building the community. "My aim is to bring the community along on an engaged journey whereby we all develop the strategic direction for the future."

Steven, who is Heritage Collection and Records Manager at Loreto Mandeville Hall, completed post graduate studies in museum studies and architectural history and conservation.

At one time Steven was the College's first professional archivist, a role he also held at Mentone Girl's Grammar and for the Blessed Sacrament Congregation and St Francis Church in Lonsdale Street, Melbourne before taking up his current role at Loreto.

He has been a member of the National Council of the Australian Society of Archivists, convenor of the School Archives Special Interest Group and convenor of the Australian Society of Archivist's National Conference in 2010. In 2012, he co-authored *With Faith and Zeal Resplendent*, the pictorial history of De La Salle College.

He also co-authored a chapter in *Keeping Archives 3rd Edition* for the ASA and authored a series of books for the Malvern Historical Society entitled *Walk Into History: Six More Great Walks in Stonnington*.

# 1992

## DARIUS OLIVER

Darius Oliver (1992) is one of the world's most celebrated golf writers. His latest book, *Planet Golf USA*, was voted the best golf book for 2009 by *Golf Magazine* and these days his talents are much sought after by golf courses around the world.

After graduating from De La Salle College in 1992, Darius first studied film and television in Melbourne and later at Montana State University. He returned to Australia disillusioned with the film industry and combining his media skills with a life-long passion for golf, he set up a golf web portal called [www.ausgolf.com](http://www.ausgolf.com).

Darius said his love of golf was nurtured during his years at De La Salle. "I was part of the golf team for several years and learnt plenty from our ever-enthusiastic coach, Mr Norm Stewart."

"Growing up as a kid I would play golf on the weekends with my grandmother who was a keen golfer. Caddying at Royal Melbourne in Year 7 or 8 completely got me hooked as I got to play Australia's best courses," he said.

Like others at that age, he was a big Greg Norman fan and would get up in the middle of the night to watch him play during golf's major championships. "Making my way to school bleary-eyed on the Monday of a major tournament was always hard work, and I admit that I was often late as I waited at home to see how the "Shark, would do" he said. Following on from the success of his



golf website, in 2002 Darius took a leap of faith and published his first book, *Australia's Finest Golf Courses*.

His next goal was to produce a book on the world's greatest golf courses outside America. *Planet Golf* – allowed him to travel to the best courses across the planet. "I left America out because every other golf book at the time was America centric and I wanted to uncover the hidden golf gems in other parts of the world."

His follow-up book, *Planet Golf USA*, was published last year and includes reviews of every single Top 100 golf course in the country. "I believe that I'm the only non-American to have made it to all Top 100 courses there."

*Planet Golf* and *Planet Golf USA*, features golf courses in 45 countries and is a best seller all over the world. Greg Norman, who wrote the forward for the book, described *Planet Golf* as the finest, and most comprehensive, directory on golf courses he had ever seen.

Among his career highlights, Darius cites playing at Crystal Downs with Tom Doak (golf's hottest modern architect), meeting Ben Crenshaw at Augusta National this year, interviewing Greg Norman and having lunch with Pete Dye at Crooked Stick. Dye is a rolled gold original, and golf's maddest course designer."

"The absolute highlight, however, has been playing and visiting the greatest golf courses in the world. There are others as well, I'm so passionate about quality golf courses that I'd take a round on any one of these over, say, meeting Tiger Woods."

Darius is currently the Architecture Editor for *Australian Golf Digest* magazine and works closely with golf developers in Asia to improve golf course design. He has also recently started writing for golf magazines in China.

By Kerry Martin

First published in Roll Call May 2018

# 1993

## RYAN FOOTS

Ryan Foots (1993) fondly remembers his French teacher, Mrs Medsker. “She was a great teacher, but in Year 8 and 9 I had no interest whatsoever in studying French and during the many, many, classes I would protest: ‘Why do I need to learn French? I will never use it!’

“I now live in a French speaking country, with a French wife and a little boy who speaks both English and French...if only I had listened to Mrs Medsker.” Not surprisingly, years later Ryan found himself enrolled in a French course.

Ryan is the managing director of Vancorp Constructions in Port Vila, Vanuatu where he builds resorts, casinos, and apartments.

After graduating from De La Salle College, Ryan went straight into a carpentry apprenticeship with Merkon Constructions. Some years later he enrolled in university and graduated with an MBA in Building and Construction and went into project management, managing large scale commercial projects around Melbourne.

In 2005 Merkon Constructions won a job in Vanuatu building 64 three storey apartments on an island called Iririki. Eighteen months later, when the project was over, Ryan went back to Melbourne and took some time out to do some travel. He decided to put a proposal to his boss at Merkon to set up an operation in Vanuatu. “After all, Vanuatu is a beautiful place with beautiful people, and we could see the potential was there for growth.”



He agreed and Ryan has been in Vanuatu ever since. Six years ago, he met and fell in love with a French girl named Claire who he married. They have a son, Max, who is now two years old.

“While I was at De La Salle College, I loved sport and was heavily involved in ACC footy, cricket, cross country, and basketball,” he said.

“De La Salle gave me the outlook on life that I have today.”

“I recently attended our Year’s 20 year reunion and there were probably 100 out of 206 from the Year Level. Not bad for 20 years. It was great to meet all the guys; some you have not seen since the day you left.”

“De La Salle taught me about forming friendships and relationships which have helped me throughout my life, both in good and tough times. It was a great six years of my life which helped shape the person I have become. Hopefully, one day when I move back home, I will get to send my son to De La Salle.”

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2013*

Postscript: One of Vancorp’s more recent projects was the Le Lagon Conference Centre and Sewerage treatment plant completed in 2019.



# 1995

## ANTHONY DE MASI

As a student at the College, Anthony De Masi (1995) was a big fan of circus arts. He was always juggling, doing puzzles and riddles and sometimes even rode his unicycle to school. Fast forward several years later and Anthony was on his way to class at RMIT University, where he was studying architecture, to find himself in a certain magic shop in the city and the rest is, well, magic!

“My first offer to perform magic was at a charity event in the summer holidays where I was fortunate to be scouted by one of the best entertainment agents in Australia,” he said.

Being a magician means that no two days are ever alike. “Most days are

very busy with meetings, rehearsals, brainstorming, marketing, buying new props, researching, contracts, emails, negotiating gigs, venue set up, setting up and preparing props for shows, costuming, teaching, mentoring, publicity, creating new acts and planning.”

At the time of this interview, Anthony was in the UK where he performed for Shane Warne at Lords. Anthony says it is a gift to be able to make someone smile, laugh and change their day from ordinary to memorable.

“Remember all the exciting experiences we enjoy as children, like the first time we eat fairy floss? I create these emotions and feelings through my magic for children and adults alike. It is the wonderful feeling I get every time I make the most sceptical ‘seen it all’ adult at a corporate event exclaim ‘that was really magic’. Being a magician provides endless opportunities.”

“I have performed for celebrities, royalty, sporting stars, world famous scientists, and innovators, models, world leaders and environmentalists.” This list includes David Beckham, Tony Blair, the Duke of Kent, Tim Burton and Prime Ministers.

Anthony attributes his success to always having a go and never saying no. “Always stay positive and believe that you can achieve whatever you put your energy towards.” He says De La Salle taught him many skills, including resilience. “Not everything was given to us on a silver platter and that gave me skills in my adult life to make my own decisions and be active in my own success. I was never afraid to ask a question when in doubt. ‘Ask and you shall receive’ — I have learnt this time and time again.”

These days in between gigs overseas, Anthony performs at lots of corporate events and in theatres as well as running his own magic school. The Magic School of Confidence is where he trains, mentors and works with Australia’s best young magicians.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2015*



# 1996

## JULES LUND

The September 2001 issue of *Roll Call* featured entertainer Jules Lund (1996). Lund admits he was not always the easiest student to teach during his early years at De La Salle. This situation changed dramatically however, when during a Personal Development lesson, two guest speakers from Reach, Jim

Stynes (Brownlow Medalist) and Paul Currie (film director) motivated him to push beyond the stereo-type boundaries he was rebelling against and realise his dreams.

A Bachelor of Graphic Design course was deferred, and Jules pursued his involvement with Reach. The opportunity to work overseas with Camp America has extended his experience of working with teenagers and he has recently initiated interstate camps, here in Australia.

His busy schedule also includes running motivational workshops and five-week courses within secondary schools.

Since its inception, Reach has assisted over 120,000 young Victorians in a variety of experiential activities, ranging from school programs and workshops, courses, camps, seminars and major events, all of which combine group interaction with creative expression.

The philosophy behind Reach is to help young people follow their dreams, to express themselves and to prepare them for problems they will inevitably encounter as adults.

Jules' involvement with young people has created several other ventures for him. With his friend Jessie Martin (world solo yachtsman) and another mate he has just launched a production company, which is working on producing a television special aimed at the teenage audience

*By Genie Scott*

*First published in Roll Call September 2001*

# 1996

## TERRENCE 'BOMBER' FARRELL

Terrence 'Bomber' Farrell (1996) has a dream job. As a professional fisherman he spends his days in search of the perfect catch. Known up North as 'the Fish whisperer,' Farrell is an award-winning fisherman both here and overseas and a Life Member of the Northern Territory Game Fishing Association.

Earlier this year the Seven Network featured him in a four-part fishing

series, *The Last Cast*, along with AFL big fish and Geelong player, Patrick Dangerfield.

Farrell had always been a recreational angler until he settled in remote Groote Eylandt 12 years ago. After working as a carpenter in Melbourne, he took to the road and travelled around Australia for an extended period. He fell in love with the Gulf country and the fishing opportunities and settled down there.

"I loved the sheer beauty of the island and the fishing was superb. I found myself leading fishing trips and writing articles for fishing magazines," he said. He soon became known as a bit of an expert

and is now the President of the Groote Eylandt Game and Sport Fishing Club.

"Groote is a paradise in the Gulf with a population of 2811 people on the entire Eylandt. The fourth largest island in Australia we only have about 50km of sealed roads, you can imagine that this is an undiscovered wilderness free of pests and home to some rare and endangered species."

"I love that I can go out fishing on my boat for a few days and not see any form of life. The air is so clean and crisp, the stars are so clear with no city lights to drown out the effect of the Milky Way and shooting stars."





He is passionate about his craft which he has taught himself through trial and error. “It is more than just catching any old fish and I became addicted to sailfish for many years. I had a desire to catch them initially and with limited knowledge I was doing a lot of trial and error. It took many years to become consistent at catching these fish, but persistence got me there in the end.” He is now an awarded sailfish angler.

“I have been fortunate to experience so many things here, killer whales swimming under my boat, and baby turtles in plunger proportions.”

“I love a challenge and that will continue each time I head out on the water wherever that is – in Australia or around the world.”

The Gulf has thrown up some challenges along the way. “Many years ago, I was fishing with a couple of Old Colls, Kieran Rogers and Chris Place (1996). We were in a remote creek in Blue Mud Bay. We had been away for three days on the boat and both batteries had blown up. So, we were stranded in a sand-fly and mosquito infested creek. Oh, and crocs too!

We moved with the tide to the mouth of the creek to try and rig up a way of transmitting a message via the VHF radio back to Groote Eylandt some 90km away. We spent two nights in the creek until we were finally rescued.”

Farrell doesn’t keep all the fun to himself and gets a lot of satisfaction

from sharing his dream. “I always enjoy putting people onto their first fish or their first sailfish or marlin. My highlight was catching spot tail bass in the Solomon’s. Catching fish when I am overseas is always a great challenge. Winning fishing competitions with my mates is always a high.”

Farrell has accumulated numerous accolades. He won the Tailored Marine trophy for the highest point scoring boat in Australia 106 Billfish in 2011 and 2012 and in 2016 took out the Top Tagging Sailfish Captain for the Indian Ocean.

Farrell is proud to call Groote Eylandt home these days and is incredibly involved in the local community where he also works as an infrastructure manager.

“After 10 years of fundraising we have built a jetty on the island and opened up a safe fishing area for generations to enjoy.”

Farrell has very fond memories of his days at the College. “De La Salle gave me my values which are still there for me and the mates from those days. De La Salle is something that is in your blood.”

He and Kelly have been married for 13 years and are proud parents to Riley, their Border Collie.

*By Kerry Martin*  
*First published in Roll Call September 2018*

# 1997

## TRENT CROAD

Trent Croad (1997) is a former professional Australian rules footballer who played for the Hawthorn Football Club and Fremantle Football Club in the Australian Football League (AFL).

During his 222-game AFL career, he achieved some of the Australian Football League’s highest honours.

As a student travelling from Narre Warren into Malvern each day by train Trent had to combine his studies and school commitments with a blossoming career in football with Under 18s club Dandenong Stingrays. He was drafted by Hawthorn and called up to play his first senior match in round one of 1998, playing a total of 17 games for the year.



