



# Beda Boys' Bulletin

Celebrating the Past, Enjoying the Present & Shaping the Future

March 2015

*Memorial Edition celebrating and giving thanks for the life of Brother Finian Allman*



**Brother Finian Allman, FSC**

**(William Robert Allman)**

**Born 12th April, 1921**

**Son of John and Mary Ellen Allman**

|                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Reception of the Habit</b> | <b>18th March, 1938</b>   |
| <b>First Profession</b>       | <b>20th March, 1939</b>   |
| <b>Perpetual Profession</b>   | <b>23rd January, 1946</b> |
| <b>Entered Eternal Life</b>   | <b>5th February, 2015</b> |

**May he Rest in Peace**

*By faith, they assess all the realities of life in the light of the Gospel.*

*By faith, the Brothers find God in their work, in their concerns and in their joys.*

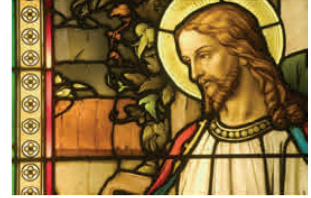
*By faith, the Brothers learn to discern in every event, in every person, and especially in the poor, a sign and a call of the Spirit.*

*(Rule 1:6)*



# Beda Boys' Bulletin

Brother Finian Memorial Edition March 2015



## From the President



For those of you fortunate enough to have come under the influence of Br Finian, and there are many, we are truly blessed to have been influenced by him in so many ways in our own lives.

'Seek the truth' are simple but profound words that Br Finian gave myself and my fellow classmates in 1979 as we prepared to embark on our experiences outside of College life. This ideal espoused by Br Finian is truly a great foundation for living a great life.

I am sure that many people have their own lasting positive memories of Br Finian, especially given that he lived at St Bede's College for 60 of its 77 years of existence. He remained incredibly connected to the Old Collegians after their time at St Bede's College. This is reflected in my own personal experience as he remained interested in my work in Aviation, particularly with how I coped whilst working in France at Airbus with Qantas. A connection perhaps engendered through his own days as Head of St Bede's Flying Corps in the years after the war and through his eloquent French lessons that I used less than eloquently on unsuspecting French nationals who preferred to speak English with me.

The symbolic circular gathering on the front oval surrounding the hallowed turf wicket, which was laid by Br Finian's own hands and sweat, swelled to over 1500 people in what was a fitting tribute. The 'oval honour' was followed by a most significant service at St Patrick's Mentone which was presided over by many of the leaders of Melbourne's Catholic Church. These leaders included former student and Dean of Melbourne's St Patrick's Cathedral the Very Rev John Salvano. Those in attendance were also especially moved by Br Quentin O'Halloran's eloquent eulogy on the life of Br Finian.

Amongst his faith and other commitments, one of the greatest passions of Br Finian's life was the St Bede's Old Collegians Association. He firmly believed that anyone who passes through the College, be the students, teachers, staff or Brothers, should be afforded a lasting connection to the St Bede's community through an 'association'. His invitation to myself and others involved all of us in the Old Collegians which today continues to grow through the support of the College. This support has enabled our Association to continue Br Finian's work who, as President of the Association for over 10 years, wanted to financially assist disadvantaged students via a foundation which was named in his honour.

Br Finian's greatest legacy was that he unconditionally gave back to his community. This is the same spirit with which work is continued at the Old Collegians. We remain committed to embrace the legacy of our Patron and extend an open invitation to any St Bede's College person who wishes to contribute to the Old Collegians in the true spirit of Br Finian's ideals.

The best way we can honour this great man is to continue his influence through our own lives. I trust you will enjoy this very special edition of the Beda Boys Bulletin as we remember Br Finian Allman.

Steve Ager  
President SBOCA



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## From the Principal



The commencement of the school year was a sad time for the De La Salle Brothers retirement community and the College. The death of Br Eric Piggott and Br Finian Allman within days of each other brought a sense of sadness to the community and the College community. Br Eric's association was mainly with St James College at East Bentleigh where he worked for a number of years.

Br Finian was a legend of St Bede's College and in many different capacities served the College with great generosity and dedication. Both had spent many years involved in education and saw an education as the key to advancement in life. Many others have spoken about the wonderful qualities of Br Finian in this Old Collegians Bulletin. On a personal note I trained as a Brother under Br Finian in my early years of training. I have fond and kind memories of him and interestingly both of us grew up in the same country town in New South Wales, Orange.

The College community extends its condolences to the Brothers retirement community and the families and relations of both Br Eric and Br Finian. The memory of Br Finian will remain with the College for many years to come because of the outstanding work of the Finian Foundation. I have been asked a number of times as to what the college can do to honour such a man. At present there is a building named after him and a Foundation which provides six part scholarship to students. I would simply ask that rather than create something else, a donation to the Finian Foundation is a good way to honour this man.



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## Brother Finian Allman



In the sixty years of St. Bede's College one man stands out as the heart and soul of the school. Brother Finian has spent forty five years in total on the St. Bede's staff. Apart from a ten-year absence spanning the 1960's era, his three stints at the college take in nearly all the time of the school's existence.

Finian came to St. Bede's in 1943 as a young De La Salle Brother. He had grown up in country NSW where his family had moved around running their tailoring business in different towns. Orange is the place Finian calls his home town.

