



the Shamrock

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the Shamrock

In its long and proud history St Patrick's College has endured very few times as turbulent and as uncertain as the first semester of 2020.

The incredibly positive vibe which greeted the start of the school year soon met a series of grave and unexpected challenges.

The sudden departure of Principal John Crowley, the death of beloved staff member Gerard Sullivan and the ongoing controversy surrounding the High Court's verdict and Royal Commission's findings in relation to Cardinal George Pell would be enough to challenge any school in such a short timeframe.

Then, of course, there was the COVID-19 pandemic, which quickly demanded everyone's full attention as we moved to an unprecedented period of teachers teaching from home, and boys learning from home.

Through it all though we have been inspired by the professionalism of our staff, the exuberance of our students and the resilience of our wider community.

Crisis breeds opportunity so now, as we look at the lessons learned in the first six months of 2020, we can foresee a brighter future safe in the knowledge that staying apart can sometimes bring us closer together.

We hope you enjoy this edition of The Shamrock. 🍀

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Cover: Across Ballarat and across Australia, St Patrick's College students logged-in to their online classes from their homes during the COVID-19 lockdown.

This page: Student Council leaders donned green ties and savoured the green donuts on St Patrick's Day – just days before the lockdown began.



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New Principal



Edmund Rice Education Australia Executive Director Wayne Tinsey had two big announcements to make to the St Patrick's College community in the first half of the year.

The first of these announcements came in early February when Mr Tinsey announced the departure of Principal John Crowley who was taking up the position of Acting Principal at St Kevin's College.

"John Crowley is an experienced educator, highly regarded in the educational and broader community for his leadership. He is well known as a trusted advocate for victims and survivors of abuse and he was a significant contributor to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. John has our full confidence and will be strongly supported in his work of both responding to the challenges that have recently been raised for the St Kevin's College community and ensuring that the academic, wellbeing and spiritual care of the students remain a priority."

"In making this decision, I am very conscious of the impact of this development on the St Patrick's College community. After consultation with John, I have appointed Mr Stephen Hill to the position of Acting Principal for the remainder of 2020."

"Stephen is well known to all members of the College community in his current role as Deputy Principal; as you are aware, Stephen was also Acting Co-principal of the College while John fulfilled the role of Acting Regional Director for EREA. I thank Stephen for his willingness to support the College by taking on the significant role of Acting Principal once again. Stephen will be well supported in this work by the National Director (School Engagement), Dr Adam Taylor and the EREA Regional Director, Mr Diarmuid O'Riordan."

Mr Tinsey's second announcement came in late April when he announced that former College Deputy Principal Mr Steven O'Connor had been appointed to the position of Principal, effective from January 2021.

"Steven is an experienced leader in education including as a past Deputy Headmaster at St Patrick's College. Currently Steven is Head of School at Santa Sabina College in Strathfield, and previously he has held the positions of Head of College/CEO at All Saints' College in Bathurst; Principal/CEO at Trinity Anglican College in Albury-Wodonga; Deputy Principal at Thomas Carr College in Tarneit; and other senior positions including at Toowoomba Grammar School, and St Stanislaus' College in Bathurst."

"Steven complements his leadership experience with a sound academic record having a Master of Education (Education Administration) from Charles Sturt University; Master of Letters (History) from University of New England; Bachelor of Arts/Diploma of Education from the University of New England; and Diploma of RE (Catholic Schools) from Charles Sturt University."

"On behalf of all members of the Edmund Rice Education Australia community, we take this opportunity to express our gratitude and respect for Stephen Hill for once again assuming the role of Acting Principal, a role he will retain for the remainder of the year." ❀



- ← **1:** Mr Steven O'Connor has been appointed as Principal of St Patrick's College for 2021.
- ← **2:** Mr John Crowley addresses the 2020 Welcome Assembly in February. It proved to be the last time he would address a College assembly as Principal.
- ← **3:** Acting Principal Mr Stephen Hill.

Revocation of honours to remain

Edmund Rice Education Australia, the St Patrick's College Board, the Old Collegians Association and the executive of St Patrick's College acknowledge the release of the full and unredacted findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse – Case Study 28 and Case Study 35.

The College also recognises the findings of the High Court which overturned previous guilty verdicts against Old Collegian Cardinal George Pell on charges of child sexual abuse.

The College has the utmost respect for the findings of both the High Court and the Royal Commission.

The important work of the Royal Commission provided the opportunity for many victims and survivors of abuse to have their stories told and their voices listened to, and for systemic historic failings across many organisations to be exposed.

It also provided the opportunity for reconciliation and for ongoing solidarity around the journey towards the hope of healing. St Patrick's College remains unwaveringly committed to this course.

In 2019, the College revoked honours which it had previously bestowed upon Cardinal George Pell. This included renaming a building and removing his status as a Legend of the Old Collegians Association. St Patrick's College stands by these decisions.

At all times the College's highest priority is the welfare and wellbeing of our students. They remain at the very centre and heart of all we do.

In December 2016 the College identified behaviours that aligned with our expectations around child protection. In collaboration with EREA, the College discussed and published a range of actions that would apply to individuals found by the Royal Commission to have engaged in behaviours that did not meet these expectations. They were identified as follows:

*"Unacceptable behaviours include: where an individual has been **convicted** of a child sexual offence (whether identified by the Royal Commission findings or otherwise), findings/admissions of **actual knowledge** of allegations of child sexual abuse and insufficient responsive action taken to protect children and findings/admissions that indicate that an individual was privy to **rumour/or suspected allegations** of child sexual abuse, which satisfied the Commission that the individual should have done more to protect children."*

The findings of the Royal Commission were clear in that Cardinal Pell had "actual knowledge of allegations of child sexual abuse and insufficient responsive action (had been) taken to protect children".

Similar findings in the past against other Old Collegians, Archbishop Sir Frank Little and Bishop Brian Finnigan, had resulted in their honours being revoked, and the College's decision in relation to Cardinal Pell remains consistent with those actions. ✚



← 1: St Patrick's College will stand by its decision to revoke honours previously bestowed upon Old Collegians who have since been the subject of adverse findings by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.



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Loss of a colleague

St Patrick's College continues to mourn the passing of our colleague and friend Gerard Sullivan at 9:30pm on Friday, May 1, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Gerard's wife, Suzie, and his children, Ella and Lucinda, were with Gerard as he passed gently.

All at St Patrick's and the wider EREA community pass our condolences to Suzie, Ella, Lucinda and Gerard's extended family.

St Patrick's College first met Gerard in 2016 when he was appointed to the position of Deputy Headmaster – Student and Staff Wellbeing after many years of senior leadership in a variety of positions in the Sandhurst Diocese.



The St Patrick's community came to know Gerard as a man of great faith who valued the relationships he had with so many of us above all else. Gerard will be greatly missed by many in our community, staff, students and parents alike, who came to know him as a man of integrity and honour.

Gerard's funeral took place on May 8 at St Patrick's Cathedral and he was buried at the new Ballarat cemetery in the Birdsong section.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions only a small number of immediate family members were able to attend

the funeral. As such St Patrick's College liaised closely with the funeral to arrange a live stream which was watched by hundreds of Gerard's family and friends around the world.

Following the service the cortege arrived at the College for Gerard to visit one final time and staff gathered in the front gardens to pay their respects to a much-loved colleague.

An online tribute to Gerard can be seen at this link: <https://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/news/gerard-sullivans-funeral/>

Vale Gerard, as you pass into the hands of our loving God.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon him.

May Gerard rest in peace.

Amen ✿



- ↑ 1: The altar at St Patrick's Cathedral in tribute to Gerard Sullivan.
- ← 2: Gerard Sullivan pictured at the 2016 St Patrick's College Legends Dinner.
- ↑ 3: There were incredibly touching scenes as Gerard's cortege brought him to the College for one final time.



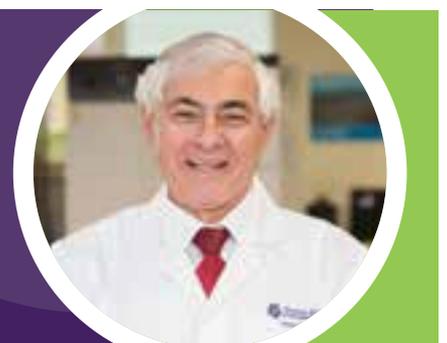
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COVID-19 crisis hits College

The word ‘unique’ is, at times, used far too freely to describe a situation or event.

However, the period of time since the declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic can indeed be described as ‘unique’.

Clearly, every student, his family, the entire College staff and all areas of the school’s operations were affected by this virus.

Had someone said at the start of the year that by mid-April the College’s 1350-plus students would be engaged in full-time online learning from home, and that our teaching staff would also be working from home, they would have been deemed insane.

How could it be possible that an organisation as large and as complex as St Patrick’s College could manage such a fundamental shift to its existing procedures?

Such wholesale changes, if planned, would probably be managed over a five-year period. Due to the sudden surge of COVID-19, we effectively managed such a change in five days.

