St Bede’s Old Collegians’ Hall of Fame Dinner 9th May 2012 at The Beaumaris

Written & Introduced by Allan Drummond

Introduction

Whenever St Bede’s Old Boys gather together, no matter when they left the college, no matter from which station on the Frankston line they began their daily journey, or which Ventura or Grenda’s bus windows were fogged up by their wintry breath; no matter what talents they showed in the classroom or on the playing field; no matter the depth of their faith or the regularity of their attendance at Sunday Mass; and no matter where the River of Life has carried them since they left school … there is always one question which loyal St Bede’s Old Boy will always return to.

“How old is Brother Finian?”

It is not my task this evening to give a definitive answer to that, seemingly eternal, question. But I will offer this small observation. I graduated from another school further up the Frankston line in 1959, when Fin was stationed there for a short time. It was widely assumed by my classmates and I that he was about 65 years of age then. Which would make him 118 this year.

That information may, or may not, end the debate.

Our first inductee to the Hall of Fame is younger than Brother Finian!

Dr Paul Callery

One day in the 1960s, a year level of St Bede’s boys was supposed to be engaged in pious, prayerful meditation in the gardens of a Franciscan retreat centre, while a number of Franciscan friars walked the grounds, absorbed in their spiritual reading. It is alleged, by one of Paul Callery’s classmates, that he quickly summed up the situation and ran a book on which of the Friars would do the most laps of the garden path.

The retreat thereby became a materially profitable one for him.

In doing so Killer, as he was then known, was participating in the long horse racing and gambling tradition that was part of St Bede’s folk lore, until the Mentone and the Epsom tracks became housing estates.

After leaving St Bede’s in 1968, Paul caught the attention of many Melburnians as the smallest player in the Victorian Football League. His football career at Melbourne and St Kilda included 182 games, during which he put boot to ball on 1811 occasions, 200 of those actions resulting in goals. 44 Brownlow Medal votes are included among his statistics, but perhaps the most intriguing of those stats is that he won 4 hit outs, all in 1975.

Paul’s very fine football career saw him win both the Morrish and the Gardiner Medals, and go on to represent Victoria. Since retiring, he has acted as fitness adviser, skills coach, injury
rehabilitation adviser and psychologist for various AFL clubs. He has also acted as a statistician and a football commentator.

His degrees, including studies in physical education, economics, politics and teaching, were topped off with a Doctorate in Applied Science/Psychology. All of this led to an impressive academic and teaching career at Australian Catholic University.

Paul is well aware of the role that sport can play in the socialisation of young people and has been a keynote speaker at all levels of junior sport development, where he has always stressed the importance of fun, fairness and respect.

More recently, he has taken that philosophy to East Timor where he has established soccer competitions, giving positive direction to the lives of some 1000 children. Where there are young players, there needs to be coaches and referees, so Paul has seen to that too. He has committed himself to this work for another 5 years, in what is a significant contribution to one of the world’s newest and poorest countries.

We are proud to acknowledge Dr Paul Callery as a member of the St Bede’s College Hall of Fame.

Mark Fennessy

Hailing from Cheltenham, Mark left St Bede’s in 1979 after 8 years at the college. No! He didn’t repeat two years! These were the days before the Catholic Education Office leaned on privately run schools such as St Bede’s to close their primary departments, which had tended to cream off the best of the primary students from parish schools.

Carl Fennessy followed his big brother to St Bede’s, where his final year was 1985.

Before commencing a law degree at Melbourne University, Mark took a part time job as a camera assistant with Channel Seven. He was immediately taken with the possibilities and deferred his law degree. The assistant cameraman became News Cameraman and assistant sports producer in short order. The Sarajevo Winter Olympics and AFL football were already on his CV when he was poached by Channel 9 and relocated to Sydney. With experience in covering cricket etc … he rose to the position of Executive Producer at just 26 years of age.

Working on The Midday Show with Ray Martin might, for some of us, have been the highpoint of our career. But Mark moved on from there to became head of MTV in Australia and found himself travelling all over the globe, immersed in the possibilities of the rapidly exploding MTV networks. It was a good time to be relatively young, relatively experienced and abundantly adventurous.

In the mid 1990s, Mark and Carl decided to launch their own production company which they called Crackerjack. After nearly two years of biting their nails almost to the bone,
Crackerjack became an overnight success. If you ever saw Backberner, CNNNN, The Election Chaser or Enough Rope, you were watching a Crackerjack production.