*Photo courtesy Michael Willson/ AFL Photos*

# 1997

## ROHAN LAGING

As an Emergency and Trauma physician at The Alfred Hospital, Rohan Laging (1997) was aware of his calling at a young age. “I was in Year 7 at the College and recall giving back blows to a fellow student who was choking on a peanut,” he said. “Fortunately, I was successful, and this sparked my interest in the time-critical field of Emergency and Trauma Medicine.”

Laging was reading medical books while he was still in primary school. “From an early age, I had a medical book Mum bought through Reader’s Digest that I loved reading. I once diagnosed a neighbour with glandular fever when I was only 9 years old.”

With approximately 70,000 patients passing through to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre every year, Laging has more than his share of responsibility in saving lives these days.

Long hours, high pressure and quick thinking are all part of the job. “The subject and pace shift from time critical, team-based resuscitation and trauma management to counselling, department management and minor medical problems, sometimes occurs within minutes and requires both focus and sensitivity,” Laging said.

However, Laging says emergency medicine is also surprisingly a very social specialty. “Emergency medicine is all about the team of people around you. Sometimes there may be 10 or more staff in a trauma or resuscitation room for one patient including several tiers of emergency doctors, nurses, radiographers, and technicians,” Laging said.



*Photo courtesy of Josie Hayden/Herald Sun*

“Honestly, some days I leave my job and can’t believe how social, intellectually stimulating and exhilarating it has been.”

To become a specialist like Laging, doctors graduate from medicine and then undertake further study with the oversight of a specialist training college to become a specialist in their field. Laging completed a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery with Honours at Monash University and later completed specialist training with the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine to become an Emergency and Trauma Specialist.

He started out as a young doctor at The Alfred Hospital, where he undertook his specialist training. As a senior trainee, he began work at John Fawcner Private Hospital and rose through the ranks to become the Emergency Department Director (Clinical). These days he shares his time evenly between the two hospitals.

Laging lives in Elwood with his wife Briget and daughters, Evelyn (8)

and Rosie (4). To keep on top of the stress and the long hours Laging runs to work. “I run 40–50 km a week (that’s the only way I get to and from The Alfred) and go to the gym,” he said. In his free time, he loves to cook and hang out with his girls – and race fast cars.

The fast pace of Laging’s work is matched by his love of fast cars and to relax he puts his BMW through its pace-in-time trials on racing circuits around Victoria.

Laging attributes his persistence and a sense of knowing how to achieve success to his days at De La Salle.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2017*

Postscript: Rohan is now the Deputy Director, Emergency Services Alfred Health and Director, Sandringham Emergency Department.

# 1998

## CHRIS GIUMMARRA



“If we could talk to the animals, learn their languages, think of all the things we could discuss,” reflected the mythical Dr Doolittle. Similarly, Chris Giummarra (1998) has always had the knack of communicating with our furry friends and, as a veterinarian, he spends his days caring for their needs.

Giummarra began his veterinarian practice in rural Victoria where he honed his medical and surgical skills on all kinds of non-humans. He admits the job was a steep learning curve, being on call and travelling long distances, often late at night, to look after beef cattle, horses, alpacas, sheep, goats, pigs as well as a range of exotic domestic pets.

“You had no idea what to expect when the phone rang. I recall being called early one Sunday morning to attend to a cow that had become wedged between two trees and was very distressed. I had to anaesthetise the cow so that the farmer could cut the tree down with a chainsaw to free the animal,” he said.

“On another occasion a pig hunting dog had been wounded in thick scrub. On surgical exploration, I removed a foot-long wooden stake from its abdomen along with one meter of injured bowel.”

After his rural apprenticeship, Giummarra moved back to Melbourne and is now a partner at the Hampton Veterinary Hospital, where he has been for the last 10 years.

While the job is immensely rewarding it also has many emotional demands. “A Veterinary career is a diverse and emotionally challenging one,” he said.

“The job is psychologically taxing, there are many beloved “fur children” that can be saved against all odds but there are also many sad cases that cause significant grief. Emotional resilience is an important attribute for all Veterinarians.”

It is not unusual for him to put in a 12-hour day. “Mental health has always been an area of concern for our profession owing to high stress levels, dealing with grief and loss and poor work life balance. As an industry we must remain proactive and vigilant in this space.”

“Vets are perfectionists, forever trying to improve our skills and knowledge to improve case outcomes. Every time a family expresses heartfelt gratitude for caring for their pet is a highlight to me. Extraordinarily strong human bonds are also formed in times of pet euthanasia which I see as a great privilege for a veterinarian.” Giummarra is a strong advocate for the rights of animals and committed to improving animal welfare.

“The key issues facing the Veterinary industry are ongoing public animal welfare concerns relating to puppy farming, horse and greyhound racing and live export. As an industry, we have made considerable progress in the past decade through education and surveillance at the grassroots level.”

On top of his busy schedule at the Hampton Vet Hospital, Giummarra also works as a track vet for Greyhound Racing Victoria. Coming from a medical family, from the outset he was interested in a medical vocation. “I saw Veterinary Science as a fulfilling and intellectually challenging career that was well suited to my subject strengths.”

“I grew up on a property where we owned dogs, cats, rabbits, goats and alpacas, so I always had an affinity with animals.”

The diversity of the profession was also extremely attractive to him. “I am a Physician, Anaesthetist, Surgeon, Radiologist and Dentist each and every day.”

Giummarra played for the De La Salle Old Collegians Football Club for a couple of years but admits that these days his AFL experience is confined to supporting his beloved Demons.

“My De La Salle days helped shape my identity and values, instilling the virtues of honesty, integrity, hard work and mateship. These values have been especially important in my personal and professional life for the last two decades.” Being a vet also has its physical demands and he keeps fit playing tennis and skiing.

Giummarra lives in Melbourne’s Bayside area with his wife, Pia and sons Henry (6) and Wesley (4), a doting German Pointer and a charming deaf cat.

“Most importantly I work hard at being a great parent and role model to my boys as they embark upon their own school life.”

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2019*

# 1999

## ANDRE BONNICI

The iconic Ripponlea shopping strip, with its heritage buildings and small specialty shops, is a close community and thanks to one Old Collegian his family business, after almost half a century, remains at the heart of that community.

Bonnici's Hairdressing is an old-fashioned barber shop which has been operating in the heart of the Ripponlea shopping strip as a family business for 49 years. Andre Bonnici (1999) took over the family business five years ago when his father retired and along with his wife, Fiona, is continuing the family tradition of providing an old-fashioned barber shop.

"My father started the business in 1970 and after I graduated from the College, I started my hairdressing apprenticeship with him. I worked with him for nearly 20 years until he decided it was time to hang up his scissors," Bonnici said.

"When my father first started 49 years ago there were paddocks just up the road. But for many years things along the strip didn't change," he said.

The strip has no banks, no chain stores, not even any fast-food outlets and many of the businesses are operated by the local Jewish community, who run kosher delis and restaurants. The small suburb is home to Melbourne's largest 'Addasinik' Jewish community and its small shopping strip is a unique mix of culture and tradition. This ultra-conservative Jewish community have for decades called Ripponlea home and most days, men in long black silk coats and fur hats can be seen rubbing shoulders with school goers and shoppers.

"We are very lucky to have customers from a wide variety of ages and nationalities and have been



accepted by the Jewish community to the extent that they are a major part of not only our business but also our friends."

"Last year we were in a car accident and the local community rallied around us to make sure we were OK. We even got a call from Israel. We are very grateful for the Jewish community around us."

Alongside the traditional kosher delis and butchers, the strip has a reputation as a "foodie" haven. The arrival in 2005 of the highly acclaimed restaurant, 'Attica', across the road from Bonnici's, was something of a magnet for new eateries, which have subsequently opened along the strip.

Bonnici comes from a long line of barbers. "My grandfather was a barber as well as my uncle and father," he said.

"My wife and I continue to run the business the old-fashioned way. With my father still coming in to lend a hand during the busy periods. We are a men's barber shop that cut hair and still do face shaves the old way."

While a student at the College, Bonnici was the captain of the First XVIII football team, played ACC hockey and was a member of the cross-country team. "After I graduated, I also played with the Old Collegians for a while before life got too busy."

"I played footy up until my second child was born, but now, I generally spend any spare time with my kids, although I have just recently started playing basketball with a client's team."

Like any small business operator Bonnici's days are long. "During the week we open at 8:30 am and finish at 6:00 pm, if we are lucky, on Saturday's we are finished by 12:30pm."

"After work we love to spend time with the kids." Bonnici has a daughter, Codie who is in Year 8 at PCW and two sons, Noah, who is enrolled at De La Salle College in 2023, and Raphael."

For Bonnici, family and community come first. "I consider myself fortunate that I have been able to work with my family, first with my father for 20 years and now with my wife, amongst this wonderful community."

Andre's older brother Robert Bonnici (1996) has taught at the College since 2007 and from 2023 will take up the role of Deputy Principal - Learning and Teaching. Rob is also a popular figure around the DLSOCAFC where he has held several roles, including Captain in 2003 and 2004. In 2000, he took out one of the Club's Best and Fairest Awards.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2019*



# 1999

## ANDREW MITCHELL

Andrew Mitchell (1999) says he has the best second job in the world. While his full-time job as a tax accountant at Pitcher Partners keeps him busy, it's his part-time job as an AFL umpire that delivers the thrills and spills.

While at De La Salle, Mitchell represented the College in senior teams in tennis, cricket, football, and golf, as well as being part of the school music bands through to Year 11. After Year 12 he completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Melbourne and later his Master's at Monash.

### **How did you get started as an AFL umpire?**

I have always loved footy, and I initially took up umpiring junior footy as a 15-year-old to earn some pocket money and keep fit. I enjoyed the role and began to work my way up through the suburban and state league competitions. There followed 15 years of field umpiring, including eight years in the VFL, umpiring two VFL grand finals. In 2012 I was finally promoted to the AFL's elite national panel of 32 field umpires.

### **How do you balance the demands of umpiring with your professional career as an accountant?**

As the AFL competition has continued to expand nationally, so too has the professionalism and commitment required from the umpiring group. Pre-season training commences in November, weekly match appointments are released on a Monday afternoon, games played all over Australia as well as promotional activities — the role certainly requires a flexible employer to be able to continue to meet the demands of the role. Fortunately, Pitcher Partners has been very understanding and supportive in allowing me to pursue both careers.

### **What attributes do you need to make a successful AFL umpire?**

Consistent decision making, strong fitness levels and straight bouncing are the key attributes required to progress through the ranks and which form the basis of our weekly match assessments. At the AFL level, however, composure, resilience, teamwork, and confidence are required to communicate effectively with the players and manage anything that the game throws at us.

### **What is the best thing about being an AFL umpire?**

Umpiring AFL football must be one of the best part-time jobs in Australia. Having the best seat in the house and watching up close

as the players go full throttle at the red or yellow Sherrin is an unbelievable thrill. Also having the opportunity to travel around Australia with some great mates and being involved with the game at the AFL level has its perks.

### **What is it like umpiring the big games?**

It's hard not to get excited when umpiring a big final or a Friday night game between two big teams in front of over 60,000 fans. But like every game we try to relax, stay in the moment, and focus on making correct decisions so that we have no influence on the match or its result.

### **What have the highlights of your career been so far?**

My first AFL game in Round 1 of 2012, between the Bulldogs and Eagles is something I will cherish forever. Having umpired 15 seasons of local and state league football I was finally given an opportunity to officiate an AFL game. Then last year, umpiring my first final between Port Adelaide and Richmond at the Adelaide Oval was a great reward for a consistent season. Hopefully, there are many more finals to come.

### **What legacies have your days as a De La Salle student left you with?**

At the start of every school year, I still recall the year-level coordinators encouraging the students to take every opportunity provided to them to maximise their personal growth and learning. Although often faced with time constraints, I have always striven to take heed of this advice in my professional career to improve my, and my colleagues, development.

Andrew's father David (1970) and brother Chris (2001) as well as his uncles and cousins are all Old Collegians.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call September 2015*

# 1999

## MILES ALLINSON

Last year Miles Allinson (1999) published his much anticipated second novel, *In Moonland* to critical acclaim. The novel, which is based on his father's life in and around Melbourne's counter-cultural movement during the 1970s, took six years to finish and was something of an odyssey for the Melbourne based writer.

The story follows Joe, whose father Vincent, committed suicide when Joe was seventeen. After his own daughter is born, Joe begins to ask questions about his father's mysterious life, in particular a trip that Vincent took to India in 1976, which he never mentioned. In time we learn that Vincent had joined the cult of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

Allinson told Toni Jordan during a Melbourne City Reads interview in September last year, that the genesis for the novel came from memories of his childhood. "One of my first memories is going to a house when I was little. The house was all orange and that memory stayed with me. The person who owned the house was a good friend of my parents, and he was a follower of Rajneesh," he said.