“The recent weeks have only served to highlight what I tell everyone I meet about why I work at St Patrick’s,” Acting Principal Stephen Hill wrote to parents in mid-April.

“This is a great school to lead because it is filled with boys who love their school, parents who support their son’s learning and an incredibly capable and talented staff. The efforts of staff, students and parents over the past few weeks stand as clear evidence of the truth of this statement.

“Many of you may have heard me speak at assemblies and information nights in the past about the strong partnership that exists between parents and teachers of St Patrick’s College.

“Never before has this partnership been more important than in the current environment. The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has created a period of disturbance the likes of which none of us has endured before.

“Our daily routines and rituals have been put on hold indefinitely. Many of us are housebound, fearful that a loved one may fall ill to this easily communicable disease which has already killed so many around the world.

“At St Patrick’s College, we remain steadfastly committed to doing our bit to help stop the spread of this disease while also maintaining our commitment to working with parents to provide the best possible educational outcomes for your boys.

“I am incredibly proud of the way our staff have worked tirelessly over the past few weeks to prepare our community for the move to remote learning. This has been a massive challenge – one which normally would only be enacted over a period of years, not mere weeks. Parent feedback over the past week tells me that, for most of you, this has been a great success.”

The College managed its remote and flexible learning environment using Microsoft Teams. In the final days of Term 1, staff and students were urgently trained in the management of this emerging platform. While there were hiccups and mis-steps along the way, overwhelmingly the period of online learning was seen as being successful.

- ↑ **1:** The move to remote and flexible learning was particularly complicated for some of our boarders from remote places in the Northern Territory such as Year 8 student Dwayne Hayes. Fortunately, due to excellent relationships with schools in these areas, our students were able to access adequate internet services and connect to St Patrick’s College.
- ← **2:** Across Ballarat and beyond, more than 1300 students such as Year 12 Sam Hobbs converted their bedrooms, loungerooms and kitchens into home classrooms.
- **3:** The College urgently trained staff and students in the use of Microsoft Teams to help us deliver online learning through the COVID-19 crisis.
- **4:** Year 11 boarder Tex Mitchell logs in from his home in Portland.
- **5:** College grounds fell largely silent as most students and staff worked from home. On some days there were fewer than 40 people on-site at the College at the height of the crisis.



2



In fact, many of the lessons learned during this period will shape the future teaching and learning offerings of the College.

After a few weeks of students and staff working from home, parents were asked to respond to a survey.

Of the 315 responses, 91% said the College's transition to remote and flexible learning this term had either met, exceeded or far exceeded their expectations.

Equally pleasing is the fact that 88% of respondents said their son was coping either as expected or better than expected.

"This feedback is incredibly encouraging for our staff who continue to work so hard to make the best of a difficult situation, and also for our students, many of whom are working just as diligently to make this experience as successful and engaging as possible," Mr Hill said.

"We are also thankful for the many constructive comments parents supplied in the survey, particularly around student workloads, and have worked to implement changes in our classrooms."

Mr Hill said many staff worked tirelessly through the Easter holiday period to prepare the College community for the transition and that those sacrifices were greatly appreciated by all.

"So many people worked so many hours – long days and long nights – at a time during which they would normally be on holidays to make this possible," he said.

"They put the educational and welfare needs of our students at the forefront of all their thinking and they should be justifiably proud of the results."

"On behalf of all students and parents, I thank these staff members for the dedication and unwavering commitment." 🍀








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Innovation through crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic threw many of the College's best laid plans into disarray towards the end of Term 1.

A series of major events had to be cancelled at a moment's notice, creating much disappointment in the community.

There have been far too many events cancelled or postponed, to list them all but they include:

- The Annual St Patrick's Day Mass, Assembly and OCA luncheon;
- Edmund Rice Day activities, including the annual Walkathon;
- The joint St Patrick's College – Loreto College production of Matilda;
- The 2020 Year 12 formal;
- Class reunions for Old Collegians
- The Year 10 Work Experience Week;
- Many school camps, excursions, sporting and music events; and
- Planned tours to Darwin, England, Japan and the United States.

There would not be a student at the College who has not been left disappointed at some stage by the cancellation of an event that they were dearly looking forward to.

However, in times like these, the College has sought new, innovative ways to fill the void left by cancelled events.

In some cases, a re-imagining of how we could replicate events in an online world has injected new life, new thinking and greater involvement.

Some of these innovations will continue to be embedded in the College calendar for years to come.

Following is a list of some of the highlights:

Student Council videos

Always looking for ways to ensure the student body remained connected and passionate, the 2020 Student Council has been exemplary in the ways they have created a series of fun, quirky videos to keep the fire of school spirit burning.



In particular, they deserve commendation for recognising early in the lockdown that their classmates needed some fun injected into their daily routine.

The concept of a Funky Hair Day, where staff and students were encouraged to wear their hair in whatever crazy style (or colour) they desired was a great success.

Similarly, fun videos to celebrate Mother's Day and another to welcome the return to the classroom, also brought much-needed laughter to long days in front of a computer.

The Student Council also arranged a sombre ANZAC Day video, which was shown to all students, to ensure this important day was not forgotten.

All Student Council videos were posted to the College's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/spcoca

St Pat's Has Talent

Traditionally held on Edmund Rice Day each year, the annual talent quest was in danger of becoming another cancellation in 2020.

However, once again the power of the video online came to the fore, with students encouraged to record their entries and submit them online for public judging.

This requires great courage so it was fantastic to see 15 quality entries, ranging from Lego building to piano recitals to sports challenges to drum solos, published on the College website before more than 500 people lodged votes for their favourite act.



Congratulations to Year 12 students Chad Cartledge, Harry Johns and Archie Pollard who won the top prize with their band, Spa Avenue, narrowly ahead of Year 7 drummer Riley Irvin and Year 12 solo act Alex Byham.

Weekly Sports Challenges

One of the risks of the lockdown was that boys would spend inordinate time sitting in front of a computer and would not have the opportunity, nor the inclination to spend some energy.

Recognising this, the College's Head of Sport Ms Tina Benoit set about the task of issuing weekly sporting challenges, prompting boys to film themselves completing the task set and sending in their recordings to see how they match up against their peers.

Challenges including trick shots in sports such as tennis, golf, basketball, soccer and football – with videos published on the College Facebook page each week.

It proved a great avenue to showcase the many talents our students possess while also encouraging them to continue practicing their well-honed skills.

Windows of Hope

The first week of May was a particularly challenging time in our community. We were all still adjusting to the rigours of online learning, the weather was turning bleak and we were missing out on celebrating Edmund Rice Day – with its annual walkathon and activities.

We needed a reason to feel positive so the College's Mission Team led an inspired Windows of Hope campaign, asking all members of our community to take a photo of their own personal "window of hope" and to share their visions with the community.

Once again, we were delighted with the buy-in from the community and were thrilled to be able to publish many inspiring images to provide some bright moments in a tough time.



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St Patrick's Day

While the lockdown restrictions had not fully been implemented on March 17, they were clearly imminent and, as such, the College had to cancel many of the planned activities on the day such as the Mass, Assembly and OCA Luncheon,

However, that didn't mean we couldn't still inject some fun and SPC spirit into the day as students were encouraged to wear their special green SPC ties while each boy was presented with a very large green donut at recess to mark the occasion.

Looking ahead ...

As the school year continues, and some social distancing restrictions remain in place, there is still much uncertainty lingering over many key events.

We don't yet know for example what this year's Valedictory Dinner or Thanksgiving Mass will look like.

We can't plan an Annual Celebration Dinner for the Old Collegians Association, or an SPC in Concert, or a Herald Sun Shield campaign.

What we can have faith in however is our ability to innovate, to keep the spirit strong and to re-imagine creative ways to ensure that 2020 becomes memorable for some inspiring reasons as well as for the heartbreak it has wrought. ♣



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- ← 1: Harry Johns and Archie Pollard and Chad Cartledge were the winners of the 2020 St Pat's Has Talent quest which was conducted entirely online for the first time in its history.
- ← 2: The Funky Hair Day challenge injected some much-needed fun into the online learning environment. It was led by our student leaders, from left, Vice Captain Max Waller, College Captain Will Rothe and Vice Captain Finn Lappin.
- ← 3: Year 7 drummer Riley Irvin finished second in St Pat's Has Talent.
- ← 4: Members of our community were encouraged to share their own window of hope.
- ← 5: Students were able to enjoy their free green donuts on St Patrick's Day.
- ← 6: Despite the lockdown, the College still ensured it properly commemorated ANZAC Day in 2020.

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School returns

Generally, there is usually only one day each year when there is a tangible sense of excitement and anticipation around students returning to school and that is the first day of the school year.

However, due to the extraordinary circumstances that 2020 has witnessed, we were able to experience that unusual feeling twice this semester – on the first day of the school year, and then again on Tuesday, May 27 when Year 11 and 12 students returned to classes after the enforced COVID-19 stay-at-home period.

In fact, the sense of excitement on that May day eclipsed anything previous, as so much work had been invested to even make it possible in the first place.