In the late thirties young Bill Allman joined the De La Salle Order, then very prominent in NSW, and after training and a Sydney teaching appointment, he was sent to Mentone to a very new school battling the austerity occasioned by war.

The twenty-three-year-old Brother threw himself into the St. Bede's job with enormous energy and youthful joy at the opportunity to work with young men. Initially he taught a whole range of subjects in the middle school classes with a thoroughness and care which thousands of pupils would come to recognise. Later Finian grew to love language teaching and became the school's French language resource man. He continued to teach other courses, particularly Religious Education and English, at all levels.

Finian grabbed the affection and loyalty of students with his other activities around the place. He coached sporting teams, notably junior ones, and he did it in such a way that boys burst with enthusiasm to get into his sides. He had a way of mixing in with the pupils at football or cricket practice such that he seemed one of the boys. Finian also spent countless after-school hours on manual tasks where he chopped wood, did the garden, mowed the ovals, rode a bike around the district delivering school messages, or prepared the turf wicket for matches on the Front Oval. In all these tasks boys would often be partners in the work and learned more than just physical skills. During those early years St. Bede's had over 100 boarders and Brother Finian was among those who spent many hours supervising and advising them on a daily basis. As a religious Brother he also had a regime of spiritual duties to practise, beginning at around six each morning, and in these he was a shining example of fidelity.

During the war years St. Bede's had an Air Training Corps and Brother Finian was the Officer in Charge during 1945. He had to train for this job and this entailed at least one terrifying flight in a rickety trainer plane over Point Cook.

In 1953 Finian was appointed Headmaster of St. Bede's and spent the next six years in the most difficult job of his life. The College roll call went from about 400 to just over 800 in five years. The old classrooms, already out-dated, became hopelessly inadequate for the baby boomer explosion in the school population. Class sizes went over fifty and courses were taught in rugged conditions with even the shower block hosting classes for a while. As a new brick building was being planned, funded and erected during those years, Finian's job became onerous in the extreme. New staff had to be found and paid for in a period when teachers were in short supply, office work multiplied, frictions arose in crowded rooms and playgrounds, the mud of building sites deepened, so the patience of a saint would be stretched. St. Bede's had a person qualified for that status. Teachers saw him slump after each day's work and go to sleep in his chair. But he shepherded St. Bede's through the fifties to a time of improving conditions.

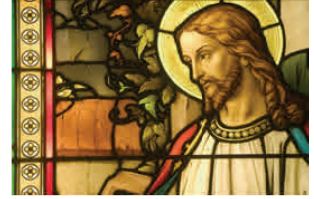


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## Brother Finian Allman



*Brother Finian walks with Archbishop Simonds during his visit to St Bede's.*

Brother Finian spent time away from Mentone during the sixties and was Director of Novices at the De La Salle Training College for a period. He came back to St. Bede's for a one year stay in 1969.

On returning in 1972 Finian began a long period of service as teacher and elder statesman around the College and continued until his recent passing. At times he has been Deputy Headmaster and Director of the Brothers' Community as well as head of the LOTE Faculty. A whole new generation of boys and colleagues has learned to respect the solid service and integrity of this loyal man.

As one Old Collegian from the very early days wrote of Finian, 'When you looked into those big, clear blue eyes you could never doubt his sincerity'. The qualities of undivided loyalty, devotion to duty, dedication and integrity are not always on offer these days, but Brother Finian Allman has shown them to thousands of St Bede's College people over more than fifty years. And he has done it with perhaps the best quality of all, humility. St Bede's College is enormously richer for having had this man as its servant.

### Author

Leo Gamble

### References

- Gamble, Leo (1982) St Bede's College and its McCristal Origins 1896-1982.





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## A reflection from David Bristow

**(Class of 1966 and Past President of St Bede's Old Collegians)**

**Br Finian Allman**

I was fortunate to take over the role of president of the Old Collegians Association when Br Finian retired from that position in 2011. He was a person who firmly believed that the old collegians had an important role to play in the life of the College. His views were that the life of the College is not limited to the current students and teachers – he recognised that a common bond and identity with the College is carried either consciously or sub consciously by all past students in their lives. For his work with the Old Collegians Association on his retirement, he was installed as our Patron.

I was privileged in May 2012 to be in the position of presenting Brother Finian with his induction into the newly established Roll of Honour where the Old Collegians recognise the great contribution that teachers, parents and others have made to the life of the College. At that time he had clocked up over 58 years of service to the College as a teacher, principal, mentor and friend to many, the details of which have been well explained by others in this Tribute document.

In 2000 he took on the role as President of the Association and under his stewardship and perseverance left a functioning Association that was focused on three pillars of celebrating the past, enjoying the present and shaping the future. Over this time his legacy included the twice yearly publication of the Beda Boys Bulletin, milestone reunions for past students and the establishment of a foundation to create an income stream that will be used to provide scholarships to financially disadvantaged families to support their children's education at St Bede's College. The Foundation now carries his name.

I started my association and strong bond and friendship with Br Finian in 2000, not as a person who had been taught by him, but by our joint aspirations for what the Old Collegians Association could and should be. For the period that I was a student at St Bede's College from 1961 to 1966 Br Finian was not at the College – I must say our friendship and mutual respect may have been different if he had been at the College then because in the eyes as a professional language teacher I would have been an absolute failure because in Form 1 I lasted two terms with Latin and three terms with French and being sentenced to extra maths classes!!