"The other memory was something my dad told me before he died. He had been married to someone else before he met my mum. It led me to realise that there is so much about our parents that we don't know. I like the idea that we are all mysteries to each other."



Allinson spent six years writing *In Moonland*. He said much of the time was spent writing it the wrong way and then two years getting it right.

"In 2018, Asialink gave me a grant, which allowed me to do a writer's residency at the University of Madras," he said. Part of this time in India, was spent doing research for the novel.

In 2015, Allinson published his first novel, *Fever of Animals*, which won the 2014 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript and was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Prize for Fiction in 2016, where it won the People's Choice Award.

Influenced by writers like Roberto Bolano, Octavio Paz, and Elena Ferrante, Allinson's novels exist somewhere in the space between

fact and fiction, drawing on themes aligned with his own life, love, loss, failure, and art.

As a student at De La Salle College, Allinson was already a gifted writer, although he admits he did not learn to read properly until he was about 10 years old. His Year 12 English teacher and now College Principal, Peter Houlihan said Allinson was very bright.

"He was very intelligent and so analytical with Year 12 texts, *Fly Away Peter* and *In The Lake of the Woods* – and don't get me started on his creative writing!"

"We had many academic arguments and clashes on his interpretation of everything about the texts, assessment tasks and associated assessment criteria I began to think he should have been teaching the class instead of me," Mr Houlihan said.

After graduating from the College, Allinson went to university to pursue creative arts. “I studied Creative Arts at the University of Melbourne, which allowed me to try lots of different things, ceramics, creative writing, installation art, sculpture, painting, cinema studies and art history. It was a fantastic course that saved lots of talented people who didn’t know exactly what they wanted to do.”

“Later I studied Art in Public Space at RMIT. Then I went back to Melbourne University and did a Post Grad Diploma in Creative Writing. Then I tried to do a PhD in Literature. Afterwards I dropped out and wrote a novel.” He says the only reason he became a writer was because he failed as an artist.

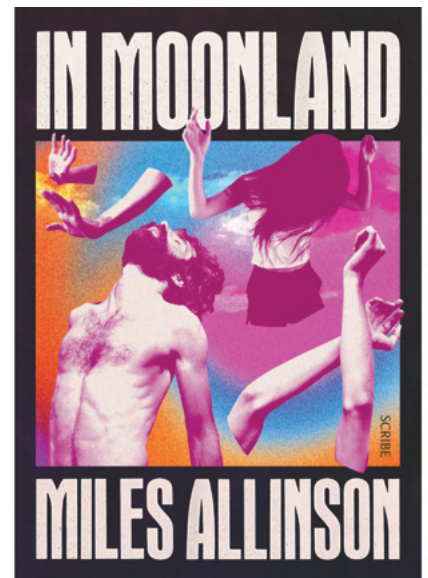
“I travelled around India when I was twenty, which was an extraordinary experience. Later I spent a couple of years travelling though South America and Eastern Europe and I lived briefly in Buenos Aires and London. I went back to Europe in

2013, to write *Fever of Animals*, which is partly set in a haunted forest in Romania. Of all the places in the world, I was probably happiest in southern Greece, in the late afternoon.”

Allinson says he doesn’t have hobbies. “Maybe that makes me deficient. I try to meditate most days. I try to run. I like to cook slowly and sit in the sun and watch football and drive along the road beside the beach with all the windows down and the music up really loud.”

Becoming a father put a lot of things into focus for Allinson. “It is now possible to fear climate change with all my being,” he said. “I like to play Lego with my daughter. I would like to help bring Capitalism to its knees, although I haven’t figured out how to do that yet.”

*By Kerry Martin*  
*First published in Roll Call May 2022*



Miles (far left) at De La Salle in 1999

# 2000

## JAMES KEAN

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is the most prevalent neurodevelopmental disorder in children in Australia, affecting one in every 20 children. As someone who has grown up with ADHD, Dr James Kean (2000), has first-hand knowledge of its effects and has dedicated his professional life trying to improve the mental health of young people.

Overcoming learning issues while a student at De La Salle College, Kean went on to complete his PhD in neuroscience and today works to improve mental health of young people.

As a research fellow and project manager with Orygen at the University of Melbourne, Kean is

overseeing two important research projects investigating mood and developmental disorders in young people.

Alongside his role as a project manager, Kean is working on his own research into mood and developmental disorders, and new ways we might treat them. His PhD thesis investigated complementary and alternative medicines in the treatment of children and adolescents experiencing symptoms of ADHD from ages 6 to 14.

When he was young, Kean admits he struggled academically, but he excelled at football and music and says the supportive approach of the College enabled him to flourish.

“The College was such an accepting place – you could be who you wanted,” he said. “I’d like to take the opportunity now to apologise to my teachers – it wasn’t my fault; it was my brain.”

“I never saw myself as doing anything academic, but after Year 12 I did a diploma in professional writing and editing, and realised there had to be something more,” he said.

“I completed a short course in psychology, which led to a Bachelor of Applied Science (Psychology) and was offered a place at Swinburne University to do my honours in Psychophysiology, which led to a scholarship to complete my PhD.

Subsequently Kean was appointed as a research fellow at The Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health at Monash University and later moved to Swinburne as a lecturer and convenor in Neuropsychopharmacology and Neurophysiology.

Kean is still aware of how his ADHD impacts his professional life. “Being ADHD, means I need to be highly organised to get anything done.

“Multi-tasking is a minefield for my brain. I need to be very regimented and structured in my approach to everything I do, otherwise, I would get nothing done.”

“Getting my PhD was my biggest career highlight to date. It took so long due to the nature of the work I was doing, so in the end it was huge reward.”

He says that the nature of his work also has its challenges. “Research translation is a problem. This occurs when you conduct research for years, publish endless pieces of data after scrutinous peer review processes, only for it to be unnoticed by the clinical community. There is a large gap between what research demonstrates, and what is implemented in clinical practice.”







When Kean is not at work, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends. “Playing with my daughter and teaching her the Melbourne Demons theme song (she has probably heard it a bit too much lately), brings me such joy.”

“I still play guitar and write songs and stories. These days I spend my time writing comedy style songs, rather than my previous punk style. I also like to write short horror stories some of which have been published online.”

“I was always a footballer at heart. While I was at school, I played ACC football for De La Salle, the Oakleigh Chargers and Surrey Park.”

“Music and writing were my second passions. I was Music Captain for the College in 1999 and played in a short lived punk rock band. I also had a few short stories published in local magazines.”

Kean has a strong group of friends he made at the College. “My friends are such a random mix, none of us have much at all in common, except for our time at De La Salle, and the fact we’re all outgoing and enjoy meeting new people.”

“Not all of us in our group were A-grade students, a few were, I definitely wasn’t, but you wouldn’t know that if you met us today.”

“There’s just an understanding that we each came from different backgrounds, we all went through De La Salle, and then we all went on different paths after school.”

“It’s just that dash between the start to the finish of our time at the College (1995–2000), it doesn’t seem like a long time, but it encompasses such a massive part of our lives that has stayed with us.”

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2022*



# 2001

## ANDREW CARRAZZO

Andrew Carrazzo graduated from De La Salle College in 2001. When this article was published in *Roll Call* in 2009, he played for Carlton. Former De La Salle student and aspiring sports journalist, Alexander Hay, (2010) interviewed Andrew about life as an elite football player.

### **What influence did De La Salle have on your career?**

The College was very supportive of my football ambitions. In particular, Mr Matt Breen, who was a teacher at the time, really helped me improve my fitness. He taught me how to make the most of opportunities. He recognised my football abilities and pushed me to reach my potential.

### **Was sport a big part of your life at De La Salle?**

Sport was a big part of my life at De La Salle. I played basketball and ACC cricket and football in Years 11 and 12. That was really the last time I got to have fun and play sport with

my mates, which really is what it's about. As you get older you must make choices. I remember in Year 12, I chose not to play in a game against Parade College to conserve energy for an important Victorian Team game two days later. I knew that there would be lots of AFL Scouts at that game and I really wanted to give it my best shot. I remember it was not a popular decision with the De La Salle football coach at the time.

### **When did you first realise you wanted to play for the AFL?**

When I was younger, I always played basketball – that was my passion. Around 16, I started to improve my football game. I was playing ACC and getting selected by local football (representative) teams. This made me realise I could have a chance to try out for the AFL.

### **In 2002, you were drafted into Geelong. What effect did that have on you at the time?**

I was extremely happy to be drafted into the AFL. It was a very happy day for me personally, I was over the moon. I was disappointed, however, that I would have to leave Melbourne. I had been training with Carlton for a while and was hoping I might get to stay in Melbourne. But I was just so happy to be drafted it didn't matter.

### **You certainly had more success at Carlton than you did at Geelong, why do you think this was the case?**

I was given more opportunities at Carlton. At Geelong I didn't come off the Rookie list or play a senior game, so I couldn't prove myself. I think being given a second chance by the Blues made me determined to do well.

### **How did you cope with being dropped from the team in the same year as you achieved an amazing 51 disposals?**

I had been going up and down for weeks, (being dropped back to the Seconds and put back up into the Seniors) but then I was given a real "kick up the bum" by one of the

coaches associated with the Club. He said to me 'you are much too good to be playing in the Seconds. You need to work harder and get yourself back up into the Seniors.' That day I got 51 disposals and never looked back.

### **After winning the 2007 Carlton Best and Fairest Award and averaging 26 disposals a game you are now recognised as an elite player.**

#### **How does that feel?**

Well, I certainly don't think I'm an elite player. I just try to reach my next set of goals, which I set every couple of weeks. This year my goal is to play my 100th game.

### **Do you sometimes find yourself in awe of some of the players around you?**

I definitely do, but one can't get caught up in it. I often see players like Gary Ablett Jr or 'Buddy' Franklin do something amazing and think wow, that's incredible. In my mind, I tell myself I'm as good a player as they are, not in an arrogant way but just as a confidence boost. It helps to deal with it when I come up against them.

### **What advice would you give to anyone striving to play AFL?**

Enjoy your footy while you're young, but if you get an opportunity, take it and make the most of it. Take in as much information as possible. If you get a chance to speak to anyone with experience, for example someone like Kevin Sheedy or Robert Harvey, listen and try and turn it into a positive.

*By Alexander Hay (2010)*

*First published in Roll Call May 2009*

Postscript: In 2012, Carrazzo announced his retirement from the Carlton Football Club. He is now a Director of the Elekrika Group.

Alexander Hay (2010) is a sports and entertainment specialist and Director of Sports Rights Tech.

# 2001

## MATTHEW CLANCY

As a Governance Advisor for the UK Department of International Development, Matthew Clancy (2001) is aware of the impact Brexit is having on the world, especially in the developing world, where Clancy works on the UK's foreign aid program.

"Brexit is affecting nearly every aspect of life in Britain and my work, and the work of the Department, are no exception," Clancy said. "As the whole of the UK government gears up to respond to Brexit, many of my team members were transferred to other government teams to prepare for 'no deal' scenarios."

"We've been preparing for what long-standing aid relationships with developing countries will look like now that the UK has left the European Union."

"Working in a 'Governance Adviser' role in the Department does not come without its ironies. "Many people have pointed out the irony of the UK government advising others on 'governance' issues at a time like this!"

Clancy's career in international aid started when he joined the UN in Bangladesh in 2008. Since then, he has worked for the United Nations, the International Red Cross, and international charities in Bangladesh, Lebanon, Nepal, and Sudan. He completed his Masters in Middle Eastern Studies at the ANU in Canberra."

"At the moment, I work in the education team for the UK government's Department for International Development, also known as UK Aid. The Department



is responsible for the delivery of humanitarian and development aid in over 40 countries across sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. My team works to support teachers, schools, local communities, and ministries of education in around 28 countries to improve children's access to quality education."

The work is hectic, and no two days are the same. "Working with countries around the world, a typical day for me generally involves copious phone calls and video conferences with partners and colleagues based in our offices in developing countries."

"It's fast-paced work that involves a lot of analysis, advice, and negotiation with everyone, from government ministers to UN officials, or teachers and principals. A typical day will often involve shifting from advising teams in Bangladesh who are setting up classrooms for the Rohingya refugees, to talking to ministry officials from the Ghanaian government about options for school inspections, to briefing my UK minister in preparation for questions in the House of Commons."

In 2015, Clancy was in Nepal when the earthquake struck the

Kathmandu Valley. "I had just arrived in Nepal to start a new role with the UK government. Just four days later, as I was coming back from the ANZAC Day memorial at the Australian Embassy, Nepal experienced its largest earthquake in over 70 years, which tragically killed almost 9,000 people."

