



St Bede's Old Collegians Association

Hall of Fame Citations 2016

***Written and presented by Allan Drummond
at the Hall of Fame Dinner May 2016***

Bill Armstrong, AOM

There are a few sportsmen among those being inducted tonight ... but we shouldn't hold that against them!!! Bill Armstrong is a great example of a man who learned a great deal about commitment and community from his footballing days at Carlton, the Perth Falcons, Chelsea and East Burwood.

He played with and against greats like John Nichols, Polly Farmer and Ted Whitten. Renowned for his speed, he was once chased around the Western Oval by Ted Whitten who was yelling: "I'm going to get you, you little bastard".

Ted didn't catch him.

Bill was a fitter and turner by trade. It was young men like this whom Cardinal Cardijn of Belgium had in mind when he founded the Young Christian Workers movement, or the YCW as it is more commonly called. This was a rather radical movement in its day, which called on young Christians, Catholics in particular, to look carefully at the world around them, to think about what could be done to make it better, and then to act. Bill took that idea on board then, and it has been his guiding principle ever since.

Bill became involved in the YCW in his local parish, starting in 1952, and he learned even more about people there than he did on the football field. In particular he learned how to listen. He rose through the ranks to become National President of the YCW and then, in 1963, joined the Overseas Service Bureau and helped to establish the Australian Volunteers International program.

Through the 1970s he worked for the organisation called Action for World Development, which was asking serious questions about poverty in the wider world ... questions which deserved answers of the kind that brought positive change.

In 1982, he returned to Australian Volunteers International as its Chief Executive Officer, a position he held until his retirement. During that period, he presided over an organisation with 12 staff and a budget of \$400,000, to one with 130 staff and a budget of \$20 million.

In 2003, Bill was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for service to the international community, for providing for overseas aid and development, for fostering greater awareness of different cultures and raising awareness of social justice and human rights issues.

While Bill is retired, he hasn't stopped work.

He is currently a board member of Indigenous Community Volunteers, which offers hands on help rather than hand outs. He is chair of the Friends of Port Phillip Bay, a director of YCW Holdings, chair of the Clearing House for Archival Records on Timor, and a council member of the Brigidine Asylum Seeker program.

We are proud to acknowledge Bill Armstrong as a member of the St Bede's College Hall of Fame.

Stephen McBurney

Stephen was one of that large cohort of young men who have moved from St James College in Bentleigh to St Bede's for their final two years. He was, therefore, a student at this college in 1984 and 1985. At St Bede's, he was a school leader and an A Grade debater.

Having gained degrees as Bachelor of Jurisprudence and Bachelor of Law, Stephen worked in the Australian Government Solicitor's Office for seven years. His qualities were recognised by successive appointments as Principal Solicitor with the National Crime Authority, Manager of Legal Services with the Australian Crime Commission, and Assistant Commissioner (Legal) with the ABCC.

In October of 2015, Stephen was appointed Chief Examiner under the Victorian Major Crime (Investigative Powers) Act 2004. The Chief Examiner is an independent, statutory appointment. He has power to conduct examinations compelling witnesses to give evidence, or to produce documents relevant to a coercive powers order. Such an order can only be issued by the Supreme Court of Victoria, and must involve an organised crime offence.

One is tempted to ask whether Stephen has encountered any St Bede's Old Collegians in the course of his investigations. As if that were possible!!!!!!!!!!!!

A feature of Stephen's professional work is that investigations inevitably take time. From the first hint of wrong doing, until the judges gavel finally crashes down, can take months, and years. While some might argue that video referrals during a game of Australian Rules Football are taking us in the same direction, Stephen's career as an umpire reflected his ability to make *instant* decisions, without the benefit of coercive powers and documentation ... though with no shortage of witnesses, both for the prosecution and for the defence!

Stephen began blowing his whistle while still at school and remembers with pride his first grand final. It was an Under 11 match at McKinnon Oval in 1985.

He served a further ten year apprenticeship in various leagues until he made his debut as an AFL umpire in Round 1, 1995. I can now announce with some pride, that Stephen and I have umpired a combined total of 401 AFL games, 4 AFL grand finals, and have officiated in 4 International Rules tests between Australia and Ireland.

In fact, Stephen was just the third umpire to achieve the 400 game milestone, all of which was achieved whilst pursuing an outstanding professional career.