From the time the College was shut to students on Tuesday, March 24 to the time the VCE students returned, more than two months had passed – longer than the summer holidays.

However, in that time, while everyone was managing the complexities of implementing an online learning environment, the College was also mindful of the many changes which had to be enacted to ensure the safety of staff and students once the students returned.

In a campus as large as St Patrick's College, this can be a difficult challenge.

Hand sanitising stations were installed in all classrooms, social distancing measures were put in place in places such as staffrooms, the shop and meeting rooms, COVID-19 awareness posters were created and proliferated around the school while classroom set-ups were altered where practicable to comply with social distancing.



The way the College canteen operates was changed significantly as we have now moved to an online ordering environment, rather than having students form large lines.

Extra precautions have been put in place around subjects such as physical education, food technology, music and science.

The College has learned many lessons over the past three months and has embraced many new technologies and practices which can now inform our improved offerings for years to come.

While online learning has had some incredible positives, for most students and staff it still can't compare to the benefits enjoyed by face-to-face learning in a caring environment. 🍀

- ↑ 1: It was great to see classrooms full of students again on Tuesday, May 27.
- ← 2: Year 7 students are pictured in class with their new laptops in the first week of the school year.
- ↑ 3: The College also used the COVID-19 shutdown time to complete some maintenance around the College such as the installation of this new shelter near the entrance to the canteen.
- ↑ 4: Signage encouraging social distancing has been published all around the College.

Old Boys donate in time of need

The St Patrick's College Old Collegians Association (OCA) will donate \$50,000 to help the St Patrick's College community manage the impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

The OCA will donate \$40,000 directly to the College to help assist current families whose income has been affected by the crisis.

In addition, the OCA has provided a further injection of \$10,000 to be used in its Pastoral Care Program which aims to support Old Collegians through challenging times.

OCA President Allan McKinnon said the wellbeing of the broader College community is the primary focus of the committee.

"When presented with difficult times such that we are all experiencing right now, the OCA wants to be a voice of support and comfort," Mr McKinnon said.

"Through our close association with the College we are aware that many current parents may have recently lost their job or had their income reduced and are worried about their ongoing ability to have their son at St Patrick's College."

"While the College has assured these families that their son's enrolment is secure, such a commitment carries financial cost. The OCA wants to be able to help the College manage these costs and we believe this donation of \$40,000 will assist in that regard."



Mr McKinnon said the supplementary injection of funds into the Pastoral Care Program will also be of great assistance to Old Collegians.

"This money will be used to purchase items such as supermarket vouchers or groceries to provide assistance for Old Collegians who may need a helping hand," Mr McKinnon said.

"We know from running our Pastoral Care Program for several years now that the donation of one week's worth of groceries, while essentially a small gesture, can make a substantial difference."

"We are very proud of our Pastoral Care Program and want to really expand its ability to help during this unfolding health and economic crisis."

The distribution of assistance is managed through the OCA by the College's Alumni and Foundation Officer Ms Lorrie Liston.

Mr McKinnon invited members of the community to contact Mrs Liston directly with either requests for assistance or suggestions of others who may need a helping hand. Mrs Liston's email address is lliston@stpatsvic.edu.au

"The OCA supports the College's endeavours to promote the wellbeing and welfare of all in our community as the number one priority at all times," Mr McKinnon said.

"This donation will be just the OCA's first step towards assisting the community in the coming months and years."

More information on the OCA Pastoral Care Program can be found on Page 28. ❀

Old Collegians Association President Allan McKinnon said his committee was pleased to be able to contribute to the College in times of hardship.



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Hidden gem unveiled

For decades, the area known as the Sir Bernard Heinze Theatre, or the old boarder's cinema, has occupied a central area of St Patrick's College.

It featured a stage, a projectionist room, some rudimentary sound and lighting facilities and dark, heavy curtains draped its east-facing windows.

While in recent years it was used for drama classes, its days as a venue for performances were clearly in the past.

Over the summer period of 2019-20 the College's maintenance team set to work to bring some new life to the theatre and the results have been stunning.

Gone is the asbestos-filled projection room while the stage has been removed, the curtains dismantled, and the former yellow and maroon walls painted.

What remains now is a stunning, light-filled, wide open teaching and learning area perfect for music lessons and performances.

This hidden gem of St Patrick's College has been restored to its former glory and now provides a glistening new home at the geographic heart of the school. ♣



- **1:** The revamped Sir Bernard Heinze Theatre is now a light-filled and spacious heart of the school.
- **2:** The stage, which once hosted College productions, has also been removed.
- **3:** Morning light now beams through the east-facing windows which were covered for decades by heavy drapery.
- **4:** Workers removed the former projection room which, for many years, provided movies for boarders on a Saturday night.

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Academic Assembly

The College welcomed back its elite academic performers from the Year 12 Class of 2019 at the annual Academic Assembly on Tuesday, February 11.

2019 College Dux Matthew Duffy, who achieved an outstanding ATAR of 99.9, delivered an inspiring speech at the event, passing on valuable lessons he had learned during his six years at the College.

Following is an excerpt from that speech (the full version can be read online at: <https://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/news/2019-college-dux-address-to-2020-academic-assembly/>):



"There's so much more that you get from being a Paddy Boy. To the fresh batch of Year 7s, I'll give you one piece of advice. Get involved with things. Whatever you're into, throw yourself at new experiences and opportunities. I can't convince you to do it until you've done it.

My Year 12 experience was a bit unusual. In the most self-respecting way possible, I'd say I was a bit of a joke. I dressed up stupidly on multiple occasions, chose to be co-MC for the unforgiving St Pat's Got Talent, someone made a Matthew Duffy fan-page on

Instagram which was just weird, and for God's sake I played Shrek. However, I want to publicly recommend being a joke and putting yourself out there. The people who get the most out of school are the ones who aren't afraid to make a fool of themselves.

So, get involved with things. For me it was performing arts: musicals, public speaking, debating. For some of you it might be social justice. For many of you it's probably sport, which is cool. I signed up for tennis in Year 7 and then something happened; I don't really remember, maybe I couldn't find my way to the first training session or something. Whatever it was, it was enough to make me stop going entirely. So, don't be a Matt Duffy. Keep at it and it'll definitely pay off.

There are six future College Duxes in this room, as well as hundreds of school leaders, dozens of performers, and probably a thousand sportsmen of various kinds. With all the terrific opportunities the school has given me, I'm not kidding when I say my biggest regret is that I didn't take the time to speak to and get to know more of you. As far as studies go, make the effort to work hard, because regardless of what score you get or what score you're after, success in life almost always comes from hard work. In fact, I'd say that success IS the hard work. But whatever you do, leave St Pat's with no regrets." ❀

Matthew Duffy addresses the 2020 College Academic Assembly.



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Walking Off the War Within

It has been a tremendous honour for the College to once again be the host venue for the 2020 Walking Off the War Within which attracted thousands of people to the school on Saturday, February 29.

The annual event has quickly become one of the most popular in Ballarat and continues to receive enormous support from the entire community.

In glorious conditions around 2000 people gathered to remember the life of Old Collegian Nathan Shanahan (SPC 1988-93) and to raise money for and awareness of mental illness, particularly Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Upon leaving school Nathan worked both as a soldier in the Australian Defence Forces and then as a firefighter in the Country Fire Authority.

Across both roles he was exposed to highly traumatic scenes which then manifested into Nathan suffering severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Frustrated at the lack of understanding and support for people suffering such conditions, in 2015 Nathan embarked on a fund and awareness-raising walk from Mildura to Adelaide, carrying a backpack weighing 20kg.

His aim was to walk off his own war within and alert others along the way of the plight of many PTSD sufferers.

Sadly, Nathan lost his battle with his illness in December 2016, leaving behind a shattered family and countless friends from both the military and the CFA.

They have all since joined forces to ensure Nathan's legacy lives on and now organise events around the country encouraging others to begin Walking Off the War Within.



The Ballarat walk is by far the biggest and receives incredible support – particularly from the Country Fire Authority and other emergency services.

This year's event was highlighted by a very special visitor when a massive firefighting helicopter landed on the College's Hill Oval after spending many weeks fighting the raging summer bushfires.

The Sikorsky S61N Type 1 Helicopter flew into Ballarat from its Australia base in Mansfield after spending most of this summer fighting the horrific Gippsland fires which terrorised so many communities.

Attendees at the walk were presented the opportunity to walk through the massive chopper and to speak to its pilots and staff about how they fight fires around the world.