"Those first few minutes during the quake, were the most terrifying of my life, however over the next few weeks and months I felt privileged to work alongside the Nepalese and people from around the world rolling out a critical emergency response and humanitarian recovery work."

While at the College, Clancy explored a range of extracurricular pastimes. "I was very involved in the performing arts and loved singing in the choir."

Music is still an important part of Clancy's life and as well performing in pubs in Melbourne, he has been known to perform in restaurants and house parties in Bangladesh, and rooftops and festivals in Lebanon and Sudan.

"I feel very strongly that my time at De La Salle taught me the importance of service to others, which I think takes many different forms. I see it in guys from my year, and others who I am still in touch with, who are volunteering at local sports clubs, taking a stand against prejudice or inequality in Australian society, working in the arts or business, or really just working on being really great dads."

"My memory of the guys from my year was of a bunch of young men who were funny, strong, passionate and unpretentiously kind to others in the world around them. The College played a large part in teaching us these qualities."

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2020*



The scholarship comes after four years in management consulting, working for some of Australia's largest companies.

"I have spent the last few years improving the effectiveness of Australia's foreign aid program, understanding what underpins indigenous men's health in the Kimberley and developing economic, education and social policies for the Federal Labour party."

"My studies at Harvard will provide the

opportunity to bring my private and public sector experiences together to examine alternative ways of funding major social reforms using financial instruments such as social impact bonds," Matthew said.

"I am determined to work towards building a more prosperous Australia where a child born in Broadmeadows has the same chance of success as a child born in Toorak."

After he completes his studies at Harvard, Matthew hopes to combine his skills to overcome inequity, working at the intersection of business, government and the service delivery sector.

"In the short term, this will likely include working in private equity or venture capital with the view to using the skills acquired to lead the establishment of social finance in Australia," he said.

"Social finance presents the opportunity for government to partner with the private sector to fund social programs on a pay-for-

success basis. This funding model can be applied to early childhood education, mental health services, employment programs, public housing and in-home aged care."

"De La Salle College taught me about tolerance and diversity. Far from being a haven for the privileged few, De La Salle actively fostered diversity and sought to engage their students in many communities outside the College."

"Value was placed on excellence, whether in academic endeavours, Sport or Drama. School year stereotypes were also put to one side as leaders on the sporting field were also leaders in the classroom or on the stage."

"Contributing to something broader than one's self was a recurring theme during my time at De La Salle, as was the importance of giving back. I have little doubt that this emphasis has contributed to my ambition to work towards a fairer and more prosperous Australia."

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call September 2015*

Postscript: Matt Tyler is currently the Executive Director of The Men's Project at Jesuit Social Services.

# 2001

## MATTHEW TYLER

Matthew Tyler (2001) is one of three outstanding young Australians to have been awarded this year's RG Menzies Scholarships to Harvard.

Matthew told *Roll Call* that being awarded such a prestigious scholarship gave him a mixture of pride and responsibility.

"Pride, because winning the scholarship is the culmination of a transition towards a career pursuing the public good."

"Responsibility, because the privilege of being awarded the Menzies Scholarship and completing studies at Harvard positions me to shape the inequality and economic reform agendas in Australia."

# 2002

## MICHAEL BEER

Old Collegian, Michael Beer's (2002), recent selection in the Australian Cricket Squad was certainly a great boost for his cricket career but some say it also marked a turning point in the road to rebuilding the Australian Test and one day teams.

After having played only five first-class cricket games, Michael's selection came as a surprise to many in the cricket world, but with the support of people like Shane Warne, his selection could be a long term fix for an ailing Australian side.

The General Manager of operations for Cricket Victoria, Shaun Graf, told *Roll Call* that although Michael's selection came as a surprise, he could turn out to be an integral part of rebuilding the Australian teams.

"I could see him being not only a permanent fixture in the Test team but an integral part of the rebuilding of the Australian one day team."

Mr Graf said those close to Michael know of his strong competitive spirit and ability. "He performed creditably in his early 1st class matches for WA plus the dearth of experienced spin bowlers meant that he had to be a chance to be selected. The task for Michael now is to establish himself firstly by being selected for the tour of Sri Lanka in August."

*Roll Call* spoke to Michael in Perth, where he knows plays for the WA Warriors, about his selection into the Australian Squad and his time as a student at De La Salle.

Michael started at the College in Year 4 and among other things played ACC cricket and captained the team in Year 10.



He spoke of many great memories of his time at the College, especially strong friendships. "I made some great mates at De La Salle, many of whom I am still close with today."

Since leaving De La Salle, Michael has completed a Sports Diploma at Swinburne University and is still studying for his bachelor's in physical education at Victoria University. After graduating from Swinburne University, he went to the UK where he played in the 2005 Season and then worked full time with the Puma Cricket department.

Last year he was offered a contract with the Western Australian Warriors for the 2010-11 season, where he made his debut in the Ryobi Cup match against Victoria.

Michael said that while he is based in WA, he returns to the east often and this winter has been invited to the Centre of Excellence in Brisbane in the lead-up to the national and international Tours next summer. "When I heard I had been selected to play for Australia I must admit I was a bit surprised that it came around so quickly, having played only half a season for WA. It was a welcome surprise and playing for Australia was certainly an honour.

My goal has always been to play for Australia in any form, whether it be in the one day matches or the Tests."

"When I was at school, I always wanted to play cricket at the highest level and naturally my dream was to one day play for Australia."

Michael tries to try to keep relaxed about the expectations and pressures that come with playing first class cricket and he hopes that it carries on to the field. "When I finally got to walk out onto the Sydney Cricket Ground, I actually felt quite calm," he said. "I had already got to know the other members of the team having been twelfth man in the Boxing Day and Perth Tests, so I was pretty relaxed," he said.

"Somehow I managed to block out the media and the crowds and just play cricket."

He took his first Test wicket in that Test match; Michael started his cricket career at the Malvern Cricket Club where his family had strong ties. His father was part of the club's "Team of the Century."

Being selected to play for Australia does not come easily and Michael earned his stripes at the St Kilda Cricket Club, where he took over 100 wickets in two seasons and was twice selected in the Premier Cricket Teams. He played some Second XI matches for Victoria in the Cricket Australia Cup and toured England with the Victorian Emerging Players in 2007.

In 2007 he won the Crusaders/Robert Rose Scholarship, having taken 43 wickets at a bowling average of 19.88.

*By Kerry Martin*  
*First published in Roll Call May 2011*

Postscript: Michael Beer is currently the Operations & Student Experience Coordinator at SEDA Group.



# 2002

## MICHAEL STINEAR

As the inaugural coach of the Melbourne Football Club's AFL Women's team, Michael Stinear (2002) has earned himself a place in history. A former Australian rules football player and two-time TAC Cup Premiership coach, Stinear steered the Melbourne Women's team to the precipice of finals success last year, only to see them cancelled due to COVID-19.

Without missing a beat, Stinear completed another successful season at Melbourne this year, with the team making it to the finals again, while taking on an additional role as Head of Football at the DLSOCAFC.

After a promising start as an AFL Rookie and a solid track record in coaching and game development, Stinear joined the Melbourne Football Club in 2016 as its first AFLW coach. Five years on, he has learned a lot about the game and his role as a coach.

"I've learnt a great deal in my five seasons at Melbourne. My biggest lesson is that simplicity is best. Each year I try to simplify messaging to players, streamlining game style and giving clarity to staff and players about their roles."

"We have had many players with limited football experience and often from other sporting codes, so I'm constantly learning about the best ways to teach the fundamentals of the game and assist in fast tracking their development."

"The opportunity to coach and work with high performing women from a diverse range of backgrounds has been great for my development but also on a personal level it is very rewarding for our family with so many relationships and moments shared with great people."

"Being the coach of Melbourne's AFLW team has been a very rewarding experience. We are yet to achieve the ultimate success of a Premiership, but to see the growth of the game and development of individuals as players and people has been thoroughly rewarding."

"This was an amazing opportunity to be part of assembling a brand new team and an opportunity to learn from coaches like Brendan McCartney and Simon Goodwin and further develop my technical skills as a coach."

While at the College, Stinear was recognised as a natural athlete and represented the College in ACC football, cricket, athletics and cross-country. In 2002 he was a member of the College's 1st XVIII football ACC Premiership team.

In 2003, while at Melbourne University, he was selected as a Rookie for the Carlton Football Club. "I'd hoped for a lengthy career as a player growing up but one year as a Rookie was my reality," Stinear said.

Not one to rest on his laurels, in 2004 he relocated to Brisbane and took up an opportunity to play for Mt Gravatt in Queensland's State League Competition while working part time as a Development Officer for AFL Queensland and completing his studies at the University of Queensland.

"During my four years in Brisbane I played in an AFLQ premiership with Mt Gravatt and went from a casual staff member at AFLQ to a full time role."

Returning to Melbourne in 2008, and at the age of 23, Stinear was

offered a role as State Auskick Manager for AFL Victoria.

After three years in the role he was appointed Regional Development Manager for AFL Victoria based at TAC Cup club, the Oakleigh Chargers.

Coaching was quickly becoming a passion for Stinear. "I was enjoying the coaching role at St Kilda City Football Club when the opportunity to Coach the Oakleigh Chargers came up."

As the coach of the Chargers, Stinear steered 20 players to the AFL Draft list and two TAC Cup Premierships."

Not surprisingly, the DLSOCAFC was keen for him to join the Club as its Head of Football, where he will broadly oversee coach mentoring, player development and club leadership across our men's, women's and junior teams.

"I am looking forward to working with the Old Collegians Club and supporting coaches and leaders in their quest to be the best. It's also

great to team up again with Dave Madigan, who was my ACC Football Premiership Coach in 2002."

Stinear, who is the youngest of seven children and a large extended family, nowadays enjoys watching his own family grow up near the beach at Anglesea. He and his wife, Rachel, have a two and a half year old son, Fitzroy and are expecting another boy as we go to print.

Stinear keeps fit running and has participated in four marathons in recent years with his brothers. "It fair to say there's plenty of room for improvement," Stinear said.

He credits De La Salle for the quality of his friendships. "The College gave me my best mates and supportive and caring teachers who modelled good behaviours and the fundamentals of being a good person. It taught me to be grateful for what you have in life and the people you get to share it with."

"The bond you share with fellow Lasallians, no matter your age, means you will always be greeted with a smile and a handshake."

The College also taught him the importance of hard work. "If you are prepared to put the work in and commit to something you will be rewarded. Not to wait and expect things to be given to you, roll the sleeves up and make it happen."

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2021*



*Michael Stinear as a student with then Principal, Br Tim Peter fsc*



# 2003

## SAM MERRIEL

In 2009, Sam Merriel (2003) was featured in *Roll Call* when he received the Medical Alumni Award upon completing his medical degree at Monash University. Now a Senior Clinical Research Fellow at the University of Exeter in the UK, Merriel is part of a team investigating ways to improve cancer diagnosis for GPs.

As a member of the Diagnosis of the Symptomatic Cancer Optimally (DISCO) team within the Medical School at Exeter, Merriel is studying the potential impact of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) as a diagnostic test for prostate cancer within primary care, as part of his PhD funded by Cancer Research UK.

Working part time as a GP in a village just outside of Bristol in the Southwest of England alongside his research role, Merriel is also involved in a range of other research studies aimed at preventing cancer and improving the early diagnosis of cancer.

He lives in Bristol with his wife, Abi, and two young sons William and Edward.

After completing his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at Monash University in 2009, including an additional honours year of research training, and starting his postgraduate medical training in Victoria, in 2012 Merriel moved to the UK to undertake a Master of Science (Public Health) degree at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2012.

“I worked as a junior doctor for Monash Health for two and a half years and taught Anatomy back at Monash University, before moving to London,” he said.

“The move to the UK was in part personal, as well as professional, as I had met a lovely British doctor whilst working in Melbourne, whom I have subsequently married,” he said.

“Living in the UK made me realise just how young Australia is as a country, and how many aspects of life for Australians (and many other parts of the globe) have been influenced by Britain.”

“I will never forget my first trip to London. I stopped at a pub for lunch near St Mary’s Hospital and discovered a plaque on the wall of the hospital which read, ‘in the office above this plaque Alexander Fleming discovered Penicillin.’ This discovery changed modern medicine, and the health of countless people the world over. Fair to say I was in awe walking down that street.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the UK hard and is still having a significant impact on the country and its health service. “Following the announcement of the first national lockdown in England in March 2020, GPs had to change the way we practiced almost overnight. Fortunately, we were able to adapt quickly to managing most of our patient via telephone or video consultations, whilst still seeing the most ill and vulnerable in-person when they needed us,” Sam said.

“Being involved in the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in recent months has been so rewarding and has given the weary NHS staff and our patients some light at the end of this long, dark tunnel of a global pandemic.”