In summary I would just like to say that Br Finian you were a man of vision and conviction. Your belief in the students of the College led to a strong friendship and mutual respect. You rolled a great wicket which provided a solid foundation for many people to achieve their aspirations. Thank you – you were a great man and friend whose legacy will live for many to enjoy the privileges I have enjoyed.

David Bristow (1966)



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## A reflection from Leo Gamble

(Class of 1952)

When I was in Proficiency (Yr. 9) in 1948, Finian was our class teacher. When exams were over and the last few days of school came in early December, Finian made us bring shovels, rakes and hand-pushed lawn-mowers to school. He worked with us around the school, mowing ovals, weeding, trimming hedges and bushes, sweeping paths and doing other jobs. After that, on the last day of term, he invited us to bring our bikes to school so we could ride to Mt Eliza for a picnic.

We all rode down Point Nepean Road (now the Highway), through Frankston, up Oliver's Hill (with a struggle), and into Mt Eliza, with its one milk bar and not much else. There was a rush to get into our togs and go down the cliff path to swim at the small beach, but it began to rain steadily and then it really set in.

Wet and cold, we sheltered under ti-tree bushes and anything else we could find. A parent with a car had brought down sandwiches and other goodies which we enjoyed greatly. After a few games of throwing balls around and exploring the bushy tracks to the beach, we were glad when Brother Finian said it was time to head home. Riding down Oliver's Hill was exciting, but I thought the two boarders who sped down it on a hired tandem bike would kill themselves before they reached the flat road near Frankston. We got home, wet and tired, by about 4 p.m. with Finian in the midst of us, as though he was really our big brother, looking after the youngsters.

After nearly seventy years, I still remember that day when Brother Finian, our class teacher, became one of our mates for the day.





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## A reflection from Tony Vaughan

(Class of 1987)

To me Brother Finian Allman was the embodiment of his beloved order's Founder, St. John Baptiste.

He gave his life to his beliefs, he was humble. He was both a gentle man and gentleman.

He carried an authority of presence that was never stated, he exuded an overt admiration of his fellow brothers and teachers that was never questioned.

He loved the boys he taught. They loved him back - without limitation, without self doubt and with the respect for those special people who live their lives by deeds and not words.

It was Finian who inspired me as a boy to become a teacher. It was Finian who inspired me as a teacher to always see the good in the young men entrusted to my care.

For decades he toiled for months to proudly present the district's finest turf wicket. Stoically, he raised the ire of many captains when "Finian's Rainbow" dropped 25mm of 'rain' every Friday night before an important match. They complained, he ignored them - the uncomplicated way to be the curator.

He never seemed to age. Red hair, big smile, swarthy appearance, no fuss, state your case, move on. Life was simple when you have devoted it totally to the interests of the young and their education.

Although I know he has finally left St. Bede's I know he will always be there in spirit and in it's history.

Like thousands of others, I shall always miss him when I think of the times spent with him.

Vale Fin.





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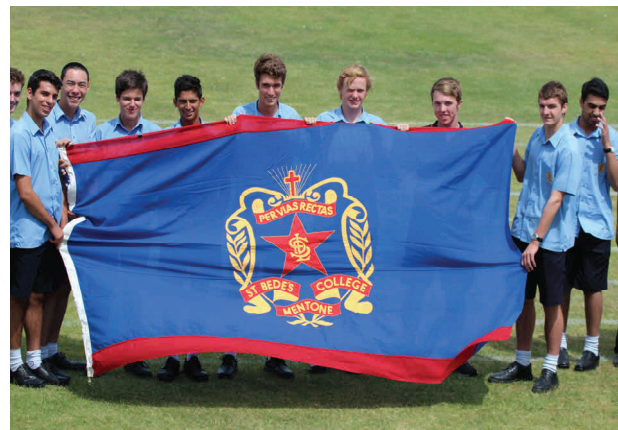
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## The Service

Brother Finian Allman died on Thursday 7th February, 2015. His body lay in State at the St Bede's Chapel on Wednesday 12th February. This provided many of the current and past students, staff, and friends a chance to reflect on his life and to pay their respects. At 12.30pm, the entire College Community gathered on the oval as his coffin was placed in the funeral car.

The car then proceeded around the oval as the College Community provide a Guard of Honour befitting Brother Finian's significant contribution to St Bede's over his sixty years of service. A gentle applause rung above the silence as students present and past came together to remember .





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## The Service (cont..)

The Funeral procession left the College grounds before heading to St Patrick's Church in Mentone. As expected, a large crowd, including many, many Old Collegians, had gathered to say farewell to Br. Finian.

In a moving and eloquent tribute, Brother Quentin paid homage to his fellow brother, teacher and friend.