In 2003, Crackerjack merged with the iconic Australian, Reg Grundy television production company. The result was Fremantle Media Australia, with Mark as Chief Executive Officer, and Carl as Chief Operations Officer.

Think, among others, of Australian Idol, Neighbours, Australia’s Got Talent and Master Chef. And a show called the Ultimate School Musical, in which we watched an Essendon-Keilor College production of the musical Fame, coming together under the direction of Eddie Perfect.

Fremantle Media grew to a company employing close to 2000 people and producing some 10,000 hours of original programming each year.

So why wouldn’t Elisabeth Murdoch come knocking on the door, asking Fremantle to join with her production company … Shine. Mark and Carl were pleased to do so, so that Mark is now president of the Shine network throughout the world and Carl, who is unable to be with us tonight, is president of Shine America.

We are proud to acknowledge Mark and Carl Fennessy as members of the St Bede’s College Hall of Fame.

Father Robert McCulloch

Robert McCulloch completed his secondary schooling at St Bede’s in 1963.

He was ordained a Columban missionary priest in 1970, after which he worked in the Philippines for four years before undertaking graduate studies in theology and history in Rome and Washington. His doctoral studies in theology were finally completed in Rome in 2001. There were good reasons for the delay!

In 1978, the Columban Missionary Society established a new mission in Pakistan, for which Rob immediately volunteered. These days, the world’s cricket teams refuse to visit that country, and DFAT regularly warns Australians not to travel there. It would be hard to convince most of us that Pakistan, like South Sudan, where former St Bede’s principal, Brother Bill Firman, is currently working, is not a dangerous place to work.

Once in Pakistan, Rob discovered the needs of the poorest people, and set about satisfying them. In a relatively short space of time, he had established programmes of adult literacy and collaborated with District Health officials in revitalising and extending immunisation programmes, targeted especially at the poor. He established a free medical care centre for those suffering from tuberculosis.

Over the years, Rob worked in various parts of Pakistan. The Sindh, Hyderabad, Karachi are names that may ring romantically in our ears, but for Rob, they were places full of people with needs.
Forgive me if I take his priestly pastoral duties as read, for I must also record the following achievements:

- With assistance from other Columbans, he was prominent in saving the culture of the outcast Parkari Koli people, particularly by establishing their language as a written language in Sindhi script.
- He was Chairman of the Administrative Council of St Elizabeth’s hospital, Hyderabad, and its School of Midwifery.
- He established a home-based, palliative care unit working from St Elizabeth’s.
- He established a Mobile Medical Outreach Programme, which provides free medical care to some 20,000 people in rural Sindh.
- He directed the response of St Elizabeth’s to severe and widespread flooding in 2010 and 2011, and saw to the construction of more than 800 new dwellings for flood affected victims.
- He initiated and oversaw the provision of educational opportunities for Catholic young boys and men in Hyderabad.
- He has lectured for 27 years at the National Catholic Institute of Theology in Karachi, helping to prepare a new generation of priests and also bringing about an academic affiliation by which students of the Institute can obtain their degrees in Theology from Melbourne University.

In 2011, Robert was appointed Procurator General of the Columban Missionary Society. Now stationed in Rome, he nevertheless continues to visit Pakistan several times each year. In February of this year, in recognition of his work, Rob was awarded the Sitara-e-Quaid-e-Azam by the President of Pakistan, for his “Services to Health, Education and Inter-Faith Relations. There is no higher civilian award in Pakistan.

We are proud to acknowledge Father Robert McCulloch as a member of the St Bede’s College Hall of Fame.

Peter McTigue

… came to St Bede’s in late 1939 at the age of 4.

There is a story, which may or may not be true, that another 4 year old asked Peter on his first day:

“Who’s the old codger rolling the pitch?”

One version of this story says that the common belief in 1939 was that the old codger rolling the pitch was, even then, about 65 years of age. The mathematically gifted among you will have already taken on board the possibility that Brother Finian is, therefore, approximately 138 years of age!
Peter had reached the ripe old age of 7 when, one morning in March of 1942, Brother Malachy announced before morning prayer:

“Yesterday, the Japanese bombed Darwin. We must pray for our country.”

The first graduates from St Bede’s, including a previously inducted Hall of Famer, the horse trainer Bob Hoysted, were very soon in uniform, with none of the career options so readily available to future generations.

Peter McTigue left St Bede’s at the end of 1951 as Dux of the College. The signs were good.

In 1957, he completed a Masters degree in chemical research at Melbourne University and, in doing so, won a research scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he completed his Doctorate. Over the next 30 years, he supervised and trained more than three dozen research students, leading to the completion of 20 doctorates.