Throughout the event participants are encouraged to walk laps of the College grounds. Those wishing to mimic Nathan's efforts were urged to walk 20km (ten laps) carrying 20kg – a difficult challenge. ♣

- ↑ 1: A large crowd attended the 2020 Walking Off the War Within.
- ← 2: Nathan's father John Shanahan is comforted by Master of Ceremonies Wayne Rigg from the CFA.
- ↑ 3: It was encouraging to see so many current students and staff participate in this year's event.
- 4: This aerial image of the College, taken on the day before the Walking Off the War Within, shows the size of the firefighting helicopter on the Hill Oval. Photo: Wayne Rigg.
- 5: Nathan Shanahan's sister Felicity was among the attendees at the walk.
- 6: There was a fantastic community atmosphere at the event.
- 7: Nathan's daughters sound the horn to start the 2020 Walking Off the War Within event.
- 8: The annual walk once again received terrific support from emergency services personnel.
- 9: Participants walk past the gym during the event.
- 10: Lines of people streamed around the College throughout the day.
- 11: Members from the CFA and the SES attended in great numbers at the event.



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Rowing Report 2020

The College’s Co-ordinator of Rowing and Senior Rowing Coach Mr Brendan Scott provides the following overview of the 2019-20 Rowing Season for St Patrick’s College.

“The 2019–20 rowing season started with great enthusiasm. Once again, our try-outs for Juniors was oversubscribed and numbers settled with seven Junior crews. The Intermediates saw most juniors from the previous season return, with seven crews boated. The Senior numbers were strong with high numbers trying out, the majority being boys going into Year 11.

On-water training began in week 1 of Term 4 following on from a very solid Term 3 of pre-season ergometer training. The Senior crews experienced early success at Dimboola winning the men’s open coxed fours and, in the C-grade coxed fours, finished first, second and third in the 6.2km head race. The Year 8s and 9s performed extremely well at the Junior Ballarat Regatta in November, with our Year 8s dominating and our Year 9s rowing very competitively.

The annual December camp days were held on Lake Wendouree for Juniors and Intermediates, with the Seniors training at Geelong. The camps are always a great opportunity to improve skills and are a highlight of the season for many of our rowers.

For the first time for many years our 1st crew travelled to Sydney for the NSW State Championships, regarded by many as the best regatta in Australia. The boys competed in two events, improving with every race. There were 23 entries in the Schoolboy Fours. SPC rowed a great race in the nine-crew final claiming a silver medal, just 0.62 seconds behind the Shore School crew.

Term 1 rowing was very short, with Head of the Lake held on February 23. All crews raced over the three weekends leading into Head of the Lake, gaining valuable experience and confidence. As expected our Junior and Intermediate crews powered down the course performing extremely well. Juniors crews were victorious in divisions 7,6,5,3 and 2. Intermediates winning all divisions except division 1, finishing second in a very fast time.



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The Senior crews were competitive across the divisions, the highlight being the Open 5ths storming down the course with a dominating performance to claim victory.

The other Senior crews were off the winner's pace but all rowed hard and gave their best efforts on the day.

The Open 1sts crew went into the race with a strong chance of winning, posting very fast times in training leading into the regatta.

The field for the Head of the Lake race was the closest for some time, with not a lot separating all the crews entered.

This season's crew was very young with only one Year 12. Although the race didn't quite go to plan, drawing the less favoured lane, racing in more difficult conditions, our crew battled hard all the way down the course to finish in a gallant third place. Congratulations to Ballarat Grammar on winning the Head of the Lake for 2020. Although SPC won the most races for the day, we fell one point short for the premiership.

The Victorian State championships were held on Lake Wendouree, with three of our senior crews entered. The Open 1sts claimed a silver medal in the U19 fours and the Open 3rds also took home a silver medal in the School fours division 3 race. Unfortunately, the Open 1sts had to withdraw from the Schoolboy race, due to illness.

The season then ended abruptly with the onset of COVID-19. We look forward to next season with great optimism and with a very good retention of boys returning to row again.

Many thanks to our coaches, parents and the boys for your contributions to a very enjoyable rowing season. 🍀

- ← 1: In a tight field the Open Senior Crew finished in third position in the 2020 Head of the Lake which was won by Ballarat Grammar. The crew featured Austin Reinehr (stroke), Jake Polkinghorne (three seat), Connor Smith (two seat), Jasper Nijhof (bow) and was coxed by Harry Taylor.
- ← 2: The College was proud of the efforts of all the rowers and of the behaviour of all involved in the Spit Crew.
- ← 3: Co-ordinator of Rowing and Senior Coach Brendan Scott conducts a television interview in the lead-up to the Head of the Lake.
- ↑ 4: The St Patrick's College Spit Crew arrives in full voice at the 2020 Head of the Lake.
- 5: All our rowers enjoyed the great support shown by the SPC Spit Crew.
- 6: St Patrick's College recorded exceptionally strong results in the Junior and Intermediate sections at the 2020 Head of the Lake Regatta.



BAS seasons stalled

One of the many victims of the COVID-19 pandemic was the Ballarat Associated Sports (BAS) seasons which were scheduled for the first half of the year.

With the pandemic striking in Australia in late Term 1, many scheduled grand finals in school sports were cancelled while all sport in Term 2 was shut down.

As a result the BAS officials were forced to declare joint premiers in many of the summer sports.

St Patrick's College were declared joint winners with Ballarat Grammar in the 1st XI Two-Day Cricket Premiership and in the 1st IV and 2nd IV Tennis Premierships.

One sport which did conclude before lockdowns were enforced was swimming.

As is tradition, St Patrick's College held its Annual House Swimming Carnival at the Eureka Pool in early February.

Boys engaged readily in the house spirit.

Year 12 cheer squad leaders dressed in their respective colours and taught younger students the importance of house spirit at St Patrick's College.

After a day of fierce competition the results were as follows:

- 1st place – Ryan House (2512 points)
- 2nd place – Nunan House (2440 points)
- 3rd place – Galvin House (2429 points)
- 4th place – Keniry House (2191 points)

Year Level Swimming Champions

- Year 7 – Will McCahon
- Year 8 – Eoghan Purser
- Year 9 – Angus O'Keefe
- Year 10 – Bailey McQuie
- Year 11 – Nicholas Hodgson and Darcy Williams
- Year 12 – Blake Scott

Following the House Swimming Carnival, the College's best swimmers were selected to represent the Green, White and Blue at the BAS Swimming Championships which were held at the Ballarat Aquatic Centre in March.

Defending our hard-fought premiership title from 2018-19 proved to be a big challenge for the St Patrick's teams.

While our intermediate boys won their division, the overall strength of Ballarat Clarendon College proved decisive as they reclaimed the title.

Final results in the boys' championships were:

- 1st – Ballarat Clarendon College (618 points)
- 2nd – St Patrick's College (558 points)
- 3rd – Ballarat Grammar (536 points)
- 4th – Damascus College (403 points)
- 5th – Mt Clear College (310 points) 🍀



- ↑ 1: Perfect conditions greeted swimmers at the Annual House Swimming Carnival in February.
- ← 2: Members of the St Patrick's College team prepare to compete at the 2020 BAS Swimming Championships.
- 3: Members of Ryan House were all white on the day.
- 4: The Annual House Swimming Carnival is always a great day for building school spirit.
- 5: Fluoro-yellow was the hi-viz choice of colour for members of Nunan House.
- 6: Our top swimmers put in a strong performance to finish second in the 2020 BAS Swimming Championships.



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Hope for footy

Hope still remains that the College's highly respected 1st XVIII football program will be able to enjoy some competitive games in 2020, despite the havoc wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Traditionally, the Ballarat Associated Sports Football competition is played in Term 2 before the focus turns to the Herald-Sun Shield in Term 3.

While it remains likely that the Herald-Sun Shield will be cancelled, hope still remains that a BAS competition, in some format, may proceed, while the College also hopes to arrange several competitive games against some of the other Edmund Rice schools in Victoria.

Certainly, scratch matches against the likes of St Bernard's, St Kevin's or St Joseph's would provide meaningful, hard-fought contests for our students who are desperate to wear the famous green, white and blue jumper.

To date, due to the pandemic, our 1st XVIII has only played one match for the year – the traditional season starter against Assumption College. But what a match it was!

On a beautiful March afternoon we were fortunate to have access to the playing surface at the City Oval to host our time-honoured rivals.

In what was a brilliant spectacle of schoolboy football, our team displayed classic skills to run out big winners.

The final 107-point margin does not do service to the competitive nature of the game, nor to the talents the Assumption players displayed.

The final score was SPC 23.9 (147) d Assumption 6.4 (40) ♣



↑ 1: Year 11 student Nick Cushing flew high to drag in a screamer in the game against Assumption.
 ↓ 2: Year 12 student Max Olver in action in the final of the McNeil Cup.



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Tennis talent

One of the few competitive sports which has reached a conclusion so far in 2020 is tennis.

The Annual McNeil Cup competition pits the best singles players from each of the Ballarat Associated Schools against each other to determine the best schoolboy player in Ballarat.

Year 12 student Max Olver (pictured) represented the College with distinction in this year's event.

Max won his way through to the final after a heart-stopping semi-final.

While he was defeated by his Ballarat Grammar opponent in the decider, we can all be proud of Max's efforts. ♣



OCA President's Column

► Allan McKinnon | President – St Patrick's College Old Collegians Association

The COVID-19 crisis has affected all areas of society not the least of which has been the SPC OCA. Nevertheless the OCA has continued to operate, albeit it in a different format.