A copy of Br Quentin's Eulogy of Br Finian can be accessed via our website  
<http://www.stbedes.catholic.edu.au/community/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=125>

Prayers were read by Old Collegians, Steve Ager, David Bristow, John Rhoden and Leo Gamble. Fred Gattuso and Jim Ryan were amongst the six pallbearers





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## In Remembrance

*Dear Brothers of St Bede's College*

*Sincere condolences on the passing of Br Finian Allman, FSC. No doubt a great loss to your De La Salle and College community. His perseverance and methodical distribution of the St Bede's Old Collegians Newsletter kept past students in the De la Salle community.*

*My father Des Reade was one of Br Finian's first students 1939 - 40.*

*And between 1963 - 67, I too was a student at St Bede's College, which was a period when Br Finian was appointed to Burradoo, NSW. However, I'm grateful he took the trouble to make contact in the 1990's through Old Collegians.*

*On Friday 13 February last, I had the privilege of concelebrating alongside Fr Gary Perritt, CP for the Mass of Christian Burial of Br Finian in the Chapel of St John Baptist de la Salle, Oakhill College, Castel Hill. NSW*

*Again many thanks to Br Finian for the many sacrifices and dedicated years educating students in the Catholic faith resulting in them being honest citizens and good Christians*

*May he rest in eternal Peace*

**Fr Shane Reade SDB (1967)**

*To the family of Brother Finian and the entire De La Salle Brothers Community, it is with great sadness to hear of the passing of Brother Finian.*

*He was a legend in my time at St Bede's (1985-1990) and for the era of my two older brothers (Tony and Michael). I had the privilege of having Brother Finian as a French teacher in my later years at school and, whilst by that stage he was an ageing man, he still had an incredible wit and intelligence that made for very interesting classes. Apart from his love of the cricket pitch on the front oval, it is his kindness and compassion that left the greatest mark on me and no doubt the majority of others that knew him. A sign of the man is that I can honestly say I never heard a bad word spoken about him and, in fact, quite the reverse. He was respected and almost revered in St Bede's circles.*

*He was an amazing contributor to the lives of many and for that we have a lot to be thankful for.*

*May he rest in peace.*

**Peter Doyle (and the Doyle family) (1990)**

*My condolences and sympathy go out to the St Bede's and De La Salle Bros. community for the passing of Br. Finian Allman. His efforts and commitment to the school and community shall not go unnoticed.*

**Michael Vythilingum. (2004)**





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## In Remembrance

*I have been away in Queensland and hence not able to attend the funeral/memorial for Br. Finian. I wish to pass on my condolences to all who knew Br. Finian and to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Br. Quentin for such an inspiring eulogy.*

**Graham Jones (1965)**

*Living in Brisbane made it impossible to attend Br Finian's Requiem Mass on 11 February however can I put on record what an impression this kind and loving man made on a rather rebellious youth. His intellect, his charm, firmness at times and his ever sparkling eyes made a lasting impression on me.*

**Allan Van (1958)**

*Thanks for sending this on. A very nice and well deserved tribute. I recall Bro Finian fondly. Even though I have never been back to the school since graduating in 1957 (!) whenever I received any printed material from the Old Collegians to one of the many places I have lived there would be a little handwritten greeting from Bro Finian which I found quite touching. Rest in peace.*

**Terry Goss (1957)**

*You could read Br Finian's face as to the type of man he was. Caring, committed, attentive, organised and alert to the needs and feelings of many. His face didn't say he was a hero, but that he was, and St Bede's and its students, staff and Old Collegians were so lucky to have this man spend more than five decades at the College. His memory for names was remarkable. He will always be remembered and I am very proud to be a Director of the Finian Foundation, set up to help fund the educational needs of students from disadvantaged households who attend St. Bede's College. Br Finian's name will never fade at St Bede's.*

**Tony Quint (1969)**



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## In Remembrance

*Brother Finian, or Fin as he was affectionately known, played a huge part in the lives of the Reed family. I think I was about 5 or 6 yrs. old when our family first met him.*

*My mother, Anne Reed, was a primary teacher at St Bede's College in the 50s and my 3 brothers attended school there.*

*Even though we were a large family of seven children, Fin always sent each one of us a birthday letter every year. I received my last in June last year, on my 66th birthday.*

*A wonderfully loving, compassionate and gentle man who will be forever in our hearts.*

*Rest In Peace, dear Fin.*

*Much love,*

**Gabrielle Vining (Reed)**

*Gold Coast, Qld.*

*I was lucky enough to sit next to Br Finian at Leo Gamble's "grumpy old men" luncheon at Mentone RSL in December. He was in sparkling form as we shared memories from more than 65 years of friendship.*

*In all that time I have never heard a bad word spoken about him. He has been an inspiration to generations of St Bede's community members. What a privilege to have known him!*

*Vale, mi amice.*

**John Rhoden (1999)**

*Thank you Brother Finian for teaching and guiding two generations of Egan's, for showing support, loyalty and dedication in the classroom and on the field. Our communications over 70 plus years has been and will always be cherished—thankyou—Kevin, Jeremy and Michael.*

**Kevin Egan (1954)**

*Unfortunately I will not be able to attend. Brother Finian is a dear friend of our family having taught my brother and also my father who recently turned 84 years of age.*

*A wonderful man who was always very kind and thoughtful to the borders at St Bede's.*

*Regards,*

**Steve Smith (1995)**

*As an Old Collegian, I am deeply moved by the passing of Br. Finian. He has been an influence in my life since 1952 as a 10 yo. My two brothers were also Beadeans. My son and my grandson were too. He will always be with us as a true De Lasallian—a wonderful man.*

**Brian F. Wilson (1952-1958)**





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## In Remembrance

*It is with great sadness I write in hearing about the recent passing of Br Finian.*

*I would sincerely like to pay my deepest respects to Br Finian and will keep him and the community of Brothers in my prayers. He was a wonderful Christian example to all St Bede's students and lived out his faith in action each and every day.*

