***The College received these many messages, as you will read below, from former students, staff and former staff in the months leading up to Mike Brady’s passing earlier this year. The many messages, full of gratitude and beautiful memories, were passed on to Mike and his family to read together and to serve as a lasting tribute.***

 *Dear Mike,
I am writing on behalf of the St Patrick’s College community and I know that every member of this great place joins me in sending you every best wish and lots of love as you face your latest health challenge.*

*Know that we are thinking of you and have you, Robyn and the family in our prayers and thoughts at this time.*

*As you know, Mike, a great school is so dependent on the relationships which exist in it.*

*I think St Pat’s is well positioned in this context. I know that as a teacher, you absolutely understood this and made your mark with so many students, colleagues and parents through your openness, humanity, faith, professionalism, commitment and humour.*

*The SPC community has been enhanced significantly via your many contributions over so many years. Thank you, Mike for your generous commitment to the College.*

*We look forward to seeing you again soon, Mike! Our new oval has enjoyed its first game of football recently and I hope that you might be able to make it to see a couple of games in the season ahead.*

*Take care, Mike and God’s speed in the days and weeks ahead.*

*Warmest regards,*

***Steven O’Connor (current College Principal)***

*Mr Brady absolutely influenced me and I remember him very fondly.****Former student (SPC 1989-94)***

*Please pass on my sincere best wishes to Mr Brady and his family. I have had the great pleasure of hosting the family on many occasions in the Western Hotel and still as an adult, I find it hard to call him Mike due the amount of respect I have for him.
What a great introduction to St Pat’s we got as “know it all” teenagers when Mr Brady, with his no-bullshit just do it attitude, helped cement our place in St Pat’s History.*

*I can only hope that Mr Brady and his family are aware of the enormous amount of respect for him from past students I talk to and how much the way he went about introducing us to St Pat’s made an impact for life in such a positive way.*

*Take care Sir and best wishes.*

*Cheers*

***Former student (SPC 1986-90. PY1991)***

*Hi Mr Brady,
I was sorry to hear the news recently about your fight with cancer.
You may not remember me as it was nearly 20 years ago now, but you taught me maths in either Year 7 or 8.*

*You were a teacher that the boys, being relatively immature at that age, had a lot of respect for.*

*I remember studying for the tests you gave us and that you had a lot of time for me.*

*When I have thought back to my school years since finishing in 2007, you are one of the few teachers I remember as having a genuine positive influence on me.*

*I moved to Melbourne after finishing school, obtained degrees in Commerce and Law and now work as a lawyer.*

*I have no doubt that you have played an important role in the success I have enjoyed since my school days.*

***Former student (SPC 2002-07)***

*I did a St Pat's induction sort of thing and was allocated to Mr Brady's homeroom that he was teaching at the time when I did these visits.*

*He was always friendly, accommodating and nothing short of fully supportive.*

*He has a big heart, and I know that the SPC community and students such as myself have been lucky to have him in our lives.*

*I will always remember the impact he had on me and am forever grateful.*

*Thank you Mr Brady, I will miss you.****Former student (SPC 2007-13)***

*Dear Mr Brady,
You may not remember me, but you taught me Mathematics in 2000 (Year 8 for me).*

*I would’ve been relatively easy to miss; I was quite good with my schoolwork and wouldn’t have caused you any trouble in the classroom. That said, I certainly remember you.*

*I remember you introduced me to the Keep It Simple Stupid! (KISS) method, which I still use regularly to this day.*

*I remember the guidance and respect you showed a young man who had a keen interest in learning and understanding mathematics. I now own a business and manage our finances with annual turnovers in the tens of millions of dollars, and that would not be possible without the grounding you provided me.*

*I am thinking of you and wish you and your family all the very best.
Cheers,****Former student (SPC 1999 & 2004)***

*I can confidently say Mike had nothing but a positive impact on myself, my two brothers and, I am sure, many others like us.*

*My (two) older brothers and I each arrived to SPC as young, impressionable 11-year-old boarders from far away Deniliquin (NSW) in the early 1980s.*