In 1965, Peter was awarded the Rennie Memorial Medal for chemical research. He was a Visiting Research Fellow at Cornell University in 1967 and, in 1974, was Visiting Professor at the University of Stirling in Scotland. From 1986 to 1990, he was head of the School of Chemistry at Melbourne University.

Peter has always been a teacher as well as a scholar. In 1964, he co-authored “Chemistry – A Structural View” which brought Victorian Secondary Chemistry education into the 20th century. He was Chief Editor and co-author of “Chemistry – Key to the Earth” which remained in use for 20 years, until the introduction of the VCE in 1991. For many years, he was Chief Examiner and Chief Assessor of Year 12 Chemistry.

In the early 1990s Peter began to explore the internet as a teaching tool and spent a year as Visiting Professor at the University of Gotenberg, Sweden, pursuing this theme which led to an award as Chemical Educator of the Year.

In 2009, Peter was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his contribution to chemistry education.

Now almost retired, one of his projects is to help a group of South African secondary schools with the development of their final year chemistry teaching and examining.

We are proud to acknowledge Dr Peter McTigue as a member of the St Bede’s College Hall of Fame.

Monsignor Brian Walsh

1944 was the year of the Beaumaris bushfires. It was also the year in which the College chapel burned to the ground. The cause of that fire remains a mystery, but the powers that be
have suggested that I ask whether anyone here tonight has any information that might help them with their continuing enquiries.

As it happens, Brian Walsh was a boarder at St Bede’s, from 1939 to 1947. A large part of that period included the war years, when life for a little fellow must have been rather Spartan. But having survived that, Brian shone in his later years at the College. He was College Captain in both 1946 and 1947, as well as Vice-captain of football, a member of the cricket team and the Young Christian Students leader in the same years.

After school, Brian entered the seminary, which was then at Werribee Mansion. The gardens of that glorious property were overgrown and uncared for but, after receiving advice from a young Kevin Heinz on what should and should not be done, Brian was a leader of the group of seminarians which raised money for a gang mower, a tractor and a truck to help with the restoration project.

Brian was ordained priest in 1956 and his first permanent appointment was as assistant priest in Sunshine. He remained there until 1964 leaving, as part of his legacy, a new parish hall and reception complex and a Youth Centre which included 4 tennis courts, cricket wickets, basketball and netball courts. Not only that, he had the complex opened by the Duke of Norfolk, manager of the English Cricket Team, in the presence of Australian captain, Lindsay Hassett.

Such was Father Walsh’s reputation for getting things done that he was appointed, in 1970, to be Executive Director of the 40th Eucharistic Congress, which would be held over several days in February 1973. The focal point of the Congress was the MCG, with the main altar in front of Bay 13. The two biggest events were the Mass for 100,000 schoolchildren, and the Statio Orbis, which drew something in the order of 120,000 people. That these and other events ran as smoothly as clockwork was attributed almost entirely to the organisational skills of Father Brian.

His efforts were rewarded with his appointment as Prelate of Honour to Pope Paul VI with carried the title of Monsignor; he also received the Order of the British Empire with which he was presented at Buckingham Palace.

As Parish Priest of Dandenong from 1974 to 1985, it was obvious that his energies were in no way diminished. Once again, he set about planning and building the facilities necessary to build a vibrant community.

That appointment ended when he became National Director of the Papal Visit to Australia in 1986. His headquarters was the 23 storey, former CRA Building at 101 Collins St and that visit was again superbly organised.

After a final appointment as Parish Priest, this time at Our Lady of Victories, Camberwell, he took up residence at Justin Villa, the priests’ retirement village in Balwyn.

We are proud to acknowledge Monsignor Brian Walsh as a member of the St Bede’s College Hall of Fame.
Michael Buxton

Michael attended St Bede’s from 1956 to 1962. After finishing school, he was one of the pioneer students at Monash University, where he completed a B.A, a Diploma of Education, a Bachelor of Education and PhD.

Michael was elected to Mordialloc council in 1972 and became Mayor three years later, at 30 years of age. Some of you may remember, and even regret, the tiny Mordialloc Council, comprising little more than Mordialloc, Parkdale and Mentone, of which Michael was mayor. The Town Hall in Mentone Parade is long gone, as are the St Bede’s concerts, speech nights and boxing finals which were often held in it. Things change!

Michael is one of those people who is charged with, or who has charged himself with, the responsibility of managing the change in our communities that inevitably occurs over time.