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Kieran Ault-Connell (OAM)

Kieran completed his years at St Bede's in 1999.

In that time, Kieran excelled at a number of things: he excelled at diligence, for was always keen to get the most out of his studies; he excelled in cheerfulness, for there were few boys in blue who smiled so often and so engagingly; and he excelled in just being a good kid. Evidence of this is that he was awarded the Lasallian Student of the Year Scholarship in that last year. The award was voted on by Kieran's teachers and his peers, and it was for his contribution to Lasallian and spiritual activities, and to the community.

Since leaving school, Kieran's studies continued at Monash University, in the field of Radiography and Medical Radiation Sciences.

Kieran decided to take up athletics after watching the Paralympics from Atlanta in 1996. He took up the sport with his usual diligence and enthusiasm to the extent that, four years later, he was selected to represent Australia in the Sydney Paralympics. There, he was part of teams which won the gold medal in the 4 x 100 metres and 4 x 400 metres cerebral palsy relays. He also competed in the long jump, the javelin and the 100 metre sprint.

Kieran was again selected to represent Australia in the 2004 Paralympics in Athens, where he won silver in the Javelin throw. That would have been a useful skill at the Battle of Thermopylae, but it was over 2500 years before Kieran arrived!

Outside school, Kieran was an enthusiastic member of the 1st Seaford Cub and Scout groups, and he recognises the scouting movement as having played a vital role in his personal development. It was there that he developed a sense of self-sufficiency, accepting responsibilities and setting and achieving goals.

Kieran's sense of responsibility to the community continues. Helping other people to succeed in life is something he does by participating in the Victorian Institute of Sport's "Sportspersons in Schools" public speaking program.

In 2001, Kieran was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for services to sport as a Paralympics gold medallist.

We are proud to acknowledge Kieran Ault-Connell as a member of the St Bede's College Hall of Fame.

Michael McCarthy

Michael came to St Bede's in Year 10 in 1972 where one of his first mentors was Larry McEvoy, whom he acknowledges as seeing, and encouraging, his potential as a footballer. As is well known in St Bede's circles, Larry was a fine football coach with the knack of balancing the needs of the team with the realities of what could be asked of school students. St Bede's produced more than its share of AFL footballers in those days. Indeed, Michael's captain in the 1st XVIII was Marty Lyons who played for three seasons with the Demons. Michael seems to have inherited Larry's knack of nurturing first rate footballers. He now works at Brighton Grammar, and included among his former students are AFL players Chris Dawes, Jack Watts, Christian Salem, Jayden Hunt and Josh Kelly. I would suggest though, that none of them have appeared in school photos with the same daggy, shoulder-length hair that Michael gloried in, in 1974.

School teaching is sometimes described as accepting the baton and passing it on to the next generation, in which case Michael has well and truly succeeded.

Not long after leaving school, Michael established himself in the Hawthorn side. No mean feat that, for the Hawthorn teams of the 1970s were as powerful as they have been in the past few years. He played alongside some of the greats, and in the 1978 winning grand final, he played alongside another St Bede's Hall-of-Famer in Peter Russo. For those of you preparing for a trivia night somewhere, Michael wore the number 20.

Michael played in premierships teams of 1978 and 1983 as well as in two losing grand finals. He played 99 games for Hawthorn before becoming a foundation member of the Brisbane Bears where he played another 28 games. In those years, Michael must have developed a greater sense than the modern player of what it was to be a Melburnian. He had to find his way, for example, to Arden St where he played 2 games, the Junction Oval for 1 game, the Lake Oval (1), Moorabbin (2) and Victoria Park (5).

His AFL career was followed by coaching stints at Ormond in the Amateurs and with the Bloods at Mordialloc.

Michael was also a talented cricketer. In his final year at school, he partnered Sean Graf as opening bowler, and there can have been very few more potent school combinations. He was one of the few, and one of the last, to excel at both cricket and football at the highest levels, though his cricket career had to be fitted in before and after his football career. Nevertheless, he played in two Melbourne premierships teams, as well as representing the Victorian Second XI. Of interest to this gathering is that Bill Rhoden was manager and scorer in his Melbourne years.