*In what was a vast and new environment, Mike Brady, as Form Master and our teacher in Form 1A, was seen by us as a welcoming and comforting presence.*

*Undoubtedly a good teacher, he gave each of us the confidence to approach our first year of boarding in Ballarat with enthusiasm and we could not have asked for more from a homeroom teacher.
My only personal regret with Mike was not making his Year 7 football squad (which was a very strong side) but it worked out well as I played in the year 7/8 combined side under Gerry Ryan and that was a real education(!).*

*Together we wish Mike all the best for his battle ahead and he should rest easy regarding his enduring legacy at SPC.*

*Warm regards,****Former student (SPC 1985-90)***

*I was a student in Mr Brady’s 7A in 1985. I still remember the early days of that class.*

*Being a day boy from Melton, I was still awestruck by the size of the school and the boys in their uniforms.*

*On the first day, Mr Brady led a tour of the school. I remember him being particularly proud of the Main Oval.*

*I also remember being taken up one of the stairwells and being told that it was over a mineshaft and not too much noise should be made lest we fall into the abyss - I still don’t know if that was a joke.*

*Walking with my daughter this morning she remarked how cold it was, I was reminded of the cold Ballarat days.*

*Mr Brady would sometimes not be able to take the top off the blackboard markers and used it to explain the concept that different materials expand and contract at different rates. That is no doubt true, but on occasion the marker tops had a little assistance with their resistance.*

*Mr Brady asked us to strive for perfection. In maths, in particular, I always felt a rush of embarrassment when the words ‘careless error’ appeared on my work. I still see them, in myself and others, but will keep trying.*

*I was delighted last year to meet (another former student), my daughter’s grade 6 teacher, and find out he is both an Old Boy and had contact with Mr Brady. I don’t keep in touch with many of my classmates, but still regard them as my friends and I still think of Mr Brady as my teacher.*

*I should mention that my mum and dad are very fond of Mr Brady and we talk about him from time to time - in many ways his genuine, kind, but somewhat strict nature embodies St Pat’s to us.*

*Thanks for the chance to reminisce. Please pass on my very warmest regards and best wishes to Mr Brady.*

***Former student (SPC 1985-90)***

*Mike Brady was the greatest teacher you could get first up at the daunting prospect of Form 1.
He was kind and welcoming on the one hand but had this amazing talent of making you shake in your boots as well. I remember a time when one of the boys (who thought he was a man!), was giving cheek to one of the female members of staff and Mike Brady stepped in to calm the situation and make the perpetrator wish he had never started!
A brilliant teacher and leader of young men. He has remained friends with most of us 50-plus year-olds to this day. He made our lives so much easier and prepared us for St Pat’s life so well. Legend!
Thoughts are with him and his family at this time.****Former student (SPC 1980-85)***

*Dear Michael,*

*As I told you some years back, you were one of the great educators of St Patrick’s.*

*Your influence on the Form I boys was indisputably first class. You led the Form I teachers very well indeed and we could always be confident that all was well in that part of the College.*

*You were a good and loyal friend who gave me much encouragement in my early years as a Headmaster when confidence was not a strong as it may have appeared.*

*But they were great days with many very good things happening.*

*The OCA was one of them and you were again at the heart of that.
Blessings in your present struggles,*

***Br Bill Wilding (former SPC Principal)***

*I had Mr Brady in 7A in 1987. We had the classroom opposite to the other Year 7’s backing onto the music and band rooms.*

*Mike had a strategy for Lap of the Lake that won plenty of Year 7 class honours over the years, calming us down, heads on desks, breathing exercises, getting rid of nervous energy, meditating, talking us through pacing ourselves, not stopping or giving up, all contributing to the team effort and the aggregate result. To be honest, we creamed them, but the early life lessons still ring true to this day.
I was 11 years old when I came to SPC, from a small Catholic coeducational primary school and the oldest child.*

*Mr Mike Brady made my transition to an all-boys school of 800+ as easy as possible for me and my classmates. It was a great start to high school, and I thank him for that.*