In 1976, he moved the Buxton family to the Dandenong Ranges where he became Shire President in 1980 and served for six years on the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority, which was responsible for planning within the region. In this capacity, he made an important contribution to policies which continue to protect environmental, agricultural and tourist resources in this internationally significant area.

Michael’s academic and teaching career has included nine years in the Faculty of Education at Monash University and four years at the State College of Victoria at Hawthorn. He has spent 15 years in the State Public Service, working at Director level in a number of agencies. In that period, he helped to introduce a range of environmental planning measures, large additions to Melbourne’s regional open space and the definition of new national parks. He has led intergovernmental committees which formulated a national greenhouse strategy, and was a member of the Australian delegation to the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development.

Michael is currently Professor of Environment and Planning at RMIT University, from which position he continues to contribute to the formulation of government policy. Michael has published some 100 academic papers, contributed significantly to an even larger number of conferences, led a large number of research projects and contributed to 18 national and international consulting projects.

We are proud to acknowledge Michael Buxton as a member of the St Bede’s College Hall of Fame.

Leo Gamble

Offers his apologies and is not available, through ill health, to be with us tonight. That is unfortunate. A humble man, he does not like to be made a fuss of in the best of circumstances. Nevertheless, I would suggest to those of you who went to school with him, who taught with him, or who were taught by him, that you might consider finding a way to congratulate him on his richly deserved induction into the St Bede’s Hall of Fame.
Leo was a student at St Bede’s from 1946 to 1952. The facilities of the College were not imposing in those years, hemmed in by houses and horse racing stables, and divided by public roads. The land boomer house of Matthew Davies stood tall amid buildings that could easily have been mistaken for a temporary World War Two army camp.

But there was a spirit abroad in the College, among teachers and students, that rose above all of that. Leo made an enormous contribution to that spirit in his school years, and continued to do so as a teacher at the College. Always a keen student, Leo was Dux of the College in 1952, as well as a talented sportsman. At that time, the 100 yard track on the front oval rose by nearly 6 feet from the McCristal Gates to near what is now the Brothers’ House. Leo pounded that track in training, with the single minded ambition of beating the big boys from De La, St Kilda etc, in the Associated Catholic Colleges. 100 yards sprint. For Leo, and for many of the spectators on the day, his victory was indeed a highlight of the year.

Leo graduated from Melbourne University with a Commerce degree in 1956, but decided to become a teacher rather than to enter the world of business. He taught at Moorabbin and Sandringham Technical schools before returning to St Bede’s, where he taught from 1962 until 1993. Throughout that time, he was one of a core group of long-serving, highly professional, lay teachers whom I often think of as the Big Four, namely Leo, Jim Murphy, Larry McEvoy and John Rhoden. Those men made an enormous contribution to St Bede’s through days of transition, when there were virtually no awards for lay teachers in Catholic schools, and a certain spirit of faith was required by them. At the same time, it should be recorded that Brothers Colman and Finian, headmasters through much of that period, were more enlightened than the headmasters of many other religious order schools throughout Melbourne and Australia at the time.

As the demands of family life diminished, Leo spent many a Sunday at the Melbourne State Library, poring over old newspapers and other records relating to St Bede’s and to Mentone. The first result of this labour of love was the creation of the History of St Bede’s and its McCristal Origins. This was followed by a History of Mentone which was published in 2003. There are full time history professionals who are quite capable of turning local history into lists of mayors, councillors and obviously significant events. Both of Leo’s books were written with affection, understanding and empathy with the multitude of characters who pass through them. And in doing so, he created two eminently readable, though scholarly works. He has spent many of the years since his retirement as a member and office bearer of the Mentone Historical Society.

Care for the underprivileged has always been a priority for Leo, and one of his ‘religious’ observations since his retirement, in the company with his old schoolmate Dick Haire, has been to work as a volunteer at the Sacred Heart Mission in St Kilda.

We are proud to acknowledge Leo Gamble as a member of the St Bede’s College Hall of Fame and to invite his grandson, Mikey Fries, to accept the award on Leo’s behalf.

Greg Healy

I was invited to take on this role tonight on the day that Jim Stynes died. Amongst the many tributes and stories in the newspapers over the next few days, I was interested to observe
that reporters were sent to his old school to find out some more about him. That school was De La Salle College in Dublin. I have no idea how one can measure the degree of influence that a school has on one’s life. Some of you see your old school as central, after your family, in making you what you are. Some of you might decide that you would have become who you are, wherever you went to school. But Jim Stynes did go to a particular, and the lanky kid who was said to be too skinny to be a good rugby player, is now a hero to a new generation of Dubliners. And the fact is, that you who are inducted into the St Bede’s Hall of Fame tonight did go to St Bede’s and have become part of the ethos of the place.