The crisis meant the OCA had to close down, suspend, postpone or cancel many of the traditional events held in March, April and May. The traditional St Patrick's Day Mass and Luncheon was cancelled. The reunions held during the month of May have also been postponed until next year. At each of the reunions next year two year groups will be combined into the one function. That promises to be a month of really great reunions and celebrations. At this stage one reunion, the 50 year reunion is planned to go ahead in August. The group responsible for organising that reunion has been in contact with College staff and planning has started. Subject to government policy at the time, it will go ahead with the appropriate social distancing rules.

The AGM was held this year via video link in April. The OCA executive for the coming year is:

- President** Allan McKinnon (SPC 1966-69);
- Vice President** Ben Martin (SPC 2009-14);
- Secretary** Stephen Kirby (SPC 2004-09); and
- Treasurer** David Adams (SPC 2009-14).

I would like to express my thanks to James Edmonds who, for many years has been the treasurer. I would also like to thank Dave Adams for the job he did as secretary and wish him all the best in his role as treasurer.

We welcome new members to the committee this year - they are Kieran Murnane (SPC 1988-93), Joel Banks (SPC 2000-05), Jude Jeandet (SPC 2013-18), Stephen Kirby and Michael Cappello (SPC 2014-18).

We also welcome back former OCA committee member Peter Howley (SPC 1964-66). Peter was previously on the committee and was president from 1986-1987. He was part of the committee that led the memorable 1993 centenary celebrations at the Southern Cross



Hotel in Melbourne (what a night!). He was the appeal chairperson for the fundraising committee that resulted in the OCA Pavilion. What an asset that has turned out to be! Peter also was chairperson for the Joe Walter Field Committee (formerly St Roch's Oval) and that too is a great facility for the College. He was also on a committee that looked at boarding options quite a few years ago.

Whilst we welcome back Peter as the "sage" to the committee we say goodbye to the longest serving member of the OCA executive committee and that is Michael Kearney (SPC 1962-67). Michael has served in every role on the committee. He has been a dedicated and faithful member of the College community. Like Peter he was involved in many of the College's most successful projects. He was also an integral member of the committees that brought together the "Unsung Heroes" dinner in 2016 and the most memorable dinner celebrating the College's 125th anniversary at the MCG in 2018. Michael has the unique ability of knowing what is happening in our Old Boy community especially around Ballarat. We will miss his contributions at each meeting. We will also miss his wisdom and well thought out comments he would make during a meeting.

Another person who has resigned from the committee recently has been Daryl Teschendorf (SPC 1963). Tesch's commitment to the committee was appreciated so much, as he used to drive down from Melbourne to each of the meetings. Those of you who came to the 125th were able to appreciate the creative ability of Tesch. The lighting and sound production was all due to Tesch. He could conceptualise an event and what could be done. His creative and artistic ability will be sadly missed. Hopefully he will be still involved in some other aspects of the Performing Arts area of the College.

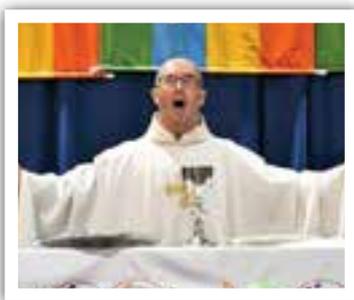
Even though the COVID-19 crisis has impacted on all aspects of the OCA, the Pastoral Care Program has still been able to operate. During this time I have been able to deliver meals with the College's Alumni and Foundation Officer Mrs Lorrie Liston to some Old Collegians. The meals our volunteers provide are delicious, professionally packaged and labelled. We, as a committee, appreciate this fine gesture.

Finally, one of the positive things that the OCA has been able to do during this COVID-19 crisis is to donate \$50,000 to the SPC community (see page 13). It is my belief that the OCA is heading in a direction that makes it very different to other similar associations. All our traditional functions will still be held and any other special ones that might crop up from time to time. However, this emphasis of reaching out and assisting "Old Boys" should the need arise is something new. It has been one of the elements that has attracted so many new young members to the committee. It will become a new exciting era for the Old Boy Association. 🍀

- ↑ 1: The OCA takes this opportunity to thank departing committee members Michael Kearney, left, and Daryl Teschendorf for their outstanding service.
- ← 2: Former College Captain Stephen Kirby is the new secretary of the Old Collegians Association.

Old Boys in the News

➤ **Fr Justin Driscoll (SPC 1981-82)**, pictured has been appointed by the Members of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Limited (that is, the four Victorian bishops) as a Director of CECV. Fr Justin's extensive experience as a diocesan priest, a school governing authority and former member of CECV's Review Body Committee have prepared him very well to be a company director and the CECV Board will be greatly enhanced by his wealth of wisdom and experience.



- **Mark Alexander (SPC 2004-09)** is working as a registered nurse at Beaufort.
- **Michael Pierce (SPC 1983-88)** is a senior physiotherapist at the Lake Health Group in Ballarat.
- **Tony Liston (SPC 1987-90)** has made the most of the coronavirus restrictions and ban on golfers to complete key course works at Ballarat's Midlands Golf Course, where he is course superintendent.
- **Marc Brown (SPC 2000-05)** is working as part of the management team for NGP Group in sales for Volkswagen. Marc has been working with the company for eight years, successfully completing his cadetship with the company.
- **Matt Carey (SPC 2000-05)** is busy working in the family business, Carey Civil Contractors.
- **Luke Laubsch (SPC 2004, PY2006)** has fled Ballarat's cold climate for the warmer weather of the Northern Territory, where he is working as a diesel mechanic.
- **Josh Pearson (SPC 2001-05, PY2006)** is now working as the chief technology officer of the media company, SEN while **Jarrold King (SPC 2000-05)** has been very busy during the coronavirus crisis in his role in IT at the Ballarat Base Hospital
- **Kim Johnston (SPC 2002-05)** is working as a concreter in the construction industry.
- **Nick Mason (SPC 1999-2004)** is working in the rapidly-growing wind farm industry, on a wind farm under construction at Lismore. Nick, a fitter and turner by trade, moved back to the Ballarat area after a period living in Darwin. Nick attended SPC with his twin brother **James (SPC 1999-2004)** and brother **Francis (SPC 2005-10)**.
- **Dennis Foley (SPC 1966-72)** and **Luke Dunne (SPC 1987-92)** were noted for their contribution to Ballarat basketball's elite men's program in a story feature recently, with their roles as program presidents and "their drive, passion and commitment" stated as the main reason the program has continued over 34 years.
- **Paul Jeffers (SPC 1998-2003)** is working as a freelance photographer for news agencies and corporate events. Paul completed a three-year photography course in Melbourne after leaving SPC and spent a few years overseas before returning home.
- **Fr James Kerr (SPC 2000-05)** is moving to Swan Hill as a parish priest.
- **Rodger Fernandez (SPC 1976-82)** is a solicitor with FCG Legal.
- **Robert Winter (SPC 1996-2001)** is working as a bricklayer in the Ballarat area.
- **Scott Brown (SPC 1996-2001)** was a high school teacher until last year and is now working in the private sector for an engineering company as a training co-ordinator.
- **Sam Garland (SPC 1999-2004)** is based in Ocean Grove, working as an electrician and has a young family.
- **Tim Knowles (SPC 1997-2002)** is working as a site manager, mainly in Melbourne for Ballarat construction firm, H Troon.
- **Steve Nolan (SPC 1999-2003, PY 2004)** is combining work in a plumbing business in Geelong with life on the farm on a few acres near Ballan.
- **Sean O'Meara (SPC 2002-07)** is working at the Iris Ramsay Kindergarten.
- **Tom Burgess (SPC 2001-06)** is a budding film director. Tom studied media at school, but admitted he was more interested in SPC's sports program at the time.