*In my early years at St Bede's, despite not having Br Finian as a teacher, we junior students were aware of his "presence" around the school and the huge contribution he had made to the College and the lives of many former students.*

*Br Finian then became my Year 11 French teacher. What an opportunity this was. In addition to his exceptional tuition of the foreign language, our small class always left the class learning more than just French. I still recall vividly the prayer before each class, his enthusiasm despite his ageing years, along with his humility and dedication to each of us.*

*He will long remain in the hearts and minds of thousands of St Bede's students who will try to follow his example in life.*

*May he Rest in Eternal Peace. I send my sincere apologies for not being able to attend the funeral on Wednesday due to currently being based in Broken Hill. I also send my deepest sympathy and prayers to all the Brothers.*

### **John Carroll (1962)**

*I was saddened to hear of Br Finian's death..*

*Even though I was at St Bede's only for the one year in 1957, to prepare for entry to the seminary in 1958 I always had a great admiration and gratitude for him.*

*We met all too briefly a few years back and it was good to see him...*

*Wednesday, 11 FEB is the anniversary day of my arrival at St Bede's...a day I'll never forget and be grateful for, This year is the 50th anniversary of my ordination in Hobart but as mentioned above it began at St. Bede's under Br Finian's.. God rest him ..*

*I shall be remembering him at the Altar of God.*

### **Fr Denis Allen (1957)**

*My precious friend. I knew him for 40 years. What can I say, except I loved him dearly.*

### **Jan Kellas.**

*I attended St Bede's as a boarder from 1955 to 1958, Bro Finian was Principal for those years it is 60 years since I started in 1955 I still remember those times with fondness Brother Finian was a wonderful man he commanded respect just by being himself he was liked by all whether it was rolling the wicket at 9-00pm the night before a match and he would be there with us helping and checking. He never held a grudge if you did the wrong thing and got six of the best it was forgotten about immediately and life went on. I consider myself privileged to have known and been influenced positively by such a wonderful man.*

### **Bill James (1958)**



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## In Remembrance

*I'll try to put into words my memories of, and feelings for, Br Finian, the man and teacher.*

*I think I was in Form 3, or 4, when I had Br Finian as my lit teacher. He was a rotund man with a receding, ginger hairline who introduced me to Shakespeare. Filled with the smug attitude of an adolescent, I thought Shakespeare was a boring old fard (not bard). But from the first time Br Finian opened Julius Caesar and started reciting, he became the characters and I was transported back in time. The classroom was ancient Rome. We learnt lines, dissected them and uncovered the true intentions of the main protagonists. Br Finian was inspirational. He morphed into Mark Antony imploring the masses to lend him their ears.*

*Many years later (1987), I had recently graduated as a teacher (ironically majoring in Literature) and was in my second year of teaching in Pt. Hedland (WA). My wife and I decided to head back to Mordialloc, during the Christmas break, with our daughters, to catch up with family. Whilst we were back home my 3 year old daughter asked me to take her to the school I went to as a boy. So I took a punt, rolled up at the St Bede's office and asked if Br Finian was there. He was. He took great delight in showing this ex-scholar and his daughter around what looked like a totally refurbished school. My daughter was amazed at how big the school was. Just as I thought the visit was over, Br Finian invited us to stay for afternoon tea. He won Amy's heart when he brought out chocolate cake and lemonade.*

*Some 22 years further on I was contacted by Paul Diggerson and asked if I'd like to attend a 39th anniversary of the 1971 graduating year in 2010. I flew back to Melbourne for the mid-year event at St Bede's and caught up with old friends and had a marvellous night. But who should hold sway, seated to the right as you entered the reception room was, Br Finian. Into his 90s then he still had his natural sparkle as he spoke of the Finian Foundation and told me that he had been thrown to the wolves in the late 60s and asked to teach literature to a bunch of young fellas who couldn't have been the slightest bit interested in the subject. I was one of those young fellas!!! That he taught it so well was great testament to the man and the teacher.*

*After a wonderful career as a teacher, recently retired, I sit in my study, with a wry smile, writing these recollections of a fine man. At my elbow sits a 2015 calendar of the **bard's best barbs**. Today's quote: "You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things!" (Julius Caesar) is kind of apt. Br Finian helped shape and inspire this block.*

### **Kevin Milligan (1971)**

*Thanks very much for the details of Br Finian's funeral.*

*He was truly one of the finest men I have known.*

*I thank the Lord for his influence on me and countless others during his time at St Bede's and other Colleges.*

*I pray for the repose of his soul. I have arranged to have a Mass offered for him.*

*Sadly, because of prior commitments, I am unable to go to the Requiem Mass in St Patrick's Mentone on Wednesday.*

### **Michael Lynch (1983)**



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## In Remembrance

*I have just received word that Br Finian Allman who was my teacher and Principal at St Bede's College, Mentone, Victoria in Australia has died. There are some people who have had such a profound influence on your life that you always remember their presence in every decision you make.*

*Br Finian respected us as students and taught us to be mature by treating us as adults. In a time when we were "taught" he didn't do that - he shared his faith with us. I can't remember learning rules from him - we did from some other teachers, so I remember that. But he taught us to think and pray things through, and talked of principles. Br Finian was very sure of himself, we had a Jesuit who came to talk to us Tenth graders about taking "The Pledge". At the end of his talk and in his presence, Br Finian said we could take it after we had thought about it for a month and had our parents permission - in writing!*