*Nobody in 7A was an angel in 1987 including myself, but our white shirts stayed tucked in, some of us who had never worn a shirt tie graduated to Windsor knots by year end too.*

*He worded us up about the Year 8's and the handball or 'jerk courts and the lay of the land, rules and etiquette etc. We knew the SPC war cry before the end of Term 1 and retreat. Ero wero, wero rum!! Um stick a bubble on a zip bang golliwobble... we all know how it goes somewhat still.*

*Mike told us to listen to the school announcements that came over before recess and lunch, encouraging us to get involved when invitations to sports teams and activities were announced.*

*Therein lies the reason I did cricket with Mr Martino and AFL early, chess club, then soccer to First IX with Mr Malcolm Barrrins, three different music bands/groups to Year 12 with Mrs Jamieson, Mr Baench and Mr Honeyman as well as Cadets to Y12/ CUO level with the Bursar Mr Brian Broadribb.*

*My memory of Mr Brady is a 100% positive one, he looked like a shorter version of my Dad with the dark hair, brows and beard, together with the tailored plaid wool sports coat he wore often.*

*Mike, I hope you get a laugh from this, my recollection of that time and my experience in your 7A class of 1987.
I was the kid after Jason Carey on the roll, just before Greg Castle by the way.
We became the Year 12 class of 1992 and we will definitely be reminiscing about you in three week's time at our 30-Year reunion in the OCA Pavillion as part of the SPC OCA, raising a glass no doubt.*

*Finally, thanks again from just one of the thousands of youngmen's lives you have positively shaped in all your hard work, care and teaching over your extensive career and calling at SPC.*

*Cheers, thanks & best regards,****Former student (SPC 1987-92)****Mr Brady, sending my best wishes your way. You were the Year 7 Co-ordinator in 1995 when I entered my first year at the school. You had real presence. Presence that made me feel safe being under your guidance.*

*You commanded respect not through being feared, but through feeling like you had our ‘back’ and understood, what we as Year 7’s were going through, being the small fish in a big pond.
Thanks for the support I felt during my Year 7 experience and beyond at SPC.****Former student (SPC 1995-2000)***

*Hello Mr Brady,
Your guidance in my early days of Year 7 in 1988 help set up a great six years I spent at the College, you and your family should be immensely proud of the positive impact you had on so many people during your career at SPC, as I am sure you are.*

*Who are, Who are, Who are we? - We are, We are, SPC.*

*With great memories,****Former student (SPC 1988-1993)***

*G'day Mr Brady, hope you're going alright mate. I often reminisce on some of my favourite moments at school and one lesson that always pops up is how much I came to love Fawlty Towers.
Probably a good way to handle a class that was half full of 13-year-old Bacchus Marsh kids. Some great lessons from that though were the importance of humour and being able to enjoy some moments of relaxation throughout a busy day.
You set us up beautifully mate to be good Patties men and the respect and gratitude that you showed to the college certainly wore off on me as I progressed through the years and into my adult life.*

*Hopefully our paths cross sometime in the near future, until then, wishing you all the best mate and thinking of you and your family as you navigate your fight.*

*Ecka Dora****Former student (SPC 2009-14)***

*Mike or Mr Brady to us was the first person I met when I arrived at St Pat's in 1981 as a 12-year-old to begin full-time boarding.*

*I was nervous as hell as I was coming from a tiny Western Victorian town where we only had 10 kids in our grade 6 class.*

*Mike showed my parents and I around St Pat’s that day, it was the first time I had seen it. This was a huge move for myself and also a stressful time for my parents, particularly my mum.*

*I will never forget Mike's relaxed, friendly nature putting both my parents and my own worries at ease. So thank you Mike.*

*Regards,****Former student (SPC 1981-85, PY1986)***

*Dearest Mike,
Year 7 – 2004. You made the first year of high school undaunting and exciting.*

*You encouraged us to chase our dreams. I've chased mine and am proudly serving as a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Australian Navy.
I owe so much to you, thank you for your everything.
Regards,****Former student******(SPC 2004-09)***