Merriel says a highlight of his medical school days at Monash was convening the annual national medical students’ conference (The AMSA National Convention).

“I led a team of 50 medical student volunteers to arrange a week long conference for 1,000 medical students from Australia and New Zealand.”

“The conference had a wide ranging academic programme, including a sports medicine panel featuring James Hird (before the peptides controversy), Michael Klim, Dr Peter Larkins, and Dr Peter Brukner.



It also featured an Emergency Medicine challenge, pitting teams of medical students from 22 medical schools against one another in a series of emergency medicine scenarios around Albert Park Lake.”

Merriel attributes his involvement in the Reach Foundation while a student at the College as a foundation to his success.

“Working within Reach, supporting children and adolescents, helped me succeed inside the classroom, to be open to new possibilities and opportunities in life, and to pursue my career and life goals. As a Melbourne Demons fan, it was a bonus that Jim Stynes co-founded Reach and was a good friend before his unfortunate early passing in 2012.”

His success was not just in the classroom, Merriel represented the College in cricket, basketball, and cross country.



*Sam at De La Salle in 2000*

“My highlights were captaining the 2nd XI Cricket team in Year 12, even though we only won one game, and being part of the ACC winning cross country team in 2003.”

“My time at De La Salle definitely helped me become a well-rounded person. In addition to the core school subjects of English, Math and Science, I had the opportunity to play Sport, explore Languages, Music, and Photography.

The importance of selflessly contributing to society and helping your fellow man was also imprinted on me as a De La Salle student through Mission Action Day and the College’s work overseas with other members of the Lasallian global community.”

The life of a GP research fellow is a full one and Merriel is kept busy with study, work, and family life. “Between full-time work as an academic GP and helping care for two young boys, I don’t get a lot of free time. I do still manage to play the odd game of cricket for a local club in Bristol. I enjoy taking our dog for walks in the many wonderful forests and parks surrounding Bristol. I manage to keep an eye on how the Dees are going back home as well.”

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2021*



*Photo courtesy of The Herald Sun*

## 2003 TOM MURPHY

Tom Murphy (2003) was Hawthorn’s Most Improved Player (2008) and Best Clubman (2010) and more recently Gold Coast Suns defender.

Achieving success is also something that Tom Murphy knows a lot about. Murphy was selected as the 21st pick in the 2004 AFL Draft and spent eight years with Hawthorn, winning Hawthorn’s Most Improved Player award in 2008 and voted Best Clubman in 2010.

From 2012 to 2014, Tom played for the Gold Coast Suns, playing 18 games with them, and taking his career games tally to 113, including nine finals games.

Murphy shared his experiences of dealing with disappointment in his career when he spoke about being dropped from the 2012 Hawthorn Grand final side. “That time was tough, and I had to work through the disappointment of that decision.”

“When you’re at a strong club, there’s pressure for spots at the end of the day, it’s our job, we’re footballers, and we’ve just got to do our job.” At the time Murphy was praised for his professionalism and resilience.

Murphy retired from AFL at the end of the 2014 season and now puts his talents into working for Melbourne based industrial real estate firm, CBRE.

# 2003

## VINCENT SHIN

Recently the ABC's *Australian Story* featured Old Collegian, Vincent Shin, (2003) who has been appointed as Australia's first in-house school lawyer. Vincent or "Vinnie" as he is known by his clients overcame a disrupted childhood marred by family violence and personal trauma to help other young people in Melbourne's western suburbs.

Vincent told *Australian Story* about his violent father and his disrupted schooling. "When I was a student, I had a lot going on at home and times were tough for me. I didn't have a great time at school because of my personal circumstances. Basically, I was a terrible student and extremely unmotivated."

Not surprisingly, given the circumstances, Vincent's Year 12 results were poor, so his options were limited. Initially he enrolled in a diploma at TAFE but driven by a desire to break the cycle of disadvantage he worked hard and was accepted into Victoria University where he completed Honours in Law as well as post graduate qualifications.

After university, Vincent joined D&M Lawyers as a junior solicitor specialising in family law. In April 2014, Vincent was admitted to the Supreme Court of Victoria as an Australian Lawyer and admitted to practice in all federal jurisdictions including the High Court of Australia.

In 2015, Vincent was offered a position as an in-house lawyer at The Grange P-12 College in Hoppers Crossing, the first of its kind in Australia. As an in-house lawyer he helps students respond to legal



issues while taking a preventive approach through community legal education and community development activities.

His two year placement at the school has been funded by donations from philanthropic organisations, and a \$10,000 grant from the law firm Slater and Gordon.

"The School Lawyer Project is an innovative model aimed to address hidden problems within a school community, aimed at breaking down barriers and building the trust and confidence of that community to effectively engage with the justice system."

The thinking is that if these services are available at schools, students will remain engaged with their education. Vincent also provides legal education to the students on legal topics such as bullying and cyberbullying, sexting and family violence.

"A challenge with any pilot project is to ensure that it continues and is funded appropriately. I am confident in the model, and these types of cross sector partnerships are going to become more and more common."

Vincent loves working in the community sector because that is where his heart is. "I enjoy helping people who are faced with demanding situations and those who have come from disadvantaged backgrounds. I am particularly passionate about helping young people. I enjoy giving back to the community."

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2017*

Postscript: Vincent Shin is currently the Program Manager at Westjustice Community Legal Centre.

# 2004

## JACK NOONAN

Despite a passion for genetics, Jack Noonan (2004) knew he didn't want to be stuck in a laboratory all his life. As the Head of Climate Change Team for Sustainability Victoria, a state government agency, Noonan gets to combine his love of science and his savvy marketing skills. "I get to show people that a career in science isn't just about wearing a lab coat and looking down a microscope."

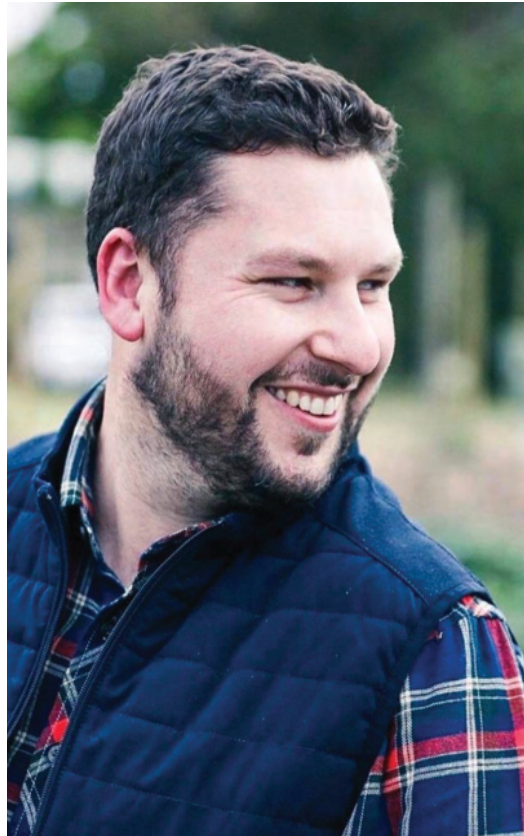
After graduating from the College, Noonan completed a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Arts at Monash with majors in Genetics and Psychology. "I had a particular interest in Bioethics," he said.

"When I graduated, despite loving the field of genetics, I couldn't fathom spending my career in a laboratory, so I decided to undertake a Master of Business which focused specifically on the commercialisation of science and new technologies."

A conversation with a cousin sets him on his new career trajectory. "My older cousin worked at CSIRO as one of Australia's leading experts in climate change. I remember chatting to him over Christmas lunch and also being fascinated by his work," Noonan said.

Noonan's first job out of university was as an environmental consultant. "I worked on the impacts of the built environment on health and the natural environment.

That work inspired an interest in climate science and how industry affects the world's resources."



Noonan has received numerous accolades for his work.

In 2009, he was awarded the National Australia Bank Science in Business Award and his work has been published in numerous international journals and presented at conferences.

A recent highlight for him was standing on the steps of Victorian Parliament with the Premier, our Minister, and 20 peak industry groups for the launch of TAKE2. "It felt incredibly rewarding".

Noonan says that the problem is getting the message through.

"Recently I was involved in a really interesting piece of research that found that 91 percent of the Victorian community (both metro and regional) accept that climate change is taking place, humans are contributing to it, and they want government and industry to do more. However, if you were to pick up a newspaper, turn on the news, or watch some of our politicians, this message isn't being translated. That's a problem."

De La Salle taught Noonan all about the impact you have on others and how you are respected. "We are all citizens of a crazy world, and if you're a good citizen who is respected and has a positive impact on your family, friends and peers, then people will have your back when times get tough."

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2017*

Noonan's job with Sustainability Victoria delivers programs and incentives to help the Victorian community act on climate change and use resources more efficiently. "I manage the Climate Change Programs team for SV. This includes a program called TAKE2, a program for individuals, businesses, community organisations, schools, and government organisations to share what they are doing with regards to sustainability and outline any commitments they may have."

"In just over six months, we have had over 380 organisations participating with a number of large multinationals. I work closely with these organisations."

"I love my job because I get to interact with people about a topic that is important to me and influence their behaviours to be more sustainable. I also get to translate complex scientific information to content that is easier for people to understand."



# 2004

## STUART DUDINE

They say hard work pays off and it has for Stuart Dudine (2004) who last year took out a Silver Medal for his first wine made under his own label, Alkimi.

The 2014 Good Earth Syrah, which took out the medal in the Yarra Valley Wine Show, was the culmination of many years travelling the world finessing his craft. Hard work indeed.

After graduating from De La Salle, Dudine completed a Bachelor of Science (Winemaking) at Charles Sturt University before taking off to learn from the masters in Europe.

His first overseas foray was to Piedmont in Italy on an exchange, learning about local winemaking styles. The experience was a positive one, so he stayed on to complete vintages in Italy, as well as in Austria and France where he worked for some iconic producers such as Domaine Michelle, Stéphane Ogier and Château Mont-Redon in France; and Weingut Emmerich Knoll in Austria.

After years on the road he finally returned to Australia to take up a position at Henschke, South Australia, where he experienced for the first time the Rhone varieties and qualities of Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre displayed by Australian grown grapes yet handled with the finesse of the old world winemaking he had seen in France.

After South Australia he moved his interests to Victoria and worked on a vintage at Yarra Yering, in the Yarra Valley. There he was immersed in the traditions of European winemaking and decided the region was where he wanted to start his own label, Alkimi.

Dudine says his experience here and overseas shaped his ideals of making wine. "It made me want to focus on how the characteristics of the vineyard can enhance the innate qualities of the grapes in order to bring out the best in the wine," he said. His 2014 Good Earth Syrah is testimony to this.

Dudine said it was only natural that the drive of Alkimi would be to produce wines which pay homage to the old philosophy of winemaking. "Working in Europe, where tradition melds with the annual delivery of a vintage held in the hands of nature, means that consequence works together with synchronicity" he said. "It's a fine balance between old and new, nature and science."

While the end result might be worth it, wine making is a major investment in both time and money. "It is a huge capital investment where you don't see any returns for some time. The market is saturated with suppliers, so you must make your mark and consistently produce outstanding wine."

"At Alkimi I can express my passion for the Rhône region by producing varieties which are typical to that region; as well as the Syrah I make Roussanne and Grenache Noir, I also do a Rosè."

"It's a holistic job. You must juggle many hats. A day's work can involve creation, vineyards, winemaking, accountancy, sales, mechanics, philosophising, research and problem solving.

The worst thing about being a winemaker is spending all my money on good wine."

"Releasing my first wine under my own label is my greatest achievement thus far. It made all the travelling to Europe to learn about winemaking worthwhile."

When he was at De La Salle, Dudine played a lot of basketball and remembers Br Jerry as an awesome coach. He also played guitar and played with a few mates in a small guitar ensemble, mostly playing jazz and funk.

"There are a handful of teachers who I still remember.. Their classes were my most enjoyable ones," he said.

"I had a small interest in wine at school, and I studied a few Science subjects in VCE. But I have really found my calling once I began working in wineries. De La Salle left me with many legacies. I learned that I have the ability to achieve anything I want; life is what I make of it. It also left me with some great friends, whom I still see today."

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2016*



Paul (far left) with the Ten Tenors

# 2004

## PAUL GELSUMINI

Undoubtedly Australia's greatest entertainment success of recent times, the Ten Tenors are currently selling out performances in Australia and New Zealand with their Power of Ten Tour. Paul Gelsumini (2004) is one of the members of the group and their Musical Director. He took time out of his busy schedule to talk to *Roll Call* about his life as a Ten Tenor

### **What were your passions and or extra-curricular interests whilst at De La Salle College?**

I loved playing basketball, debating, string ensemble and choir.