*Before we left school he made a plea to continue practicing our faith. He told us that statistics taught that over 60% of us would give up our faith but he urged us to keep it! That made me think!*

*I was never a sportsman, but he loved sport, tended his cricket pitch with loving care. I don't think he felt any less of us "non sporty" types, but I would love to have made an impression!*

*I wish now that I had kept in closer touch over the years, but I know that now he knows that I wouldn't be where I am, nor the person I am if he hadn't been my teacher and Principal. May he rest in peace!*

### **Nick Punch (1957)**

*I was a boarder at St Bede's for 6 years (1947-52). Although I completed my secondary education elsewhere, I will never forget Br. Finian's influence on me as a teacher and as a mentor - particularly in my leadership role as captain of the College U/15 cricket team. This was the foundation for the many leadership roles I was to have in industry and the community in future years. I visited Br. Finian upon my retirement in 2009, and I was inspired to go on and complete a Bachelor of Theology degree at Yarra Theological Union where the President was - and still is - Dr Christopher Monaghan CP, another St Bede's old collegian. May he rest in peace.*

### **Jim Penna, (1952)**



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## In Remembrance

Bro. Finian first came to St. Bede's in 1943 as a young 22 year old when I was in grade 5. But my first regular contacts were made in 1946 when he taught us in grade 8: 'second year' as it was then called. He taught me the first formal chemistry I ever learned. More importantly, he took the time to frequently read to us. Most of us loved it and we heard often from Conan Doyle - I particularly recall Sherlock Holmes and 'The Engineer's Thumb', read following a science class on the hydraulic press. There were numerous Kipling stories, the story of Rikki-tikki-tavi, the mongoose, being especially well remembered. He also greatly admired the writings of G. K. Chesterton and Hilaire Belloc. I read Belloc's little hymn of praise of Balliol College, Oxford, in the poem 'To the Balliol Men still in Africa':

**Balliol made me, Balliol fed me,**

**Whatever I had she gave me again;**

**And the best of Balliol loved and led me,**

**God be with you Balliol men.**

When I went to Oxford to study 12 years later, I had already heard something of an Oxford that I soon learned to know and love. Finian was obviously deeply moved by this example of the effect that the College had had on Hilaire Belloc, a person he deeply respected. Years later, when addressing an Old Collegians' Communion Breakfast, he returned to the poem, reading it to those present and expressing the wish that, some day, St. Bede's Old Collegians would speak similarly of their Alma Mater.

I was taught by many brothers during the 12 years I was a student at St. Bede's – some were good, some not so good. But Finian stands out as the one who was at all times totally honorable and faithful. Students always knew that he was 'on their side'. And he never seemed to deviate from the faith with which he had first joined the brothers and then held right until the end. It is hard for most for us today to relate to the apparent certainties of Finian's faith. Did he have doubts? Of course I can have no answer to that question. However, there may be a hint in the final two stanzas of the McAuley poem he so loved – a poem that he was recalling the day before he died when he was visited by Bro. Quentin. The penultimate stanza raises the doubt:

**Soon I'll understand it all,**

**Or cease to wonder: so my small**

**Spark will blaze intensely bright**

**Or go out in an endless night.**

and then firmly rejects the doubt in the final stanza:

**Welcome now to bread and wine:**

**Creature comfort, heavenly sign.**

**Winter will grow dark and cold**

**Before the wattle turns to gold.**

That was the final decision that Bro. Finian Allman lived by...

**Peter McTigue (OAM) (1950)**



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## In Remembrance

### ***Finian's Rainbow***

*We've all heard of Finian's Rainbow – a musical played on stage  
But now we'll see a new Finian's Rainbow – a marvel of our age  
Just look to the sky as I guarantee the next rainbow will enthrall  
And remember it always – there will be a symbol for us all  
It was filled with colour and brightness to make our very day  
Created by our Beloved Brother like the golden sun's own ray  
He will cover us with the memories if we set our minds to reflect  
Finian's Rainbow will be with us for ever – just concentrate and detect*

*He taught us French and Latin – not an easy assignment  
But he helped us make the best of it while holding us in confinement  
"Can someone decline aemano?" He questioned us one day  
Like a fool I stepped right in – (a show-off with too much to say)  
"Aemanoa. Aemanas" – he'd caught me with his guile  
"So, you're an ass" he quoted, but said it with a smile  
T'was all in fun, and it lightened what could be a bore  
Because Latin wasn't easy – in fact it was quite a chore*

*But it was as a man we admired him the most  
Fair to each other and all of us, with no idle flair or boast  
Not a single past student would argue with the fact  
That as a teacher, there was nothing Finian lacked  
He was a man among men – a champ for De La Salle  
It is with pride and admiration that we honour him as well  
He led us along the right path as the College motto goes  
"Per Vias Rectas" – he somehow kept us on our toes*

*May God bless you Brother Finian and take you to his care  
You have earned your place in Paradise – and it is only fair  
There'll be no more rolling wickets and no more Latin or French  
Just the joys of Heavenly Presence and a comfy pillowed bench*

*PS – when next you see a rainbow, Look Up! That's Finian's rainbow  
Stretched across the sky  
I'll watch it with memories and treasure it until the day I die*