*Dear Mike,
Thank you for providing me with a smooth and enjoyable transition to secondary school (back in 1989).*

*I have fond memories of my time in 7-48 and developed lifelong friends in your home room including Dr Richard Bignell and Andrew “Crackers” Carrucan.*

*In my current job providing tax advice, I haven’t yet had the need to spell ISOSCELES but should it arise I am ready, willing and able.*

*Thanks again for your invaluable guidance. All the best with your current challenges.*

*Yours Sincerely,****Former student (SPC 1989-94)***

*Mr Brady - thank you for your service to St Pat’s.*

*Your classes were always enjoyable and you made them fun which set up a lot of young men to go on and enjoy the rest of their school years.*

*Take care,****Former student (SPC 2001-06)***

*Dear Mike,
You are the epitome of humility and I recall how you quietly and purposefully shaped our rough and ready cohort when we were with you at St Pat’s.*

*I remember sharing this poem by William Ogilvie, that has been pinned to the door of the station office here for nearly 150 years.*

*It reminded me of when I shared it with you in class, at school, when I was homesick - and it seems very poignant today.
I wish you well my friend and convey that you had a big impact on my learnings as a young man finding my way in the world. Seems a long time ago but I recall you telling me quietly and very respectfully that this was my calling… it was… and you knew.*

*No words suffice - except - a humble THANKYOU in return.****Former student (SPC 1985-87)***[***The Men Of The Open Spaces***](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fallpoetry.com%2FThe-Men-Of-The-Open-Spaces&data=05%7C01%7CLListon%40stpats.vic.edu.au%7C19fd27f2c85a4949299208da2da463af%7Ce037dac0bdd4497d9ef79442978a163d%7C0%7C0%7C637872481360197729%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ATO5UIJIDt%2Br741dJtEodmbqw5GRx0NxAZY82DXEg9I%3D&reserved=0) ***These are the men with the sun-tanned faces
and the keen far-sighted eyes-
the men of the open spaces,
and the land where the mirage lies.

The men who have learnt to master
the forces of fire and drought
and the demon Flood's disaster
in the fields of furthest out.

The men who have stood together
and shared in the fight with fate
and known the strength of the tether
that holds a mate to his mate.

Who ride with a gallant bearing
where every saddle's a throne,
and each is an emperor sharing
an empire enough for his own.

They are strangers to airs and graces,
and scornful of power and pride-
the Men of the Open Spaces,
who rule the world when they ride.***

*Mike Brady! "Mr Brady" it was. My Form 1 coordinator in 1982. The late Stephen Haintz was my home room teacher. You taught me maths I think. Mike, not sure that quite worked out as I became a lawyer mate!*

*The junior footy coaching maybe a bit more successful though as after playing soccer for years anyway I took up amateur footy in my 20s and did alright down here in Melbourne.*

*Anyway I remember you as good bloke. Solid teacher. Firm but fair. Enjoyed your lessons actually. I was a bit of a loudmouth. Always getting kicked out of class for some smart comment to stand outside and worry whether Mr Brady would see me standing forlornly at the door!*

*The whole St Pat’s experience was good for me. Went through to Year 12 and then onto Melbourne Uni (resided at Newman College) for Law and Commerce degrees. Married at 23. Four grown up daughters now.
Mike I'm lucky never to have been pretty sick but hope it’s some satisfaction for you to know that you had such a positive effect on a young fella that they remember it still now at the age of…gee almost 53!
All the very best Mike,****Former student (SPC 1982-87)***

*Fond memories of a receiving a very warm welcoming to St Pat’s from Mr Brady in 1987.*

*He definitely helped me well on my way through my high school learning years.*

*Wishing him all the best and a well overdue thank you for everything he did for me during those years.
Regards****Former student******(SPC 1987-92)***

 *G'day Mr Brady, this is one of your many Year 7 graduates, who you taught in 2009.*

*I have many fond memories of my time at St Pat's in particular. Year 7.*

*I remember sitting right in the back corner of the room every morning and you reading out our names whilst chewing on a mint chewy. You would have a good laugh with us lads and be sure to check-in on footy results from our weekend games.*