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Michael Hirst

Mike completed his years at St Bede's in 1975. In the school magazine, he is wearing a modest, Beatles style haircut. Others in his class photo had clearly not been shorn for many months, and the only good looking one of those was Sue Homolka, one of the young ladies who graced the college with their presence during the 1970s. After leaving school, Michael gained a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Melbourne University. In turn, that led to some thirty years in the banking industry and extensive experience in treasury, funds management and financial markets.

Prior to joining Bendigo Bank, for which he now works, Mike had worked for eleven years with Colonial Limited, with Chase Amp for three years and with Westpac for seven years. In each of those institutions he held senior executive and management positions.

He joined Bendigo bank in 2001 and has worked across most areas of the business including the positions of Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive Officer Retail bank, prior to becoming Managing Director in 2009.

As a boss, his goal is to head up an inclusive environment, and recognises that his management style has changed as he has climbed the corporate ladder.

"The higher you get in any organisation," he says, "the more management styles you have to have. You are managing many groups of people who respond to different styles; some people want to get on with it, some want continual feedback, and others respond to a piece of honest feedback every now and then."

Mike is a director of Bendigo Bank's joint venture company Elders Rural Bank Limited, a director of Treasury Corporation of Victoria and of Barwon Health.

He is also a member of the Federal Government's Financial Sector Advisory Council, the Australian Bankers' Association Council, the Business Council of Australia and the Centre for Workplace Leadership Advisory Board.

A keen AFL fan, Mike supports the Geelong Football Club, is the number one ticket holder for the Geelong West-St Peter's Football Club and a life member of the Sydney University Australian football Club. His enthusiasm for football might well stem from his experience in the College 2nd XIII which went through the year undefeated under coach Peter Charles.

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

Neil Young QC

Neil followed his older brother Peter to St Bede's, and this evening he joins Peter as a member of the St Bede's College Hall of Fame. Neil represented the College in debating, football and cricket. In the latter sport, it is recorded that he scored 13 against St Bernard's Essendon.

Neil completed his law degree, with first class honours, from Melbourne in 1973 and for two years was a tutor at the University and at Ormond College. Through 1975 and 1976, he was an assistant to Sir Ninian Stephen and then studied at Harvard, taking out a masters degree in 1977.

Neil has a reputation as a "one of the most organised people imaginable." He must have been traumatised by the organised chaos that reigned during Brother Peter's dramatic building program whilst Neil was at the College. Neil's quest for organisation was in evidence in his university days where his meticulous note taking was the envy of many other students. Some years after completing his law degree, when visiting the law library, Neil was surprised to discover that his notes were, even then, being photocopied and circulated among a new wave of students. It is said that money changed hands, though he saw none of it.

Neil was admitted to the legal profession in 1975, and admitted as a barrister in NSW in 1979. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 1990 where he specialises in matters such as: Financial Services, Commercial Law, Intellectual Property and Competition and Consumer Trade Practices. He was therefore well placed to appear for the Essendon Football Club in the matter of a recent misadventure.

Elsewhere, Neil has represented the corporate elite of the country, notably BHP Billiton for some 20 years, and retail tycoon Solomon Lew since 1994. John Elliott and Steve Vizard might wince at the sound of Neil Young's name, for he prosecuted the one for insolvent trading and the other for insider trading.

The law is, of course, a non-contact sport. It is a battle of brains, and Neil has argued with and against the likes of Ron Merkel, Ray Finkelstein and Alan Goldberg. In this highly competitive sphere, Neil was identified in Lawyers Weekly as one of Australia's Stars of the Bar. That was in 2013, so I am not sure that it would have qualified him for a St Bede's Rising Star Award! The comment which accompanied this nomination was:

"Wide breadth of experience ... extraordinarily talented."

Neil was appointed a judge of the Federal Court in 2005 but has since retired from the bench.

Neil has also served the Bar in a number of administrative and leadership roles. This has included roles as Vice-Chairman of the Bar Council, Director of Barristers Chambers, Chairman of the Bar Council and President of the Australian Bar Association.

Should any of you have need of Neil's services, you may find him in the Ninian Stephen Chambers, 140 William Street, where his level 38 suite is 62.7 square meters in size and has sweeping views of the Bay. Perhaps he can see his old school from there.

We are proud to acknowledge Neil Young QC as a member of the St Bede's College Hall of Fame.

Nathan Holman