### **What are your memories of your days at De La Salle?**

I recall the first choir teacher Kirsty Graham. She was the first teacher that allowed younger students to join the choir. This could have been

due to a particular student wanting to join the choir, not sure who that student was though!

### **What studies have you undertaken since graduating from De La Salle?**

I attended Monash University where I completed a Bachelor of Classical Music, majoring in Voice and Performance. After my degree I headed over to Tuscany, Italy to undertake one on one private vocal coaching with a Puccini Master. It was here that I started to become extremely passionate about the voice and performing abroad. After that I decided to undertake a dance/acting and music theatre course at APO Danceworld in South Melbourne where I obtained a Diploma of Music Theatre.

### **How did you get started in your professional singing career?**

It was through my first few auditions where I landed a spot with The Ten Tenors as an extra (swing) and after that first year I was appointed as the Touring Musical Director and Tenor.

Timing was not opportune as I also have a passion for teaching and at that time was halfway through a Master of Education at The University of Melbourne.

### **Tell us about your life as one of the Ten Tenors**

Life as a Ten Tenor is simply quite remarkable. Apart from the intense work schedule and amazing work ethic of the group we are subjected to some amazing people, places, and situations. A typical day would be to wake up in a new city after a flight or bus ride and then head into a hotel in a gorgeous town and then get straight into the theatre for rehearsals/touch-ups and then perform!

### **What are some of the important projects you are/have worked on?**

I have enjoyed working on many television appearances globally from 'Oprah' to the FIFA Opening in Poland to Sydney's 'Carols in the Domain'. I have been fortunate to record and co-vocal produce our last two albums, *On Broadway*

and *Our Christmas Wish*. I am particularly excited about it as this is an initiative that we have taken to not only share what we think is a beautiful album but to help a great cause, that is The Lady Cilento Children's Hospital in Brisbane. We are donating all the proceeds for each purchase to the hospital to help with research, family support and funding for new equipment to fight the battle of Meningococcal disease in children.

***What do you attribute your success to?***

The nature of the Australian life and attitude is very helpful to our success. We are always trying to make the best impression and not tarnish what is already a great reputation that Australia has on a global scale. Our audition process also considers not only vocal performance but also personality and people's skills.

***What have the highlights of your career been so far?***

The highlights are meeting some amazing people like Ricky Martin, Celine Dion, Morgan Freeman, Rod



*Paul with Rod Laver in California*

Laver, The Wiggles, Geoffrey Rush, and I am sure there are more but having the chance to talk to these amazing artists and hearing their stories is a once in a lifetime treat.

***Where do you like to spend your spare time?***

Definitely with family and friends at home. In any given year we can be on the road from 7-10 months so coming home for more than a few weeks is a real treat. For example, this will be the third Christmas where I will be away

from home, so I guess you take the good with the bad.

***What legacies have your days as a De La Salle student left you with?***

The culture at De La Salle and more importantly the years I attended De La Salle saw a very strong mateship with staff and students across all Year Levels, from Mr A and Mr C in primary to all senior staff.

I have found that having the confidence to discuss and participate in conversation where staff treat students as young adults is a tool that is vital. Also having chosen to pursue music as a profession, I can safely say that I was allowed opportunities to showcase and grow as a musician at De La Salle College.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2017*



# 2005

## CHARLES NOONAN

Charles Noonan (2005) has been awarded a prestigious Cambridge Australia Allen Scholarship to study a Master of Law at Cambridge University.

Charles said it is a privilege to be offered a place at such a prestigious university as Cambridge and being awarded the scholarship is an additional honour. "It is both rewarding and humbling to receive a scholarship of this kind, especially following a rather intense application process," he said.

Charles is currently an Associate to the Honourable Justice Murphy at the Federal Court of Australia. He finds the work of a judge's associate is fascinating, intellectually rigorous and varies on a daily basis. "I sit with the Judge in Court, conduct research and assist the Judge with the drafting, proofing and editing of judgments," he said.

Charles had always had an interest in law, but it was the inspiration of his Year 12 Legal Studies teacher at De La Salle who ignited his passion. "I only developed my interest in the law towards the end of my schooling, through Ms Sandra Venneri's Year 12 Legal Studies class."

After receiving awards in Legal Studies and History in VCE, Charles studied at Monash where he graduated with First Class Honours in Arts/Law.



He has since completed a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice at the College of Law in 2013. Following two seasonal clerkships at law firms Norton Rose, and King and Wood Mallesons, in 2013 he commenced his graduate training at King and Wood Mallesons before being admitted to practice as a solicitor in the Supreme Court of Victoria and the High Court of Australia in October 2013.

During his time at King and Wood Mallesons he was also involved in a range of pro bono programs including Homeless Law and the Refugee Legal Service. "This was invaluable experience during my first year of practice. While assisting homeless people and African refugees with various legal problems, I was able to run my own

pro bono files (with supervision of course) and appear personally on behalf of clients in VCAT and in the Magistrates' Court."

Charles attributes his personal success to the hard work, dedication and encouragement of his parents, the guidance of his brother and the support of his fiancé. "I generally attribute my professional success to a strong education, my work ethic and my persistence."

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2015*

Postscript: Charles is now a Senior Associate (Class Actions) at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers.

# 2005

## ALEXANDER GOW

At just 27 years of age, Alexander Gow (2005) has earned his credentials as a formidable song writer and musician. As the lead singer for Melbourne band Oh Mercy, he already has four albums under his belt and an Australian tour underway. But the road to success has had its difficulties.

Since graduating from De La Salle in 2005, Gow has worked hard to build a career in music. Like so many before him, success meant giving it a go overseas. For Gow that meant the United States, and, after a painful departure from love and life in Melbourne, he set off for Nashville.

He admits it was hard. He was lonely and homesick, and just 15 months later he came home, bowed but not beaten. In fact, the experience has made him a better song writer and his latest album, *When We Talk About Love*, is being hailed as his best yet.

In a recent article in *The Saturday Paper*, Hoodoo Guru lead singer, Dave Faulkner, described Oh Mercy's latest album, as a work of ruthless candor and self-lacerating honesty. "Every lyric forged in a crucible of loneliness and regret. That it also sounds joyful and life affirming is remarkable. With this album, Alexander Gow has finally emerged as a fully formed, mature songwriter," Faulkner wrote.

The band's previous albums, *Deep Heat* (2012), *Great Barrier Grief* (2011) and *Privileged Woes* (2009) have all been well received.

During his time in the US, Gow played some Oh Mercy shows, read



a lot of Raymond Carver, and co-wrote with collaborators including former Patti Smith Group pianist Bruce Brody who wrote one of the tracks on the album *Let Me Be Him*.

Despite the loneliness, Gow managed to pen 45 songs and on his return to Australia he bunkered down at Mangrove Studios on the mid NSW coast, and under the skilled production eye of Scott Horscroft recorded the band's fourth album. Alex played all of the instruments on the album, bar strings. He said it was easier to do it that way rather than teach someone else.

In 2005, Alexander Gow was in his final year. He remembers it well. "Fu Haifeng broke the world record for fastest recorded badminton whack, clocking in at an easy 331.5 kph, Tom Cruise jumped up and down on a couch, like the apes we once were, once again proving absolute power corrupts absolutely, and Hunter S. Thompson's ashes

were shot out of a cannon at his funeral, to the tune of Bob Dylan's *Mr Tambourine Man*," he said. What else would you expect from a skilled storyteller like Gow?

Gow admits school life didn't always bring out the best in him. He was a passionate musician and a natural writer but sometimes the prospect of school didn't do it for him. When asked about his passions at school I get a keen sense of his naturally rebellious nature.

"I was passionate about kicking a stone from Malvern station all the way to and through the school entrance. I was often late on account of finding it difficult to safely kick that stone across Wattle tree Rd, near the hospital where my mum worked and still works. It was a different stone everyday mind you. I wasn't precious about the stone itself; it was more the routine that comforted me. I took Fridays off from stone kicking," Gow said.



Despite Gow's reluctance to be a model student while at the College, he is forever grateful that his creative instincts were nurtured by teachers who recognised his talents.

In fact, Gow says his professional music career was born at De La Salle. "I understood early that music was my passion. I was surrounded by terrific musicians in my year. I was different to them in that I was writing songs."

"My friends were mastering their instruments and they did so at an astonishing pace, as teenagers seem so capable of doing. I learnt a few chords, on my own, and started writing. I had a few singing lessons at school too. I found them to be confusing and didn't retain anything I was taught. I wasn't kind to the choir students, a fact I regret deeply. I practiced my singing, still do, trying to get better and better, still am. I wrote a lot of bad songs at school. By the time I left, I was writing well."

"I was interested in reading books and writing music. I would spend most lunch breaks in the music room or the photography studio."

"I would like to take this opportunity to formally apologise to patient and talented Mr Hewett for constantly bothering him and for making copies of a generous amount of music from his music library. Having said that, I benefited greatly from his guidance and encouragement. Mr Hewett was a wonderful teacher."

"I also remember one of my English teachers, Ms Robertson. She encouraged my creative writing. My writing was terrible (arguably still is) and I imagine hard for her or any other adult to read. Nevertheless, I remember her smile and encouragement and am grateful for it. I remember thinking that we took her patience and time for granted."

The College counsellor at the time, Mr Geoff Martin was a 'lefty' like me and lent me his guitar a few times. He was kind and thoughtful, and always encouraged me to be the same."

After completing his VCE, Gow applied for a journalism course. He quickly switched to Fine Arts at the Victorian College of the Arts, majoring in photography.

"I was quickly disillusioned by my fellow students' and teachers' blind dedication to 'conceptual' art. I was, and still am, interested in creating something of beauty."

He quit after a year and in collaboration with another De La Salle student, Thomas Savage, now based in the UK with his own band, wrote what would become his first album. The album, *Privileged Woes*, was released in the following year, kicking off his music career.

He attributes Oh Mercy's success to understanding goals and sticking to them. "You also have to have the nerve (ambition, ego, desire) to take the journey from point A to B."

Gow says the highlights of his career include being a guest singer for his favourite band, The Triffids. "We also toured Australia with Mick Harvey (Bad Seeds) and Rob Snarski (Black-eyed Susans). Oh Mercy also supported Crowded House, playing stadiums which was great fun."

As well as the US, Gow's music has taken him to Europe and all around Australia. "I have been fortunate. I make an extremely modest living, but I'm proud and satisfied."

Alexander Gow has come full circle. "I once heard a comedian say, 'Life is cool and fun, but sometimes it's hard and pointless'." He admits that some people don't like his honesty. "It is a responsibility to be honest. Otherwise what's the point?"

By Kerry Martin

First published in *Roll Call* September 2015

Postscript: In 2021 Alex Gow released a new album, *KANGOUROU*, his sixth, through Endless Recordings. His new podcast, *One Guitar* was launched at the 2021 Melbourne Writer's Festival.



# 2008

## MITCHELL ROBERTSON

Mitchell Robertson (2008) took time out of his busy schedule at University College, Oxford where he is completing his Doctoral Studies in American History to talk to *Roll Call*.

### ***What were your passions at the College?***

In my studies, I had a strong passion for history and politics, which have carried me through to this day! I was never very good at the creative arts, but I really enjoyed photography. I always enjoyed the sporting side of De La Salle too – the lunchtime soccer games, the Lightning Premiership for footy, and Homeroom basketball.

### ***Describe your life at Oxford?***

I love my life in Oxford! Oxford is different from most universities in that it is based around a college system, with each student assigned to one of the 38 colleges. I am lucky enough to go to the confusingly titled University College, the same one as Stephen Hawking, Percy Shelley, Bill Clinton, and our own Bob Hawke! These colleges provide a wonderful opportunity to get to meet so many interesting people from a diverse range of backgrounds and subjects. I am constantly struck by the beauty of the city walking around, even having been here for nearly three years.

Having been established in the 12th century, the architecture is just stunning. In terms of my day to day study life, I spend most of my time working on my dissertation and attending seminars.



One of the more unusual roles I have here is as President of the Australian Rules Football Club. I was never good enough to make the De La Salle team – all I had to do to make one was move overseas! But it provides a great way to stay in touch with other Aussies, and also the chance to get people from all around the world involved in our great game.

### ***Can you explain some of the challenges of living and studying overseas?***

An obvious, but also very true, challenge is that it is hard to be far away from your friends and family. It's probably easier for me being here in England as we share so much of a cultural heritage, and, of course, the language, however every so often you use a word or expression that the locals here don't understand. For example, I had my supervisor quiz me for a few minutes last week because he wanted to know what "spruiking" was.

### ***What legacies have your days as a De La Salle student left you with?***

De La Salle has left many legacies and has definitely shaped the way I see the world. Firstly, the teachers

there nurtured my love of learning. It's not a coincidence that I went on to study history and politics after the fantastic teaching I received, particularly from Mr Fleming and Mr Hayes, who were both so enthusiastic about the subjects and that was really contagious.

