

SPC Old Collegians - Where are they now?

Former College Captain and Olympian Christian Ryan (SPC 1992-95) is preparing to celebrate his 20-Year Reunion on Saturday, May 23. On the same day, Christian will also line up with the North Old Boys-St Patrick's College Football Club when they play a home game against Bulleen-Templestowe on the College's Main Oval wearing replica SPC 1st XVIII jumpers. A president's luncheon will be held to mark the game and anyone wishing to attend is urged to contact Christian at cryan@beulahcapital.com. Ahead of his big day back at the College we thought we'd ask him some questions about his time at SPC.



Where has life taken you since leaving SPC?

Life since SPC has taken me far and wide, in particular with my rowing career which finished in 2007. I got the opportunity to travel the world and visit a number of countries whilst rowing. However, my home base since leaving school has been Melbourne and I have now lived in Williamstown for the past 15 years.

Tell us about your role as Managing Director of Beulah Capital?

Beulah Capital is a wealth management firm that was established nearly eight years ago by myself and a couple of others. Since then the firm has grown to employing 21 people and looking after a range of private clients, family groups, superannuation funds, not-for-profit organisations and charities. The firm manages approximately \$400 million dollars of clients' assets and advises them across of a number of different investment strategies as well as financial structuring, finance, self-managed superannuation funds, risk and estate management. My role as Managing Director is to oversee the growth of the business as well as manage investments on behalf of our clients.

You maintain a strong passion for SPC and are a regular visitor back to the College. Why?

I think that my time at SPC was quite influential in the direction that I took post my schooling life. For instance, I wouldn't have known about rowing until my brother had attended the school two years prior to me, where he brought home a video of the 1990 Head of the Lake victory and all the kids jumping in the lake when SPC won. Growing up in Warrnambool it was all about football mainly, and I thought that this was where I could potentially develop further when I went to SPC but rowing ended up having a stronger connection with me and I set my eyes on competing at the Sydney Olympics after watching the Athens games in 1996. Overall, the opportunities that I was exposed to at SPC allowed me to view and see things differently. As a boarder, you learnt to grow up pretty quickly, and deal with a range of issues you wouldn't probably know or have to deal with if you lived at home with your parents. A lot of this passion for this environment was also instilled into me by my parents, in particular my father who was a SPC old boy from 1964 – 1968. He saw the value of us being exposed to such an environment and we valued the tradition and values to which SPC stood for.

With this in mind and the influence the school had on me, you want to pass onto the next generation my experiences and insight as much as I can to help boys to have the great experience that I had. I would say, that a lot of success in my career, both in sport and now in the business world was massively influenced by the school.

You are also very passionate about the NOB-SPC. For those readers who may not be familiar with the club, please explain why you are so passionate about it?

I am currently Vice President of the North Old Boys-St Patrick's College Football Club based in Brunswick. Up until recently I was playing in the senior side, winning the flag in Division 1 in 2012. From a personal perspective, I always felt that there was an extensive number of SPC Old Boys floating about in Melbourne and I wanted to use the club as a conduit for Old Boys of SPC getting together outside of the usual reunions which the OCA organised each year. SPC has a massive Old Boy network and the football club provides the opportunity for Old Boys to reconnect. A football club is a great place for everyone both young and old to have as a place that they can associate with common people from country Victoria. If the SPC brand and Old Boy network can help with this transition as well as getting the Old Boy network back together more often, it is helping the next generation progress from their time at SPC into the big open world.



What would you like to see in the future for St Patrick's College?

From a long term perspective and using Old Xaverians as an example, it would be great to see the SPC Old Boys challenging and continuing their sporting dominance in the football arena post the time at school. The 1st XVIII is a massive thing to be part of when you are at school. After many years of development SPC is now known in Australia as the most successful footballing school and I would like to continue to carry this development. I want to give SPC Old Boys the opportunity to continue this relationship with the school in an environment that not only they can play great football with a great sense of purpose and meaning, but provide them with greater opportunities to assist in their careers via the Old Boy network. From a vision perspective, you would hope that the brand of SPC can grow beyond Ballarat and further and establish itself as a school and brand that is renowned throughout Australia.