



# **St Bede's Old Collegians Association**

## **Hall of Fame Citations 2014**

*Written and presented by Allan Drummond  
at the Hall of Fame Dinner May 2014*

## **Dr Stanley Reid AM**

Stan Reid was among the first group of St Bede's boarders when that facility was moved from Malvern to Mentone and in Leo Gamble's words, taken from his history of the college, Stan "represented St Bede's with distinction in almost every kind of activity." This included his being college captain, dux of the college and captain of athletics in 1944. He also represented in football, cricket, tennis and swimming.

In a magazine produced for St Bede's golden jubilee in 1988, Stan described his years here as "a privilege".

In 1950, Stan graduated from Melbourne University in medicine and surgery whereupon he moved to New South Wales to work at the Manly District Hospital for two years, followed by another two years at Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne. Married in 1954, he joined a group of practitioners in Bairnsdale, as the doctor with special interest in obstetrics.

He undertook further studies in London before taking up a post at the Papuan Medical College as lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. This led to a World Health Organisation scholarship, taking him to Russia (at a time when most of us were still afraid of Reds under the Bed!) There followed further studies in London before Stan finally settled in Perth in 1968, which must have been something of a relief to Jackie and her growing family. It is a pleasure to have Stan's wife, Jackie, and daughter, Jane, with us tonight to accept his nomination. Jackie's resilience may have been tested by those years of constant resettling.

Those of you who have a \$50 note in your wallet might cast a glance at the tight lipped face of Edith Cowan whose image appears on one side of the note. Edith was a leader among a very determined group of ladies who demanded the establishment of the King Edward Memorial Hospital, which is Perth's women's hospital. Though a hard lady to please, there is no doubt that Edith would have approved of the work done by Stan in two spells at the hospital, the latter as Medical Director of the hospital from 1973 to 1984. By this time, Stan was a pioneer of ultrasound techniques and was the founding president of the Australian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine.

Another important part of Stan's life was yachting, where he was a member of the Royal Perth Yacht Club. He was Commodore of that club at a very significant point in Australian sporting history, for it was during his term of office that Australia, via the Royal Perth Yacht Club, successfully challenged for the America's Cup, and it was a very proud Stan Reid who escorted the Cup back to Australia. Stan was then called upon to organise the regattas that would defend the Cup, and was even invited by the Americans to organise their challenger series.

Stan was named a Western Australian Citizen of the Year in 1987 for his services to sport, and in 1988 he became a member of the Order of Australia for his services to medicine and to sport. That award was presented by Queen Elizabeth.

Stan is survived by Jackie, and children Jane, Mark, John and Sarah.

**We are proud to acknowledge Doctor Stanley Reid AM as a member of the St Bede's College Hall of Fame.**

## **Bro Bede Mackrell**

Des Mackrell, who would become a valuable recruit to the De La Salle Brothers, was born on 10 September, 1934. I'm not surprised to have heard your sudden intake of breath and your knowing looks to one another, as you instantly recognised that September 10 is the feast day, throughout the universal Church, of St Finian.

Des Mackrell is another Hall of Famer from the 1940s. It is well known that the facilities of the school in those days were relatively primitive, but there is plenty of evidence of a strong sense of community existing at the time. Even then, Brother Finian was tending the grass on the front oval, and hauling the roller to flatten the centre square, more or less, in order to make it playable for cricket, more or less.

Enter a young boarder from Alexandra, who joins Brother Finian and says:

“Can I give you a hand Brother?”

And so began a lifetime of service as a De La Salle Brother.

Des entered the Juniorate in 1950. He was given the habit of the Brothers in 1952, taking the name Bede. By my count, that adds up to 62 years of service to the education of youth, and the great man is still looking for things to do. Bede has worked in Brothers' schools, starting in the primary classes at Kingsgrove, and moving on through Scarborough, Inverell, Kensington, Bankstown, Beaudesert, Narooma, New Plymouth and Malvern. He is currently living at St Bede's where he counts himself as the young bloke.

However it is his work in Papua New Guinea that stands out.

In various capacities, he has got the job done in that difficult environment, the job varying from educational initiatives and community relations, to construction and maintenance. All of this has been done with a gruff common sense that wins respect, and encourages others to pitch in.

It was through his efforts that the teaching sisters and brothers were able to amalgamate their schools on Yule Island and at Mainohana into an excellent, co-ed boarding school. The project began with the need to flood proof the plain on which the new school facilities were to be built. Bede was the engineer for those works ... perhaps that sort of work is in the farming genes! With a bit of persuasion on Bede's part, the army was persuaded to fly in prefabricated parts of classrooms, dormitories and teacher accommodation.

He has variously turned his hand to carpentry, concreting and concrete block making, upgrading electricity and water supply on mission properties, using local labour wherever possible, and teaching the locals all of these skills.