*I think the positive experience I had in Year 7 helped encapsulated what was in store for my entire journey at St Pat's and that I owe to you.*

*Thanks for pulling me into line when I was mucking around and making sure my head was down not up talking like usual. Since graduating from Patties in 2014, I have gone on to complete four years at uni collecting degrees in Health Sciences and Sport/Business Management.*

*I still remain living in Ballarat because who doesn't love the cold weather.... One of the best parts about my job is travelling around the state and driving through townships across Victoria that many of my classmates grew up in which required them to board. Those guys have remained friends from my years at St Pat’s and demonstrates the mateship you always use to instil in us.*

*I wish you the best mate, I know you'll be fighting your way along. I don't except you to remember me at all as you've taught so many but hope this can help you feel the appreciation all us men have for you.*

*Thanks,****Former student (SPC 2009-14)***

*I have nothing but fond memories of Mike Brady. And I would say this is most likely the same for nearly all boys who went through St Pat's as Year 7's during his time.*

*I remember to this day as a nervous newcomer to the school at Year 7 Camp being awoken at the crack of dawn in our dorm room by his cheerful sing, song (and deliberately annoying) mantra of 'Wakey, wakey rise and shine it's a beautiful day!'*

*For which he received a litany of shock, groans and upheaval. This is a performance I have recently begun to enact/mimic myself to awaken my own grumpy and slow-moving teenagers from their beds some 40 years later. And I remember him offering us the alluring breakfast options of 'BONT' (Baked Beans on Toast) or 'SPAGONT' (Spaghetti on Toast) with all the panache of a Basil Fawlty at his own high class restaurant.*

*Mike was cheeky and theatrical and he showed us that a very serious and historic school was not all doom and gloom.*

*Mike's persistent application of what I would come to identify as 'daggy Dad humour' in the context of a group of anxious and uncertain young boys on the cusp of high school was invaluable.*

*He made us understand that teachers weren't there to punish or torment us but could be funny and endearing and approachable.*

*He was one of the perennial 'nice guys' of teaching and in some ways a gentle and paternal figure to many at a very fragile time of life.*

*Now decades on as a career school teacher myself who is often given to daggy and repetitive humour with my students, I remember him.*

*That humour was something that put us at ease and made us realise he could be trusted to guide us like a parental figure. In my better moments of being funny, approachable or pastoral I often think of Mike Brady and his kindness, humour and good nature.*

*Such is the impact of teachers from our formative years. They stay with us.*

*My thoughts, prayers and best wishes go out to Mike and his family in this time of ill-health. I thank him humbly for the lasting memories and impressions he gave to me and so many others.*

*Sincerely,****Former student (SPC 1983-88)***

*Mike, you will probably never understand just how comforting it was for a 12-year-old boy in 1995 who was fresh out of a small country primary school to arrive at St Patrick’s College, nervously walk into a classroom and have such an exceptional man waiting to greet him.*

*I have many, many fond memories of you moulding us into the men we have become today.
I remember your beard, I remember your mannerisms and I proudly apply the K-I-S-S principle you taught me in everyday life.*

*Thank you for the opportunities you gave me and all the best with your treatment and recovery.*

***Former student (SPC 1995-2000) & family***

*I remember starting at St Pat’s in 1980 as a shy 14-year-old boarder from a farm near a small country town in southern NSW.*

*Although I didn’t have Mike for any academic subjects, he was a constant at the school whilst I was there for four years and always offered smile, encouragement and genuine interest in what you were doing.*

*He continually asked what you were up to, supported you in your endeavours, cheered you on at any sporting event, and just always seem to be “around” the college during school and after school hours.*

*He had an incredible memory of knowing names and placing you amongst all the other boys at the College. I am not sure who was better at this, he or Brother Wilding, but they were both exceptional for remembering names and faces of so many boys.*

*After 40 years he is still one of the teachers I remember fondly from my time at the school.*

*He had an understated sunny and positive disposition, always looking out for those who needed a little support and providing encouragement and a pick me up if you were feeling a bit down.*