***Michael Paturzo (1952)***





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## In Remembrance

*I was saddened to hear of Br Finian's death. Even though I was a St Bede's only for the one year in 1957, to prepare for entry to the seminary in 1958, I always had a great admiration and gratitude for him. We met all too briefly a few years back and it was good to see him...*

*Wednesday, 11th February is the anniversary day of my arrival at St Bede's..a day I'll never forget and be grateful for. This year is the 50th anniversary of my ordination in Hobart but as mentioned above it began at St Bede's under Br. Finian's guidance. God rest him. I shall be remembering him at the Altar of God.*

### **Dennis Allen (1957)**

*It is with great regret that I must offer my apology for not attending Bro Finian's funeral. I have known and admired him from when he first went to St Bede's as a young man, and have been privileged to meet him on many occasions in recent years at lunches held every December by a small group of ex-students from the 40's and early 50's (Known as GOM's, organised by Leo Gamble). We will miss him but are comforted by the sure knowledge that he is resting in peace in a well-deserved place in Heaven*

### **John Avery (1951)**

*The Woiwod family's association with Br. Finian began very early in his teaching career. In the early 1940s he taught all three Woiwod boys at St Bedes - Michael, Kevin and Bernard. From Michael in 1942, through to two years as Bernard's Form Master and House Master. Br. Finian is remembered as a committed and dedicated teacher. In 1951 Kevin Woiwod was killed in a volcanic eruption in Papua New Guinea During that time Br Finian reconnected with the family, and was a great source of support. He regularly wrote to the family, I including Mary Woiwod, and stayed in contact with Bernard right up until the months leading to his death.*

*When the second generation of Woiwod's, Bernard's son Shane started at St Bede's in the late 60's, Finian taught Shane R.E.in his early years and remembers always being able to find Br Finian rolling and maintaining the cricket wicket. He always addressed Shane as Bernard such was the early connection with the family.*

*David Woiwod started at St Bede's in 1997, and while Finian was no longer teaching at the school, he remained in residence. And he last met with the family in 2014 at a family screening of David's documentary of the 1951 volcanic eruption in PNG when Kevin was killed. He was in great spirits and it certainly buoyed the family seeing him there. He was greatly admired, respected and loved by the Woiwod family.*

### **Bernie Woiwod (2002)**

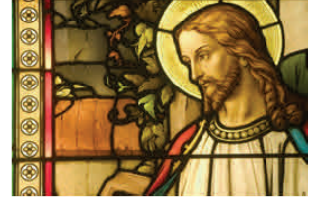


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## In Remembrance

*I will always have the fondest memories of Brother Finian—a good holy man. Without his kindness, patience, guidance and direction I would never achieved that which I did in life. May God bless and honour him in the Paradise which he so richly deserves, for his service to the generations of boys fortunate enough to have been taught by him*

**E.B.Dillon (1946)**

*The Raciti Family would like to pass on their condolences to the De La Salle Brothers, and to Br. Finian's family.*

**John Raciti (1993)**

*Patricia Duryea called to express her condolences on the passing of Br. Finian. Her husband Adrian was a teacher at St Bede's College and worked with Carmel. She expressed what a wonderful person he was.*

**Particia Duryea**

*A truly great person and role model*

**Alan Backman (1964)**

*Rest in peace Br Finian Allman. My condolences to all the brothers and members of St Bede's, I'm sure he is looking down on you all at this sad time. Sorry to hear about the great loss*

**Matt Graham (2013)**

*Very sad news indeed. He was the most influential teacher—ever—in my life. A great man. Though surely in no need of our human prayers, I hope he will continue to remember all his old—and very grateful—pupils in his prayers.*

**Brian Dillion (1946)**

*I am feeling very sad. Brother Finian taught me whilst at St Bede's (1952-1958). He was a great gentleman and I for one have very fond memories of our association.*

**Stewart Ley (1958)**



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## In Remembrance

*I appreciate the notification of Brother Finian's passing, he was a singular person.*

**James McCarthy (1963)**

*RIP Brother Finian—a truly great man and a great de La Salle brother—very fondly remembered*

**Neil Fergus (1974)**

*Please pass on my condolences to the other Brothers at St Bede's for Br Finian. He was a mentor to me during my high school years. I would attend the funeral if I was in Australia instead I am far away in the Philippines.*

**Jodam Allingham (Dibble) (1976)**

*The death of Br Finian is sad news. Like all those who knew this great educator and his particular affinity with St Bede's, I will miss his inspiration. May he enjoy his well earned and eternal reward.*

*I first met him in the 1940's and recently we exchanged memories of those times. Telling him that I remembered him as a young hot tempered redhead who took the football and ran pout of sight made him laugh as he said both his hair and his temper had receded long ago!*

**Ted Traynor (1946)**

*How sad. I remember Br. Finian with fondness and gratitude. He made a lifetime commitment with compassion and support to educate so many students over decades. His support for all the teachers was a key factor in maintaining an environment of care and devotion by all St Bede's College.*

*I will always remember him for his kindness and support to me personally when I was a teacher at St Bede's College for over 10 years.*

**Jeffrey Rozen (1989)**

*A champion bloke...will be missed...might be presumptive but, may God hold him close and seek his wise counsel*

**Anthony Walsh (1983)**



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## In Remembrance

### ***Notice received via Old Collegians Facebook page***

*Rest in Peace Brother Finian*

***Jamie Chan***

*Vale*

***Steven Finocchiaro***

*He must have been close to a centurian... St Bede's legend...RIP...at least heaven will have a good cricket pitch*