Bede is held in high regard by local tribal leaders in PNG. His work is honoured by the Rotary organisation which has bestowed on him their highest award – The Paul Harris Fellowship. On the recommendation of the people of New Guinea, he has also been awarded the Order of the British Empire.

All very well! But there is still work to be done, which is why Bede joins the St Vincent de Paul van on three days a week in the City of Melbourne.

**We are proud to acknowledge Brother Bede Mackrell as a member of the St Bede's College Hall of Fame.**

## Honourable Marcus Stephen MP

Marcus Stephen came to St Bede's as a boarder and on a scholarship funded by the government of Nauru. (Before going on, it is worth reminding ourselves that the Finian Foundation is currently paying the fees of four students who could not otherwise afford to attend the school. Your presence here tonight has assisted the Finian Foundation.)

Marcus came to the College ready and willing to get stuck into everything. He was therefore somewhat mystified when he wasn't allowed to play Aussie Rules or Rugby, and was told he wasn't good enough to play cricket, until the only thing left was weight lifting. He discovered later, that strings had been pulled by his personal coach. Weight lifting, managed by Mick Feenan, was big in the College at the time, and we had some access to facilities of the Australian Institute of Sport.

Marcus was still at school when he first became Oceania Champion, a title which he held until 1999. In Commonwealth Games competition, Marcus represented Nauru on four separate occasions from 1990 to 2002, winning a total of 7 gold and 5 silver medals. He was also chef-de-mission for Team Nauru at the Melbourne Games of 2002.

Marcus competed at the World Championships on six occasions, winning a silver medal in Greece in 1999. He also competed in the Olympic Games in 1992, 1996 and 2000.

After leaving school Marcus completed an accounting course at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology before returning to Nauru where he has made a remarkable contribution to the republic. He first entered parliament in 2003 and has contributed to that body ever since. The 1987 school magazine tells us that Marcus had the nickname 'Sunnyboy'. My guess is that that had something to do with a flavoured, packaged ice block. On the other hand, it is a fair description of Marcus's general demeanour in his early years.

But Marcus's experience in parliament has brought out another side of the man. He has needed all of the determination that he can muster, along with a strong ability to negotiate, and a sound understanding of his country's constitution. He has shown himself to be a man of conviction.

Within the parliament, Marcus has held a variety of ministries and responsibilities including:

- Fisheries and Marine Resources
- The Phosphate Corporation
- Public Works and Services
- Finance
- Education, Training and Employment
- Police and Prisons
- Small Business and
- Sport

He has been elected President of the Republic of Nauru on three occasions and, in that capacity, has been a strong voice for Nauru in various international forums

Given the analogy in current use by the Australian Federal Treasurer, Marcus might be just the man to help prepare us all for some heavy lifting!

**We are proud to acknowledge the Honourable Marcus Stephen M.P. as a member of the St Bede's College Hall of Fame.**

## **Peter Russo**

Peter finished his education at St Bede's in 1976, as a boarder with shoulder length hair. But that was OK, because Bro Michael, the boarding master, favoured the same style.

Coach of football was Larry McEvoy who described Peter as a dominant 'centreman'. As a cricketer, Peter was described as 'an excellent fieldsman and correct batsman'.

It's a well known fact among St Bede's old Boys that our compere, Paul Callery, is credited with four hit outs in AFL football, and that they were all achieved in one game at the Western Oval. I can now reveal that between them, Paul Callery and Peter Russo are officially credited with eight hit outs, though Peter achieved his more laboriously with one in 1982, another in 1983, and one more in each of 1985 and 1986. If we add in the number of hit outs gained by practically everyone else in the room tonight, the total still stands at eight. All of which is a roundabout way of saying that only a select few are talented enough to run onto an AFL ground, let alone to be part of a winning grand final team within two years of his leaving school.

Peter was second rover to Leigh Matthews in that 1978 grand final, played against a formidable North Melbourne team, before 101,704 spectators. Michael McCarthy, another St Bede's old boy, played from the interchange bench in that game.

Peter was recruited to Hawthorn in 1978, made his debut in Round 15, wearing No 47, and kicked a goal with his first kick. That was the first of 195 games of AFL football with Hawthorn (where he wore the number 4 after his first year) and St Kilda. He was part of a second premiership in 1986 as well as being a member of teams which were runners up in 1984, 1985 and 1987. Peter also represented the Big V against South Australia in 1985. Unfortunately, he was not selected in the Italian Team of the Century!

At age 30, Peter's career came to an abrupt end when he injured his knee in Sydney, requiring a second reconstruction.

We hear of AFL footballers who find it hard to readjust to life after football, but Peter has not had that problem. After completing his tertiary studies, Peter taught Phys Ed at Bonbeach High School for two years before returning to St Bede's as a teacher from 1984 to 1993. He was a more than competent teacher, but what also stood out was his cheerfulness. Every large institution needs its share of people with a ready smile.