- Former boarder **David Dickinson (SPC 1988-90)** is a teacher at Minyip Primary School.
- **Blake Thomson (SPC 2011-15)** earned selection in the Victoria Premier Cricket team of the season for the first time.
- **Warrick Davison (SPC 1988-93)** is helping the community in his role as Uniting Ballarat's acting senior manager housing and homelessness.
- **Jimmy Fahey (SPC 2007-12)** is now a doctor and is completing a year of residency at Eastern Health, in Melbourne, focussing on critical care medicine, which he is keen to explore in the coming few years.
- **Josh Pegg (SPC 2015-19, PY2020)** finished third in the EJ Cleary medal count at the Ballarat Cricket Association Awards and announced he will play Victorian Premier League cricket in 2020-21 while **Lachie Snaith (SPC 2013-16)** was awarded a medal for Best Bowling Figures in the 2nd XI.
- **Michael Seddon (SPC 1981-86)** is the national director of Australian Taxation Office Prosecutions.
- **Rory Conroy (SPC 2007-12)** is now working in a casino in northern Queensland and is the proud dad of an eight-month-old daughter.
- **Sean Callanan (SPC 1987-90)** runs his own business sports digital agency Sports Geek and esports League of Legends team Gravitas. Sean works with teams and leagues to build digital fan bases and hosts a weekly podcast, where he talks to experts in and around the sports business world.
- Well done to Old Collegians involved in the Ballarat Lyric Theatre production of Les Miserables – **Michael Whitehead (SPC 1968-71)**, president and executive producer; **Emerson Tolliday (SPC 2012-17)**, ensemble; **Braydon McKinnon (SPC 2012-17)**, deputy stage manager; and **Jordan Ryan (SPC 2004-09)**, in the lighting department.
- **Brandon Lauton (SPC 2012-17)** made his debut in the Asian Champions League in Melbourne Victory's win over Chiangrai United recently. Brothers **Leighton (SPC 2014-19)** and **Jordan (current Year 12 student)** have also been busy trailing interstate with A-League club Perth Glory in the hope of following in the footsteps of their older brother of pursuing careers in the nation's top competition.
- **Peter Caine (SPC 1983-88)** has been awarded the APA Specialist Sports Physiotherapist title (the highest one can achieve) and is now Manager of the Winter Olympic Institute of Australia. He is also a three-time Olympic Team Physio.
- **Dr Liam Toohey (SPC 2003-08)** has now finished his PhD at Latrobe Uni in Sports Epidemiology/Safety and Master of Clinical Epidemiology from Newcastle Uni and is continuing to work as a physiotherapist at AIS Canberra.
- **Damian Van Gaans (SPC 2019)** has commenced a double degree in Law and Theology at ACU in Melbourne.
- **Ryan McKew (SPC 2011-16)** was named assistant coach for Vic Country. Ryan is also the Ballarat Miners Youth basketball head coach.
- After almost 20 years with Mars Wrigley Australia, 1990 College Captain **Andrew Loader (SPC 1985-90)** has left the business as general manager to focus on an exciting new role supporting new and emerging businesses and the development of young leaders.
- **Steve Chircop (SPC 1998-2001, PY2003)** helped to save a neighbour's home after lightning struck grass and started a fire near Smythesdale in late January. Steve and another local resident used a homemade mobile water tank to avert disaster.
- Real estate agent **Matthew Edwards (SPC 1999-2004)** has joined forces with McGrath Ballarat as a co-director. Matt brings close to a decade of experience in the rural and lifestyle real estate space, and lives in Ballarat with his wife Samantha and two children, Sadie, 5, and Chaz, 2.
- **Alastair Lee (SPC 1988-93)** has started his own firm, AlumGrow Consultancy, which is a community engagement consulting firm that works with education institutions, not-for-profits and membership-based businesses to build effective and sustainable community engagement programs. Alastair lives in Melbourne with his partner Angela and daughter Charlotte.
- Brothers **Ryan Knowles (SPC 1996-2001)** and **Jason Knowles (SPC 2001-06)** and fellow Old Collegian **Oli Hayes (SPC 2007-12)** were represented in the Ballarat squad of 14 for Melbourne Country Week Cricket earlier this year, along with **Harli Givvens (SPC 2010-13, PY2015)** who was named as the emergency. ♣

Where are they now?

The College recently reconnected with Anthony Edwards (SPC 1985-90), who was a part of one of our most celebrated moments in SPC history as a member of the winning SPC Head of the Lake crew in 1990, effectively changing the landscape for rowing at SPC.

Anthony went on to row in five Olympic Games and win three Olympic medals. He is now working for the Cancer Council Tasmania as the state manager for Relay For Life. The coronavirus pandemic has had a massive impact on their events in 2020, but Anthony remains totally committed to the cause. As he says "cancer doesn't care about COVID-19!"

Where has life taken you since leaving SPC?

Rowing was always my passion. My rowing experience at St Patrick's motivated me to pursue my sporting goals to the highest level. I have been extremely fortunate to compete internationally for 20 years, spanning five Olympic Games from 1996-2012, winning three Olympic medals. After losing my father and also my Olympic rowing coach Sam (I considered my mentor) in 2005 I was devastated and needed to change something. I moved to Tasmania with my wife Felicity and young family where I have lived since. After retiring from rowing, I became President of the Tasmanian Olympic Council, which I hold to this day. I am also a State Event Manager for Cancer Council Tasmania managing the Relay For Life program.

How is the coronavirus presently affecting your work, industry and lifestyle?

I work for Cancer Council Tasmania as the State Manager for Relay For Life. The decision to cancel all our events in 2020 was enormous and knew it would affect thousands of people in so many ways. This decision ultimately impacted our organisation, yet we continue to provide cancer support programs across Tasmania during this difficult period of time. Cancer doesn't care about COVID-19!! I have also instigated a Relay For Life event in Antarctica and it is going ahead next month (May) – no coronavirus down there!! So that is exciting.



What are your fondest memories of your time at St Patrick's College?

There is no doubt the 1990 Head of the Lake victory is my fondest. It's now 30 years since that day, yet I always remember it (April 7, 1990) along with the crew (Dan Hayter, Aaron McInerney, Bob Calnon, Danny Morgan and coach Kevin O'Brien). I look back at that occasion and recall the enormity of what it meant for the school. That day changed the perception of the rowing program. I continue to take interest in every Head of the Lake – there have been many victories since! The rowing program is a strength to the school to foster good people through sport.

Which teacher from your time at SPC had the greatest impact on you? Why?

Br Breach was a hard man to agitate, you never wanted to let him down. I let him down once and I have never forgotten it. To this day, I stand by my word and I never let a person down.

How has your education shaped your professional life?

I learned many life skills which put me in a good position beyond St Patrick's. I recall the cadet program, being a school sports leader and understanding what it meant. The greatest assets we have are good communication and good people skills which I am grateful for my education at St Patrick's.

In elite sport you need to be physically and technically capable, yet you need a mental ability that not only drives you - but brings others along with your passion to succeed. My experiences across all forms of sports at St Pat's shaped this in me – to be the best I could be.

How has your time at SPC shaped your personal values and your family life?

Our teenage years are turbulent times. I commend the teachers who work hard in the classroom to develop and nurture students into young men. Those teachers (and coaches) shaped me to be the person I am today. I now pass these values onto my own children. I continue to coach rowing crews – my main focus is to make them better people through the sport of rowing.

If you could pass on one message to the students of today, what would it be?

This is your time to shine. This is your time to be the best you can be. The opportunities to develop and shape you to be the greatest image of yourself are presented to you every school day – soak it up and take every opportunity you are given. ♣



- ← 1: Anthony is pictured with his daughter Alannah.
- ← 2: Anthony is the State Event Manager for Cancer Council Tasmania which manages the Relay For Life program.
- ← 3: Anthony Edwards and the 1990 crew celebrate their famous Head of the Lake win. *Photo courtesy of The Courier.*
- ↑ 4: Anthony Edwards is pictured with wife Felicity and children Hamish and Alannah.