*As a boarder, there were times when you missed your family, or had any number of challenges, and he always seemed to be able to give you a positive and be someone that would just listen to your worries and then give you a little boost of confidence to take away from your time with him. Such a simple act that had a significant impact.*

*Mike, thank you for your support of a young and impressionable student all those years ago and all those who probably received the same support that I did since.*

*I hope you remember your time fondly at the College and rest assured that you have guided many a student into adult life with a special no nonsense approach, and for just being there when anyone needed you.*

*May God bless you and hold you in the palm of his hand, and rest assured that you have left a lasting impression and legacy on those students and staff who were lucky enough to have had you as a teacher colleague and friend.*

*Yours,****Former student (SPC 1980-83)***

*You were a great teacher and a real gentleman, and God knows how you put up with us (well, me, anyway). To this day, I can't snap my fingers without some part of my mind instantly flashing back to Form 1A, 1982! I wish you and your family all the best.****Former student (SPC 1982)***

*Mike was our home room teacher in Form One (year seven) in 1985. Starting out at St Pat’s when coming from primary school is a big move and one of Mike’s skills was helping countless boys make this transition successfully.*

*This involved keeping an eye on how we were all travelling and balancing that against the new-found autonomy of high school.*

*Well chosen words of advice at times were very effective. Instilled in the class were the lessons of the Gospel of Matthew (read in full over the year!) and the importance of social justice principles in action.*

*Mike established for us of a sense of our place at SPC its history and traditions, while encouraging us to think about what we wanted to achieve after school, even at that young age.*

*He encouraged all of us to develop and recognise our own skills, showing wisdom in dealing with occasional student conflict, as well as more in practical things like how to edit your own writing.*

*Days before the Lap of the Lake run (an Everest-like feat for some of us at that stage), Mike explained to the class how to relax, focus and put mind over matter. It was effective advice and a lifelong lesson for many of us.*

*Mike lives what he taught. His dedication, organisation, knowledge and faith are all genuine and a great example to us all.*

***Former student (SPC 1985-90)***

*It is impossible to think of Year 7 at St Pat’s without affectionally reflecting on Mike Brady. It was not just guidance, it was the care he had for all the students.*

*An anecdote he may like comes from Year 7, 1985.
Mike was supervising the Year 7 science exam and student “AN” sat behind me for all our exams (alphabetic order) – AN and I had agreed we would swap the exam paper at the 1.15 mark to check each other’s answers (the exam rooms were so small it was relatively simple to slide the papers between one another).
After doing our checks it was time to slide the papers back to one another and just after I returned AN’s paper – Mike got up to do a meandering walk past each desk.  AN froze and I was left without an exam paper in front of me and Mike was only two rows away.*

*I crouched and hunched up to make out I was writing and deep in thought when Mike stopped at my desk.  I was sure I was cooked, and then Mike reached down under my desk to pick up a cricket book I had left on the floor (we were allowed to bring books to read if we finished exams early).*

*Mike flicked through the pages, and the only thing I could do was pretend that I was oblivious to his presence.*

*After a few minutes Mike returned the book and wandered on.  AN hurriedly pushed my paper over to me and we breathed a collective sigh of relief.*

*And whilst I suspect Mike was on to us, he didn’t say anything to me until we were leaving the room, “D…., I see you’re just like your father, you love your cricket and you are never far from trouble”.*

***Former student (SPC 1985-90)***

*Mr Brady taught me as a Year 7 student in 1992. As a country kid, moving from a school of 30 kids to St Pat’s was an enormous change.*

*Mr Brady was a good teacher, well organised, very fair and knew how to sort out a few trouble-makers at times.*

*He certainly got us into a good routine with our school work, something which has probably helped people into the future.
I can recall having to put jmj on the top of every page in our workbooks.*

*It was a tough year for me personally going to such a large school, probably what felt like the biggest change of my life, but Mr Brady made life in the classroom pleasant.
I can recall sitting for most of the year up the back of the classroom.*

*I know he used to have the troublesome kids closer to the front if he could. There was certainly some wild kids in that year, so he had trouble keeping them all up the front.*