Like Jim Stynes, Greg Healy played for the Melbourne Football Club.

During his school days, Greg joined the train on the Frankston Line at Aspendale with hundreds of other students, all converging on the educational hub which is Mentone.

Greg was at St Bede’s from 1978 to 1983, and played in the first eighteen under the late Larrie McEvoy. Even then he was a hard man, and it was no great surprise when, playing for the Melbourne Football Club, he won the Morrish Medal in 1983 as Best and Fairest in the under 19 VFL competition.

In 1984, Greg had the memorable experience of playing alongside older brother Gerard in the senior team. Two years later, he won the club’s best and fairest award and in 1987, was delighted to wallop big brother’s new team, the Sydney Swans, in the first semi-final. In 1988, Greg succeeded Robbie Flower as Captain of the Club, and led the team into the grand final that year.

In a real sense, Greg was a forerunner of the kind of fearless attack on the ball which is expected these days. Not surprisingly, injury caught up with him. Achilles and knee problems forced him to cede the captaincy to Garry Lyon, and led to his retirement in 1993, with 147 games and 167 goals to his credit.

Greg served as a Board member in 1997 and 1998 and is currently the Director of Football. He is a life member of the Melbourne Football Club, and a member of its Hall of Fame. He was awarded the title of Hero of the Club in 2008, the 150th year of that grand old club’s existence.

Apart from football, Greg became a qualified accountant and has pursued a career in accounting and finance. He joined Quicksilver as financial controller in 1998. This was a role which he was very pleased to assume, as it allowed him to indulge another sporting passion, namely surfing. He is currently president of Quicksilver, Asia Pacific.

We are proud to acknowledge Greg Healy as a member of the St Bede’s College Hall of Fame.

Br Michael Lynch

Michael Lynch travelled from Frankston to Mentone and St Bede’s in 1955, 56 and 57. In the first of those years, he was both fortunate and unfortunate, to be involved in a level crossing
accident at Seaford Road … fortunate in that he survived … unfortunate in that the driver was killed. Such trauma is not easy for a young man to live through.

In the middle 50s, St Bede’s was still a hotch potch of small, rather tired buildings of varying design which were begging to be pulled down. At the same time, the school population was exploding which put enormous pressure on the headmaster to do something about it. The Headmaster was Brother Finian. Fortunately, he was aided by a human dynamo in Brother Alban, alias Cue Ball, who did much of the work that Michael and the other students had to live with as the building now know as the Brother Finian building rose from the ground.

When Michael Lynch went to Monash in 1961, he might have been reminded of his old school, for Monash was also a work in progress. In 1964, Michael was selected by ballot to be the first graduate of the university.

Whilst at university, Michael decided to follow a vocation to the religious life, and at the time of his graduation, he was a novice in the Salesian order.

He taught at Salesian College, Chadstone from 1966 to 1973, a College which was another product of that rapid period of expansion of the 50s and 60s. By 1973 he was considered ready for a leadership role, and so he was appointed Principal of Salesian College, Brooklyn Park in South Australia, from 1974 – 81.

He completed a Masters degree in Education at Harvard University in 1982 and 1983 before returning to the classroom at St Joseph’s, Ferntree Gully and Dominic College, Glenorchy. From 1987 to 1991 he was Principal of St John Fisher College within the University of Tasmania.

And then back to the classroom!

Whilst I do not know Michael as well as I do our own Brother Quentin, I think I detect a similar humility, in the willingness of a man to take on what can be seen as a lesser role, after having successfully performed a higher one. Whatever must be done.

Since 1997, Michael has been Director of the Salesian Missions Office, supporting aid and development in Salesian schools and parishes in East Timor, Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vietnam, Cambodia, Mongolia, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. A list of the names of countries does not, of course, give any great insight into the good work which Michael and his confreres are doing in those places, but it is clear enough that Michael is engaged in precisely the kind of work that we as Christians are called upon to do, in so far as we are able.

We are proud to acknowledge Brother Michael Lynch as a member of the St Bede’s College Hall of Fame.