I was also deeply shaped by my time volunteering with the Coolies program. It was such an eye-opening experience and has just made me so grateful for all of the opportunities that I've received. As well as being grateful, De La Salle left me with the legacy; 'to whom much is given, from him much is expected'. That message always stuck with me.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2015*

Postscript; In 2020, Robertson (2008), was appointed a Fellow of the Rothermere American Institute at Oxford University. He was a regular media commentator during the last US election.

# 2009

## JOSEPH PHILLIPOS

Music, like a good doctor, can heal and in the case of Joseph Phillipos (2009), music plays an important part of maintaining a healthy work balance as a junior doctor.

The life of a young doctor can be frenetic with so many things to remember and long hours on the job. To maintain a work life balance, Phillipos uses his music to relax.

“Music is really important to me; it helps me relax and maintain a good life balance. I still play guitar and see live music whenever I can. Music was my main passion while at school,” Phillipos said. “I was part of the string ensemble throughout primary and in my early high school years. I joined a band with some friends, and I took guitar performance as a VCE subject.”

Phillipos is in his second year as a junior doctor. “I had five rotations in 2019 – General Medicine, General Surgery, Aged Care and two Emergency rotations.”

The workload is significant, and it is important to maintain a healthy attitude. “A typical day on the General Surgery unit started at 6:30am. It would start with a quick ward round where we see all our patients, before the senior doctors head off to theatre. The role of an intern is then to manage the ward, enact patient plans and deal with new issues that arise. You are also called to assist in theatre when required”.



“In the emergency department you see patients at the start of their journey, and get the chance to come up with a diagnosis and formulate plans, while still discussing all your thoughts and decisions with a senior doctor. You then refer to other specialties when required, and prepare patients for discharge or admission.”

“On medical rotations the patients are often quite complex with multiple medical issues, so ward rounds can go until the mid-afternoon, and then the rest of the day is made up of completing outstanding jobs from the round.”

“Being a young doctor comes with its challenges. Having to make decisions when you have limited clinical experience is difficult, however there is always support, and the skills and knowledge you gain in medical school stand you in good stead.”

“Working with patients who are going through difficult circumstances can be emotionally taxing, so it’s important to have an outlet like music, as well as people you can debrief with. Regardless of

the challenges, you soon realise you’re in a very privileged position. The work is very rewarding and it’s humbling to have patients and their families put their trust in you.”

After graduating from De La Salle, Phillipos completed a Bachelor of Science with an additional year of honours research, and then studied a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery.

“I worked sporadically throughout this time. I worked in a bank, a furniture store, a meat packing factory, and a candy buffet company. You could say my resume has a lot of variety.”

Initially, Phillipos was interested in Gastroenterology, however he really enjoyed his surgical rotation during internship. “This year I have taken more surgical rotations to help further consider surgery as a career.”

“De La Salle has left me with an extremely tight group of friends. After graduation I wondered how long it would be until I lost touch with all but my closest friends, but it’s been a decade and I still keep in touch with so many of my classmates. I’m even better friends with some of them now than I was when I graduated.”

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2020*

# 2009

## DANIEL STOW

As Fiji's Acting Consul General and Trade Commissioner to Australia and New Zealand, Daniel Stow (2009) is playing a key role in helping rebuild an economy severely impacted by COVID-19.

"Fiji has been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, with its economy contracting almost 19% during 2020 (compared to about 2.4% in Australia and 3.3% globally). This is largely due to the overnight collapse of international tourism, which accounting for nearly 40% of Fiji's GDP, has significantly impacted the livelihoods of many people in Fiji who rely on this sector – both directly and indirectly," Stow said.

With responsibility for generating trade and investment opportunities for Fiji and promoting greater economic ties between Fiji and Australia and New Zealand, Stow's role is integral to Fiji's economic recovery from COVID-19.

"The role of our office is more important now than ever, whether that be through the delivery of essential consular services for Fijian nationals needing to return home, or through trade and investment flows essential for Fiji's recovery and providing economic opportunities for its people."

With unprecedented impact caused by the pandemic, research is vital to mapping a pathway to economic recovery. "We are producing high value research to assist the government in its overall policy response, for example providing



high quality foreign direct investment into Fiji and export promotion to assist Fijian businesses to tap into market access opportunities in Australia and New Zealand. We also provide consular assistance to Fijian nationals residing in Australia and for tourists wishing to visit Fiji."

Since joining the Consulate in 2018, Stow's office has facilitated over \$AUD60 million worth of exports from Fiji to Australia/New Zealand; 45 investment projects in Fiji valued at over \$AUD130 million which have generated nearly 600 local jobs.

Of importance was the signing of a landmark agreement between Australia and Fiji in 2019. The 'Vuvale' partnership, which means family in 'i-Taukei', the native language of Fiji, strengthened ties between the two countries paving the way for deeper security, economic and diplomatic ties. The partnership was viewed as an elevation of Australia's relationship with its Pacific neighbours.

latest market updates to identify opportunities for Fijian exports and developing capacity building programs to help Fijian businesses be in a better position than they were pre-pandemic particularly in the areas of e-commerce and digital literacy."

"My office aims to contribute to Fiji's development through investment promotion to attract



*Daniel Stow and Fiji Consulate staff with former Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd at Lowy Institute event, Sydney, 2019*



*Fiji Prime Minister, Frank Bainimarama, with staff at the official opening of the new Fiji Consulate General & Trade Commission office in Sydney, 2018. Also pictured Fiji's High Commissioner to Australia, HE Luke Daunivalu and Fiji's Minister for Commerce, Trade & Tourism, Hon Faiyaz Koya*

Stow's work is varied, and no two days are ever the same. Naturally there are many ceremonial duties to perform for visiting dignitaries, including numerous official visits by the Fijian Prime Minister, The Honourable Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama.

In 2018, Stow was the Master of Ceremonies when Prime Minister Bainimarama officially opened the new office of the Consul General in Sydney. He has also been instrumental in Fijian Independence Day celebrations and Charity events.

"My day consists of talking to clients here in Australia and in New Zealand and communicating with my Ministry in Fiji (Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport). I am also responsible for the ongoing management and day to day operations of the office and being a diplomatic mission, we are also busy with providing consular

services. We are also responsible for coordinating disaster relief and donations with Fijian community in Australia in response to numerous tropical cyclones which have impacted Fiji."

"Sometimes my job has a lighter side and during a business mission to Brisbane, Fiji's High Commissioner to Australia, HE Luke Daunivalu, told me the Prime Minister wanted to go for a drive and asked if I could take him. He wanted to surprise one of his grandchildren, who lives in Brisbane and pick her up after school. We went to McDonalds afterwards where he bought me some fries."

Before his current role, Stow was an Account Manager at Google. He has completed studies in International Relations and Development Studies, both here and in Indonesia, and in 2019 was awarded a Juris Doctor from the University of Sydney.

Five years ago, Stow married Karina, whom he met when they were both working as Lasallian Youth Ministers. "These days much of my time outside of work is taken up by my two children Savannah (3)

and Raphael (1). Karina, and I enjoy travelling and doing active things together as a family."

As a student at the College, Stow was a keen cross-country athlete and was heavily involved in social justice initiatives, volunteering with the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Coolies India program and in 2011, he worked as a Lasallian Youth Minister.

"De La Salle has left me with the values to strive to be what my former Principal, Br Bill Firman, described as being a 'man for others.' I continue to be driven by the values of faith, service and community and endeavour to make a difference in the lives of others wherever I can, whenever I can, however I can - with whatever I have. I will be forever indebted to the De La Salle Brothers and teachers and all those who make the College such a special place."

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2021*

Postscript: In 2022, Dan was appointed as Fiji's Trade Commissioner to Australia and New Zealand.

# 2009

## TOM PARSONS

Melbourne artist, Tom Parsons' (2009) current exhibition *Erratic Pattern* at the Seventh Gallery in Melbourne plots slapstick conventions by testing them through objects and space.

"I reflect on my back catalogue of early memories, I can recall that I was always making, always drawing, and later on always painting.

I remember being totally engrossed by a set of wooden blocks I had as a kid and the countless forms I could achieve by arranging them in different ways. Before I reached my teenage years, when we went out for family dinners, I always carried a pad and pencils to draw with.

A little shy back then, I think I found a nice place to retreat, drawing as I sat back and watched the world. It was probably not until midway into my time at De La Salle that I realised that it was indeed a passion that I had for art and the visual arts. This passion and the motivation it gave me each day could be honed and pushed, and possibly lead towards the beginnings of what I hoped would be a life-long career.

De La Salle was integral to helping me choose the direction I wanted to go with my artistic inclinations. I clearly remember in Year 8, Mr Happ, praising me for a painting I did on paper of a cherry blossom tree. I was so thrilled by this encouragement that I think it may have been one of the sparks that pushed me to keep at it.

I was encouraged to take part in the Rock Eisteddfods which really opened my eyes to the breadth of possibilities the visual arts had to offer and how I could be a part of a larger like-minded community.



After graduating from De La Salle, I decided that while there were many avenues in the visual arts, from design to photography, I wanted to make a go of it as a painter. I took up an offer to study a Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in Painting at Monash University's Caulfield Campus, a decision that I never regretted.

The art school experience is second to none, challenging and fascinating. Through the first three years, students in the painting major are given a dedicated studio space and have an allocated set of tutors/mentors who visit and offer advice, discussion and criticism.

During the three years of the undergraduate degree, there were many great opportunities to be had. I took part in running the student gallery and went on a three-month trip to Monash's campus in Prato (Italy) where our group of fine art students lived together and were granted the opportunity to make art in the century's old buildings in the ancient city. I followed this with a few months of solo backpacking through Eastern Europe.

After graduating in 2013, I took up the offer to do a further year of Honours which I have just completed. It was a highly intensive and very rewarding year that saw me spending five to six (sometimes seven) solid days a week in my studio making work leading towards an end of year graduate exhibition.

My art practice primarily explores the relationship between the delimited or framed spaces of painting and video. Through video, installation and painting I aim to provoke a series of tensions; the more immediately present visual tension between delineating two dimensional and three dimensional spaces, and also a tension that is aroused by the fruitless action of tirelessly hand making, positioning, and then disassembling or disrupting objects within a composition.

My work takes the formats of painting, video, and sculptural installations and blends the distinct elements into a unified whole. Recently, I have taken the genre of the still life as the anchor point for the exploration of these ideas, utilising objects of daily use positioned within space to create video sequences that oscillate between moving image and paintings.

Other artists inspire me, giving me the confidence that a career as a visual arts practitioner is a viable option. I am also inspired by the idea that through making and showing my work, maybe someone will take something from my work, maybe even just a nuanced detail that stays in their mind.

Since the presentation of my work in my first graduate exhibition in 2012, quite a few exhibition opportunities have come my way. Some were awarded to me by various Melbourne-based galleries, others have been curated group shows."

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call May 2014*

Postscript: Tom is now based in Geelong where he runs his own studio. He has won a number of art prizes including the Linden Centre for Contemporary Art Award, the Trocadero Artspace Award and the Place Gallery Award. He has also held numerous solo exhibitions.

# 2011

## ASHTON AGAR

Amongst the thousands of proud Australians watching Ashton Agar (2011) belt out his record-breaking Innings in the second Test at Trent Bridge recently were his family — his two younger brothers, Will in Year 12 and Wes in Year 11, and his parents Sonia and John. *Roll Call* spoke to Ashton's father about his son's outstanding achievement.

John Agar said, "When the Ashes are on in England there is nothing much else going on except cricket and when the Ashes are at Trent Bridge the whole of Nottinghamshire is alive with cricket. It was wonderful being there when the Test was on. "The whole town was in carnival mode, and everybody was talking about Ashton."

The Agars were in the stands supporting Ashton and like most of Australia, applauding his every run. "When Ashton finally went out, he looked over towards where we were sitting and waved his bat at us. When he came over to us at the fence, he said he was sorry that he hadn't made 100."

John said they were all coping with the media attention. "Cricket Australia have been fantastic in their support, making sure we were not too swamped by all the media interest."

"Ashton has coped with the attention particularly well. His maturity has helped him a lot and he realises that it just comes with the territory of playing Test Cricket."



"Ashton will get more media and public attention, but I don't believe it will change him. He has had a lot of sponsorship offers which he is still thinking about, and it has added a little bit of expectation."

"As a parent our relationship and our expectations of Ashton will not change but we realise that the public's expectations of him have increased ten-fold, and that is something we will all have to deal with."

With Australia 9-117 in their first innings chasing England's total of 215, Ashton strode to the middle at Trent Bridge for his batting debut for his country. Defying any nerves and the pressure of the situation, Ashton Agar proceeded to make 98 runs in a batting display of skill and determination the cricket world had never seen before from a No. 11 batsman.