*A great effort Michael to spend 40 years of your life at the one school.
Regards,****Former student (SPC 1987-92)***

*Mr Brady,
You were my Year 7 English teacher back in 2006.*

*I remember you used to read Hatchet to us in class, which I always enjoyed.*

*Looking back now, you must've known we were too lazy to read it ourselves. Unless I'm mistaken, I also remember you telling us to never use 'got' in a sentence, because there was always a better word we could use. For some reason I remembered that, and you'll be pleased to know I don't think I've used it since!*

*I spoke to a few mates from school before sending this in. For a Paddy Boy, the greatest praise he can give is to refer to a bloke as ‘a great man’.*

*And when your name came up, that's the one phrase I kept hearing. You were truly one of the legends up there, and I count myself lucky to have had you as a teacher.
Thinking of you, and thanks for everything,****Former student (SPC 2006-11)***

*Dear Mike,
Thank you for being such a positive and firm influence on my Year 7 self way back in 1993.*

*I can fondly remember many snippets of that first year of high school, namely getting into trouble on a pretty regular basis - but all because I was ‘hanging with the wrong crowd’ of course.*

*I’m not sure if you had a role in instigating the change, but by the second semester I had been moved into your class as a means of steering the ship back on course. I think my parents and I would both agree – it worked!*

*One of the things I appreciated most about you was your “no rubbish” style and direct, yet pastoral way of supporting us. You were able to see beyond the behaviours and identify the true potential in each of us.*

*While it took me a few more years to work this out for myself and win Dux awards/become Deputy Head Prefect, I do wonder what might have been different without your calming presence in that first year.*

*Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being such a wonderful role model for me and the countless other young boys whom you help shape into young men.*

*If you had’ve told me all those years ago I would one day become a teacher at an all-boys Eddie Rice School like you, I would have scratched my head. Yet here we are! Perhaps you had a greater impact than even I imagined. 😉
Go well old friend.****Former student (SPC 1994-99)***

*Mike was very well known to us all. He presided over our Year 7 Induction camp (1980) and when we moved nearvby, he was a neighbour of ours. We’d often see him walking to/from St Pat’s and (along with Yuri Kazkowski) was a familiar face when my son started at St Pat’s. Then he was almost always there whenever I’d visit for the CN Awards and morning tea. He was always good for a laugh.****Former student (SPC 1980-85)***

*Dear Mike,
We recall so many wonderful memories of you from teaching to conversations in the old Staffroom.  The fun times and even the not so fun times.*

*My son had a wonderful start to his St Patrick’s journey in those early years and now has his first son (of four) starting in Year 7 this year. You are in our prayers and hearts.
Love to you,****Former Staff member & son (SPC 1995-2000) and family.***

*Mike was the first person outside of my faculty to talk to me in my first days at the College.*

*He was always the first to ask me how my day was going and would offer advice when my day was not going so well.*

*His kindness, warmth, and jokes (along with those from Juri) were what got me through those first few months at the College.*

*Knowing that someone as kind and knowledgeable as Mike had my back helped on the days when I questioned whether I should have made the move from primary to secondary education made it very much easier for me to continue.*

*One of my favourite memories is of a tour of the College Mike was giving his Year 7 homeroom at the start of a school year. The history of the school that Mike has is amazing. Looking at the faces of the students as they listened to him speak, it was a delight.*

*You could see in Mike’s eyes the love that he has for this community, and that inspired the students. The look of awe and realisation that the students had while listening to Mike speak, of being a part of something that goes back many generations, was a pleasure to witness.****Anne-Marie Driscoll (staff member)***

*I have fond memories of our Year 7 camp in 1986 and can vividly recall the way Mr Brady, our Year 7 Coordinator, woke us up each morning with his booming voice calling out “wakey, wakey, rise and shine.*

*It’s a beautiful day, let’s hit the boards!”.*

*At the camp, he also introduced us to the war cry and would make us sing as loud and as proud as we could.*