Old Boy Obituaries

- ▶ Former staff member **Br Kevin Patrick Woodruff** died on May 23 at St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne, aged 71. Kevin was the beloved son of Kevin and Patricia (both dec) and much-loved brother of Anthony, Paul (SPC 1969-70), Chris and Therese and valued member of the Christian Brothers. Br Woodruff was on staff at St Patrick's College between 1979-81 and again in 1984. He then taught at St Joseph's in Geelong for 22 years, before moving to Parkville where he enjoyed his life living with the Mt Zion community.
- ▶ Former boarder **Peter Driscoll (SPC 1958-64)** died suddenly at home surrounded by his loving family on May 18. Peter attended SPC with his brother Kenneth (SPC 1961-62, PY1963) and Douglas (SPC 1955-58) (dec). Peter and Kenneth were boarders from Landsborough. Peter was a prefect of SPC in 1964, and was also involved in the Altar Society between 1963-64, Executive of Our Lady's Sodality, Executive of the Literary and Debating Society in 1962 and played in the Second XVIII (Football), U16 Thirds Football and during his junior years as well as Third XI (cricket). Peter is survived by wife Breda and children Sean-Donal (SPC 2000-05), Diarmaid (SPC 2005-2010), Therese and Eilin and was grandfather to six, including current Year 11 student Declan Pollard.
- ▶ **Fr Joe Kearney (SPC 1935-39)**, who was possibly the oldest living Old Collegian, died on May 15 in Perth, three months shy of reaching 99 years. Joseph Kearney grew up in a devoted Catholic family in the Melbourne suburb of Moonee Ponds, and at the age of seven, moved with his family to Hepburn Springs. He received his primary education in a convent school and secondary education at St Patrick's College, starting Year 8 in 1935 and finishing Year 12 in 1939. He was a boarder and was in the Honours Class, attaining honours in Latin. Joseph was also a councillor of the Sodality at SPC in 1939. Fr Kearney celebrated his platinum jubilee (70-year) anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood in 2016, with a Mass held at Our Lady Queen of Apostles in Shelley, WA, where he was officially congratulated by Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe for so many years of loyal and dedicated ministry.
- ▶ **Chris Jenkins (SPC 1938-41)** died on April 9. Chris was a day student and arrived at SPC with classmates from the Christian Brothers' School, Drummond Street, including Jack Collins, Greg Hutchinson, Tony Magill and Kevin Willis. He represented the College in an array of sports, particularly athletics and cricket. Chris was in the Honours Class and was a member of the Sodality of Our Lady and made many life-long friends at SPC.
- ▶ **Br Trevor John Bernardine Parton**, who taught at SPC in the 1970s, died on May 10 at St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne, aged 80 years. Br Parton transferred to SPC in Ballarat from a college of the same name at Prospect Vale, Tasmania. He took up appointments as Senior Chemistry and Biology Master, Master-in-Charge of Rowing, and Resident Master of Form 5. Br Parton was also involved in the soccer competition and liturgical ceremonies during his time at St Patrick's. Br Parton previously spent time at St Mary's, Geelong, St Peter's Minor Seminary as well as in India as a missionary teacher.
- ▶ **Sam James Reale (SPC 2003-08)** died suddenly on April 15, aged 29 years old. Sam was a day student from Bacchus Marsh and attended SPC along with his brother, Zac (SPC 2006-11). In a moving tribute, Sam's family said their son's smile and energy will be forever missed but never forgotten. Sam started at ACU Ballarat in 2018 as a Bachelor of Nursing/ Bachelor of Paramedicine student. A moving tribute was also posted by Ballarat-founded band APES, in which Sam was the bassist. Band members remembered Sam as "the absolute heart and soul of everything we embodied." Sam was also remembered by the staff and players of the Western Bulldogs Football Club, where he was a much-loved staff member and friend.
- ▶ **Reginald Michael Haintz (SPC 1951-53)** died on April 26 at St John of God Hospital in Ballarat surrounded by his family after a short battle with melanoma. Reg was the loving husband of Eileen, adored father of Geraldine, Peter, Tanya and Danny. He was born on July 16, 1939 and was a grandfather of 15, including Benjamin (SPC 2007-12), Darcy (SPC 2009-14) and Tynan L Haintz (SPC 2011-16) and "Old Pop" to three great-grandchildren. He was remembered in the local community as a man who cared deeply about the wellbeing of others and was always there to lend a hand. Reg's working life was in potato seed growing and his passion for sport saw him become a friend of many. He played footy at Creswick and later, Newlyn and then Springbank, where he was heavily involved on the club committee was awarded life membership in 1990. Reg was a delegate for the Central Highlands FL and later served as league president between 2001-08, receiving a life membership in 2010. Reg also loved playing cricket – winning a premierships as captain with Dean-Mollonghip, carrying on the success that he enjoyed as a day student at SPC, where he was a member of the Nunan Junior Shed cricket team (in 1951), and member of the Galvin House Premier XI Senior Shed competition, as recorded in the 1951-52 College Annual. Reg attended SPC for three years and completed his sub-intermediate studies.
- ▶ We extend our deepest sympathy to Noel Forster (SPC 1963-68) and his family on the death on his brother, **Kevin Forster (SPC 1969-1972)**, who died in a Brisbane hospital after a short illness on April 16. Upon leaving school, Kevin joined the Australian Army as an apprentice and was then involved in the mining industry until the time of his illness. During his time at SPC, Kevin was a day student and part of the junior choir and an active member of the College's music activities. Kevin was also a cox in rowing and played in the U15 Rugby XV team.
- ▶ The College extends its deepest sympathy to former boarders Gerard (SPC 1977-78) and Michael Unthank (SPC 1980-81) on the death of their father **Brian Unthank (SPC 1948-52)** on March 31, aged 85 after a major stroke. Brian is remembered as a dominant force in the livestock and real estate sales in Albury and the surrounding areas. Originally from Somerville on the Mornington Peninsula, Brian attended SPC as a boarder from the age of 11. Brian was an active student and involved in many sports at SPC, including athletics, football, rowing, basketball. He was a handy runner and was part of the 1950 Treacy House Athletic Champions and 1951 Ballarat Public Schools Athletic Champions team. He was also a member of SPC's Second XVIII Football team and First XVIII Football side in 1952. He was part of the 3rd rowing crew in 1951, and was in a nail-biting photo finish in the 2nds crew's Head of the Lake contest in 1952. Brian was also involved in the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Literary Society.



- 1: Sam Reale's "smile and energy will be forever missed but never forgotten".
- 2: Brian Unthank, centre, is pictured with his sons Gerard and Michael. Photo courtesy of *The Border Mail, Albury*.
- 3: Brian Hogan has been remembered as "a St Pat's boy through and through".



➤ **Peter Hayes (SPC 1963-68)** died suddenly in hospital in Ballarat on March 31, aged 69, after a short illness. He was a day student at SPC and involved in the U12 and St Roch's football teams, and U13 and U14 cricket sides. Peter also played in the Under 15 Cricket XI and was part of the U15 McCarthy House Competition premiership team. Peter was a recipient of a Junior Government Scholarship in 1965, and also competed in the athletics. During his matriculation year, Peter received the prize for Roman History. Peter was remembered by his work colleagues as "kind, hard-working and well respected", having spent 12 years as a Registration Officer at the previous Medical Practitioner's Board of Victoria and 10 years working with Ahpra.

➤ **Eugene (Bernie) Bernard Sullivan (SPC 1955, PY1957)** died on December 24, 2019. Bernie was a boarder from Tungamah, near Yarrowonga, and completed his intermediate studies. Bernie was in the 1st XVIII Football team which was coached by Br Justin Kely. Bernie was a very effective and competitive full forward, and often made the best on ground list. Bernie spent his life in the stock and station industry beginning with McNamara's and later joining Elders Smith Goldsborough Mort where he spent most of his working life operating in Victoria and the Riverina.

➤ **Brian Joseph Maher (SPC 1947-53)**, older brother of Kevin Maher (SPC 1950-1956), uncle of Peter Maher (SPC 1989-1991) and great-uncle of current Year 7 student Oliver Maher died peacefully on September 23, 2019, at home in Bowral NSW, after a prolonged battle with prostate cancer. Brian spent the whole of his secondary education as a boarder at St Patrick's. He gained his matriculation certificate in 1952, before repeating matriculation in 1953. In his final year at St Patrick's, Brian was a prefect, and prominent in all College activities. On leaving St Patrick's, he studied Mining Engineering at Melbourne University, graduating in 1958. He then embarked on a career that initially involved working as a mining engineer in various parts of Australia before managing open cut iron-ore mines in Western Australia and then in Liberia (1987-89) and Guyana (1992-94), before returning to Western Australia as manager of a coal mine at Collie. He retired to Bowral in 1999.

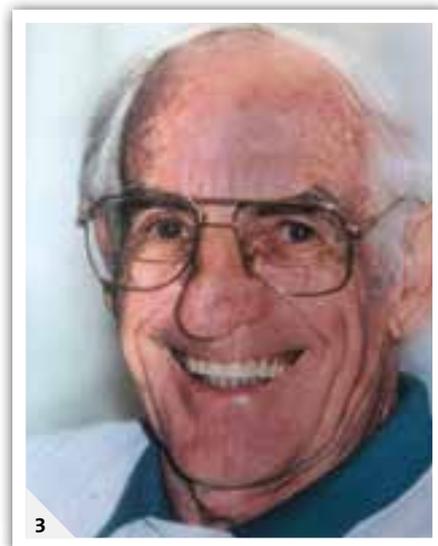
➤ We extend our sympathy to Old Collegians Brendan Eckel (SPC 1969-75) and John Eckel (SPC 1973-79) on the loss of their older brother **Maurice John Eckel (SPC 1966-72)** on January 5. Maurice died peacefully at home, aged 66, surrounded by family. Family members remembered "Maurice was never a man of earthly possessions, he was a unique individual known to many as the man that wore no shoes. His love of nature took him on many adventures, including the Daintree Rainforest. A place he felt a great connection with".

➤ **Dr Maurice Wallin (SPC 1956-63)** died on January 2 in Melbourne. Maurice matriculated in 1962 as a prefect and received a junior government scholarship. He was a committee member of the College's Literary and Debating Society, a member of St Vincent de Paul Society, Cadet Under-Officer between 1960-1962, involved in rowing between 1958-1962 and on the Umpires' Panel in 1963. Maurice is best remembered as the founding president of the Australasian College of Legal Medicine (ACLM). Maurice tried a number of fields of medicine before settling on the interface of medicine and law and legal medicine. Maurice was the first person, within the Australasian College of Legal Medicine, to be acknowledged with an Honorary Life Fellowship, in recognition of his great contribution to the ACLM, being both its founding President and having established the College on such a sound foundation.

➤ **Joseph Gerard (Gerry) Joyce (SPC 1946-50)** died of renal failure on December 20 after a long illness. Gerry was a boarder at SPC and was an active participant in many areas, including the Sodality of Our Lady, Holy Name Society Executive, Senior Literary and Debating Society, St Vincent de Paul and was a member of rowing.