He not only became the highest scorer for the Australian innings and captured 2 wickets in the England 2nd innings, but he is also now the custodian of the following cricket records:

- Highest ever individual score by any No. 11 batsman.
- Highest score and first 50 by a No. 11 batsman on debut.
- Second fastest 50 runs scored on debut by a No. 11 Batsman.
- World record partnership with Phil Hughes for the 10th wicket of 163 runs.

Ashton's two younger brothers are current De La Salle students. Will is in Year 12 and is the 2013 College Vice Captain and captained the De La Salle First XI in the ACC Competition earlier this year. Wes is in Year 11 and both Will and Wes are also exceptionally talented cricketers who always represent De La Salle in ACC cricket.

*By Kerry Martin*

*First published in Roll Call September 2013*

Postscript: Since this article was published in *Roll Call* in 2013, Ashton has gone on to play domestically for Western Australia and the Perth Scorchers. He has played two Test matches for the Australian national side during the 2013 Ashes series.

# 2014

## WES AGAR

Fast bowler Wes Agar (2014) was named the 2020 Bradman Young Cricketer of the Year at the Australian Cricket Awards in February. Agar's outstanding fast bowling talent places him in a prestigious roll of honour, including Brett Lee and David Warner, as the nation's best young male cricketer. Agar spoke to *Roll Call* from Adelaide where he is now based.



“To be honest I was a little bit surprised when I found out I had won the Award. I was in Brisbane at the time, and I got a call from the Players Association to let me know I had won. I was so excited – my first reaction was to get off the phone so I could call mum and dad.”

“The Awards night was a who’s who of cricket. I took my girlfriend, Emma, it was an amazing evening.”

“It’s actually been a bit of a whirlwind of a year.” And so it should be, his impressive fast-paced bowling has unsettled some of the best domestic batsmen in the country.

Agar said the Award secured him a place at a level of cricket which he had worked hard to achieve. “Winning the award was a bit of a relief, as it meant I could relax in the knowledge that I had secured a position at the level I was at.”

Agar’s rise to fame has not come without its disappointments. He left his home in Melbourne in 2015 to try out with the Redbacks, but

two years later with only four one day games under his belt he was back in Melbourne, having failed to earn consistent selection in South Australia and Victoria.

He admits he was a bit overweight and unfit, but sheer determination solved that, and his return to South Australia has been nothing short of stellar. Now in peak physical condition, he is regarded as one of the best fast-bowling prospects in the country.

Agar made his Big Bash debut with the Adelaide Strikers in BBL|06 and famously went head to head with older brother Ashton (2011) against the Scorchers in his second season.

Agar has grown up a lot since a student at the College. He is confident, determined and totally focused on achieving his childhood dream of playing for Australia. At the tender age of 23, Agar says he is motivated by his dream to make it to the highest level of cricket.

“It was my dream as a kid to make it at the highest level. I always

dreamt to play cricket for Australia and that’s what motivates me. I’ve got so much to achieve and every day I wake up and I want to be a better player and a better person.”

Luckily for Agar his senior cricket career has been injury free. “I’ve had no real injuries which is incredibly lucky for me. I had lots of injuries when I was young and that taught me how to ride the lows as well as the highs.”

It seems a bit premature asking a 23 year old about career highlights, but Agar doesn’t draw breath, he has a lengthy list but the most significant is his first-class cricket debut. “A career highlight would be making my first-class debut for South Australia last year.”

He says that De La Salle taught him how to be a good person off the field. “You have to have good relationships and De La Salle taught me how to be respectful and give to others and that has humbled me and allowed me to build great relationships off the field.”





Living in Adelaide, Agar doesn't get to see his family as much as he would like, although he sees Ashton regularly on the cricket pitch. "I don't get to see my family often, but now I am playing against Ashton; it is great that I get to see him a lot."

The two share a healthy level of competitiveness. "I've got him out twice or three times and he always had my number, but now I am finally getting him back."

"I remember when we played backyard cricket, we dreamed of making it to the top. We believed

we were good enough to get there and now years later our dreams are coming true, for both of us."

Given Agar's positive outlook and sheer determination there is no doubt he will go far. In the short term he hopes to stay in Adelaide. "Hopefully, I can get my contract extended with South Australia, I then plan to do a bit of travelling with my girlfriend."

The Bradman Young Cricketer of the Year is awarded to the leading player who is under the age of 24 and who has not played more than 10 first-class matches before the voting period began.

*By Kerry Martin  
First published in Roll Call May 2020*



*Ashton and Wes Agar*



# 2014

## BRAYDEN MAYNARD

Sandringham Dragons Midfielder  
Brayden Maynard (2014) has been named in the 2015 AFL Draft and has been signed up to the Collingwood Football Club.

Described as a robust midfielder who loves to tackle, Brayden graduated from De La Salle last year and was part of the ACC Senior Football Team.

*First published in Roll Call May 2015*

Postscript: Maynard has played for the Collingwood Football Club since 2015. He was named a member of The All-Australian Team for 2020 and 2022.

# 2016

## RHYS NICOLAOU

Rhys Nicolaou (2016) is reputedly one of Melbourne's, if not Australia's most noted barbers. Often featured in the media and with thousands of followers on Instagram, Nicolaou's client list includes some of the world's biggest sports and music stars, including American rappers Lloyd Banks and Juice WRLD.

Nicolaou started his career at Culture Kings in Melbourne where he soon won the trust of visiting celebrities.

Now based at Mayhem in Camberwell, Nicolaou's clients follow him wherever he goes. "I've worked with artists such as Desiigner, Lloyd Banks, Juice WRLD's Crew, Skepta's Crew, BDotADot and the UFC when they came to Melbourne."

"I have also worked closely with Eminem's personal tour barbers on the Rapture tour."



Rhys with NRL star, Josh Addo Carr



Nicolaou who specialises in cutting Afro American hair is often sought out by the media for comment about hair and personal grooming and was recently featured in *The Herald Sun* and *Geelong Advertiser* in relation to a story about beards and self-grooming during COVID-19 lockdown.

Nicolaou started barbering back in 2015 when he was in Year 11.

"I enjoyed the art of cutting hair which then lead me to becoming a qualified barber. I started small and slowly built up a clientele. I enjoyed the idea of cutting hair and making other people look fresh."

He says that becoming a celebrity barber was a lot about networking. "The real secret behind it is networking and talking to everyone. Getting my name out there was the hardest, but with a mindset to achieve something big, you can. The classic saying the celebrity talk is true is spot on. If you please one celebrity, they will talk to another then recommend you. Eventually, everyone knows you! Or in my case, everyone knows Big Rhys."

Nicolaou was also passionate about music and while he was a student at

the College, he was heavily involved in the College Music program and was a member of the College band.

"My passion at De La Salle was music! I loved the diverse Music range at the school which included my favourite extra-curricular activity, band camp. Having the opportunity to travel and play music was a major highlight."

Alongside his work as a barber and his music, Nicolaou is a committed 'sneakerhead'. "One of my biggest and favourite hobbies outside of work is collecting and wearing sneakers. Now I have over 100 pairs and counting in my collection. Some people say I'm crazy, but I say it's a passion."

"De La Salle has left me with many amazing legacies but the one that stands out the most is brotherhood. Having that tight community of friends and family was the best. Being a Lasallian taught me to have the most respect for people and gave me real lessons about life in the real world."

By Kerry Martin

First published in Roll Call May 2021



# 2016

## COREY AND JARRYD LYONS

Corey Lyons (2016) was recruited by the Brisbane Lions Football Club in 2016. Lyons, who was a star mid-fielder with the College's ACC Senior Football during his VCE years was also a key member of the Sandringham Dragons.

During Year 12, Lyons managed to keep up his football commitments whilst dedicating himself to his studies, achieving an ATAR of 94.65. An outstanding result.

College ACC Senior Football Coach, Peter Harrington said Lyons was an inspirational student and player.

*Jarryd and Corey Lyons. Photo courtesy of AFL Photos*

“Lyons was obviously a great player and had most, if not all, of the attributes of a player who could make it to the highest level,” Mr Harrington said. “But what struck me about him was not necessarily his football related skills, but his humility and natural leadership qualities,” Mr Harrington said.

Lyons dominated the midfield in the 2019 season for the Lions NEAFL side, helping the side remain undefeated.

His older brother, Jarryd Lyons (2010), made his Senior debut with the Lions in 2020. Jarryd played with the Sandringham Dragons before being selected by the Adelaide Crows in 2010. In 2016 he was traded to the Suns, before moving to the Lions in 2018.

The midfielder had his breakout year in 2019, renowned for his prolific work during the stoppages, tireless tackling efforts, amassing possessions and working down the ground to score goals.

Lyons went on to finish fourth in the Club Champion event for 2019. Lyons stellar 2019 was topped off with the birth of his first child.

*First published in Roll Call 2020*



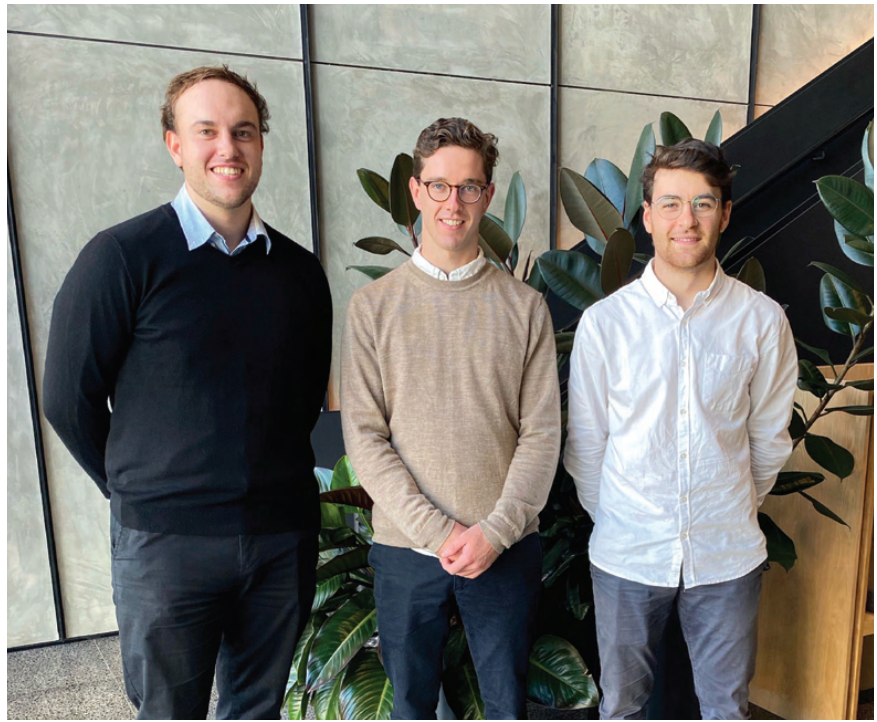
*Jarryd Lyons*

# 2017

Dom Tesoriero (2017) joined the Graduate program at efm Logistics this year, 2022. Dom graduated from The University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Economics and Finance.

Also joining efm Logistics this year is Alexander Martin (2017), who joined the staff as an Internal Account Manager. Alexander graduated from RMIT University with a Bachelor of Environment and Society with Distinction in 2021.

Nicolas Catrice (2015) also works at efm as a Commercial Analyst. Nic completed a Bachelor of Commerce at Monash University.



*L-R: Alexander Martin, Nicolas Catrice and Dom Tesoriero*



# 2018

## SEAN MACDONALD

Sean Macdonald (2018) was selected for the Australian Boomers and played against Taipei in Japan in early March 2022.

Whilst in Year 10 at the College, Macdonald was selected as part of the Australian 17 Men's 2016 FIBA team representing Australia in the World Championships.

Before joining the Jack Jumpers he played for The Kilsyth Cobras, The Dandenong Rangers, The Melbourne Tigers, and The Oakleigh Warriors.

# 2019 – 2022

The stories featured in this book are largely drawn from *Roll Call* magazine articles.

It is only possible to share the stories of our Old Collegians once they have graduated from the College and established their careers.

We look forward to bringing you the stories of the next generation of Old Collegians in the years to come.



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DE LA SALLE COLLEGE, MALVERN

Old Collegians

## RECONNECT

with the De La Salle Community and your College cohort

## REKINDLE

friendships and friend networks

## REDISCOVER

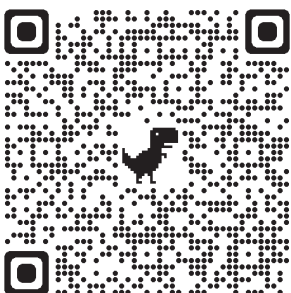
the fun of Reunions

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all the current and Alumni news in *Roll Call*

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