*The camp was my first real experience of SPC’s culture and Mr Brady certainly did set us a high standard and made the transition to secondary school exciting and enjoyable.*

*Back at school, he had the great ability to draw the attention of the class by clicking his fingers louder than anyone I have ever met!*

*I look back now and are very grateful to have had Mike as a role model in my early years at SPC and as someone who embodied the values of respect, pride, learning and fun.*

*I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mike for his contribution to the College and the positive impact he has had on me personally. God bless you Mike.*

*Best regards,*

***Former student (SPC 1986-91)***

*Dear Mr Brady,*

*I was sorry to hear you were unwell.*

*I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you that you really were a teacher I admired and looked up to.*

*My time at St Pat’s is littered with wonderful memories and a lot of them came in that first year.*

*From the many competitive games against Mr Porter’s Room 47, to our first St Patrick’s Day mass where we rhythmically clapped in front the whole school and got the mother of all dressing downs from Br Moore in the carpark afterwards.*

*Still to this day when someone clicks their fingers, I look to cross my arms.*

*Your influence is massive and one you should be so proud of.*

*I live in Melbourne with my wife and three young children, I run a successful plumbing company and many of the qualities I have come from my education at St Patrick’s.*

 ***Former student (SPC 1989-94)*** *Year 7 Room 48*

 *Dear Mike,
 So sorry to learn you have been very unwell, Mike. Needless to say you have my admiration  for your cheerfulness and stoicism over a long period with your illness.
The boys certainly made life interesting! You were one of the very special kind, good natured and encouraging teachers with whom the youngsters encountered in their first year.  I recall my son coming home and telling us about  meeting "Mr Brady" during his first year.
It must give you a great deal of satisfaction, Mike, knowing what an influence you have had on the youngsters at St Pat's and most importantly, the respect you gained due to your laid back, friendly but in control manner. That was one of those assets which I identified with you, too.*

*Whenever I toured about the College during the day, either with visitors or on my lonesome, I was always impressed at how quiet and well behaved your students were in class, which was not always the case in many other classrooms, let me tell you!!!*

*You always had a cheerful word for me when passing by.
I could not go out on the Year 7 camps, but from what I gleaned later, there was much fun and bravado and staff had challenging but happy times. Bless you for your patience and good management!!
You are well remembered, Mike, and I do hope we can meet up again and enjoy a morning tea with a few of the "boys"..  Take care.*

*With my very best wishes, and stay well, mate.
All the very best,****Brian Broadribb (former staff)***

*Dear Mike (and family),*

*I’m sorry I’m so tardy in getting this to you – words are inadequate but all we have. Know they come from full and so grateful hearts!*

*I am sorry and sad to hear that your cancer has returned.*

*Our love and prayer is with you.*

*And I haven’t had the words to express our gratitude and love to you for your friendship and loving support for so many years.*

*As Chris’s carers have said ‘He always came to see us when we went back to SPC events’.*

*That’s meant so much to Chris and us – it’s not easy to talk with someone who is unable to engage in a verbal conversation.*

*Especially someone like Chris who was very fluent and loved a yarn!*

*It is our wedding anniversary today 24 April 1965, and Chris was born in 1968.*

*The small PS he attended never had more than 17 children so it was a big jump to SPC and being a day boy on the school bus in year 7.*

*How blessed he was to have you as teacher, and so often spoke of you then and in the years after.*

*You gave him (and many others) the foundation for life and living at SPC and beyond.*

*School Captain in Year 12 and the friends he made then are still friends.*

*Since their last decade reunion, that class of 1985 meets every year.*

*They are an impressive group of men, united in a spirit of friendship and way of living life.*

*You have influenced so many boys and men over your years at SPC and beyond.*

*More than you can ever know.*

*My heart is full and our love and prayer are with you and your family – how blessed you are to have such beautiful girls!*

*Please remember us, Mike, when you are reunited with the loving God in whom we love and live and have our being.*

*How blessed we are to have known and loved you!*

*You will be welcomed with open arms!*

*With our love and prayer and thanks so very much*

***Mary and Chris Nolan (SPC 1980-85)***