Eddie Perfect

About two years ago, Eddie Perfect was invited to write some music to be performed with the Brodsky Quartet ……….. . He called the programme Songs from the Middle, with the theme of living in his hometown down by the Bay. The end result was a most entertaining evening at the
South Melbourne Town Hall which was recorded, and later played on ABC television. The performance included a hauntingly beautiful instrumental tribute to a female friend who had died in her teens, and a rollicking ride along the Frankston with a graffiti artist.

To prepare himself for the task, Eddie interviewed a number of people, including Leo Gamble, Trish McCormick and me. The interview with me took place on a beautiful sunny morning as we looked out over the Bay. As I remember it, his first question was:

“How old is Brother Finian?”

When the great Jim Murphy produced and directed plays of a classical and intellectual nature in the 1960s, he took the performances to local halls and theatres. When Tom and Judy Perfect revitalised the amateur drama scene in the 1980s, they did so in the limited facilities of the new theatrette in the Creative Arts Centre. When Eddy starred in school productions, he did so in the school hall, with crowds on temporary stands. Drama had become part of the curriculum. And now the Parson house has gone, as has that of the Knuppels, making way for a performing arts centre of the highest calibre.

To help me prepare for this evening, Eddie sent in a CV which includes several long lists of credits, divided into categories: television, theatre, cabaret and writing and composition awards. It is a very fine thing for a performer to have long lists of credits, for without them, they would have starved. Even with them, they can often exist not too far above the bread line.

A case in point.

Part of Eddie’s remote preparation for the writing of Shane Warne: the Musical took place in my back yard during the annual St Bede’s family cricket match. It has to be said that, as a cricketer, he is a superb entertainer. The more proximate preparation saw him locked away for months on end, researching, writing and rewriting before workshopping the production, tinkering with it, workshopping it again and tinkering again, and living very frugally though it all. Of course the show was a great success, in Melbourne at least.

Fortunately, his talents have led to invitations from others with ready-made roles for him in such shows as Babes in the Woods; Keating! The Musical; the Threepenny Opera; Spicks and Specks, Good News Week and, currently, Offspring.

Apart from Shane Warne, Eddie has created a number of other shows of his own. Last year, his solo show Misanthropology earned him the 2011 Helpmann Award for Best Cabaret Performer. Described as ‘razor sharp’ by the Australian, and as ‘a dark comedy which cheerfully tears apart the failures and limitations of the human race in all its resplendent idiocy.’ And yet, he is also very sensitive, as in his requiem for a Mentone girl, and in the empathy he showed for Simone Warne.

Eddie will be a very wise man by the time he is 138 years of age!

We are proud to acknowledge Eddie Perfect as a member of the St Bede’s College Hall of Fame.
**Dr Michael Loughnan**

Dr Michael Loughnan is a MAMIL. An M-A-M-I-L, or a middle-aged man in Lycra. He is a regular Saturday and Sunday mornings along Beach Road, whizzing at speed past the Beauie Pub and his old school. Perhaps he and his pelaton have a favourite stopover point along the way, where they sip coffee, discuss the budget and other affairs of the day, and the degree of tolerance and aggression shown by riders and motorists that morning.

But in between his weekend bike rides, Michael is a world renowned ophthalmologist.

He left St Bede’s in 1977 to study Medicine at Monash. He graduated with honours in 1983 as the top student in his year. A doctorate at Melbourne University followed, studying under Professor Sir Gustav Nossal, and he went on to complete his training in ophthalmology at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

He completed a fellowship in diseases of the front of the eye, working and studying at the Children’s Hospital in Boston, and at Harvard University.

Further studies in Boston, investigating the control of the growth of blood vessels with Professor Judah Folkman, led to the discovery of the mechanism of how thalidomide results in birth defects.

Michael became Senior Research fellow at Melbourne University’s Department of Ophthalmology in 1994 and is currently Senior Staff Specialist and Chairman of both the Eye Section and the Senior Medical Staff at the Eye and Ear Hospital.

Michael is the founding director of the Victoria Parade Surgery Centre, which is the largest eye day surgery centre in Australia. He is also actively involved in teaching, and organising the teaching program, at the Pacific Eye Institute, which is a training facility for eye doctors in Fiji.

Michael has published some 25 scientific papers and is the author of an internationally used textbook on diseases of the front of the eye, the second edition of which was published last year. He is also the joint author of a book on keratoconus, published in 2012.

Michael lives in Elwood with his wife, Jacinta, and their three sons, all of whom would echo my plea for care when sharing Beach Road with MAMILs on the weekend.

*We are proud to acknowledge Dr Michael Loughnan as a member of the St Bede’s College Hall of Fame.*