Peter left us to take up a full time coaching job at Melbourne Football Club where he coached the reserves to a premiership in 1993. He was later assistant coach and reserves coach at St Kilda, and the St Kilda runner in 2002, under Grant Thomas, another old boy of St Bede's. He also coached Old Mentonians in the VAFA from 2003 to 2006.

Peter has also taught at Cheltenham Secondary College and Mentone Grammar before taking up his present position as Director of Sport and Physical Education at Firbank Grammar School.

**We are proud to acknowledge Peter Russo as a member of the St Bede's College Hall of Fame.**

## **Nic Cester, Chris Cester and Cameron Muncey (Jet)**

Down by one of the back gates to St Bede's, on Naples Rd, where the Dingley bus pulls in morning and afternoon, there is a little memorial stone. It is dedicated to the memory of Wayne Lovick. Most teachers regard bus duty with horror, but Wayne took it in his stride and volunteered to do it every afternoon in the interests of creating consistent expectations of the students.

With due respect to those who thoroughly enjoyed their days at school, there have always been those for whom the final bell of the day is a welcome sound and I suspect that three of our inductees tonight might have been included among those, desperate to get home to listen to (Cream, AC/DC, The Who and The Easybeats) and to start jamming.

Many young men dream outrageous dreams, but few of them are fulfilled, Who would have thought, as the boys performed You Am I songs at various school assemblies, that they would sell more than six million records world-wide?

Jet's 2002 debut EP album, *Dirty Sweet*, was received well enough to get them a record contract with an American label. They were in Los Angeles recording the tracks for that *Get Born* album when they were invited to be the support band for the Rolling Stones on their 2003 tour of Australia. Jet played 200 live performances in that year, including further support for the Stones in Spain and England.

The track *Are You Gonna Be My Girl?* (which should have been *Are You Going to be My Girl?* if their English teachers had done the job properly) was #1 on Triple J's Top 100. It has been heard on the soundtracks of various films and used in worldwide advertising campaigns. The video of that song also won, in 2004, the Best Rock Video in America, at a time when they were also nominated for a list of other awards.

Nic and Chris's father died from cancer in 2004, and the title track from their second album, *Shine On*, was dedicated to him. Their third album was *Shaka Rock*, recorded in New York in 2009.

The band was headline act in many places on several world tours. In Australia, they have performed at Big Day Out, an Australian Rules Grand Final, and in a multi-venue concert for bushfire relief.

After a hectic ten years, the band announced their "discontinuation as a group" in March 2012.

**We are proud to acknowledge Nick Cester, Chris Cester and Cameron Muncey, from the band Jet, as members of the St Bede's College Hall of Fame.**

## **Ralph Bernardi**

Maria and Angelo Bernardi migrated from Treviso in Italy. Their first stop was Broken Hill but, when they decided to head for Melbourne, where else would they live but Carlton, and what other football team would a dinkum Aussie/Italian family barrack for than the Blues, where Ralph was proud to be the Number 47 ticket holder.

Young Ralph grew up in Rathdowne Street, about where a little lane is now called Bernardi Lane to honour his later contribution to the city of Melbourne.

Ralph became a boarder at St Bede's, finishing here in 1944. His younger brother, Mario, later followed him to the college. Ralph entered into the spirit of things and enjoyed school life, but a highlight for him was to go swimming down at the beach. It was there that he felt a sense of freedom, denied him on dry land, for Ralph suffered from polio. Getting to the beach wasn't easy, and Brother Finian recalls that he often piggy-backed the young lad across Beach Road.

To jump ahead a little, Ralph would later make the city of Melbourne a little easier of access to disabled people by providing cut-out curbs on CBD streets.

A successful Melbourne businessman like Ralph was inevitably drawn to serve on the Melbourne City Council. Which he did from 1972 until 1982, including a period as Lord Mayor from 1979 to 1980.

Other positions that he held during that period were as Chairman of the City Council Electricity Committee, and the Markets Committee. He was Chairman of the Moomba Festival board and a Board Member of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Further highlights of his term in office included the opening of the original City Square with Queen Elizabeth in 1980, the approval of the first outdoor cafe in the city, the introduction of Sunday trading at the Queen Victoria Market and the signing of a sister city agreement between Melbourne and Tianjin, China, which was the first such agreement in Australia. Ralph led the Melbourne delegation to the port of Tianjin in 1980 and perhaps it says something about the vitality of the man that there is a picture from that occasion in which he is playing the piano accordion with great gusto in the midst of a crowd of Australians and Chinese who are clearly enjoying the occasion.

No doubt that musical instrument was given a workout from time to time in his beloved Lygon Street, for he was a great champion of that street and its festival, of which he was a dedicated promoter. He is one of Carlton's colourful Italian community who took a part in the making of an entertaining documentary of the street called *Si Parla Italiano*.

The only blemish that I can see on Ralph's record is that he didn't see to it that Peter Russo was included in the Italian Team of the Century!

**We are proud to acknowledge Ralph Bernardi as a member of the St Bede's College Hall of Fame.**