Gerry was remembered to those who knew him as an "urologist, farmer, teacher, friend". Gerry matriculated at St Patrick's College and studied medicine at University of Melbourne, graduating in 1957. He became a resident medical Officer at St Vincent's and then, the Royal Children's Hospital before becoming a missionary surgeon in 1961 to the African Congo with the Red Cross and was awarded the Royal Red Cross award for his service. Having decided to become a urologist, Gerry became the Smith Kline French Urology Fellow at St Vincent's Hospital in 1963 and spent three years training there obtaining his Fellowship (FRACS in urology) in 1965. He was then appointed Consultant urologist at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne in 1967 and began working on the kidney transport team which started in 1968. He worked as a urologist at PANCH Hospital from 1972 to 1988 and was eventually head of the unit. When Panch was closed, he became urologist at the Northern Hospital until 1997. He was also the urologist at the Mercy Hospital for Women between 1972 and 1999 and performed many restorative surgeries for injured ureters and bladders, often as an emergency and regularly at inconvenient times in the day and night. He retired from St Vincent's public hospital in 1997.

➤ **Brian Joseph Hogan (SPC 1944-49)** died on December 10, aged 88. Brian was a boarder at SPC in the 1940s and his younger brothers Kevin and John also attended later. His son Paul recalled that his dad enjoyed receiving SPC news via The Shamrock magazine and was "a St Pat's boy through and through". Paul recalls memories that his dad captained one of the football sides in the 1940s, was the head prefect one year and a great runner as well. The 1948-49 College Annual shows Brian was indeed a handy sportsman, playing in the footy First XIII and cricket First XI. He was captain of the footy, and won the 1949 best and fairest and also won a most consistent trophy. He also won the cricket fielding sports prize and open athletic sports prize alongside Paul Quinlan. In later life, Brian kindly donated his SPC blazer, highlighting his school achievements to the College's Archival Museum. Brian enjoyed meeting up with his old school mates at the annual Pakenham race meeting for the Brother O'Malley handicap for many years.



Due to space restrictions we are unable to publish obituaries in this magazine for all members of the College community who have died since the last edition. However, we are now publishing extended obituaries online whenever we are informed of the passing of anyone in our community.

These full obituaries and many others can be read online at stpats.vic.edu.au. Please let us know of the passing of any Old Boys by contacting the College on 5331 1688 or emailing oca@stpats.vic.edu.au ❀

OCA Pastoral Care

In challenging times it can be hard to focus on the positives.

However, in the past few months the St Patrick's College Old Collegians Association Pastoral Care Program has been very active, trying to make the lives of those in our community just a little bit better.

The OCA has also approved formal terms of reference for the management of the Pastoral Care Program, in conjunction with the College.

An OCA sub-committee has assumed the responsibility of monitoring all requests for assistance and for ensuring money is spent in measurable ways to help Old Collegians in need.

Importantly, the OCA has also voted to increase the scope of the program so that it includes people who may have been taught by the Christian Brothers in Ballarat, even if they didn't come to St Patrick's College. This allows the program to provide assistance to former pupils of places such as St Alipius Primary School and St Patrick's Primary School.

At the peak of the COVID-19 crisis, the OCA also committed an initial spend of \$10,000 towards the program. The College has since entered into an agreement with Woolworths to be a preferred supplier of grocery vouchers which can be provided to Old Collegians in times of need.

We thought we'd share a few examples of how the program is working to hopefully help restore some faith in humanity.



In the few months the OCA Pastoral Care Program has:

- Provided home-cooked meals from our volunteers to an Old Collegian and victim and survivor of child sexual abuse.
- Delivered home-cooked meals to a widow and her four young sons who lost their husband and father, an Old Collegian, in a workplace accident late last year. One of our Year 7 Food Technology groups also made chocolate golf balls in class and gifted the sweet treats to the family, which happened to coincide with the birthday of one of the four young sons.
- We have visited and delivered more home-cooked goodness to another Old Collegian, currently recovering from a triple heart bypass. A big shout-out to Old Boy and local hairdresser Greg Caldwell (SPC 1977-78) who has also generously given of his time and talents to give the Old Boy a haircut at home.
- We delivered home-cooked meals to the family of another Old Collegian battling cancer and arranged a visit to another Old Boy recovering from surgery.
- Purchased and arranged delivery a special office chair to help support a young Old Collegian Teyden Pearl (SPC 2010-13) who is living in Queensland. Teyden needed a chair to enable him to continue to work from home while he recovers from a stroke, which initially left him partially paralysed.
- Organised a stirring tribute video for Old Collegian and former staff member Michael Brady (1956-62) following a recent surgery.

The program is making a real difference in the lives of many. If you would like to volunteer your time and talents or know any Old Collegians who may need our assistance, please let us know by contacting us on oca@stpats.vic.edu.au 🍀

- ↑ 1: Recovering from a stroke, Old Collegian Teyden Pearl was thrilled to have the OCA Pastoral Care program purchase him a new office chair to allow him to work from his Queensland home office.
- ← 2: The OCA Pastoral Care program organised an emotional video tribute for Old Collegian Michael Brady following a recent surgery.

Reunions rescheduled



← The OCA is planning for a bumper season of “double header” reunions in 2021.

It was with much heartache that the St Patrick’s College Old Collegians Association (OCA) was forced to cancel its Term 2 reunion season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reunions for the graduating year levels of 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2015 were scheduled to be held in May.

The OCA was also forced to cancel its major St Patrick’s Day Luncheon which would have doubled as a 60-year reunion for the Class of 1960. A planned Annual Celebration Dinner will also not proceed in 2020 at this stage.

Due to the hectic nature of a school calendar, and also due to the continued uncertainty around COVID-19 restrictions, it is not feasible to simply reschedule these events to a date later in the year.

Rather, the OCA has decided that reunions missed in 2020 will be held in 2021 in conjunction with that year’s planned reunions.

So, the Class of 1980 will celebrate their 40-year reunion next year, alongside the Class of 1981. The Class of 1990 will party with the Class of 1991 and so on. We will enjoy a series of double-header reunions!

The dates for these double headers are yet to be decided but will be published later in the year. Keep an eye on the College website and social media channels for details.

In the meantime, we remain hopeful that reunions scheduled for later in 2020 can still proceed. The Class of 1970 50-Year Reunion is set down for Saturday, August 22 and looks likely to go ahead, presuming indoor gatherings of up to 50 people are permitted.

Similarly, the Class of 2019 One Year Reunion, scheduled for Wednesday, December 2 should be able to proceed as planned.

Invitations for these two reunions will be sent out at an appropriate time.

We thank all Old Collegians for their understanding and continued support during this time. ✿

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2020 MENTal Brekky

Due to the restrictions surrounding the control of COVID-19, there is uncertainty around whether the College will be able to host the 2020 MENTal Brekky which is scheduled for October.

Since its inception in 2016, the Brekky has quickly become one of the most popular events on the College calendar and last year sold out its 250 tickets a month in advance.

Supported by chief sponsors VicSuper and the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Bishop's Charitable Fund, the breakfast event raises money for the Chris Yeung Fund, which operates under the banner of the St Patrick's College Foundation.

The fund is named in honour of an Old Collegian who succumbed to his own battles with mental illness in 2016.

Money raised through the breakfast each year is used to assist current families at St Patrick's College, where a father is suffering mental illness.

The fund is used to help struggling families pay their school fees, ensuring their son's education is not put at risk as a result of his father's illness.

In 2020 there are several families being supported through times of hardship. Many health industry experts are predicting an increase in mental illness in the community as a direct result of COVID-19.

While an easing in social distancing restrictions may enable an event to proceed in October, it is unlikely that we would be able to welcome as many guests as in previous years.

As such, we are asking members of our community to consider making a donation to the Fund to ensure their great work can continue at a time of growing need.

How you can help

All donations to the Chris Yeung Fund will be gratefully received and you can rest assured that every cent is spent on helping those struggling through some of their darkest days.

Donations can be made by contacting the College's Alumni and Foundation Officer Mrs Lorrie Liston on 5322 4442 or by emailing lliston@stpats.vic.edu.au

Contributions can also be made via direct bank transfer:

BSB: 063 507

Account No: 1001 2604

**Please provide full name including middle initial as a remitter when prompted*

Or by filling in the form below and mailing to St Patrick's College at Locked Bag 31, Ballarat, Vic, 3350. ♣

While the 2019 MENTal Brekky was a sell-out success, we need our community to rally further to assist in 2020.



2020 MENTal Brekky - Donation Form

Name:

Contact Phone:

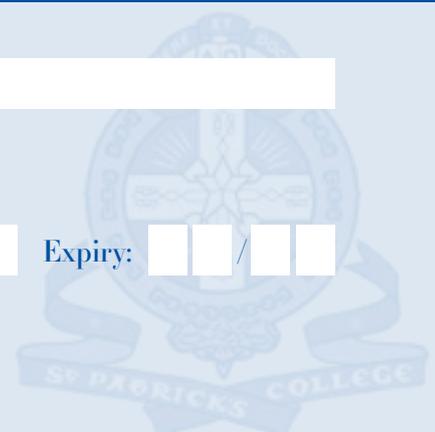
Amount I would like to donate: \$

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