***John Ahern***

*Vale. School legend. Remembered by three generations of Johnston Clan*

***Paul Johnston***

*Rest in peace. He was a legend at the school*

***Trevor Owens***

*Rest in peace Brother Finian*

***Liam Morgan***

*Brother Finian will be missed by all those who had the chance to know him*

***Luke Stafford***

*RIP brother*

***Greg Honan***

*RIP Brother. Finian you will be missed.*

*May your wickets in heaven be perfect and thanks for all that you did for us boys. You taught my father Mike (85 years old) and Uncle Ken (91 first Dux) who also pass on condolences. RIP—Sadly missed.*

***Peter Kennedy***

*A great man. Will be missed by the whole community*

***Greg Barefoot***



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## In Remembrance

### ***Notice received via Old Collegians Facebook page***

*Bye Fin. Such a loving friend to the Reed family for many years. Rest in Peace xxx*

#### ***Gabrielle Vining***

*RIP Brother Finian*

#### ***Anthony Barca***

*Brother Fin...Always loved having him teach, blokes bloke. I remember for 2 RE classes in yr. 9 (1979) he read the class Riki Tiki Tavi—we enjoyed Rudyard Kipling. He personified De La Salle Brethren, a good man, loved his positive approach...May God hold him close.*

#### ***Anthony Walsh***

*Farewell to our beautiful friend and Reed family support for 60 years. You enriched our lives and brought so much happiness to us when we were kids...and remained a faithful friend to the end. Rest peacefully, Fin.*

#### ***Sylvie Herron***

*Br Finian, we will miss you coming in every morning to the office and your positive attitude and I enjoyed working with you on the Old Collegians Committee. You were very dedicated to all the Beda boys. RIP*

#### ***Antoinette Laria***

*A great man, dedicated and inspirational teacher and mentor, always giving, blessed to have know him. Merci, bien cher frère, vous allez nous manquer.*

#### ***Daniel Casey***

*A good man*

#### ***Jude Christopher***

*Such a beautiful man, RIP xx*

#### ***Sarah Fordham***

*RIP Brother Finian, a much respected peer and friend of the Shannon Family*

#### ***Colleen Shannon***





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## In Remembrance

### ***Notice received via Old Collegians Facebook page***

*RIP Brother Finian, an icon of St Bede's, great man, fondly remembered.*

***Tim Luscombe***

*A wonderful man who gave so much. Rest in Peace dear Brother Finian*

***Bev Nelson***

*A much respected friend, teacher and mentor to the Rowswell Family...fond memories whilst you graced our dining table...Rest in Peace Brother..*

***Josephine Rowswell***

*RIP Brother Finian*

***Brian Jansz***

*Farewell beautiful Fin. Home with the LORD...love always...RIP...*

***David and Sheila Whitby***

*The passing of a legend RIP*

***Michael Durkin***



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## THE FINIAN FOUNDATION



Brother Finian always expressed special thanks to all those donating to the Finian Foundation over the past year. The generosity of donors allows for the alleviation of financial challenges of a few families who experience difficulty in meeting the expenses arising from payment for school fees, books, and uniforms for their sons attending St Bede's College. Parents of students who have been helped in this way have also expressed thanks to the St Bede's Old Collegians Association for their kindness and generosity.

The Foundation has been established by the SBOCA to help foster the Lasallian tradition of recognising that quality education should be available to all.

In recognition of a person who has dedicated his life to this tradition, with sixty years of those spent at St Bede's, it was deemed most appropriate to name the foundation the Finian Foundation after Brother Finian Allman.

The Finian Foundation Ltd has been established as a charitable foundation and is able to receive tax-deductible donations and bequests to create an income stream that will be used to provide assistance to financially disadvantaged families to support their children's education at St Bede's. Since the Foundations inception, we have supported 39 disadvantaged families, totally approximately \$53,000. All donations are fully tax deductible.

***If you wish to make a donation to this worthy cause, please complete the following form and return it to The St Bede's Old Collegians office.***

***Thank you in anticipation of your generous response.***



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## THE FINIAN FOUNDATION DONATION FORM

If you wish to make a donation to this worthy cause, please complete the following form

### I wish to support the Finian Foundation:

|                |               |               |                  |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Name</b>    |               |               |                  |
| <b>Address</b> | <b>Street</b> | <b>Suburb</b> | <b>Post Code</b> |
|                |               |               |                  |
| <b>Email</b>   |               |               |                  |
| <b>Mobile</b>  |               |               |                  |

### Donation Details:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>I wish to make a gift of</b>                  | \$   |
| <b>Type of Payment</b>                           | EFT BSB 633 000 Account 153 375 118  |
|  | BPay Biller Code 20206 Ref 121 960 348   |
|  | Credit Card  |
|  | Mastercard   |
|  | Visa   |
|  | Card Number _____ Expiry __/___ CCV ___  |
|  | Cardholder's Name:   |
| Daytime Contact Phone No: ..... Signature: ..... |  |
| <b>By Cheque</b>                                 | Or send a cheque to:<br><br>Finian Foundation<br>C/- St Bede's Old Collegians Association<br>2 Mentone Parade, Mentone, 3194 |



Please contact the St Bede's Old Collegians Officer for further details: 9582 5722

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